

American Gateways

Pro Bono Program “Asylum Basics”

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CASE STUDIES

- **Ms. D from Iraq** – Ms. D is a dual Iraqi and Jordanian citizen and a member of a large family group that spans both countries. While working in Baghdad, she met and eventually married an American contractor, who worked in the Green Zone. Her husband died of an illness not long after and she was never able to obtain status through him. She kept the marriage a secret from her family. Late, after Ms. D’s family learned that she had married an American man, they kidnapped her and planned to carry out an honor killing. She managed to escape from her family compound and moved to Amman. However, she continued to receive death threats there and eventually decided to flee to the United States.

CASE STUDIES

- **Ms. F from The Republic of Congo (Brazzaville)** – Ms. F comes from a prominent family in Pointe Noir that became the target of persecution after her father, a physician, refused to falsify medical records related to a prominent atrocity that occurred during the country’s civil war in the 1990s. In late 2010, her father did not come home one evening. Instead, a truckload of soldiers came to her family home and abducted Ms. F and her mother. They were held captive and raped. Following a dramatic escape, Ms. F moved to Johannesburg, South Africa for a while. However, Ms. F did not have lawful status there and was re-traumatized by the anti-immigrant violence sweeping through the country. In summer 2014, she fled to the United States.

ASYLUM: LEGAL FRAMEWORK

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"A permanent residence ought not to be denied to foreigners who, expelled from their home, are seeking refuge, provided that they submit to the established government and observe any regulations which are necessary to avoid strifes"

Hugo Grotius – De Jure belli ac pacis (1625)

ASYLUM: LEGAL FRAMEWORK

"Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution."

Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

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