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*LEGAL Definitions – 8 USC 1101*

- Refugee status is available to:
  - any person outside of his or her nationality or if no nationality, outside of the country in which they habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to or to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country 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, or
  - in such special circumstances as the President may specify, any person who meets the above-definition.
- The term "refugee" does not include any person who ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

*LEGAL Definitions – 8 USC 1101*

- Asylum status is a form of protection available to people who:
  - Meet the definition of refugee
  - Are already in the United States
  - Are seeking admission at a port of entry
- You may apply for asylum in the United States regardless of your country of origin or your current immigration status

*LEGAL Definitions – 8 USC 1101*

- The term "immigrant" means every alien unless there is an exception.
- For EXAMPLE:
  - An ambassador, public minister, or career diplomatic or consular
  - An alien visiting the United States temporarily for business or temporarily for pleasure.
  - An alien in immediate and continuous transit through the US
  - An alien crewman serving in good faith as such in a capacity required for normal operation and service on board a vessel
  - An alien conducting business under a treaty between the US and the country of which he is a national

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### Difficulties with Immigration

- TIME** – there are no emergencies in immigration. Individuals wait years before granted refugee, asylee and immigrant status.
- COST** – immigration proceedings costs are burdensome to low income individuals, which deters applicants from seeking relief.
- LIMITED ADMISSION** – family based immigration is limited to immediate relatives; employment based immigration is limited to high-skilled specialties; all immigrants are subject to the caps established by US policy

### Citizenship

- To become a citizen at birth, you must:
- Have been born in the US (or its territories) OR
- Had a parent or parents who were citizens at the time of your birth, if you were born abroad
- To become a citizen after birth, you must:
- Apply for "derived" or "acquired" citizenship OR
- Apply for NATURALIZATION

### Naturalization – Eligibility

You May Qualify for Naturalization if:

- You have been a permanent resident for at least 5 years or more and meet all eligibility requirements
- You have been a permanent resident for 3 years or more and meet all eligibility requirements to file as a spouse of a U.S. citizen
- You have qualifying service in the U.S. armed forces and meet all other eligibility requirements.
- Your child may qualify for naturalization if you are a U.S. citizen, the child was born outside the U.S., the child is currently residing outside the U.S., and all other eligibility requirements are met.

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### Naturalization - Requirements

Continuous Residence AND Physical Presence


"Continuous residence" means the applicant has maintained residence within the US for 3 or 5 years (depending on application) before applying, or

Extended absences outside of the US may disrupt an applicant's continuous residence.

"Physical presence" means applicants were physically present in the US for 30 months within the 5 year, or 18 months within the 3 year period before applying

Applicants are required to show they have resided for at least 3 months immediately preceding the filing of the application.

Exceptions to the continuous residence requirement for those applicants working abroad for: the US government and Military; contractors of the US government; a recognized American institution, public international organization, or an organization designated under the International Immunities Act.



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### Difficulties with Naturalization


EDUCATION – applicants must pass an English and Civics test.

EXCEPTIONS – are made according to age, time of US residency, and disabilities

COST – naturalization costs \$725.

COST WAIVERS – are available but limited. Applications under this category take longer than usual.

TIME – the naturalization process takes approximately 8-12 months.



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### Refugee 101




Race

Religion

Nationality

Social Group

Political View



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### Refugee 101



- 70.8 million displaced people worldwide (2018)
- 25.9 million are registered refugees (2018)
- 30,000 to be resettled in the US in FY2019
- Approx. 300 resettled in Milwaukee annually
- IIRW resettled 146 refugees in FY2018
- 95% achieve self-sufficiency



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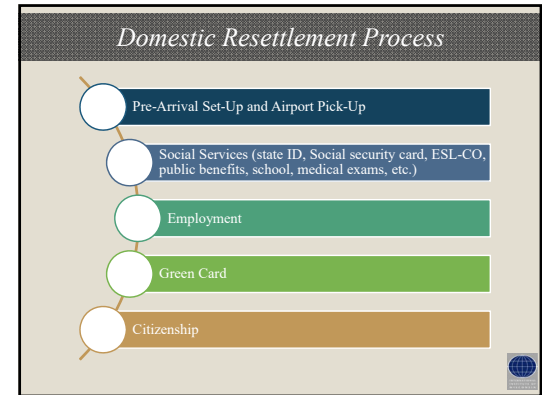
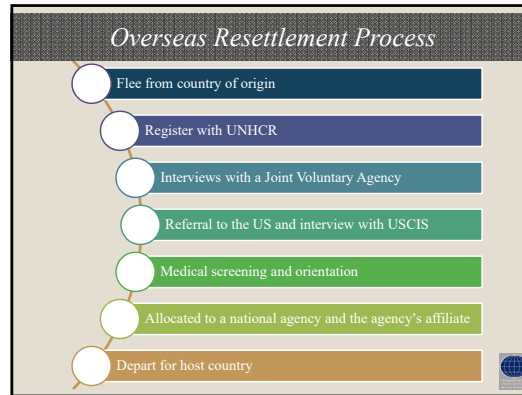
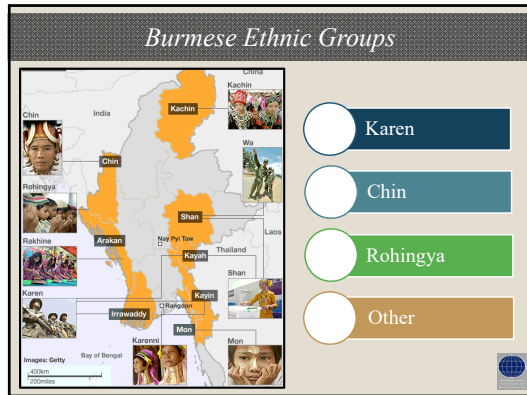
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### Immigration Resources

#### U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

- [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov)
- Citizenship Preparation Resources
- Provider Information
- Resources and updated information

#### American Immigration Lawyer Association (AILA)

- [aila.org](http://aila.org)
- Provider Information
- Resources and updated information

#### Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC)

- [cliniclegal.org](http://cliniclegal.org)
- Provider Information
- Resources and updated information

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### Refugee Resources

#### UNHCR (UN Refugee Agency)

- [unrefugees.org](http://unrefugees.org)
- Updates on global situations

#### Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)

- [acf.hhs.gov/orr](http://acf.hhs.gov/orr)
- Program information

#### WI Department of Children and Families

- [dcf.wisconsin.org](http://dcf.wisconsin.org)
- Service provider information

#### Switchboard

- [switchboardta.org](http://switchboardta.org)
- Clearinghouse of information

#### BRYCS (Bridging Refugee Youth & Children's Services)

- [brycs.org](http://brycs.org)
- Clearinghouse of information

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### Questions?



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