

# Welcoming Afrikaners Frequently Asked Questions



## Who are Afrikaner refugees?

Afrikaner refugees are individuals of Afrikaner descent, primarily white South Africans with Dutch ancestry, who have left South Africa due to concerns about safety, economic instability, or political changes. Many cite rising crime rates, farm attacks, violence, and affirmative action policies as reasons for seeking refugee status.

## How many Afrikaners are arriving to my community?

While the total number of Afrikaner refugees that will be resettled state by state is still unknown, as of August 2025, the United States has suggested that up to 30,000 Afrikaners will be resettled in the next fiscal year (by September 30th, 2026).

## Will Afrikaners be able to work and receive benefits?

Yes, Afrikaners will arrive through the United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) on a visa that allows them the right to work and receive benefits. Changes to benefit accessibility for all newcomer populations are anticipated due to the passage of the "One Big Beautiful Bill" in summer 2025. You can read CWS's statement on this bill [here](#).

## Do Afrikaners speak English?

Most Afrikaners do speak English, in addition to the native language of Afrikaans. If they do not speak English, CWS will provide translation services for community partners.

## Where can I learn more about Afrikaner culture?

You can learn more about Afrikaners [here](#).

## What happened to all the other populations waiting to be resettled?

The Trump administration has chosen to prioritize this population based on Afrikaner fear of persecution. While refugee resettlement and immigration policy has changed drastically since January 2025, CWS is committed to being a partner of the US government, while actively pursuing legal avenues to reopen USRAP to other populations. CWS continues to serve a wide range of newcomer populations. CWS is a named plaintiff in the *Pacito v. Trump* lawsuit that is currently playing out in federal courts. You can learn more about how this litigation is advocating for all newcomers [here](#) and subscribe to CWS's daily State of Play to receive advocacy updates [here](#).

## As a community member, how can I help resettle Afrikaners?

Afrikaners will receive the same core services as other refugee populations. CWS continues to value volunteer contributions in welcoming newcomers. Specific ways to welcome will vary office to office; connect with your local volunteer coordinator to find out how you can be involved.

## If I don't want to volunteer with Afrikaners, can I still be a CWS volunteer?

Yes. Volunteering with CWS is voluntary and at-will, as a community member you have the autonomy to accept or decline volunteer opportunities.