

The background of the left side of the page features a photograph of the Statue of Liberty, showing her head, crown, and torch against a blue sky with light clouds. The statue is positioned on the left, with its base visible at the bottom.

# Safe Haven

for victims  
of war crimes and  
other atrocities

Globally, the HRVWCC maintains direct contact with a number of international, regional and national organizations that specialize in investigating and prosecuting atrocities. These include the INTERPOL and our national war crimes investigative counterparts in Canada, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Australia. In addition, the HRVWCC liaises internationally with HSI Attachés offices, and coordinates with FBI legal Attaché offices and sub-offices worldwide.

In pursuing perpetrators of human rights abuses, the HRVWCC is uniquely situated among federal law enforcement agencies in its combined authorities under both US criminal and immigration law. The HRVWCC partners with the U.S. Department of Justice to pursue criminal prosecutions. There are five specific US laws addressing serious human rights abuses:

- Genocide (18 USC, Section 1091)
- Torture (18 USC, Section 2340A)
- War Crimes (18 USC, Section 2441)
- Recruitment/Use of Child Soldiers (18 USC, Section 2442)
- Female Genital Mutilation (18 USC, Section 116)

The HRVWCC can typically investigate violations of these laws when:

- The perpetrator is a US person, or
- The victim is a US person, or
- The perpetrator, regardless of nationality, is located within the US.

In addition to the human rights statutes, the HRVWCC also investigates immigration related violations. Often, perpetrators gain entry into the US by making material misrepresentations on their immigration paperwork, posing among innocent refugee populations. The HRVWCC works to ensure perpetrators cannot find safe haven within the US. With the expanded jurisdiction of ICE, the HRVWCC can investigate potential violations of immigration laws to include:

- Fraud and Misuse of Visa, Permits or other documents (18 U.S.C. § 1546)
- Unlawful Procurement of Citizenship or Naturalization (18 U.S.C. § 1425)
- False Statements or Entries Generally (18 U.S.C. § 1001)
- Perjury (18 U.S.C. § 1621)
- Re-entry after Prior Removal (18 U.S.C. § 1326)

There are times when criminal prosecution is not possible or not in the best interest of the case. In these circumstances, ICE may, under the authority of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), charge individuals administratively with the following human rights violations as grounds of inadmissibility and removability from the United States as another means to seek resolution and prevent individuals from obtaining safe haven while avoiding justice in their home countries.

- Genocide
- Nazi Persecution
- Torture
- Extrajudicial Killing
- Severe Violations of Religious Freedom
- Recruitment or Use of Child Soldiers

**The United States welcomes refugees, asylum seekers, and other persons who have been victims of war crimes and other atrocities. However, the United States will not be a safe haven to those who commit such atrocities.**

The Human Rights Violators War Crimes Center (HRVWCC) leads the US Government efforts to investigate persons in the United States, or US persons abroad, who have carried out genocide, torture, war crimes, and other serious human rights violations. The HRVWCC also works to ensure human rights violators abroad are identified and barred from entering the United States in the future.

The HRVWCC was initiated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in 2008 and has evolved into a unique interagency effort. At the HRVWCC, ICE's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) International Human Rights Unit combine federal resources against perpetrators of serious human rights violations. Analysts, researchers, attorneys and investigators at the HRVWCC collaborate on matters pertaining to human rights abuses overseas.



**The HRVWCC needs your help to bring perpetrators to justice.**

If you have information about a person who committed these serious crimes please submit a tip.

You may remain anonymous.

1-866-347-2423

International: 00-1-802-872-6199

Email: [HRV.ICE@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:HRV.ICE@ice.dhs.gov)

Online: [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov)

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For information about victim assistance, please call:

ICE Victim-Witness toll-free number

**1-866-872-4973**

or the

FBI Office of Victim Assistance

**1-877-236-8947**

