

Asylum

Asylum is a place of refuge for a refugee in a country other than the country of origin.

A refugee is a person who is persecuted in the country of origin. An asylum seeker is a person who on his or her own initiative, and without prior notification, comes to Norway and asks the authorities for protection and recognition as a refugee. If the application is granted, the asylum seeker will be called a refugee.

If your application for asylum is rejected, you must leave Norway, and you cannot apply for any other type of residence or work permit.

If you wish to enter Norway to take employment, you must apply for a work permit.

Asylum

A person has a right to asylum in Norway if he or she has a well-founded fear of persecution in his or her country of origin.

The cause of the persecution must be race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. The persecution must be individual. Fear of persecution must also be the reason why the person does not wish to return to his/her country of origin where the authorities are unable to or do not want to provide protection against persecution.

A person who does not come under one or more of these categories does not have the right to asylum in Norway. Persecution that particularly affects women and persecution due to sexual orientation may also provide grounds for asylum. Asylum may be granted for persecution inflicted by your country's authorities and others, for example armed organizations or family members.

You will normally not be granted asylum if you can receive protection from the authorities of your country of origin or if you will be safe in a region of your country of origin. General financial problems in your

country of origin do not constitute grounds for a residence permit in Norway.

Residence permit on protection grounds

If you do not meet the asylum criteria, you may be granted a residence permit on protection grounds if it would still not be safe for you to return to your country of origin. Examples may include general unrest that may lead to the risk of losing your life, or because there is a risk of torture or other inhuman treatment.

Residence permit on humanitarian grounds

You may be granted a residence permit on humanitarian grounds if strong humanitarian considerations so indicate, for example serious health problems or the situation of minors. This is often considered in relation to difficult conditions in the country of origin, for example after a state of war.

Processing the application

Shortly after arrival in Norway the asylum seeker will be called in for an interview. The interview and the application, possibly with the personal statement, constitute the basis for assessing whether the applicant has grounds for being granted asylum. If you are not granted asylum, the Norwegian authorities will automatically assess whether you should nevertheless be granted a residence permit on protection grounds or a residence permit on humanitarian grounds. In such cases there must be strong humanitarian considerations.

Appeal if the asylum application is rejected

If the UDI rejects your application, you may appeal the decision. The appeal must be lodged no later than three weeks after your lawyer receives the UDI's decision. The appeal will first be processed by the UDI to determine whether there are new facts in your case. You may normally stay in Norway while the appeal is being processed. This does not apply if the UDI believes that it is obvious that you have no grounds for protection.

If the UDI does not find any reason to reverse the rejection, the appeal will be forwarded to the Immigration Appeals Board (UNE).

Return

If the Norwegian authorities reject the application for asylum, and there are no grounds for granting a residence permit on protection or humanitarian grounds, you must leave the country.

You should contact the police for an agreement on voluntary return. Alternatively, you may apply to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for assistance with your return. If you wish, the IOM can also meet you when you return to your country of origin.

If you do not leave the country voluntarily, the police will escort you to your country of origin, by force if necessary. You will owe the Norwegian public authorities for the cost of being escorted out of Norway.

48-hour procedure

On 1 January 2004, a 48-hour procedure was introduced to process asylum applications from persons arriving from countries the Directorate of Immigration (UDI) considers generally safe. Very few asylum seekers with assumed groundless applications are allowed to stay in Norway. Your application will be processed individually, but more quickly than ordinary applications (within 48 hours) and pursuant to a simplified procedure.

For more information regarding asylum, see www.noas.org, which has information available in a number of languages.

The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration
P.O. Box 8108 Dep.
N-0032 Oslo
Office address: Hausmannsgate 21

Phone: +47 23 35 15 00
Fax: +47 23 35 15 15
www.udi.no
E-mail: udi@udi.no

Last updated: 07.03.2007