

SEEKING ASYLUM IN GEORGIA

Information leaflet

WHO IS AN ASYLUM-SEEKER IN GEORGIA?

You are an asylum-seeker if you submitted an oral or written request for international protection in Georgia to one of the relevant State agencies¹ and a final decision has not yet been taken. You can be registered as an asylum-seeker if:

- You are a foreigner or a stateless person and outside of your country of origin (or habitual residence);
- You wish to seek international protection in Georgia due to fear of persecution or risk of suffering serious harm in your country of origin (or habitual residence).

At the end of the asylum procedure, you may be granted refugee status or humanitarian status or your asylum application may be rejected. Detailed information about the asylum procedure, the difference between the refugee and the humanitarian status and other details may be provided to you by the staff of the Migration Department, UN HCR, the Ombudsman Office or NGOs.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW?

- If you entered Georgia in an irregular manner (without passport, visa, or travel documents) and you intend to seek international protection, you must express your intention without delay;
- If you entered Georgia legally, you should express your wish to apply for international protection as soon as possible;
- You may approach the first State authority you encounter upon arrival (e.g. border police or patrol police at the border) or the Migration Department and state your wish to seek international protection;
- You and your family members should be ready for individual interview(s) with the staff of the Migration Department upon their notification;
- You should know that all the interview(s) and records of the interview(s) are confidential (i.e. all the information given by you will not be disclosed to anyone except for the staff of the Migration Department, who directly works with your application);
- You should always tell the truth throughout the whole asylum procedure and provide as many details as possible about the reasons that prompted your departure from your country.

¹ According to Article 3 (b) and Article 24 of the Law of Georgia on International Protection you may submit such a request to the relevant agencies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (e.g. border or patrol police, the Migration Department), the prosecutor's office, administration of the penitentiary establishments of the Ministry of Justice or of the Temporary Accommodation Centre of the Migration Department.

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS AS AN ASYLUM-SEEKER?

You have the right:

- not to be returned to your country of origin (or habitual residence) for the entire duration of the asylum procedure;
- not to be convicted for irregular entry to Georgia for the purpose of seeking international protection, if you approach Georgian authorities without delay. If your application for international protection is rejected, this exemption does not apply to you;
- to be initially issued an asylum-seeker certificate by the Migration Department at the time the asylum application is registered and a temporary identity card/residence permit by the Ministry of Justice for the entire duration of the asylum procedure;
- to be accommodated at the reception center for asylum-seekers if you lack the financial means for private accommodation for the duration of the administrative procedure;
- to be lawfully employed or to run a business; to be provided free legal assistance during the judicial stage of the asylum procedure;
- to be interviewed by an authorised official of the same gender and use the services of an interpreter of the same gender, free of charge;
- to medical assistance in the same conditions as Georgian citizens;

You are obliged to:

- respect the laws and regulations of Georgia;
- not to leave Georgia during the asylum procedure;
- submit all available documents in support of your asylum claim;
- cooperate with authorities during the asylum procedures (including undergoing photographing, fingerprinting, mandatory registration and medical examination, if required);
- state the truth and cooperate with the Ministry in order to fully establish all the circumstances of your asylum claim
- inform the Georgian authorities about your contact details and of any changes regarding your contact details or civil status
- leave Georgia at the end of your asylum procedure if your asylum claim is finally rejected, unless there are other legal grounds for your further stay in Georgia.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BRING TO THE PROFILING INTERVIEW?

You should bring to the Department all available written documents supporting your asylum claim, if available:

- Personal identification documents (e.g. passport, ID card, travel document);
- Individual and status documents (e.g. birth and/or marriage and/or divorce certificate, guardianship document);
- Educational documents (e.g. certificates, diploma);
- Employment documents (e.g. certificate, working records, card);
- Membership cards (e.g. political parties, social organizations, union card);
- Any other available documents related to your application for international protection.

USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Please note that the below mentioned institutions (except for PSDA in some instances²) and organizations provide services to asylum-seekers free of charge.

International Protection Issues Division of the Migration Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia

The Department is the main State authority responsible for asylum procedures and registering asylum-seekers.

Phone number: +995 598 08 00 97

Address: 15 a, Tamarashvili Street, 0186, Tbilisi, Georgia

Reception Hours: Monday-Friday/9:00-18:00

Website: <http://mra.gov.ge>

E-mail: rrd@mra.gov.ge

Public Defender of Georgia (PDO)- Ombudsman

This is the Constitutional Body overseeing observance of human rights and freedoms in Georgia. You may address PDO if you consider that your rights in Georgia are not fully respected.

Hot line: 1481 (functions 24/7)

Address: #150 David Agmashenebeli Avenue, 0112, Tbilisi, Georgia

E-mail: info@ombudsman.ge

Public Service Development Agency (PSDA)

This is the main State authority, under the Ministry of Justice, responsible for issuing certificates and documents regarding your stay in Georgia.

Hotline: (+ 995 32) 2 40 10 10; Public Service Hall: (+ 995 32) 240 54 05.

Address: 2 Sanapiro Street, 0105, Tbilisi, Georgia

Website: <http://psh.gov.ge>

E-mail: info@sda.gov.ge; info@psh.gov.ge.

Legal Aid Service (LAS)

LAS provides free legal aid, including legal consultations, drafting of legal documents, and legal representation in courts in criminal, civil and administrative cases, including the asylum procedure.

Phone number: (+995 32) 292 00 55.

Address: 14, Tamar Mepe Ave, Tbilisi 0112, Georgia

E-mail: info@legalaid.ge

² Some services that are not free of charge:

- Granting a work residence permit, a study residence permit, a residence permit for family reunification, a residence permit of former citizen, granting a permanent residence permit, investment residence permit or document for emigration of a minor;
- Marriage registration with special festive ceremony, registration of marriage outside the building of branch of the Agency;
- Certification by an apostille or legalization of one single document;
- Amendment, correction and/or addenda to civil acts;
- Registration of change of name or/and surname;
- Granting of citizenship under regular procedure/simplified procedure/under special procedure, under restoration procedure, as exception.
- Denationalization, abandonment of citizenship, establishing the status of stateless persons.



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Georgia

IOM operates assisted voluntary return and returned programmes for stranded migrants, including those in detention.

Phone number: (+995 32) 225 22 16.

Address: 12, Tengiz Abuladze 1st Lane (Dead End), 0162, Tbilisi, Georgia

Website: www.iom.ge

E-mail: iombilisi@iom.int

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Regional Representation in the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)

This is the main international organization in Georgia working closely with the Georgian authorities on asylum issues and observing asylum procedures.

Phone number: (+995 32) 238 62 02 / (+995) 577 415 610.

Address: 2a Kazbegi Avenue, 0160, Tbilisi, Georgia

Reception hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 17:00 PM.

E-mail: geotbprrt@unhcr.org

NGO Article 42 of the Constitution

This is the partner of UNHCR providing free legal assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees in Georgia.

Phone number: (+995 32) 299 88 56; hotline (+995) 593 111 405;

Address: 11a Akaki Gakhokidze Street, 0160, Tbilisi, Georgia.

World Vision Georgia

This is the partner of UNHCR working on community mobilization activities for asylum-seekers and refugees in Georgia.

Tel: +995 577045645.

Address of the World Vision Multi-Service Centre: 53 A. Tsagareli Street.

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