

# Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate

## Humanitarian Parole Program



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services



The Humanitarian Parole Program is  
administered by the  
Humanitarian Affairs Branch  
Office of International Operations



## Overview of Parole Authority

### Legal Authorities

- Parole is governed by multiple Public Laws, regulations, and policies, including:
  - Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Title 8, United States Code, Section 1182(d)(5): provides authority to the Attorney General to parole aliens into the United States
  - Sections 402 and 421 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, P.L. 107-29: transfers authority for immigration matters, including parole, to the Secretary of DHS; and
  - Title 8, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 212.5: provides regulations for the parole of aliens into the United States



## Legal Authorities (continued)

- Parole is a discretionary authority that allows for the temporary entry of individuals into the United States on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or for significant public benefit
- Parole does not constitute an admission into the United States
- Parole does not convey any benefits to the beneficiary



## What is Humanitarian Parole?

- Humanitarian Parole is an extraordinary measure sparingly used to bring an otherwise inadmissible alien into the United States for a temporary period of time due to a compelling emergency.
- Humanitarian Parole is not intended to be used to circumvent normal visa issuing procedures, bypass delays in visa issuance, or immigrate to the United States.
- It is possible that a parolee can adjust to a permanent immigration status from parolee (e.g., parolees granted asylum, beneficiary of a relative petition, Cubans through the Cuban Adjustment Act, etc.), but parole in and of itself does not lead to a more permanent status.



## Who Can Apply for Humanitarian Parole?

- Anyone can make an application on behalf of someone who is outside of the United States and has an urgent need to enter the country.
- Individuals may also self petition for Humanitarian Parole if they are outside the United States.



## Common Types of Parole Requests

- Reasons for Parole include but are not limited to the following:
  - Medical Emergencies/Care
  - Family Reunification (adults and children)
  - Civil and Criminal Court Proceedings
  - Other Emergent Requests



HAB staff triages requests for HP received and attempts to provide immediate processing in accordance with the following criteria:

- Life threatening medical emergencies
- Family reunification
- Children under 16
- Physically and/or mentally challenged individuals





## Jurisdiction

- USCIS, ICE, and CBP exercise concurrent parole authority
  - USCIS (HAB) authorizes parole for aliens outside the United States for many reasons, including humanitarian.
  - ICE authorizes parole for aliens outside of the United States for many reasons, including law enforcement and intelligence purposes.
  - CBP authorizes parole at United States ports of entry, including pre-flight inspection facilities.



## Application Forms and Documentation

- **Form I-131, Application for Travel Document** (required for all requests)
- Ensure application is sent to the correct Lockbox address.
- Non-refundable fee of \$360
- A fee waiver request can be filed with the parole application
- A concise, to the point but comprehensive statement of facts supporting the parole request
- Birth, marriage, or death certificates



## Application Forms and Documentation (continued)

- Biographical page of passport for beneficiary, petitioner and AOS sponsor
- Divorce decrees
- Guardianship/Adoption decrees
- Other pertinent documentation



## Application Forms and Documentation (continued)

- **Form I-134, Affidavit of Support** with:
  - Income tax return for the previous year
  - Proof of current employment
  - Medical and/or insurance coverage (applicable to medical cases)
  - Proof of immigration status (if Sponsor is different from Petitioner)
  - Form I-134 must be signed, dated and Box 11 must be checked “I intend”



## Adjudications Decisions

- If the parole request is approved, HAB will notify the petitioner and any representative of record.
- HAB will then coordinate with the USCIS Overseas Officers or US Embassy or Consulate for issuance of appropriate travel documentation.
- If the parole request is denied, HAB will notify the applicant and any representative of record.



## Re-Paroles

- There is no provision in the regulations to “extend” a parole for an individual who is present in the US. A parole ends on the date the parole period expires or when the alien departs the US if this occurs prior to the expiration of the parole.
- HAB has the authority to Re-Parole an alien if the initial parole authorization was issued by the HAB.
- A request for Re-Parole requires the filing of a complete parole application package (including a nonrefundable fee of \$360) that contains information supporting the need for a Re-Parole.



## Conclusion

- Over the years, approximately 25% of the received applications have been approved. Generally we receive approximately 1200 applications per year.
- Please remember that humanitarian parole cannot be used to circumvent normal immigration procedures and it is not a means to bypass delays in visa issuance. Therefore, humanitarian parole should not be recommended to individuals unless all other avenues for entry into the United States have been exhausted.
- Complete application instructions including downloadable forms can be found at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)



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## QUESTION/ANSWER SESSION

