



INFORMATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

Immigration Relief for Victims of Human Trafficking and Other Crimes

In addition to upholding U.S. immigration law, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) administers immigration benefits to victims of human trafficking and other serious crimes. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) adjudicates T and U visas, which help protect immigrant victims of human trafficking and other crimes.

Victims of human trafficking and victims of other crimes may qualify for immigration relief, often with help from law enforcement at the federal, state or local level. This immigration relief does more than help victims. By encouraging victims to report crimes and work with law enforcement entities, it also serves as a tool for law enforcement to help eliminate human trafficking and fight crime in local communities.



Below is information about this immigration relief and the distinct roles USCIS and law enforcement agencies have in assisting victims of human trafficking and other crimes.

TYPES OF IMMIGRATION RELIEF

For victims of human trafficking:

The T nonimmigrant status visa (also known as the T visa) provides immigration protection to persons who are victims of severe forms of trafficking and who assist law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of human trafficking cases.

What is Human Trafficking?

Also known as trafficking in persons, human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers lure individuals with false promises of employment and a better life.

Under federal law:

- There are two categories of severe forms of trafficking: sex trafficking and labor trafficking.
- Severe forms of trafficking involve force, fraud or coercion (except in cases involving sex-trafficking victims less than 18 years of age).

How does a victim apply for a T visa?

A victim sends USCIS a completed Form I-914, Application for T Nonimmigrant Status.

Victims must provide evidence they are assisting law enforcement. One optional type of evidence is a certification from law enforcement (Form I-914, Supplement B). Providing the certification does not grant a benefit. Only USCIS has the authority to grant or deny this benefit.

For victims of other crimes:

The U nonimmigrant status visa (also known as the U visa) offers immigration protection for victims of crimes who assist law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of criminals.

Qualifying criminal activity includes:

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| Abduction | Obstruction of justice |
| Abusive sexual contact | Peonage |
| Blackmail | Perjury |
| Domestic violence | Prostitution |
| Extortion | Rape |
| False imprisonment | Sexual assault |
| Felonious assault | Sexual exploitation |
| Female genital mutilation | Slave trade |
| Being held hostage | Torture |
| Incest | Trafficking |
| Involuntary servitude | Unlawful criminal restraint |
| Kidnapping | Witness tampering |
| Manslaughter | Other related crimes |
| Murder | |

How does a victim apply for a U visa?

A victim sends USCIS a completed Form I-918, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status.

The victim must provide a certification from law enforcement (Form I-918, Supplement B). Providing the certification does not grant a benefit. Only USCIS has the authority to grant or deny this benefit.