



Asylum Roadmap

1 Arrival in NYC You must be in the U.S. to apply for asylum.

To be eligible for asylum, you must have experienced persecution or have a fear of future persecution based on **one or more of the following grounds:**

- Race
- Religion
- Nationality
- Membership in a particular social group (gender, sexuality, ethnicity, etc.)
- Political opinion

You must prove that you have been persecuted or fear persecution as an **individual. Asylum is not granted based on general country conditions (i.e. war, etc.).**

Therefore, it is critical to have a consultation with a lawyer to advise you whether your case fits the asylum criteria.

2 Apply for asylum You or your lawyer must file the asylum application (I589) **within 1 year of your arrival in the U.S.**

You can apply after your visa has expired as long as you apply **before the one year deadline.**

You are able to submit additional information and evidence **after you submit this application.**

3 Work permit You can apply for your work permit **150 days after your asylum application was received by government.**

After sending in your asylum application, you will receive a receipt in the mail which tells you the date that your application was received.

Your work permit is valid for 2 years, and must be renewed at that point.

4 Asylum interview The current waiting period for an interview is 2-3 years.

There is no government help for housing or other assistance during this process.

It is very important to have a lawyer prepare your case and accompany you to your interview. Having an attorney highly increases your chances to win asylum.

5 Results

After your interview, you will be asked to return to the asylum office 2 weeks later to receive a letter of decision from the government.

You will receive either:

Yes — Granted asylum
 You can apply to bring family to the U.S.
 You can apply for a green card.

No — Referred to immigration court
 For immigration court, you need to have a lawyer, with whom you will meet the judge who will give you the date of your asylum court hearing.
 In the meantime, you can continue to renew your work permit.