



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Asylum in Ireland:

A Guide for Young People



[The main body of the page is obscured by a large blue redaction box.]

IMPORTANT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name:

Contact details:

Asylum application reference number:

Tusla social worker's name and contact details:

.....

Lawyer's name and contact details:

.....

PPS number:

My personal notes:

.....

.....

.....

.....



Content



1. About this guide	7
2. What does it mean to apply for asylum?	9
3. Before applying for asylum	15
4. The asylum procedure in Ireland	19
5. The IPO process	23
6. The IPO decision	33
7. The IPAT appeal	35
8. Other information	43
9. Your rights	47
10. Other organisations	51

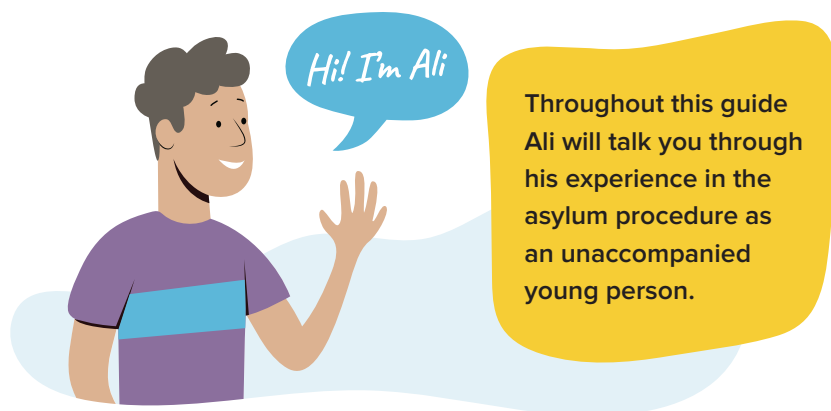
1.

About
this
guide

This guide is for unaccompanied children and young people seeking asylum in Ireland.

It explains the different steps in the asylum procedure.¹ Certain words have particular meanings in the asylum procedure so let's first look at the term 'unaccompanied children'. **Unaccompanied children are children who are not accompanied by their parents or any other adult responsible for their care and protection, such as a guardian.**²

For an overview of the asylum procedure visit our animation at www.unhcr.org



1. Disclaimer: this guide is for information purposes only, it does not constitute legal advice and is subject to change.
2. A child in Irish law is defined as a person under the age of 18. The term 'young person' when used in this guide means a teenager under the age of 18.

2.

What
does it
mean to
apply for
asylum?

When you apply for asylum in Ireland, it means that you are asking the Irish State to keep you safe because you are afraid of going back to your home country.

‘Asylum’ is sometimes called ‘International Protection.’ **The asylum procedure is the process where the Irish State looks at why you cannot go back to your home country and why you need asylum in Ireland.**

In Ireland, there are two forms of protection from harm in your home country:

- 1. Refugee status**
- 2. Subsidiary protection**

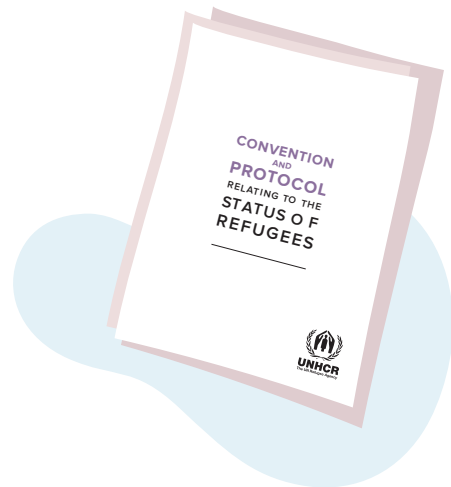
When you apply for asylum, the Irish State will look at whether you need refugee status or subsidiary protection. They will also look at whether there are any other reasons why you should stay in Ireland. This is known as permission to remain. The main law for international protection in Ireland is the **International Protection Act 2015**.

Who is a refugee?

A refugee is someone who cannot return to his or her home country because they fear persecution for one or more of the following reasons, their:

- **political opinion**
- **religion**
- **race**
- **nationality**
- **membership of a 'particular social group'**, in other words a group of persons who have something in common that they cannot change. Because of this shared characteristic they are seen as a particular group in their society and may be at risk as a result. Examples of characteristics that may give rise to particular social groups include gender, sexual orientation and/or if a person was previously part of a definite group, such as a former soldier.

The reasons may also be on the basis of your family member's political opinion, religion, race, nationality or membership of a particular social group. Persecution is a legal term which can include many things such as ill-treatment, violence or other forms of harm. Your lawyer can explain the meaning of persecution to you.



What does subsidiary protection mean?

