

Family Reunification of Beneficiaries of International Protection in France

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Ministry of the Interior/ General Directorate of Foreign Nationals in France

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I. Legal and general context

- **Purpose**

Entry and stay of family members of refugees, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and stateless persons.

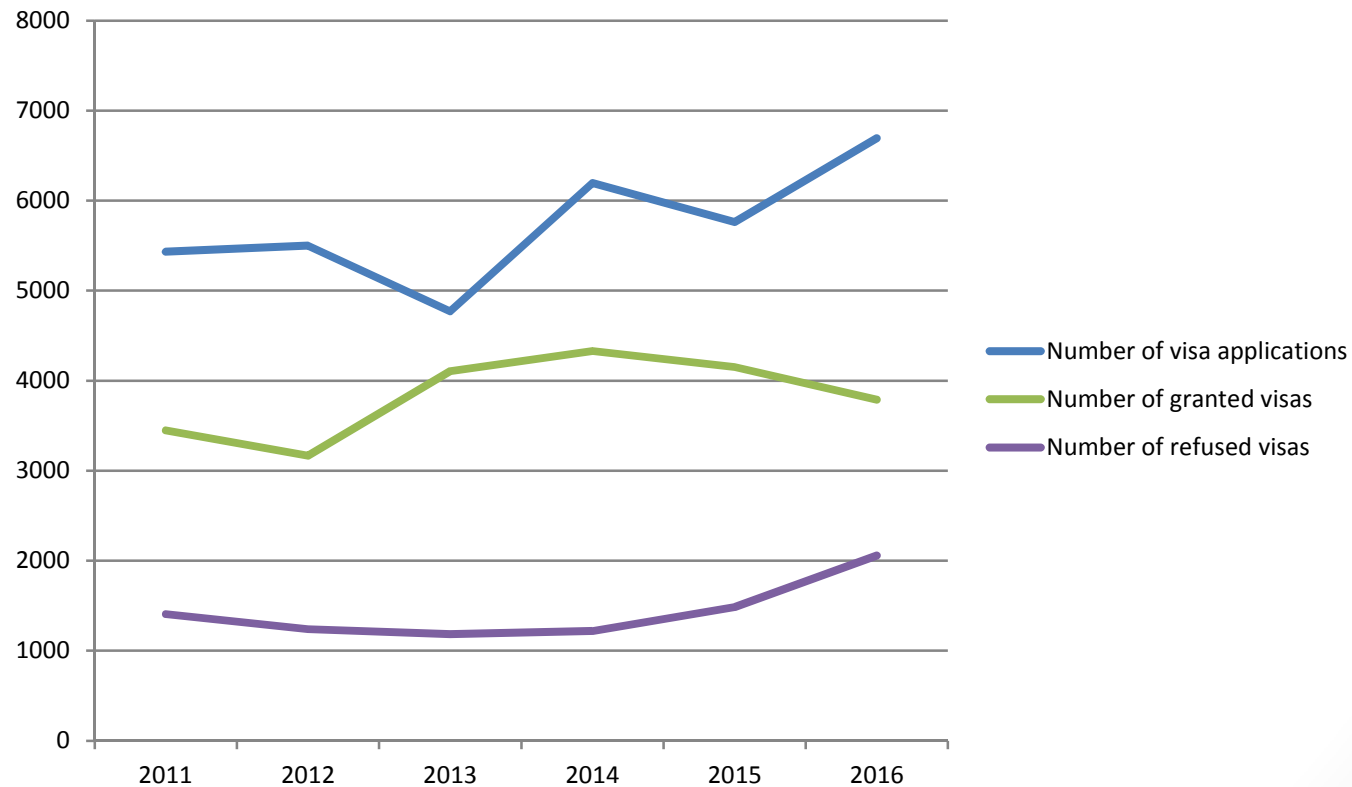
- **Legal basis of family reunification of beneficiaries of international protection**

- ✓ International conventions;
- ✓ Directive 2003/86/EC & Directive 2011/95/EU;
- ✓ Code on Entry and Residence of Foreign Nationals and Right of Asylum (CESEDA) : new legislation since 2015.

