The International Rescue Committee

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From Harm to Home | Rescue.org

The International Rescue Committee

Founded in 1933 at the request of Albert Einstein, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) responds to the world’s worst humanitarian crises and helps people to survive and rebuild their lives. At work in over 40 countries and 26 U.S. cities to restore safety, dignity and hope, the IRC leads the way from harm to home.
What is a refugee?

A person who is unwilling or unable to return to his country of nationality or habitual residence because of persecution or a well founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.
What is an SIV?

Special Immigrant Visa holders (SIVs) are Afghan and Iraqi nationals who were employed or contracted by or on behalf of the U.S. government or U.S. armed forces in Afghanistan and Iraq and who have experienced or are experiencing an ongoing serious threat due to that employment.
According to the UN Refugee Agency…

• There are 68.5 million displaced people in the world, 25.4 million of whom are refugees.

• 1 in every 110 people of the world’s population is forcibly displaced.
Durable Solutions

Voluntary return to country of origin

Host country integration

Third country resettlement
Refugee Safe Haven is an essential American value

Historically, one half of one percent of the world’s refugees have been resettled in the USA.
How does a refugee reach the US?

**Step 1**
MARCH 2013
Register with the United Nations

**Step 2**
Interview with the United Nations

**Step 3**
United Nations refers for resettlement

**Step 4**
Process application

**Step 5**
FEBRUARY 2016
First interview with an American official

**Step 6**
MARCH 2016
Second interview with an American official

**Step 7**
APRIL 2016
Third interview with an American official

“We didn’t hear back about our application for almost three years.”
Step 8
Refugee vetting and security screenings

Step 9
Fingerprint screenings

Step 10
Medical screenings

Step 11
Cultural orientation class

Step 12
Matched with a resettlement agency

Step 13
SEPTEMBER 18, 2016
Prepare for travel

Step 14
OCTOBER 7, 2016
Arrive to America

“Just three days before departing, our travels were delayed by further screenings.”

*The refugee resettlement process varies for each individual applicant.*
IRC Charlottesville Arrivals

Charlottesville has resettled nearly 4,000 refugees in the last 20 years.

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IRC in Charlottesville provides ongoing support throughout refugees’ first years in the US

- Resettlement/Case Management
- Employment Services
- Medical and Mental Health Support
- School and Youth Programs
- Immigration Services
- Educational Programs
- Interpreter Services
- New Roots Food and Agriculture Program
Employment Services

- Job readiness training
- Resume writing
- Online job search and application assistance
- Interview preparation
- Ongoing support after job placement
Career Advancement Services

- Access to workforce training programs
- Career counseling and mentoring
- Professional re-credentialing
- Financial coaching and education
Medical and Mental Health Support

- Psycho-social adjustment
- Parenting education
- Individualized support
- Medical case management
- Appointment transportation
School and Youth Programs

- School orientation and enrollment
- Supporting student integration and achievement
- Social support groups
- After school and summer programs
Immigration Services

• Applications for legal permanent residence (green cards)

• Applications to naturalize as a US citizen

• Family reunification petitions

• Other services for immigrants
Educational Programs

- ESL classes and tutoring
- Cultural orientation
- Financial literacy
- Life skills
- Nutrition education
Interpreter Services

- 45 trained and certified interpreters
- 19 languages including Arabic, Farsi/Dari, Pashto, French, Spanish, Swahili, Mandarin, and Nepali
- Serves around 60 public agencies, nonprofit organizations, medical providers, courts, and businesses in Central Virginia
New Roots Food and Agriculture Program

- Community gardening
- New Roots Farm/Microproducer program
- Michie Market/Food access
- English in the Garden
- Leadership/Social support groups
- Charlottesville Food Justice Network
How you can help?

- Financial Contribution
- In-Kind Contributions: cars & household supplies
- Hire Refugees
- Advocate on behalf of refugees to elected officials (ircaction.org)
- Volunteer
- Join GenR
- Follow us on Facebook
- Sign up to receive email updates