iSeek article for NY only: **G-4 visas for domestic partners**

A recent Diplomatic Note from the Permanent Mission of the United States to the UN Secretariat and Funds and Programmes conveys policy changes to the host Government policy regarding the conditions to establish eligibility of domestic partners for a G-4 visa.

According to the Diplomatic Note, following the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States that U.S. domestic laws banning recognition of same-sex marriage are unlawful under the United States Constitution, same-sex spouses of U.S. diplomats now enjoy the same rights and benefits of opposite-sex spouses.

Consequently, consistent with changes to United States Department of State policy, partners accompanying UN officials or seeking to join the same must be married in order to be eligible for the derivative G-4 nonimmigrant visa, or to seek a change into such status, beginning 1 October 2018.

Through [information circular](http://undocs.org/ST/IC/2018/25) (ST/IC/2018/25) [link: [Information Circular (ST/IC/2018/25)](http://undocs.org/ST/IC/2018/25)], all UN officials are informed that when notifying the United States Mission to the United Nations of new spouses for accreditation, the United Nations is requested to submit appropriate documentation that the couple is married. The requirements for eligibility of acceptance of accreditation as a spouse for United Nations officials are the same for all spousal relationships.

For all currently accredited same-sex domestic partners of UN officials who wish to maintain their acceptance of accreditation and derivative G-4 nonimmigrant visa status, the UN has been requested to submit, no later than 31 December 2018, appropriate documentation to the US Mission that the couple is legally married.

After 31 December 2018, unless such individuals are able to obtain separate authorization to remain in the United States through a change of nonimmigrant status with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), they will generally be expected to depart the country within thirty days.

Additionally, partners applying for a visa renewal in the United States on or after 1 October 2018 must be married and accredited with the US Mission in order to qualify for a G-4 nonimmigrant visa. Staff members can verify their partners’ US Mission registration status by checking if they were issued a PID number ([PID Lookup System](https://hcrs.common.un.org/hcrs/jsp/searchPid.faces)) [link: <https://hcrs.common.un.org/hcrs/jsp/searchPid.faces> ].

In view of the above and in order to meet the conditions required by the US Mission:

1. If your domestic partner holds a derivative G-4 visa expiring between 1 October 2018 and 31 December 2018, and if you wish to maintain such visa status for your partner, please submit the appropriate documentation that you and your partner are married, i.e. original marriage certificate, issued by a competent authority, to your [HR Partner](https://iseek.un.org/departmental_page/who-my-hr-partner) [link to iSeek page of HR Partners <https://iseek-newyork.un.org/departmental_page/who-my-hr-partner> ] in the Office of Human Resources Management.  At the same time, please initiate a [request for renewal of G-4 visa](https://iseek-newyork.un.org/webpgdept593_17) [link: <https://iseek-newyork.un.org/webpgdept593_17>] for your partner with the Travel and Transportation Section well in advance with the appropriate documentation that you and your partner are married; or
2. If your domestic partner holds a G-4 visa valid beyond 31 December 2018 and if you wish to maintain the acceptance of accreditation and derivative G-4 nonimmigrant visa status of your partner, please submit the appropriate documentation that you and your partner are married, i.e. original marriage certificate, issued by a competent authority, to your HR Partner in the Office of Human Resources Management, by 20 December 2018.

In both cases, the marriage certificate will be recorded in your official status file and the information shared with the [Travel and Transportation Section](https://iseek-newyork.un.org/webpgdept593_35?dept=593) [link: <https://iseek-newyork.un.org/webpgdept593_35?dept=593>] for their reporting to the US Mission.

For further details, including the Diplomatic Note, please consult the [Information Circular (ST/IC/2018/25)](http://undocs.org/ST/IC/2018/25).

