



RACS Guide 14:

Online Research for Refugee Applications in Australia

Publication Date: 1 July 2006
Last Reviewed: 21 December 2006
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Refugee Law Practice and Procedure Guide Series

This Guide is a practice oriented guide for Registered Migration Agents to providing advice and assistance regarding onshore Protection Visa applications. The information contained in this guide represents the law and procedures as they are at July 2006. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this guide is free from error and/or omissions, the law is complex and constantly changing. We advise readers to consult current legislation and seek further information when faced with specific problems. This guide should not be used as a substitute for legal advice.

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This publication has been produced with the financial assistance of the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW. The Foundation seeks to advance the fairness and equity of the justice system and to improve access to justice, especially for socially and economically disadvantaged people. <http://www.lawfoundation.net.au>

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LAW AND JUSTICE
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OF NEW
SOUTH WALES

14.0 Online Research

14.1 Australian legal and government

- Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) – www.immi.gov.au
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) – www.dfat.gov.au
- Minister for Immigration – www.minister.immi.gov.au
- Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) – www.rrt.gov.au
- Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA) – www.themara.com.au
- Parliament of Australia – www.aph.gov.au
- Australasian Legal Information Institute (Austlii) – www.austlii.edu.au
- Legal Aid NSW – www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au
Includes client information about Legal Aid and common legal issues (non immigration) in various community languages.
- Immigration Advice and Rights Centre (IARC) – www.iarc.asn.au/index.html

Comprehensive database of Commonwealth and State legislation and judicial decisions

- ComLaw – www.comlaw.gov.au

Good source of current legislation, particularly for up-to-date or historical legislation. ComLaw supersedes

- SCALEplus www.scaleplus.law.gov.au, but SCALEplus may have legislation not available on ComLaw

14.2 Overseas legal and government

Useful for non-Australian laws

- Asylumlaw.org – www.asylumlaw.org
Provides information on the asylum process in several countries, including Australia, as well as case support for many countries
- World Legal Information Institute (Worldlii) – www.worldlii.org
Access legal information across 21 international databases

Americas

- US Department of State – www.state.gov
- Michigan University Refugee Case Law Site – www.refugeecaselaw.org/subsite.asp
A collation of refugee decisions from several jurisdictions
- Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada – www.irb-cisr.gc.ca
RefLex - www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/decisions/reflex/index_e.htm

Collation of Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada decisions

- Legal Information Institute (LII) – www.law.cornell.edu
Database of US legislation and judicial decisions
- Canadian Legal Information Institute (CanLII) – www.canlii.org
Comprehensive database of Canadian legislation and judicial decisions
- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) – www.cidh.org/defaultE.htm
- IACHR Case Law - www1.umn.edu/humanrts/cases/commissn.htm
- Organization of American States (OAS) Special Rapporteur on the Freedom of Expression - www.cidh.org/Relatoria/index.asp?IID=1
- Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) - www.corteidh.or.cr/index_ing.html

Europe & Central Asia

- Migration Policy Group – www.migpolgroup.com
- Immigration and Nationality Directorate – www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk
- UK Department of Constitutional Affairs: Human Rights Page – www.lcd.gov.uk/hract/hramenu.htm
- British and Irish Legal Information Institute (BAILII) – www.bailii.org
- European Court of Human Rights – www.echr.coe.int
Court judgments, decisions and case law – hudoc.echr.coe.int
- European Union Monitoring and Advocacy Programme (EUMAP) - www.eumap.org

14.3 Non Government Organisations

International/Overseas NGOs

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – www.unhcr.ch
- United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) – www.ohchr.ch/english
- Amnesty International – www.amnesty.org
- Human Rights Watch – www.hrw.org
- United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) – www.unicef.org
- Red Cross (ICRC) – www.icrc.org/eng
- US Committee for Refugees (USCR) – www.refugees.org
- Freedom House – www.freedomhouse.org
- European Council on Refugees and Exiles – www.ecre.org
- European Network Against Racism – www.enar-eu.org/en
- National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns – www.ncadc.demon.co.uk
- International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights - www.ihf-hr.org/index.php
Oversees human rights conditions in Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) member states
- World Organization Against Torture – www.omct.org
- Asian Human Rights Commission – www.ahrc.net
- International Crisis Group – www.crisisgroup.org

