



Overview of Pathways to 'Green Cards' for Afghan Evacuees*

Afghan evacuees entered the U.S. with a variety of immigration legal statuses. Special Immigrant Visa (SIV), Special Immigrant Parole (SQ/SI) and paroled into the United States for humanitarian reasons between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022, are the three most common immigration statuses that Afghans who recently entered the United States hold. Some of these statuses provide a pathway to permanent residency ('green card'), while others do not. This guide provides a summary of these immigration statuses, potential pathways to obtaining a green card and resources with detailed information.

Special Immigrant Visa (SIV)

What is it?

Visa available to translators, interpreters, or other individuals employed by or behalf of the U.S. Government in Afghanistan.

What is the pathway to a green card?

Once admitted into the United States on their immigrant visas, SIV holders will be mailed a green card.

Special Immigrant Parole (SQ/SI)

What is it?

Parole for SIV-eligible individuals who have not yet received their Special Immigrant Visa. These parolees have started the SIV process, but not completed it. The level of complexity of these cases varies and depends on which stages of processing have yet to be completed.

What is the pathway to a green card?

SQ/SI parolees need to complete the remainder of their SIV application. The SQ/SI parolees are in various stages of navigating the immigration legal process. Some cases are straightforward while others are more complex. The last step of the process is applying for a 'green card'.

Two-Year Humanitarian Parole

What is it?

Most Afghan evacuees entered the U.S. with a grant of a two-year humanitarian parole status. These parolees were evacuated from Afghanistan to the United States as part of Operation Allies Refuge (AOR). Humanitarian parole is not an immigration status but does provide permission to lawfully reside in the United States for two years.

**This guide is for general informational purposes only and does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice.*

What is the pathway to a green card?

Humanitarian parole does not provide a direct pathway to lawful permanent residency. An individual granted parole can apply for a 'green card' if they qualify under another immigration provision, such as ***family-based adjustment*** or ***asylum***.

Family-Based Adjustment

Overview

If the Afghan evacuee was already in the process of applying for a 'green card' abroad and is now in the United States, he or she may be eligible for adjustment of status.

Who is eligible?

- Immediate Relatives
 - Spouses, unmarried children, and parents of United States citizens
- Preference Category
 - Spouses, unmarried children of lawful permanent residents
 - Married or unmarried son/daughter and sibling of a US citizen

What is the processing time?

Timelines vary. Immediate relatives immigrate faster but are still subject to processing delays. Relatives who are in the 'preference category' wait longer periods because there are quotas on the number of people who can immigrate.

Asylum

Overview

If an individual has been persecuted or has a fear of persecution because of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, they may be eligible to apply for asylum. Spouses and children under 21 years of age can be included in the application.

What is the filing deadline?

The law requires an application be filed within one year of arrival to the United States. Applicants who maintain their parole status *may* be eligible for an exception to this law.

What is the processing time?

USCIS is striving to conduct interview 45 days after an asylum application has been filed and issuing a final decision within 150 days.

3 Common Immigration Statuses of Afghan Arrivals and Pathways to U.S. Citizenship

Status	SIV	Special Immigrant Parole (SQ/SI)	Two-Year Parole 'Afghan evacuee'
Definition	Visa available to translators, interpreters or other individuals employed on or behalf of U.S. government in Afghanistan	Parole for SIV – eligible individuals who have not yet received their special immigrant visa. Started SIV process but did not complete it	Most Afghan evacuees entered the US with a two-year parole status as part of OAR Not an immigration status
Pathway to U.S. Citizenship?	YES	YES	NO PATHWAY (unless qualify for another immigration provision)

Resources

[Operations Allies Welcome](#)

[Special Immigrant Visas for Afghans](#)

[Afghan Special Immigrant Parole and Lawful Permanent Resident Status](#)

[Information for Afghans](#)

[Green Card for Immediate Relatives of U.S. Citizen](#)

[Green Card for Family Preference Immigrants](#)

[Asylum](#)