

Receive Updates



Homeland Security

## USCIS Accepts the Ombudsman's Recommendation to Adopt Parole Policy for U Visa Petitioners and Family Members

U.S. Department of Homeland Security sent this bulletin at 09/07/2016 04:33 PM EDT

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)



Homeland Security

Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman

September 7, 2016

Dear Stakeholder,

USCIS has [agreed](#) with the Ombudsman's [recommendation](#) to implement a parole policy for U visa petitioners and qualifying family members who live abroad. The U visa – available to individuals who have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of a qualifying crime and who meet certain other criteria – are capped at 10,000 per fiscal year. When the cap is exceeded, U petitioners who live abroad are placed on a waiting list and must then proactively seek humanitarian parole to enter the United States. As a result, victims of crimes residing abroad are not able to easily aid investigators and prosecutors.

The Ombudsman's recommendation explains the clear regulatory authority for a parole policy and the significant public and humanitarian benefits. Family reunification allows the victim to focus attention on the prosecution of the crime and on rebuilding

his or her life. In addition, U petitioners and derivate family members who remain abroad may be subject to violence and harm in the country in which they reside.

The Ombudsman is pleased that USCIS will implement this policy when a new form and policy guidance are completed in Fiscal Year 2017 and look forward to an announcement from USCIS regarding the remaining recommendations under consideration: 1) that USCIS allow for concurrent filings of the U visa and the request for parole; and 2) that parole requests be adjudicated at the Vermont Service Center.

Sincerely,

Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman

U.S. Department of Homeland Security



*Stay Connected:*  
[Follow CIS Ombudsman on Facebook](#)



---

Update your subscriptions, modify your password or e-mail address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). You will need to use your e-mail address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact [subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com](http://subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com).

This service is provided to you at no charge by the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#).

[Privacy Policy](#) | GovDelivery is providing this information on behalf of U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and may not use the information for any other purposes.

