

**§ 6472. Reform of refugee policy****(a), (b) Omitted****(c) Guidelines for refugee-processing posts****(1) Guidelines for addressing hostile biases**

The Attorney General and the Secretary of State shall develop and implement guidelines that address potential biases in personnel of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and of the Department of State that are hired abroad and involved with duties which could constitute an effective barrier to a refugee claim if such personnel carries a bias against the claimant on the grounds of religion, race, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. The subject matter of this training should be culturally sensitive and tailored to provide a nonbiased, non-adversarial atmosphere for the purpose of refugee adjudications.

**(2) Guidelines for refugee-processing posts in establishing agreements with United States Government-designated refugee processing entities**

The Attorney General and the Secretary of State shall develop and implement guidelines to ensure uniform procedures for establishing agreements with United States Government-designated refugee processing entities and personnel, and uniform procedures for such entities and personnel responsible for preparing refugee case files for use by the Immigration and Naturalization Service during refugee adjudications. These procedures should ensure, to the extent practicable, that case files prepared by such entities accurately reflect information provided by the refugee applicants and that genuine refugee applicants are not disadvantaged or denied refugee status due to faulty case file preparation.

**(3) Guidelines for preventing persons with potential biases from participating in determinations**

Not later than 120 days after November 29, 1999, the Secretary of State (after consultation with the Attorney General) shall issue guidelines to ensure that persons with potential biases against any refugee applicant, including persons employed by, or otherwise subject to influence by, governments known to be involved in persecution on account of religion, race, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, shall not in any way be used in processing determinations of refugee status, including interpretation of conversations or examination of documents presented by such applicants.

**(d) Annual consultation**

The President shall include in each annual report on proposed refugee admissions under section 1157(d) of title 8 information about religious persecution of refugee populations eligible for consideration for admission to the United States. The Secretary of State shall include information on religious persecution of refugee populations in the formal testimony presented to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate during

the consultation process under section 1157(e) of title 8.

(Pub. L. 105-292, title VI, § 602, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2812; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, § 1000(a)(7) [div. A, title II, § 253], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A-432.)

## CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of section 602 of Pub. L. 105-292. Subsec. (a) of section 602 of Pub. L. 105-292 amended section 1157 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality. Subsec. (b) of section 602 of Pub. L. 105-292 amended section 4028 of this title.

## AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 106-113, § 1000(a)(7) [div. A, title II, § 253(a)], inserted “and of the Department of State” after “Service”.

Subsec. (c)(3). Pub. L. 106-113, § 1000(a)(7) [div. A, title II, § 253(b)], added par. (3).

## ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related references, see note set out under section 1551 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

**§ 6473. Reform of asylum policy****(a) Guidelines**

The Attorney General and the Secretary of State shall develop guidelines to ensure that persons with potential biases against individuals on the grounds of religion, race, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, including interpreters and personnel of airlines owned by governments known to be involved in practices which would meet the definition of persecution under international refugee law, shall not in any manner be used to interpret conversations between aliens and inspection or asylum officers.

**(b) Training for asylum and immigration officers**

The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Ambassador at Large, and other relevant officials such as the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center, shall provide training to all officers adjudicating asylum cases, and to immigration officers performing duties under section 1225(b) of title 8, on the nature of religious persecution abroad, including country-specific conditions, instruction on the internationally recognized right to freedom of religion, instruction on methods of religious persecution practiced in foreign countries, and applicable distinctions within a country in the treatment of various religious practices and believers.

**(c) Training for immigration judges**

The Executive Office of Immigration Review of the Department of Justice shall incorporate into its initial and ongoing training of immigration judges training on the extent and nature of religious persecution internationally, including country-specific conditions, and including use of the Annual Report. Such training shall include governmental and nongovernmental methods of persecution employed, and differences in the treatment of religious groups by such persecuting entities.