

# U.S. Immigration

## Categories of Immigration Status

presented April 24, 2025 by Linda Adkins

# Immigrants:

**Who are they?**

**Why are they here?**

Non-Immigrant Temporary Visas

Undocumented Immigrants

Documented Immigrants

Naturalized Citizens

# Non-Immigrant Temporary Visas

- Students
- Tourists
- Business Travelers
- Temporary Workers
- Humanitarian protection (victims of trafficking / crime)

# Undocumented Immigrants

- People who have crossed a border to enter the U.S. but have not applied for asylum or received a legal temporary or permanent visa
- People who have overstayed the time limit of a temporary visa

# Documented Immigrants

## Temporary Status

- Asylum Seekers
- Humanitarian Parole
- Temporary Protected Status

## Permanent Status

- Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR)  
(Green Card Holders)
  1. Immediate Relative of U.S. Citizens
  2. Family Sponsorship
  3. Immigration for Employment
  4. Diversity
  5. Refugees & Asylees

# Temporary Status

## Asylum Seekers

People who come to the U.S. because they have suffered persecution or fear persecution in their home countries due to:

- Race
- Religion
- Nationality
- Membership in a particular social group
- Political opinion

Must already be present in the U.S. to apply for asylum and must apply within one year of arriving.

## Humanitarian Parole

People outside the U.S. can apply for temporary parole on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons

# Temporary Protected Status

People already in the U.S. may be granted Temporary Protected Status if they are from a designated country due to:

- Ongoing conflict
- Environmental disaster
- Other extraordinary and temporary conditions

People with this status:

- Are not removable from the U.S.
- Can obtain employment authorization documents
- May be granted travel authorization

## Countries:

Afghanistan	Somalia
Cameroon	South Sudan
El Salvador	Sudan
Ethiopia	Syria
Haiti	Ukraine
Honduras	Venezuela
Lebanon	Yemen
Myanmar	
Nepal	
Nicaragua	

# Lawful Permanent Residents

## 1. Immediate Relatives of U.S Citizens:

- Spouses
- Children
- Parents of adult U.S. citizens (21 years and older)

## 2. Family Sponsorship:

A citizen or LPR can sponsor immigrants

- Unmarried children of citizen
- Spouses and unmarried children of LPR
- Married children of citizen and their spouses & children
- Siblings of adult citizens and their spouses and children



# Lawful Permanent Residents

## 3. Immigration for Employment:

- People with skills needed in the U.S.
  - Priority workers (researchers, professors, executives)
  - Professionals with advanced degrees
  - Skilled workers, professionals, & needed unskilled workers

## 4. Diversity:

- People from countries with relatively few immigrants in the U.S.

# Lawful Permanent Residents

## 5. Refugees & Asylees:

- People fleeing persecution or well-founded fear of persecution.

### Refugees:

People who come to the U.S. at the invitation of the U.S. government through the UN Refugee Resettlement program

### Asylees:

People who are granted asylum after arriving in the U.S.

# Naturalized Citizen

- People who are Lawful Permanent Residents are eligible to apply for citizenship after 5 years
- Must meet eligibility requirements and pass the citizenship test

# Questions?

## Sources:

- **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website**  
**[uscis.gov](https://uscis.gov)**
- **Office of Homeland Security Statistics, U.S. Department of Homeland Security website**  
**[ohss.dhs.gov](https://ohss.dhs.gov)**