

INFORMATION FOR PERSONS SEEKING ASYLUM IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

What is asylum?

Asylum is the right to stay and protection of a foreigner who, by the decision of the competent authority, has been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection.

If you have left your country of origin because of fear of persecution because of your race, sex, language, religion, nationality or membership of a particular social group or because of your political beliefs, or you believe that if you return there, you will be persecuted or will suffer serious injustice as a result of the threat by the death penalty or execution, torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, or threat to life caused by violence of a general scale, you have the right to seek asylum in the Republic of Serbia.

Registration - the first step

In order to gain the right to lodge an application for asylum in the Republic of Serbia, in front of an authorized police officer of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, orally or in writing, you can express your intention to lodge an application for asylum during the border control at the entrance to the Republic of Serbia or on the territory of the Republic of Serbia .

An authorized police officer will photograph you and take your fingerprints, issue a Certificate of Registration and refer you to an asylum centre or another facility designated for the accommodation of asylum seekers, to which you must report within 72 hours from the moment the certificate was issued to you about registration.

An authorized police officer has the right to search you and your belongings with full respect for your physical and psychological integrity and human dignity, as well as to temporarily retain all documents and documents that may be of importance in the asylum procedure, if necessary, in which case you will be issued with a certificate.

If you have a passport, identity card or other identification document, residence permit, visa, birth certificate, travel card, or other document or document of importance for the asylum procedure, you are obliged to provide them during registration.

If you deliberately obstruct, avoid registration or do not agree to registration, as well as if you do not report to the centre to which you have been referred, arbitrarily, without authorization and without a justified reason, leave the asylum centre or other facility

designated for the accommodation of asylum seekers before the expiration of the legally prescribed deadline for lodging of application for asylum, the regulations governing the legal status of foreigners will apply to you.

If you leave the Republic of Serbia during the duration of the procedure, the procedure will be discontinued.

Asylum procedure

The asylum procedure consists of the following stages:

1. Lodging of a request for asylum

The asylum procedure is initiated by lodging of a request for asylum to an authorized official of the Asylum Office, on the prescribed form, no later than 15 days from the date of registration.

A request for asylum can also be lodged in writing, by filling out a form (asylum request). A written request can be submitted within an additional period of 8 days (from the expiration of the period of 15 days from the day of registration), which should be delivered to the address Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 2, 11070 Novi Beograd.

The competent authority is obliged to inform you on your rights and obligations, especially the right to stay, the right to a free interpreter during the procedure, the right to free legal aid and the right to access the UNHCR.

2. Interview/Personal Interview

The Interview/Personal Interview is conducted in order to determine all the facts and circumstances relevant for rendering a decision in relation to asylum application lodged, especially those related to determining of your identity; Reasons on which asylum application is based; Your movements after you left your country of origin or country of habitual residence and whether you have already applied for asylum in another country.

You are required to attend and participate in the interview in person, regardless of whether you have a legal representative or attorney. It is important that you tell the truth during the procedure and cooperate with the representatives of the Asylum Office conducting the interview.

3. First Instance delivered

The decision on the asylum application is delivered by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Police Directorate, Border Police Directorate - Asylum Office, within a maximum of 12 months.

Right to appeal

You can file an appeal against a negative decision on an asylum application to the Asylum Commission within 15 days from the date of delivery of the decision. If this appeal is rejected, you can initiate proceedings before the Administrative Court, within 30 days from the date of delivery of the decision rejecting the appeal.

In the case of final negative decision (if the Asylum Office decision rejecting your asylum application is not challenged with the appeal lodged to the Asylum Commission within the prescribed period; or if the negative decisions of the Asylum Commission is not challenged with the complaint filed to the Administrative Court within the prescribed period; decisions of the Administrative Court), you are obliged to leave the territory of the Republic of Serbia within the time period outline to you in the first instance decision.

The principle of confidentiality

Your personal data obtained during the asylum procedure are confidential and can only be accessed by persons authorized by law.

Unaccompanied and separated children

The asylum procedure is conducted in accordance with the principle of the best interests of a child.

Unaccompanied and separated children must first be appointed with a legal guardian from a social welfare institution. The guardian will be present during the entire course of asylum procedure, and will provide assistance with children's accommodation, medical and psychological care, education, searching for family members and other important issues.

Rights of asylum seekers:

- stay and freedom of movement in the Republic of Serbia
- material reception conditions
- information and free legal aid
- freedom of religion
- social-care assistance
- health care protection
- primary and secondary education
- access to the labour market
- personal documents

Asylum seekers do not bear the costs of lodging of asylum application, temporary accommodation and access to basic services.

Rights of persons who have been granted the right to asylum:

- stay
- accommodation
- freedom of movement
- health-care protection
- education
- access to the labour market
- free legal aid
- social-care assistance
- property rights
- freedom of religion
- family reunification
- personal documents (identity card and travel document for refugees)
- assistance in integration

Asylum seekers and persons granted asylum are obliged to respect the Constitution, laws, other regulations and general acts of the Republic of Serbia.

MUP (Ministry of Internal Affairs)



The list of organizations that provide free legal aid can be found at the following link:



The list of state authorities of the Republic of Serbia responsible for asylum and integration issues can be found at the following weblink:

