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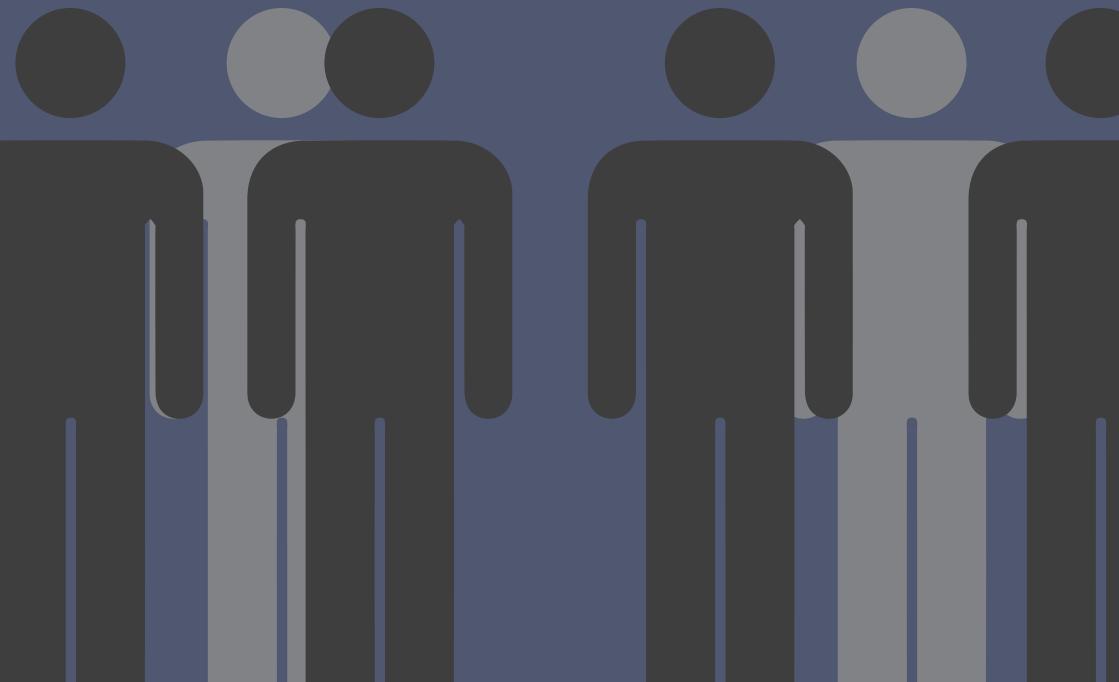
INFORMATION BROCHURE

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# FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

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Англиски Јазик





**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

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# PREFACE

Dear asylum seeker,

This leaflet has the aim to offer the basic information in connection with the procedure for recognition of right to asylum in Republic of North Macedonia.

The necessity of this leaflet comes out from the fact that when you come in to a country as an asylum seeker you are facing with new and for you, unknown reality.



Access to accurate information associated with your knowledge on:

- What is asylum,
  - How and where to express the intention for submission of an application for recognition of the right to asylum?
  - How to apply for asylum,
  - Were to apply,
  - Your rights and duties as asylum seeker,
  - Procedure for recognition of the right to asylum,
  - Decisions relating your asylum application,
  - Right to judicial review, and
  - Care of the persons with special needs,
- will help you to get in the right direction.

Probably, some of these questions are unclear to you, therefore we hope this leaflet will help you find the answers of the questions which we think are of great importance from an asylum seeker's stand point, and belongs to the procedure for asylum.

In the same manner, this leaflet will offer you important addresses and telephone numbers which you should be informed of, in order to get on the right track.

# WHAT IS ASYLUM?

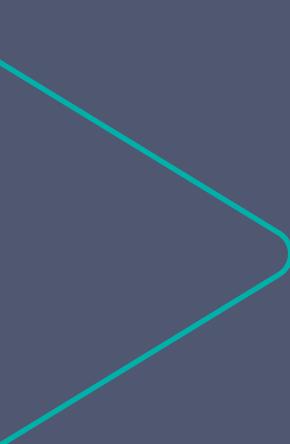
*Are you familiar with the term asylum, what does it means and to whom it can be granted?*

The right to asylum is international protection granted by the Republic of North Macedonia, to the following categories of persons foreigners/stateless:

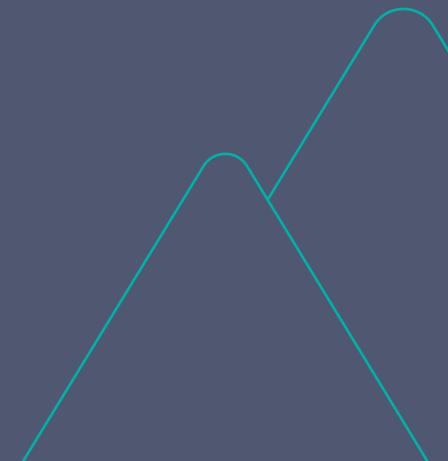
- Person with refugee status (refugee according to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees) and
- Person under subsidiary protection.

