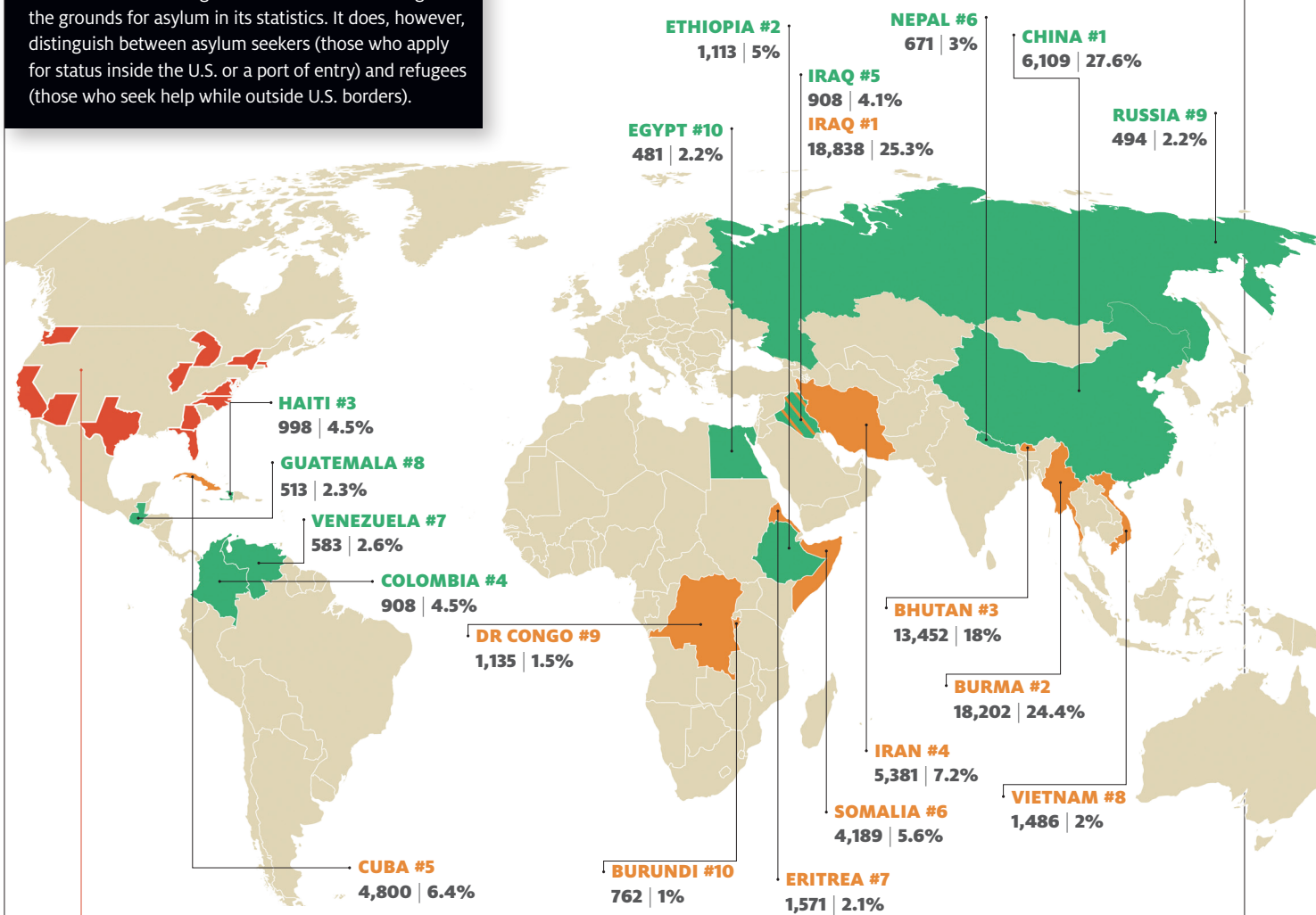
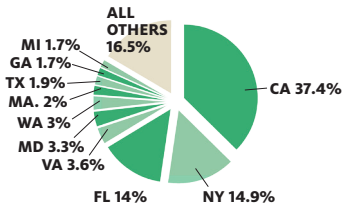
SPOTLIGHT: Today's Pilgrims

Like the settlers of Plymouth Colony who celebrated their Thanksgiving feast 389 years ago, today's refugees and asylum seekers have fled their homelands because of persecution of several kinds—not just religious. So connected are questions of religious liberty and political freedom that the U.S. government does not distinguish the grounds for asylum in its statistics. It does, however, distinguish between asylum seekers (those who apply for status inside the U.S. or a port of entry) and refugees (those who seek help while outside U.S. borders).

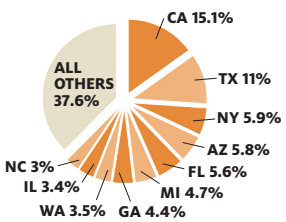


TOP 10 U.S. STATES FOR:

ASYLUM SEEKERS



REFUGEES



Source: Department of Homeland Security Office of Immigration Statistics

Note: Due to differences in definitions and methodology, Department of Homeland Security data on refugees and asylum seekers differ from UNHCR data. Reports on global refugee and asylum trends are at unhcr.org/statistics.html.