



Join America

VAWA

Violence Against Women Act

- ✓ Join the Conversation
- ✓ Know Your Rights
- ✓ Make A Difference
- ✓ Stay Safe
- ✓ Get Help
- ✓ Protect yourself and your family

Your immigration status should NOT be a source of power or control. For domestic abusers, it no longer is.

Immigration Options for Victims of Crime

WHAT IS VAWA

The Violence Against Women Act was enacted in 1994 to help immigrant victims of domestic violence lawfully remain in the United States. Every day, victims are unable to flee their abusive homes for fear that their abusers, either U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents, would retaliate by not petitioning them for their green cards. VAWA allows those victims to independently file for lawful status without having to rely on their abusers for sponsorship.

VAWA applies to both male and female victims. If you file a VAWA petition, you may become eligible for permanent residency, protection from deportation proceedings, public benefits and work authorization. For your safety, the VAWA process is kept confidential from the abuser.

All agencies within the Dept of Homeland Security (DHS), including USCIS, are legally prohibited from disclosing that a victim has applied for VAWA.



There are specific protections for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.

www.uscis.gov

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

REGARDLESS of your immigration status, you may be eligible for VAWA if you are:

- An abused spouse of a US citizen or lawful

Permanent resident

- An abused child (unmarried & under 21 years)
Of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident
- A non-abused spouse of a U.S. citizen or lawful

- permanent resident whose child is abused by the U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident
- An abused parent of a U.S. citizen son or daughter (the son or daughter must be 21 years of age or older)

Victims of the following crimes may be eligible for a nonimmigrant visa:

Trafficking in persons—also known as “human trafficking”—is a form of modern-day slavery. Traffickers prey on many types of people, often including individuals who are poor, unemployed, underemployed, or who lack the safety and protection of strong social networks. Victims are often lured under the false pretenses of good jobs and better lives, and then forced to work under brutal and inhumane conditions. (www.uscis.gov)

Abduction	Slave Trade	Felonious Assault
Blackmail	Trafficking	Abusive Sexual Contact
Extortion	Domestic Violence	Female Genital Mutilation
Murder	Sexual Assault	Obstruction of Justice
Perjury	Hostage Taking	Involuntary Servitude
Incest	Rape	False Imprisonment
Peonage	Prostitution	Witness Tampering
Kidnapping	Torture	Sexual Exploitation
Manslaughter		Unlawful Criminal

HOW DO YOU APPLY?

Call our office for assistance and for referral.
702-633-4464