

Paths to Legal Immigration Status for Victims of Abuse and Other Crimes

U Visa: Immigration Relief for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Other Crimes

Immigrant victims of certain crimes who have been helpful in a criminal investigation or prosecution may qualify for a visa that can lead to a green card. **The children of a U Visa applicant are eligible to gain lawful immigration status** as derivatives of the principle application, if they are undocumented.

U Visa Qualifying Crimes:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Abduction ● Abusive Sexual Contact ● Blackmail ● Domestic Violence ● Extortion ● False Imprisonment ● Female Genital Mutilation ● Felonious Assault ● Fraud in Foreign Labor Contracting ● Hostage ● Incest | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Involuntary Servitude ● Kidnapping ● Manslaughter ● Murder ● Obstruction of Justice ● Peonage ● Perjury ● Prostitution ● Rape ● Sexual Assault ● Sexual Exploitation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Slave Trade ● Stalking ● Torture ● Trafficking ● Witness Tampering ● Unlawful Criminal Restraint ● Other Related Crimes*† <p>*Includes any similar activity where the elements of the crime are substantially similar.</p> <p>†Also includes attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit any of the above and other related crimes</p> |
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Taken from uscis.gov

VAWA: Immigration Relief for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Other Crimes

VAWA allows an abused spouse or **child of a U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident** or an abused parent of a U.S. Citizen to self-petition for lawful status in the United States, receive employment authorization, and access public benefits. VAWA provides domestic violence survivors with the means that are essential to escaping violence and establishing safe, independent lives.

T Visa: Immigration Relief for Survivors of Sex or Labor Trafficking

Human trafficking survivors may be eligible for lawful status, employment authorization, and a potential path to permanent residency. Unlike the U Visa, cooperation with a criminal investigation (although helpful) is not required if **the victim is under 18 years of age** or is unable to cooperate with a request due to physical or psychological trauma.