



**Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.**

HIAS New York Resettlement FAQ

What is a refugee?

A refugee is an individual who has a well-founded fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, who has fled their country of origin and cannot safely return.

What is an SIV?

The Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) is a special, expedited resettlement process category for Iraqi or Afghani nationals who worked with the US Armed Forces or under Chief of Mission authority as a translator or interpreter, and Iraqi nationals who worked for or on behalf of the U.S. government in Iraq.

What is an asylee?

An individual in the United States or at a port of entry who is found to be unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of nationality, or to seek the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution. Persecution or the fear thereof must be based on the individual's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Whom does HIAS New York resettle?

HIAS New York is assigned refugee resettlement clients by the [U.S. State Department](#) and HIAS. In recent years, our resettlement clients have primarily come from countries of the Former Soviet Union.

What resettlement services are provided during the Reception and Placement Period (R&P)?

Resettlement services include applying for public benefits, registering children in school, learning how to access shopping facilities, arranging medical appointments, and connecting refugees with social or language services, as needed. [Learn more about R&P services here.](#)

How are refugees vetted to ensure they do not pose a security risk?

Refugees apply for resettlement in the U.S. at American embassies or through the United Nations. For more detailed information on this process, check out this [infographic](#).