

INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

ENGLISH



1. ARE YOU A PERSON SEEKING INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION?

Do you think you have been persecuted in your country or origin, or are you afraid of being persecuted for belonging to a particular race, religion, ethnic or social group or for holding certain political beliefs in your country of origin so that you cannot go back?

In these circumstances you may be granted asylum.

Or do you think you are unable/unwilling to return to your country of origin due to a serious risk of harm in the form of i.e. a death sentence, torture, inhumane or humiliating treatment, or threat to your life or health resulting from an international or domestic armed conflict?

In these circumstances you may be granted subsidiary protection.

IN ALL THOSE CASES YOU CAN APPLY FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC.

Please note that a poor economic situation and unemployment in your country of origin are not reasons for being granted international protection.

CZECH REPUBLIC

USEFUL CONTACTS

Organization for Aid to Refugees (OPU) Kovářská 4, 190 00 Praha 9
tel.: +420 730 158 779, email: opu@opu.cz, website: www.opu.cz

Organization for Aid to Refugees (OPU) Leitnerova 9, 602 00 Brno
tel.: +420 731 928 388, email: opu.brno@opu.cz

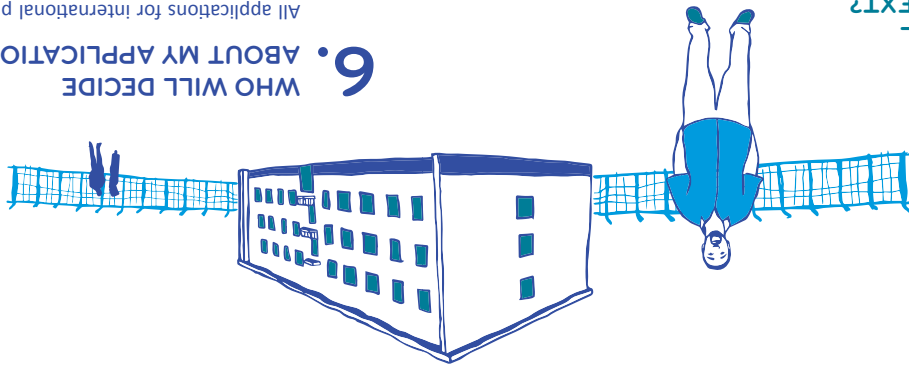
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Železná 24, 110 00 Praha 1

5. HOW LONG WILL YOU HAVE TO STAY IN THE RECEPTION CENTRE?

Reception centres are closed facilities and the time spent there is therefore limited by law. The average length of stay is about 14 days, the maximum statutory period is 120 days.

4. WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

You will be taken to a reception centre for asylum-seekers to complete the first steps of the asylum procedure, such as identification and a medical examination.



7. WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER YOU LEAVE THE RECEPTION CENTRE?

Asylum-seekers have two options. Either they decide to live in private arrangements, or they are transferred to open accommodation centres. These facilities are intended for asylum-seekers who have no means to provide for themselves until the decision on international protection comes into force.

6. WHO WILL DECIDE ABOUT MY APPLICATION?

All applications for international protection in the Czech Republic are assessed and decided by the Ministry of the Interior, Department of Asylum and Migration Policy.

2. WHAT IF YOU REFUSE TO APPLY FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC?

You will not be considered a refugee.

3. WHAT IS THE FIRST THING TO DO?

Ideally, you should express your intention to apply for international protection (make an application) immediately at the border upon your entry to the Czech Republic.

You can also do so as soon as possible at the reception centre in Zastávka u Brna or at the Aliens Police inspectorate at the Police Regional Directorates.

State in simple words that you are a refugee and seek asylum or that you are afraid to return to your country of origin or that your life is in danger or that you have been persecuted in your country.

