

Collection of U-visa News Articles¹

November 7, 2017 update

The following news articles are provided as references that may assist law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges to better understand the importance of the U visa program and their role as U-visa certifiers.

1. Ivie, Stacey and Nanasi, Natalie. "The U Visa An Effective Resource for Law Enforcement." FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin (2009). Available at: <https://leb.fbi.gov/2009-pdfs/leb-october-2009/view>

Detective Stacey Ivie from the Alexandria (VA) Police Department discusses the advantages of the U-visa for law enforcement and answers several frequently asked questions posed by her peers regarding the U-visa.

2. Sprecher, Megan and McGrath, Michael. "City of Cleveland takes important steps to ensure citizen safety: We all should follow its lead." Cleveland.com (2010). Available at: http://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2010/03/city_of_cleveland_takes_import.html

In this article, the City of Cleveland's efforts to expand the use of the U-visa are chronicled, including working with the Cleveland Police Department to issue a U-visa protocol.

3. Toral, Almudena. "Visas Out of Hell: Women Need to Know They Exist." WeNews (2010). Available at: <http://womensenews.org/story/100302/visas-out-hell-women-need-know-they-exist#.UlwpqBZ8JII>

This article highlights the story of Graciela Beines, a victim of crime, and how assistance that she received from police, advocates, and others led to a U-visa. The article also links to a video of Ms. Beines describing her experiences.

4. Ulloa, Jazmine. "U Visa provides temporary legal status for victims of violent crime." The Brownsville Herald (2010). Available at: <http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/articles/recalls-107822-night-wall.html>.

In this article, the author details the history of the U-visa, including the administrative barriers that have led to the U-visa being an underused tool for law enforcement.

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5. Ellison, Katherine, *A Special Visa Program Benefits Abused Illegal Immigrants*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 8, 2010), <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/08/us/08sfimmigrant.html?pagewanted=all> (“ . . . police certification of the visas was a powerful tool in creating bonds among wary residents who have long been the silent victims of a range of crimes, like the robberies of illegal immigrants known on the streets as ‘amigo checkings.’”).
6. Berestein Rojas, Leslie. *When Immigrants Are Crime Victims, How Much Does Legal Status Matter?*, MULTI-AMERICAN (Feb. 7, 2012), <http://www.scpr.org/blogs/multiamerican/2012/02/07/8051/when-immigrants-are-crime-victims-how-much-does-le/>.
7. Wallace, Ava. *As Demand for U Visa Grows, Visa’s Future for Abused Women Uncertain*, IMMIGRANT CONNECT: CHICAGO (Dec. 9, 2012), <http://www.immigrantconnect.org/2012/12/09/as-demand-for-u-visa-grows-visas-future-uncertain/>.
8. Castellanos, Sara. *Cops Without Borders: Keeping the Peace With Illegal Immigrants*, AURORA SENTINEL (July 3, 2013), <http://www.aurorasentinel.com/news/cops-without-borders-keeping-the-peace-with-illegal-immigrants/>.
9. Kelley, Jeremy P. *Dayton Aims to Help Illegal Immigrant Crime Victims*, DAYTON DAILY NEWS (Feb. 14, 2013), <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/news/dayton-aims-to-help-illegal-immigrant-crime-victim/nWPPx/>.
10. Anderson, Lindsey. *Special Report: DC Stalemate Leaves Too Few Visas for Crime Victims*, LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS (June 8, 2013), <http://nmindepth.com/2013/06/08/dc-stalemate-leaves-too-few-visas-for-crime-victims/>
11. Walter, Shoshana. *U Visa Aids Immigrant Crime Victims*, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE (Oct. 30, 2012), <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/U-visa-aids-immigrant-crime-victims-3994601.php>.
12. Casey, Chris. *Shut Out: An In-Depth Look at U-Visas*, GREELEY TRIBUNE <https://immigrationintheheartland.wordpress.com/2010-conference/projects/chris-casey/>
13. Collins, Erin. *Refuge from Violence: Minnesota Lawyers Help Immigrant Crime Victims Find Safe Harbor*, TWIN CITIES DAILY PLANET (July 8, 2013), <https://www.tcdailyplanet.net/refuge-violence-minnesota-lawyers-help-immigrant-crime-victims-find-safe-harbor/>
14. Macchi, Victoria. *Undocumented Immigrants Allowed to Stay in Collier as Crime Victims, Witnesses*, NAPLES NEWS (Nov. 25, 2012), <http://archive.naplesnews.com/community/undocumented-immigrants-allowed-to-stay-in-collier-as-crime-victims-witnesses-ep-385768381-331579421.html/>

15. McEnroe, Paul. *Protecting Illegal Immigrants to Catch Criminals*, STAR TRIBUNE (Oct. 27, 2011), <http://mexicanexpulsions.blogspot.com.ar/2011/10/protecting-illegal-immigrants-to-catch.html>

16. Meltzer, Erica, Boulder DA Stan Garnett Takes a Stand on Crimes Against Immigrants, DAILY CAMERA (Oct. 16, 2011), http://www.dailycamera.com/boulder-county-news/ci_19121370 (“Garnett said he believes more cases are being reported since his office actively reached out to groups that work with immigrant communities.”).

