

# Vera Institute of Justice

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

**<https://www.vera.org/blog/the-u-visa-an-important-tool-for-community-policing>**

## Public Facing Advocacy Writing

The January newsletter of the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (the COPS Office) features [an article about the U-visa](#) written by Sergeant Inspector Tony Flores of the San Francisco Police Department and Rodolfo Estrada, senior program associate at Vera's Center on Immigration and Justice (CIJ).

Congress created the U nonimmigrant classification, or U-visa, as part of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act of 2000. The U-visa provides legal immigration status for crime victims who cooperate with law enforcement in investigating, prosecuting, and solving cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and other crimes.

Through the [National Immigrant Victims Access to Justice Partnership](#), CIJ works with the nonprofit organization [Legal Momentum](#) to train law enforcement agencies on using the U-visa. Sergeant Inspector Flores's substantial experience with the U-visa application process has brought tremendous value to the project, facilitating his ability to assist fellow officers to deepen their understanding of this useful tool.

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