Australian NGOs

- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) – www.hreoc.gov.au

- Amnesty International Australia – www.amnesty.org.au
- Refugee Council of Australia – www.refugeecouncil.org.au

14.4 News and Articles

General

- IRIN – www.reliefweb.net
- The Economist – www.economist.com
- The Christian Science Monitor – www.csmonitor.com
- BBC News - news.bbc.co.uk
- CNN – www.cnn.com
- Reuters – www.reuters.com
- Guardian Unlimited – www.guardianunlimited.co.uk
- The New Internationalist – www.oneworld.org/ni
- OneWorld.net – www.oneworld.net
Provides worldwide news coverage
- News Trove – www.newstrove.com/index.html
News stories from major newspapers
- DRUDGE Report – www.drudgereport.com
- Forum18 News Service - <http://www.forum18.org>
News focusing on the freedom of religion
- Google News – news.google.com
- World News Network (WN Network) - www.wnnetwork.com
- World-newspapers.com – www.world-newspapers.com
Links to newspaper, magazine and news sites in English from around the world

Africa

- Afrol News – www.afrol.com
- Africa News – www.africanews.com/search.html
- Mbendi Information for Africa – www.mbendi.co.za/land/af/p0005.htm
- All Africa – allafrica.com
- Africa Confidential – www.africa-confidential.com/countryindex.htm
- USAID Bureau for Africa – www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa/

Americas

- CNN – www.cnn.com
- Zona Latina Latin American Newspapers – www.zonalatina.com/Zlpapers.htm
Lots of links to Latin American news sources

Asia

- Radio Free Asia – www.rfa.org
- Asia Times Online – www.atimes.com

Europe and Central Asia

- Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty – www.rferl.org
News focusing on Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- EurasiaNet.org – www.eurasianet.org/index.shtml
News from Central Asia and the Caucasus
- Central Asia News – www.centralasianews.net

Middle East and North Africa

- Middle East News and World Report Official Website – www.middleeastnews.com
- Mid East Realities (MER) – www.middleeast.org
- Middle East News Online – www.middleeastwire.com
- The Middle East Times – www.metimes.com
- Arab Gateway – www.al-bab.com/arab/news
- Arabic News – www.arabicnews.com

14.5 Country Information and References

Also see NGOs and news.

Government

- US Department of State
Country Background Information – www.state.gov/r/pa/bgn
Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/hr/c1470.htm>
Annual Report on International Religious Freedom - <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/irf/rpt>
- CIA World Factbook – www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook
- UK Home Office Country of Origin Research -
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html
- Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Country of Origin Research Information – www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/origin_e.htm
REFINFO database – www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/cgi-bin/foiocgi.exe/refinfo_e?

Language

- Ethnologue Languages Database – www.ethnologue.com/country_index.asp

Database of Country of Origin Information Requests

- Asylumlaw.org Suoper Search – www.asylumlaw.org/cgi-bin/texis.cgi/webinator/metanew4
- UNHCR
Country of Origin and Legal Information – www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rsd
- IRIN – www.reliefweb.net
- European Country of Origin Information (ECOI) – www.ecoi.net
- Danish Immigration Service Fact-finding Missions –
www.udlst.dk/english/publications/Default.htm?CATEGORIES=23
- Human Rights Internet – www.hri.ca

- US Citizenship and Immigration Services: Resource Information Center - uscis.gov/graphics/services/asylum/ric/index.htm
- Amnesty International Links - web.amnesty.org/links

A large variety of links organised according to theme and country

- Derechos: Human Rights around the World – www.derechos.org/human-rights/world.html
- Links to human rights organisations and documents in countries around the world.
- Minority Rights Group International - minorityrights.org
- Library of (US) Congress Country Studies - memory.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html
- Forced Migration Online - www.forcedmigration.org

AFRICA

- AfricaFiles – www.africafiles.org
Articles and documents on various human rights issues in Africa

ASIA

- UC Berkeley Library – Human Rights in South Asia: Selected Internet Resources - www.lib.berkeley.edu/SSEAL/SouthAsia/humanrights.html
- UC Berkeley Library – Afghanistan and the US: Selected Internet Resources - www.lib.berkeley.edu/SSEAL/SouthAsia/afghan_US.html
- Asian Legal Resource Centre – www.alrc.net