

Exhibit A



International Refugee
Assistance Project

DATE: May 5, 2023

Submitted via USCIS FIRST

FOIA REQUEST RELATED TO INFORMAL (“CAMP”) MARRIAGES

RECORDS REQUESTED

The International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) requests under FOIA:

1. Reports from the Department of Homeland Security or Department of State required by Section 4(j) of President Biden’s Executive Order on Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs to Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration, dated February 4, 2021 (“Executive Order”), regarding action taken to recognize as “spouses” for purposes of derivative status through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program individuals who are in committed life partnerships but who are unable to marry or to register their marriage due to restrictions in the law or practices of their country of origin, including for individuals in same-sex, interfaith, or camp-based marriages.
2. All final policy memoranda, standard operating procedures, training materials (including but not limited to Refugees, Asylum and International Operations (“RAIO”) training materials) and/or other similar records that describe USCIS’s implementation of the Revised Guidance on Informal Camp Marriages dated February 14, 2022 (“Revised Guidance”). *See* https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/memos/Revised_Guidance_on%20Informal_%28_Camp_%29_Marriages.pdf.
3. Data on a monthly basis since January 20, 2021, sufficient to show the number of applications for derivative spousal benefits for refugees in informal marriages that have been:
 - a. Submitted pursuant to the policy change reflected in Section 4(j) of the Executive Order or the Revised Guidance.
 - b. Approved pursuant to the policy change reflected in Section 4(j) of the Executive Order or the Revised Guidance.

Please produce the data in Excel or other spreadsheet format that allows for manipulation of the data, if readily reproducible in that format.

FEE WAIVER REQUEST

IRAP is a non-profit organization with a mission that includes disseminating current information about topics related to pathways for safety for displaced persons. *See* <https://refugeerights.org/who-we-are/mission-values>.

IRAP seeks a public interest fee waiver as IRAP has no commercial interest in the records requested and the records requested are likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the activities of the government, specifically relating to the implementation of revised guidance expanding immigration benefits to spouses of refugees in informal marriages.

IRAP also seeks a fee waiver as a representative of the news media. IRAP routinely uses materials obtained through FOIA and other methods to create and publish informational and educational materials about safe pathways for displaced people. These materials are widely disseminated to the public free-of-charge through IRAP's legal information website, blogs and publications posted on its website, and social media platforms. *See, e.g.*, <https://twitter.com/IRAP>; <https://www.facebook.com/RefugeeAssist/>. IRAP's website dedicated to providing legal information about migration pathways to displaced people was viewed by over 130,000 unique visitors between May 2021 and 2022. *See* <https://support.iraplegalinfo.org/hc/en-us>. In the same time frame, IRAP's News & Resources pages that host its publications were viewed by over 100,000 unique visitors. *See* <https://refugeerights.org/news-resources>.

The materials responsive to the FOIA request will be of current interest to the public. Despite the recent welcome announcement of changes to the marriage policy for refugees, there is little publicly available information as to how the changes have been applied in practice. The general public, refugee families, and refugee advocates are unable to understand and rely upon the changes in the absence of knowledge of its application.