

St. Kitts and Nevis (SKN)

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<p>Is there a refugee protection program? Please describe it.</p>	<p>St. Kitts and Nevis (SKN) has no functioning refugee program. Per the UNHCR, the nation has not enacted legislation or regulations governing refugee matters, nor has it established an asylum system.¹ However, there are currently five refugees who reside in SKN under the UNHCR’s mandate.² There is no publically available information regarding these individuals’ countries of origin or basis for obtaining refugee status.</p>
<p>Who runs any available refugee protection program? Who determines which applicants qualify for refugee protection?</p>	<p>Although there is no established refugee protection program in SKN, according to UNHCR’s website, UNHCR’s Washington office “covers” the agency’s work there.³ There is no information regarding which officials, if any, are authorized to grant refugee protection to those who seek it.</p>
<p>Is the refugee protection program functional? For example, how long does it take for decisions to be issued? What percentage of applications are granted?</p>	<p>There is no functional refugee program. Based on available UNHCR statistics, it appears as though the five refugees in SKN applied for refugee status in 2017 and were granted such status in 2018.⁴ Per the same tracker, the success rate for these five individuals was 100%.</p>
<p>Do refugees have a right to work? A right to education? A right to medical care? Please describe.</p>	<p>SKN does not appear to have enacted any work regulations specifically governing refugees. Ordinarily, immigrants must</p>

¹ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Saint Kitts and Nevis: UNHCR Submission for the Universal Periodic Review – Saint Kitts and Nevis – UPR 37th Session (2021)*, March 2020, <https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,KNA,,6077650a4,0.html>.

² UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Refugee Data Finder*, <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?url=uz9B>.

³ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Saint Kitts and Nevis*, <https://www.unhcr.org/saint-kitts-and-nevis.html>.

⁴ *Refugee Data Finder*, <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?url=uz9B> (showing 5 Asylum-seekers in 2017 and 5 refugees under the UNHCR’s mandate in 2018).

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	<p>obtain a work permit in order to be employed in SKN.⁵</p> <p>There is no information regarding whether refugees are entitled to education or medical care. Those rights are not explicitly included in SKN's constitution⁶ nor laws.⁷</p>
<p>Are those seeking refugee protection free to live freely or forced to reside in camps?</p>	<p>There is no information available about the living situation of the refugees currently in SKN, including whether they are forced to reside in camps.⁸</p>
<p>Does a grant of refugee protection result in a pathway to permanent status? In other words, can a refugee eventually become a citizen? Is there another form of legal permanent status available for people with refugee status?</p>	<p>There is no information on whether refugees may obtain permanent status and/or citizenship, or whether there are other forms of legal permanent status available to refugees.</p>
<p>Does the country offer temporary protections available other than refugee status? If so, what are they?</p>	<p>There is no information on any temporary protections other than refugee status offered by SKN.</p>
<p>What, if any, penalties are there for people without status or people who are denied refugee protection?</p>	<p>Those who are refused entry into SKN may be detained in custody pending removal.⁹ Deportation appears to be the main penalty for those who are refused entry or illicitly enter SKN.¹⁰ There are fines and terms of imprisonment up to two years for those who lie to the immigration officer questioning new</p>

⁵ 6.02 Laws of Saint Christopher and Nevis § 19, https://aglskn.info/wp-content/documents/Act17TOC/Ch-06_02-Immigration-Act.pdf.

⁶ See generally *The Constitution of Saint Christopher and Nevis*, https://www.oas.org/juridico/PDFs/mesicic5_skn_constitution_annex1.pdf.

⁷ See generally 6.02 Laws of Saint Christopher and Nevis, <https://aglskn.info/acts-of-st-kitts-nevis/revised-acts-of-st-kitts-and-nevis-as-at-31st-december-2017-supplement/?ecListID=1&ecPage=0>

⁸ Global Detention Project, *Saint Kitts and Nevis* (May 18, 2021), <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/americas/saint-kitts-and-nevis>

⁹ 6.02 Laws of Saint Christopher and Nevis § 24, https://aglskn.info/wp-content/documents/Act17TOC/Ch-06_02-Immigration-Act.pdf

¹⁰ *Id.*, https://aglskn.info/wp-content/documents/Act17TOC/Ch-06_02-Immigration-Act.pdf

	arrivals. ¹¹
<p>What organizations exist in-country that can help displaced people seek available protections? What other organizations in the country may be able to help displaced people access services and rights, even if their mission is not to specifically work with refugees and displaced people?</p>	<p>There are no known NGOs or law firms offering legal aid or assistance specifically to refugees.¹²</p>
<p>Is there other information that might be valuable for displaced people arriving in that country to know?</p>	<p>SKN is a nation with a population of approximately 54,000.¹³ The economy is highly reliant on tourism and its citizenship-by-investment program,¹⁴ which may limit the availability of work for potential refugees. SKN is politically stable and respects civil liberties, including freedom of religion¹⁵ and freedom of movement.¹⁶ Per a contact at the Islamic Organization of St. Kitts, there is little to no Islamophobia in the country. The same contact did not opine on whether SKN would be welcoming toward refugees.¹⁷</p> <p>Travel is currently restricted between SKN and the UK, Brazil, South Africa, and India. Refugees should potentially avoid passing through those nations en route to SKN.¹⁸ There are no direct flights between Afghanistan and SKN.</p>

¹¹ *Id.* § 32, https://aglskn.info/wp-content/documents/Act17TOC/Ch-06_02-Immigration-Act.pdf

¹² Refugee Legal Aid Information for Lawyers Representing Refugees Globally Rights in Exile Program, *Saint Kitts and Nevis Pro Bono Directory* <https://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/saint-kitts-and-nevis-pro-bono-directory>.

¹³ Office of International Religious Freedom, *2020 Report on International Religious Freedom: Saint Kitts and Nevis*, United States State Department (May 12, 2021) (“SKN Religious Freedom”), <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-report-on-international-religious-freedom/saint-kitts-and-nevis/>

¹⁴ Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook: Saint Kitts and Nevis* (last updated July 14, 2021), <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/saint-kitts-and-nevis/#economy>.

¹⁵ SKN Religious Freedom, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-report-on-international-religious-freedom/saint-kitts-and-nevis/>

¹⁶ United States State Department, *Saint Kitts and Nevis 2020 Human Rights Report* 5 (March 2021), <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SAINT-KITTS-AND-NEVIS-2020-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf>.

¹⁷ *See Correspondence Between Zakary Kadish and Reaze Rambharat.*

¹⁸ *Foreign travel advice: St Kitts and Nevis*, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/st-kitts-and-nevis>.

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	<p>The Caribbean has just entered hurricane season, which will last through November. Travel to SKN may be disrupted depending on the frequency and severity of tropical storms and hurricanes.¹⁹</p>
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¹⁹ *Id.*, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/st-kitts-and-nevis>.

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