17. Howard, Willie, Lake Worth Liaison Builds Trust Between City’s Immigrants, Law Officers, PALM BEACH POST (March 11, 2012), <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/lake-worth-liaison-builds-trust-between-city-immigrants-law-officers/X11TOPX0MrZ7HP4xP11UPI/> (“Benito Gaspar [Community Outreach Liaison] has been working for nearly two years to build trust between the city's immigrants and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. . . . Calls to Crime Stoppers from Lake Worth increased 25 percent last year compared with 2010, which the sheriff's office attributes in part to Gaspar's efforts.”).

18. Abernathy, Michael, U visas Gaining Prominence, TIMES-NEWS (December 30, 2011), <http://www.alipac.us/f12/u-visas-gaining-prominence-246800/>

19. “The ‘U’ Visa for Victims of a Crime in the United States” <http://sethilawgroup.com/u-visa-victims-crime-united-states/>

This article discusses how the U visa is an effective tool for law enforcement and, despite the unsettling number of applicants awaiting the visa, it is an opportunity that immigrant victims should take advantage of.

20. How Law Enforcement is Using the U-Visa (October 2011). https://storage.googleapis.com/vera-web-assets/downloads/Publications/how-law-enforcement-is-using-the-u-visa/legacy_downloads/U-visa-practice-brief.pdf

This article describes what a U-visa is; how it is used, including barriers within it; and how it has been successful in the past.

21. Solis, Gustavo, U Visa Data Give Glimpse into Local Law Enforcement-Immigrant Relationship, USA TODAY (Feb 8, 2017) <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2017/02/08/u-visa-immigrant-police-relationship/97666590/>

This article goes over the use of the U-visa in California, including its demand and signs of success.

22. Myers, Randy, U Visa Allows Undocumented Domestic-Violence Victims Work Permits <https://search-proquest-com.proxyau.wrlc.org/docview/456945587/51387E1A93074A58PQ/1?accountid=8285>

This article tells the story of an immigrant woman who experienced domestic abuse, but now lives in a calmer environment and is seeking to spread the word about the U Visa so that other undocumented immigrant victims can reap its benefits.

23. Morrissey, Kate, Immigration Status Can Make Matters Worse for Domestic Violence Victims (January 27, 2017).

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/immigration/sd-me-domestic-violence-20170107-story.html>

This article details the story of a woman who experienced domestic violence for many years and was eventually picked up by ICE officers for her immigration status, but avoided deportation by applying for the U-Visa

24. LaRiviere, Michael P; Guthman, Nick; Anver, Benich, PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES AND OFFICER SAFETY (May/June 2016)

<https://search-proquest-com.proxyau.wrlc.org/docview/1924840182/D6323CBD77DF4AB2PQ/4?accountid=8285>

This article discusses how the U visa can help law enforcement learn about and prosecute criminals, bringing about more safety for all members of the community.

25. Madrid-Crost, Mary Carmen, U Visas Available for Out-of-Status Immigrants in US Who Are Victims of Certain Crimes (April 9, 2014).

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/101829/u-visas-available-for-out-of-status-immigrants-in-us-who-are-victims-of-certain-crimes>

Upon describing what a U visa is and how one can qualify for it, this article describes successful U Visa cases, including a woman who was robbed by three armed men. It also describes how the U visa can help foreign workers in a scenario that is far too common—where they are forced into debt, are stuck with a job with sporadic hours, low wages, and cramped housing conditions.

26. U Visas and the Role of Local Police in Preventing and Investigating Crimes Against Immigrants.

http://www.policeforum.org/assets/docs/Subject_to_Debate/Debate2017/debate_2017_junaug.pdf
("A number of police departments have found that their role in making such certifications helps them to build trust in immigrant communities")

27. Newton, Noelle, Travis County Sheriff Educates Immigrant Community on U Visa Program

<http://www.fox7austin.com/news/local-news/travis-county-sheriff-educates-immigrant-community-on-u-visa-program> ("If a victim or witness doesn't come forth, that means a suspect or a defendant runs free and so that has an impact on all of us because if they've harmed one person, and they're not held accountable then all of us...you, me, everyone could be the next victim.")

28. Guidos, Rhina, Visa Helps Noncitizens Who Are Victims of Crime Stay in the U.S., The Salt Lake Tribune (July 11, 2004).

<https://search-proquest-com.proxyau.wrlc.org/docview/281951854/53520B877A214B6FPQ/19?accountid=8285>

This article describes the story of a woman who has received a work permit while waiting for her U-visa to be processed, which has helped her to support her two young daughters.