II. Some figures

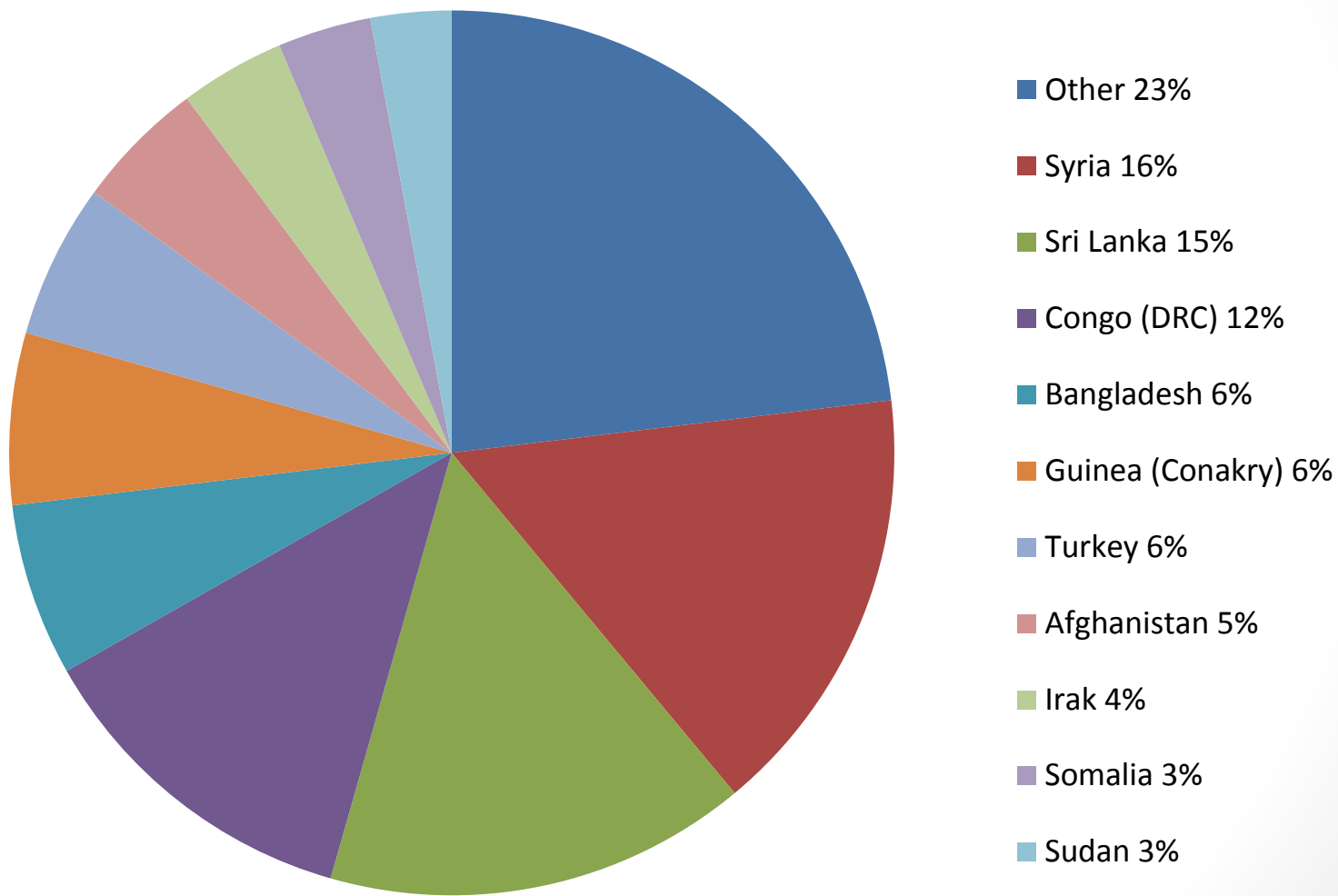
88,000 first residence permits issued each year for family migration.
Including 11,000 residence permits related to family reunification (incl. refugees).

Visa applications submitted by family members of refugees, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and stateless persons in France (2011-2016):



Visas granted to family members of refugees, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and stateless persons in France

Top 10 nationalities



- **Main reasons for these figures:**

- ✓ Use of other processes;
- ✓ Profile change of refugees arrived in France following the 2015 migratory crisis (increase in young and single people);
- ✓ Exclusion of marriages contracted after the asylum application;
- ✓ Increase in fraud detections for some countries of origin.

III. Definition of sponsor

- Within the framework of the procedure of family reunification of beneficiaries of international protection, the **sponsor** is :
 - ✓ The refugee;
 - ✓ The beneficiary of subsidiary protection;
 - ✓ The stateless person.

- The framework applies in the same way to this three categories.
- Derogatory regime and simplified procedure: not subjected to the prior duration of legal stay, resources or accommodation requirements.

IV. Definition of family member

The beneficiaries of international protection may request to be joined by their:

- ✓ **Spouse or civil partner** if they are over the age of 18 and if the marriage or civil union took place prior to the asylum application (same sex or different sex);
- ✓ **Non-married partner** if he/she is over the age of 18 and if a sufficiently stable and continuous cohabiting relationship has already existed prior to the asylum application (same sex or different sex);
- ✓ **Unmarried children** from this relationship (under 19);
- ✓ **Unmarried children** from a previous relationship of the sponsor or the spouse (under 18);
- ✓ **First-degree relatives in the direct ascending line** (parents) if the sponsor is an unmarried minor.

V. Procedure

▪ **Submission of the application**

The application is submitted as part of the long-stay visa application by the family members.

They must provide:

- ✓ A travel document and a photograph;
- ✓ Evidence of the protection granted to the sponsor;
- ✓ A full copy of the birth certificate and/or marriage certificate establishing the family link;
- ✓ €99 per family member.

▪ **Examination of the application**

- ✓ Application recorded by the consulate;
- ✓ Process conducted jointly by the consulate & the Ministry of the Interior (Office for Refugee Families);
- ✓ Legal time period for processing visa applications is two months - this period may be extended to four months (renewable once) if checks on the civil status documents need to be carried out;
- ✓ Decision taken by the consulate.

VI. Main challenges encountered by France

- **Collection of proof of identity and family link**

- ✓ Family members without any document;
- ✓ Family members coming from countries where administration is defaulting.

=> Other proofs are required;

=> Essential fight against fraud & human trafficking.

- **Actual duration of the procedure**

- **Access to information on family reunification**

- ✓ Ongoing development of « France Visa » information portal for visa applicants on the procedure and the documents required.

Thank you for your attention