**Person with refugee status** is an alien, that is a person who owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or his political opinion, is outside the state of his nationality and is unable, or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that state, or who, not having a nationality and being outside the state in which he had a habitual place of residence, is unable, or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.

**Person under subsidiary protection** is an alien who does not qualify as a recognised refugee but to whom the Republic of North Macedonia shall recognize the right of asylum and shall allow to remain within its territory, because substantial grounds exist for believing that if s/he returns to the state of his/her nationality, or if s/he is a stateless person, to the state of his/her previous habitual residence, s/he would face a real risk of suffering serious harms. (death penalty or execution, torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, or serious and individual threats to a civilian's life or person by reason of indiscriminate violence in situation of international or internal armed conflict.



# **HOW AND WHERE TO EXPRESS THE INTENTION FOR SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT TO ASYLUM?**

- A foreigner at the border crossing point or within the territory of Republic of North Macedonia may express the intention for submission of an application for recognition of the right to asylum, verbally or in writing, before a police officer of the Ministry of Interior.
  - The police officer shall refer you within 72 hours to submit an asylum application before an authorized official in the premises of the Sector for Asylum.
  - Should you not act in accordance with the above mentioned, you shall be treated in accordance with the regulations on foreigners.
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# **HOW AND WHERE TO APPLY FOR ASYLUM?**

- Asylum seeker is an alien who seeks protection in the Republic of North Macedonia, and has submitted an application for recognition of the right to asylum, in respect of which a final decision has not yet been taken in the procedure for recognition of the right to asylum.
- An asylum seeker must apply for recognition of the right of asylum when entering the Republic of North Macedonia.
- The request shall be declared to the police at the border crossing point or to the nearest police station, Reception Centre for Foreigners and Sector for Asylum. The police officer shall escort the asylum seeker to the Section for Asylum or to the Reception Centre for Asylum seekers.
- After the submission of the asylum application an initial interview will be conducted.
- An asylum seeker who resides within the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia shall submit an asylum application to the Section for Asylum.
- The asylum application shall be submitted in writing or orally upon minutes, in the Macedonian language, or if that is not possible, in the language of the country of origin, in some of the foreign languages in common use or in a language the asylum seeker may reasonably be supposed to understand.

# WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS AS ASYLUM SEEKER?

After submitting the application you have the right to:

- Basic health services and social care
- Free legal assistance and interpreter
- Work within the Reception Centre
- Residence and accommodation
- Education
- Freedom of movement

In addition, as an asylum seeker you may contact UNHCR and NGOs for the purpose of providing legal assistance in the asylum seeking procedure.



# **WHAT ARE YOUR DUTIES AS ASYLUM SEEKER?**

- Reside in the Reception Centre or other place for accommodation determined by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, and not to leave the place of residence determined by the authorized body without informing it or without having been granted permission, if necessary.
- Cooperate with the authorized bodies for recognition of right to asylum, especially in providing personal data, to hand over identification and other documents that you may have in your possession, allow photographing and fingerprinting, body search and search of the luggage and the vehicle used to arrive in Republic of North Macedonia, and providing data about your property and income;
- To undergo medical examination, medical care and omitted vaccinations.
- To respect the house rules of the Reception Centre or other place for accommodation determined by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and not to demonstrate violent behaviour.

# PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT TO ASYLUM

After the submission of your asylum application and the conducted registration, the Sector for Asylum will schedule an interview.

It is in your best interest to cooperate with the Section for Asylum and present all important facts and reasons for seeking international protection from Republic of North Macedonia, and the reasons why you are unable to return to your country of origin.

The Section for Asylum is obliged to keep confidential all data which were disclosed in the course of the procedure and must not share them with the bodies and institutions in your state.

During the interview you have the right to:

- interpreter;
- be interviewed by a competent same sex authorised official.

During the interview minutes shall be kept.

