



Policy Brief:

The asylum process – beginning to end – for asylum seekers

The Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture

This poster will explain the asylum process for asylum seekers.

About the advocate

The Program for Survivors of Torture provides comprehensive medical, mental health, social, and legal services to survivors of torture and war trauma, and their families. They assist survivors in rebuilding healthy, independent lives, and contribute to global efforts to end torture.

The issue

The asylum process is dangerously misunderstood. False information is commonly provided to asylum seekers, jeopardizing their application processes. Asylum seekers are vulnerable to non-legal professionals that offer to complete asylum applications for a fee. These professionals often lack the expertise on the issues and file applications without listening to the seeker's persecution history. Currently, all asylum seekers are urged to apply within one year or risk becoming ineligible, but they are often fearful of applying. While criminal defendants are constitutionally entitled to legal representation, asylum applicants have no such right.

The impact

Understanding asylum law and eligibility can mean the difference between individuals being granted or denied asylum status by immigration officers or judges. A visual guide will inform asylum seekers, many of whom have limited English and literacy skills, of the steps in the asylum process and where to get help. Asylum

MAKING POLICY PUBLIC

seekers come from many different countries and speak many languages – this poster will provide timely and culturally relevant information to individuals regardless of their first language and country of origin.

The distribution network

The poster will be distributed to all new and existing Program for Survivors Of Torture clients applying for asylum. In addition, the guide will be distributed through the Libertas Center for Human Rights, which also assist torture survivors and asylum seekers in New York City.



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