

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

IN THE ASYLUM INTERVIEW

This infosheet contains general information about **your rights during the asylum interview** as carried out under the border procedure in Lesvos, Greece. It is based on Greek law provisions and accurate as of July 2021. The infosheet is not exhaustive and is subject to changes. **We recommend that you consult a lawyer licensed to practice law in Greece or NGO providing legal support about your specific case in any event.**

- The asylum interview is an **important moment** where your asylum application will be examined. The purpose of this interview is for the authorities to understand whether you have the right to international protection and to make a decision in relation to your application.
- Make sure that you are **prepared and ready** by consulting with a lawyer or a NGO providing legal support **before your interview date**.
- The interview is **confidential** and the information you share there will not be shared with your country of origin.
- You have the **right to be accompanied during your interview** by a lawyer, a psychologist or a social worker of your choice.

1- At the start of your asylum interview

- **Make sure that you clearly and fully understand everything** that is being said.
 - If you don't understand the interpreter (e.g. if they speak a different dialect to you or the way the interpretation is being done is confusing you), **you can ask to change the interpreter**. It is important that you do that from the start of the interview or as soon as possible during the interview.
 - If you don't feel comfortable speaking with the interpreter, **you can ask for another interpreter** if you provide a good reason for that. If you are a woman, **you can ask for - and have the right to have - a female interpreter and a female interviewer**. Keep in mind that if your request is accepted but no other interpreter is available immediately, this means that your interview might be rescheduled to another time in the future.
- **Confirm your personal details**, including your exact name, date of birth, age, country of origin, as those were noted during your registration.
 - **If something is wrong, request to make a change**. This might require you to provide additional documents in their original form (certificate of birth, ID, or equivalent).
 - If you are a minor and were wrongly registered as an adult, you should mention it and provide any proof you have of your actual age and/or ask for an age assessment.
 - If this is not taken into account during your interview, you should ask a lawyer to support you in accessing the age assessment procedure.
- **Provide all the documents and evidence that support your case**, for example
 - medical documents or assessments of your health condition (physical or mental) issued by NGOs, hospital, private doctors, from your country of origin, etc;
 - documents, pictures, videos, any articles or other evidence supporting what you are about to say;
 - any article in the media, report or memo regarding the specific problems you faced in your country of origin or reasons why you can't go back.

To contact us:



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Opening Hours: Monday – Friday, 10am – 2pm

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2- During your asylum interview

- You have the right to ask for a **break and for water** at any moment during your interview if you don't feel well and need to take some rest, air, or walk for a bit.
- Answer the questions that are asked **with as much information and as many details as possible**: WHAT HAPPENED, WHEN DID IT HAPPEN, WHERE DID IT HAPPEN, HOW DID IT HAPPEN, WHO WAS PRESENT?
- **Don't speak in general terms** and try to **be as specific as possible** about what happened to you or your family and relatives.
- **If you don't remember** the answer to a question, try to **stay calm**, and explain that you don't remember and **WHY** you don't remember to the interviewer.
- **If you don't know the answer or are not sure** of the answer to a specific question, say that you don't know or that you are not sure. If there is a reason why you don't know the answer or not sure of the answer you should mention the reason for it as well.
- **If you don't understand** a specific question or the meaning of a specific word or expression you need to mention it, so the interviewer can rephrase this specific question for you.
- **If you contradict yourself**, and the person interviewing you is asking you about this contradiction, stay calm and take this opportunity to explain why you contradicted yourself.
- Make sure that you have a chance to **speak about all issues you wanted to mention**. If you feel that some questions were not asked, insist on speaking about it. At the end of the interview, the interviewer will probably ask you, "is there anything you would like to add?" You should use this opportunity to explain anything that you haven't discussed so far or anything you wish to stress.
- The interviewer might not know a lot about the situation in your country of origin. If there are issues that seem very obvious to you (for example, an ongoing conflict, persecution of certain minority groups, executions, use of violence, political instability, violations of human rights), it is important that you state what these are and **how they apply to you personally**.

3- After your asylum interview

- You have the right to request a **copy of the transcript of your interview**. It might be given to you directly at the end of the interview if it is ready, or only later by applying for it with the asylum service.
- You can **submit any additional documents** to support your case **within a few days**. Send it to the email address of the asylum service given to you during your interview.
- You **might be called for another interview** if the asylum service needs more information.
- You will receive a decision on your case, within weeks or months. If this decision is negative, read the infosheet **Know your rights: After receiving a negative decision**

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