Here, too, UNHCR can help. If the quality of the decision-making process remains high, governments should be able to deport failed asylum-seekers once their needs have been properly assessed. Indeed, the fundamental credibility of the asylum system depends on it. Let's hope that the leaders meeting in Seville this week can finally translate their words into action.

Ruud Lubbers is the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. See www.unhcr.org for more information.

A successful asylum application depends on submitting convincing documentation along with a Form I-589. What documents will carry the most weight? Here is an overview of how to prepare different types of supporting documents.

How to Write a Strong Personal Statement.

Because Form I-589 provides you with limited space to give your answers, you should attach a separate statement. Include statements only if they are detailed, focus on facts relevant to your asylum claim, and corroborate your statement. Although most asylum applicants who provide witness statements get them from friends or family, statements from authority figures are even more credible (for example, from local clergy, professors, or government officials). Immigration and asylum are becoming increasingly controversial issues. Hype and fear are used to promote differences and intolerance it seems. New York-based Human Rights Watch reports on how the US Immigration and Naturalization Service treat immigration detainees as though they were criminals by putting these otherwise innocent people in jail, indefinitely. US immigration policies, especially noticeable during the economic boom at the end of the 1990s, are interesting in that they are really designed to bring in immigrants with a certain level and type of education to help enhance the nation, economically. While at first thought this seems reasonable, there are a few ramifications...