

SOCAL IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Asylum Application (I-589) Document Checklist

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Complete list of documents needed to file Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal.

Application Materials

- Completed Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal
Must be filed within 1 year of arrival in the U.S. (limited exceptions apply)
- Copy of passport (all pages including blank pages)
- Two passport-style photographs (2x2 inches)
Taken within the last 30 days, white background
- Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record
Download from i94.cbp.dhs.gov or include paper copy if available
- Copy of any visa used to enter the United States

Identity Documents

- Certified birth certificate with English translation
If unavailable, submit a sworn affidavit explaining why and any alternative ID
- National identity card or other government-issued ID from home country
- Any travel documents (refugee travel document, laissez-passer, etc.)
- Marriage certificate and birth certificates of dependents included in the application

Supporting Evidence of Persecution

- Country condition reports (U.S. State Department, UNHCR, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International)
Focus on reports relevant to your specific claim (religion, political opinion, ethnicity, etc.)
- Detailed personal declaration describing persecution experienced or feared
Be specific with dates, locations, names, and details — this is the most important document
- Medical or psychological evaluation reports documenting trauma
Reports from licensed professionals carry significant weight
- Police reports or complaints filed in home country
- News articles, photographs, or videos documenting persecution or country conditions
- Membership cards, letters, or other evidence of political, religious, or social group affiliation

Witness & Expert Support

- Sworn affidavits from witnesses who can corroborate your claims
Include witness contact information and their relationship to you
- Expert declarations on country conditions or cultural practices
- Letters from community organizations, religious leaders, or advocacy groups

USCIS Filing Fee: \$0 (no fee for asylum applications)