

What is asylum?

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Lasts 10 years or more, gives you the right to work or get welfare support, accommodation for one year, the right to education and to request citizenship after 5 years.

You are qualified if your home country is prosecuting you for your:

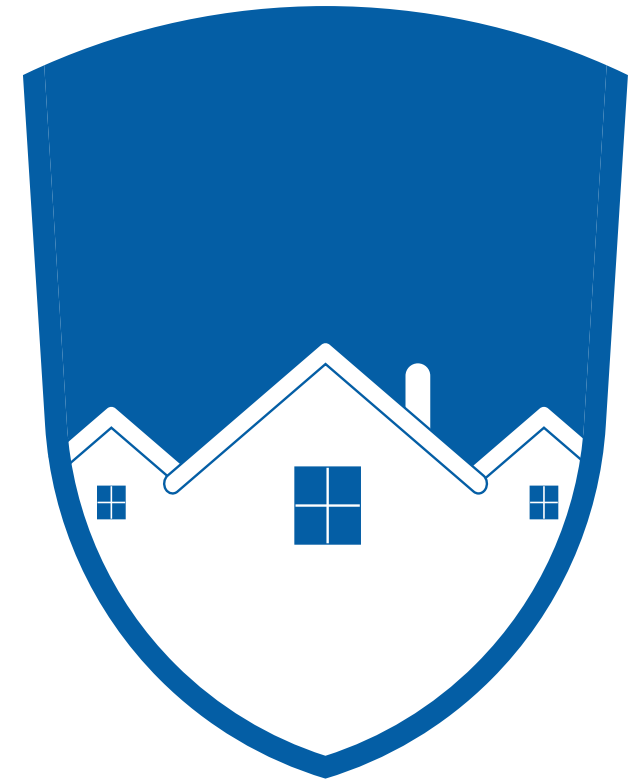
- religion
- race
- ethnicity
- nationality
- social group (sexual orientation and other minorities)
- political orientation

SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION

Usually lasts 2 years, gives you the right to work or get welfare support and the right to education. After 2 years you need to be interviewed again and prove that you are still in danger.

You are qualified if you are in danger in your home country due to:

- war and violence
- underage person whose parents cannot provide care
- danger of death, torture, humiliation, unfair punishment



How to get asylum?



How do I request asylum?

When you enter the country you can request asylum at any police station, municipality unit, asylum centre or other state institutions. Say "ASYLUM / AZIL" loud and clear. They must provide you with a translator. Before signing anything you should demand for them to write down that you requested asylum immediately. If possible, have witnesses during your conversation.

How does the asylum procedure work?

ON THE BORDER

If you request asylum at the border you will be questioned by the police. Police can keep you at the border up to 3 weeks. If you do not have documents and you have not convinced them you are entitled to asylum, they issue a conclusion and push you back in another country. **You have better chances if you ask inside the country, after you stayed in Slovenia for at least 3 days. You should demand a translator and a lawyer!**

AT THE POLICE STATION OR FOREIGNER'S CENTRE IN POSTOJNA

First there will be a preliminary procedure in which they decide whether they will accept your asylum request. During this time you will be locked up. You will have an interview with an inspector, you should be accompanied by a translator and a lawyer. After the interview they can lock you up again, but not for longer than 3 months. Your lawyer can demand your immediate release.

After that there are two options:

1. If they accept you in the asylum procedure you will be placed in the asylum centre and wait for the next interview.
 2. If they do not accept you in the asylum procedure you can appeal to the court. Demand a lawyer, you only have 3 days to appeal! Your lawyer will appeal to the inspector's decision.
- If the court does not decide in 3 months, you must be released.
 - If the court decides positive you will be placed in the asylum centre and wait for the next interview.
 - If the court decides negative, you will stay locked up in the foreigner's centre and they will try to return you to Croatia or your home country.

How do I pass the interview?

You need a solid case with evidence:

- that you are in danger in your home country due to your religion, race, nationality, discrimination, war, violence, etc. Be specific: Who is prosecuting you? Why? Where? When? Give them the evidence: letters, articles, photos, interrogation interviews, etc. If you do not have the evidence talk specifically and convincingly, especially if you are coming from Africa, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and other places where there are no recognised on-going wars.
- that your country is endangering you or cannot protect you from the danger. Why, for example, cannot police in your country help you?
- that you really are the person you say you are. They will demand the document with your picture and threaten that they will not approve your request if you do not provide it – be careful though: having a document makes it easier for them to deport you to your country later. **If you do not have the document, tell them exact**

and relevant information about yourself and why you cannot obtain the document (cannot communicate with your family, you are afraid of your country's institutions, etc).

Do not say you came here to make a better living or money, to look for a job or that you want to continue your journey to another country – they will use that against you! Only being in danger counts!

How is life in the asylum centre?

If they accepted you in the procedure you are now waiting for the second interview and then the decision. During this time you will have an asylum card with which you can go out of the centre.

- You are entitled to a room, food and 18 € per month. Every day the security will check if you sleep in your room – if you are missing for 3 days, they will delete you from the list and hand you over to the police.
- From the coming fall they want to limit your freedom of movement to Ljubljana (if you visit another municipality they might give you a fine).
- If you are waiting for more than 9 months and have no previous negative, you can request a work permit and look for a job. They might charge you for the room from the coming fall on.
- You can request to stay at a private address that you will pay for yourself, but they will usually not grant you that.
- In the asylum centre there are social workers available, once a week there is counselling with a lawyer. **Be careful not to commit any offence, and be careful what you tell to people – all the information can be used against you!**