



The Afghan Vetting Process

On August 29, 2021, President Joe Biden directed efforts to support vulnerable Afghans (and their families) who worked alongside the U.S. for the last two decades. These nationals sought protection through Humanitarian Parole and SIV status. Below are some answers to common questions about how Afghans arrived in the US.

Did Afghans board planes straight to the USA?

Afghans fleeing on military planes after the fall of Kabul were taken to U.S. military base "Lily Pad's" in Qatar, Kuwait, Germany, Italy, Spain, UAE where they underwent intense security vetting by Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, Department of State among others for a total of 8 Federal agency screenings.

How are they here legally?

The Afghans who arrived at that time were issued Humanitarian Parolee (HP) status, similar to nationals fleeing Ukraine. Some were already in process of an SIV (Special Immigrant Visa, for those with specific ties to the U.S. military). HP is a temporary status up to 2 years, so they must be approved as SIV holders (a path to citizenship) *or* apply for asylum, which is a legal human right, in order to stay permanently. Asylum seekers must have their cases approved, and status adjusted, in order to stay permanently. However, the U.S. government may pass the Afghan Adjustment Act, which would adjust Afghan's temporary status to permanent. It has still not passed as of March 2023, and most Afghan's HP status, and accompanying right to work, receive medicaid, etc., will expire by October of 2023.

What requirements are there to ensure US citizen safety?

Afghan Parole is given with conditions that require medical screenings and critical vaccinations, among other reporting requirements. Failure to do so will deny their work authorization, and potentially terminate their parole, which leads to detention and removal proceedings.

"As with any population entering the United States, Department of Homeland Security, in coordination with interagency vetting partners, takes multiple steps to ensure that those seeking entry do not pose a national security or public safety risk."- Operation Allies Welcome

Those who fled Afghanistan seek safety, protection and a future for themselves and their families.

Do they pose a health risk to America?

To maintain their parole in The U.S. Afghans must receive certain vaccinations and a TB screening. Included are:

-MMR, measles mumps vaccine -Polio Vaccine - Covid-19 vaccine -Others ([source](#))

RAA's experiences with our clients have been overwhelmingly positive. We have no reason to believe that our staff or volunteers are in any danger.

To learn more visit <https://www.dhs.gov/allieswelcome>