

**From:** USCIS Customer Assistance <[CAO@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:CAO@uscis.dhs.gov)>  
**Date:** November 6, 2015 at 10:53:36 AM EST  
**To:** [edwina@secularpolicyinstitute.net](mailto:edwina@secularpolicyinstitute.net)  
**Subject:** USCIS # 1111452

Dear Ms. Rogers:

Thank you for your inquiry to Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson requesting assistance in obtaining asylum in the United States for a group of writers and other secularist who reside in Bangladesh.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security referred your inquiry to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Special Cases Unit. Your inquiry has been assigned case # 1111452. Our office is committed to helping USCIS customers resolve any problems they might have encountered when applying for immigration services and benefits.

We understand your concerns and are dedicated to providing you with accurate information and guidance. The United States provides two types of protection for people facing persecution: Asylum and Refugee. People who want to apply for asylum status must be physically present in or arrive in the United States. As a courtesy, we have attached links for the [Information Guide for Prospective Asylum Applicants](#) and [USCIS – Refugees](#).

A refugee is a person who has fled his or her country of origin because of past persecution or a fear of future persecution based upon race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. People fleeing civil wars and natural disasters may not be eligible for resettlement under U.S. law. However, they may fall within the protection of the [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Bangladesh](#).

As a matter of policy, USCIS does not give a legal opinion or

advice to private individuals on immigration matters. If you need legal advice, but cannot afford to hire an attorney, we encourage you to visit our website at <http://www.uscis.gov/avoid-scams/find-legal-services>.

If you need additional help or filing instructions under the jurisdiction of USCIS, we suggest you visit our [website](#) or contact our [National Customer Service Center](#) at [1-800-375-5283](tel:1-800-375-5283).

We hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Al Eskalis

Chief of Customer Assistance & Liaison Office