If you don't appear for a scheduled interview and do not justify your absence, your request will be considered withdrawn and the procedure will be discontinued.



# DECISIONS RELATED TO YOUR ASYLUM APPLICATION

Based on the facts and the evidence established during the procedure you may expect decision on:



## **RECOGNITION** of:

- Person with refugee status; or
- Person with subsidiary protection status;



## **REJECTION** of the application for recognition of the right to asylum.

The decision by which your asylum application is rejected shall state the reasons owing to which the application has not been accepted, as well as advice on legal remedy which you can use.



# WHAT IF YOU ARE GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS?

If your decision upon your application is recognition of person with refugee status, you may enjoy the following rights:

- Right to residence for a period of at least three years;
- Right to accommodation for a period of up to two years;
- Right to social protection;
- Right to health protection care;

Actually, you are enjoying same rights and obligations as citizens of Republic of North Macedonia, except:

- You don't have the right to vote;
- You cannot conduct business activity, be employed or form associations or political parties, in case when there is a legal requirement that the person has nationality of the Republic of North Macedonia.

# **WHAT IF YOU ARE GRANTED STATUS OF PERSON UNDER SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION?**

If your decision upon your application is recognition of status of person under subsidiary protection, you may enjoy the following rights:

- Right to temporary residence for a period of one year, with a possibility for extension;
- Right to accommodation for a period of two years;
- Right to social protection;

# **WHAT IF YOUR ASYLUM APPLICATION IS REJECTED?**

It's not end of the story if your application for recognition of the right to asylum is REJECTED, you have the right to:

- Appeal the decision of the Section for Asylum to the Administrative court in Skopje, within 30 days from the day of delivery of the decision, in regular procedure.
- Appeal the decision of the Section for Asylum to the Administrative Court in Skopje within 15 days from the day of delivery of the decision, in accelerate procedure.
- You have the right to residence in Republic of North Macedonia until the Court has taken final decision and you cannot be expelled from the country.

# WHAT IF YOU BELONG TO A VULNERABLE CATEGORY GROUP OF PEOPLE?

If you are part of a group which includes unaccompanied minors, persons with mental disabilities, persons with no procedural capacities and vulnerable persons with special needs, pursuant to the Law on Family you shall be assigned with guardian, as soon as possible.



## Vulnerable persons are:

- People with no procedural capacity,
- Minors,
- Unaccompanied minors ,
- Persons with serious medical condition,
- Persons with development disabilities,
- Elderly people,
- Pregnant women,
- Single parents with minor children,
- Victims of trafficking in human beings,
- People who have been subjected to torture, rape or other severe forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence.
- Persons with physical disabilities.

In the implementation of the Law on International and Temporary Protection, the special needs of vulnerable persons shall be taken into account.

# INFORMATION ON THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE



Section for Asylum within the Ministry of Internal Affairs is the competent body to conduct and implement your asylum procedure in first instance.

You have the right to contact the Section for Asylum in relation to your request.

Section for Asylum has an office in the Reception Centre.

The councilors conducting your asylum procedure are present in the premises of the reception Centre in their office during the weekdays.

During the reception day, you may visit the councilors and discuss all the issues related to your asylum procedure.

# **IMPORTANT ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**When applying for recognition  
of the right to asylum:**

**MINISTRY OF INTERIOR  
SECTION FOR ASYLUM**

Goce Delcev no.9, 1000 Skopje (MTV-Building)

Or at

**ANY POLICE STATION**

**When applying for judicial review:**

**ADMINISTRATIVE COURT IN SKOPJE**

Tel. (389 2) 3203-200

Orce Nikolov bb, 1000 Skopje

**When you apply for accommodation  
and health care:**

**MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL POLICY  
SECTION FOR ASYLUM,  
MIGRATION AND HUMANITARIAN AID**

Tel. (389 2) 3106-371

Dame Gruev 14, 1000 Skopje

**RECEPTION CENTER FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS**

Tel. (389 2) 2600-221

v. Vizbegovo

**If you need legal assistance:**

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

Dimitrie Chupovski 9, 1000 Skopje

<http://www.pravda.gov.mk/>

**If you need to contact UNHCR:**

**OFFICE OF UNHCR IN SKOPJE**

Urosh Djudovich 2a, 1000 Skopje

Tel. (389 2) 3118-641

Fax. (389 2) 3131-040

e-mail: [mcdsk@unhcr.org](mailto:mcdsk@unhcr.org)

## Map of important locations