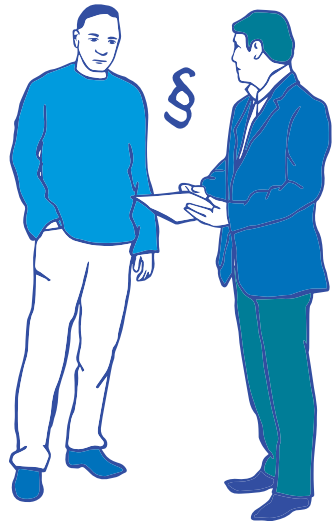


8. HOW DOES THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE BEGIN?

Shortly after this moment, you will be asked to fill in the application, provide initial information and explanation of the reasons why you seek protection. You will be requested to state facts based on which you decided to apply for asylum, and you may be asked to give details of your journey.

Do not forget to show your identity documents and list all the supporting documents you have with you.

You are entitled to have an interpreter in your mother tongue or other language you are able to communicate in.



11. ARE YOU ENTITLED TO LEGAL AID?

Yes! The official of the Ministry of the Interior has the duty to inform you about your right to turn at any time for free legal assistance to legal counsel or another person engaged in the provision of legal aid or protection of refugees. You may also request assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

9. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU LODGE THE APPLICATION?

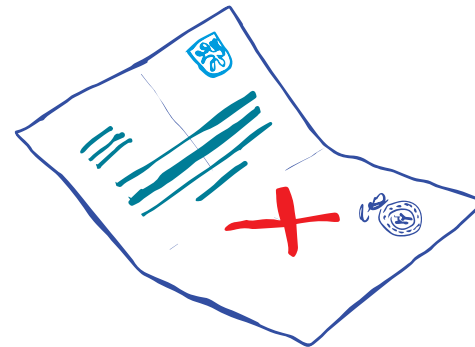
Some time after you have submitted your application, you will be invited for an asylum interview. It is the most important part of the asylum procedure so make sure you are prepared to state all details you remember.

The interview is conducted by staff of the Ministry of the Interior and is an opportunity for you to provide enough information and facts on your case.

The staff of the Ministry of the Interior will check what is happening in your country and will ask you more detailed questions concerning the data you provided. State everything that is important for your case, why you left your country and how and by whom you were persecuted.

You are entitled to have an interpreter in your mother tongue or language you are able to communicate in.

The statutory period for rendering the decision is 6 months. It can be extended for certain reasons, such as complexity of the case or a failure to cooperate with the decision-maker.



12. WHAT IF YOU RECEIVE A NEGATIVE DECISION ON INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION?

It is possible to appeal the first instance decision on international protection.

Instructions concerning the time within which you may challenge the first instance decision before the Administrative Court are stated in the text of the decision.

If you do not wish to appeal the decision on international protection you will be issued an exit visa in order to leave the Czech Republic.



10. SHOULD YOU BE AFRAID TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION?

You can speak without fear because all you say, including your personal data, is treated as strictly confidential. It is forbidden to forward the data to your country of origin or to other authorities that do not participate in the procedure.

It is important that you tell the truth, clarify possible vagueness and inconsistencies in your statement and explain in as much detail as possible why you left your country of origin.

13. WHAT IF YOU ARE GRANTED INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION?

If you are granted either asylum or subsidiary protection, you can benefit from the State Integration Programme. The programme offers mainly affordable accommodation in integration facilities for a certain period of time and a certain number of free Czech language classes.

If you are granted **asylum**, you will obtain a permanent residence permit in the Czech Republic and the same rights and obligations as Czech citizens, except for the right to vote and conscription.

If you are granted **subsidiary protection**, you will obtain a long-term residence permit in the Czech Republic for the period during which subsidiary protection is granted, which is typically 1 year.

This means that you may register with the Labour Office, you will be able to enroll in education programs such as university studies, you may do business and generally perform legal acts. On the other hand, you will have to comply with all legal obligations like Czech citizens, such as paying taxes, health insurance and assuming responsibility for any unlawful conduct.