People who are not given refugee status may be given subsidiary protection. **Subsidiary protection is given to people who are at risk of serious harm if they return to their home country.**

Some examples of serious harm are:

- **the death penalty**
- **torture**
- **inhuman or degrading treatment**
- **serious threat to your life in case of armed conflict**

These terms are complex but **your lawyer** can help explain these terms and how they may apply in your application.

In some cases, you may fear persecution or serious harm in your home country for reasons that happened after you left. To be given asylum you don't need to have suffered persecution or serious harm in your home country. However, if you or someone close to you suffered persecution or serious harm in the past, you should let your social worker and lawyer know as this is very important when looking at why you need asylum in Ireland.

What does permission to remain mean?

Permission to remain is an immigration permission that allows you to remain and live in Ireland even if you are not in need of refugee status or subsidiary protection. There are a number of reasons why you may be given permission to remain, including your family or personal circumstances. When reaching a decision on permission to remain the Minister for Justice and Equality will look at:

- how long you have been in Ireland and any important relationships you have here
- humanitarian reasons, including serious medical reasons
- how you behaved in Ireland and in other countries, including if you have been found guilty of a crime
- any other important reasons.

If you have any information that you think may help your application for permission to remain tell your social worker and lawyer.

For example, your personal situation may change during the asylum procedure, you may get a part-time job or complete a further education course so make sure you let your social worker and lawyer know about these changes.

What are my rights during the asylum procedure?

You have all the rights that adults in the asylum procedure have but you have some additional rights, including:

- **The right to have your best interests taken into account:** this means that all actions and decisions that affect you should be based on what is best for you.
- **The right to be heard:** this means that when adults are making decisions that affect you, you can say freely what you think should happen and your opinion must be taken into account.



3.

Before
applying
for asylum

You are an unaccompanied child if you are under 18 years of age, outside your home country and in Ireland without your parent or guardian.

As an unaccompanied child in Ireland, you will be referred to the Separated Children Seeking Asylum team in **Tusla – The Child and Family Agency**. That team will be responsible for your care while you are under 18 years of age in Ireland.



"I had to flee my home country because of the war.

During the difficult journey here I got separated from my family. When I arrived in Ireland I was all alone."

When you are referred to Tusla, you will be assigned a **social worker** who will look at whether making an asylum application in Ireland is in your best interests.

"I am a social worker.
I assist young people
with all their needs.

These needs could include where they will live and go to school, and if possible, even making contact with their family. Together with each young person I develop a care plan based on his or her needs and what's in their best interests. As part of that care plan sometimes we agree that the young person should apply for asylum. Normally we receive assistance from a lawyer in coming to that decision."

*Hi! I am
Esther*



If your social worker decides that you should apply for asylum, he or she will contact the **Legal Aid Board** to arrange for a lawyer to work with you. This lawyer will provide legal advice and will assist you throughout the procedure.



Your lawyer's role: your lawyer will help you with your asylum application. He or she will help to identify why you need asylum in Ireland. It is important that you speak to him or her about all your fears. If you have any problem with your lawyer you can speak to your social worker.

Important

Family Tracing: you may not know where your family are but you can contact the Irish Red Cross (Restoring Family Links Unit) who may be able to help you in finding your family. This process of family tracing can happen at any stage of the asylum procedure or beforehand. Tusla will help you with tracing your family if this is in your best interests; this may form part of your care plan.

If you somehow make contact with your family during your asylum procedure you should let your social worker know.

4.

The asylum procedure in Ireland

Who makes decisions on asylum applications?

There are 2 offices in Ireland that can look at whether you need asylum:

- **The International Protection Office (IPO):** this office will look at your asylum application. To find out more please go to: www.ipo.gov.ie
- **The International Protection Appeals Tribunal (IPAT):** if the IPO decides that you do not need asylum then you can appeal that decision to this Tribunal. To find out more please go to: www.protectionappeals.ie



Overview of the asylum procedure:**1. ASYLUM APPLICATION**

You will first be referred to Tusla. Your social worker may assist you to make an asylum application if they think that is what is best for you. You can also request a lawyer at this time.

**2. SHORT INTERVIEW**

You will have a short interview when you go to the IPO to ask for asylum.

**3. QUESTIONNAIRE**

The IPO will give you a questionnaire. The questionnaire asks for information about you. Your social worker and/or lawyer will give you some advice about this.

**4. LONG INTERVIEW**

This is your main interview at the IPO where you will be asked more questions about your asylum application. Your social worker will attend this interview with you.

5. DECISION

After the interview, the IPO will decide whether you need asylum. If the IPO decides that you need asylum, you will be allowed to stay in Ireland and you will have certain rights and entitlements. See page 47 in this guide for further information on these rights and entitlements.

6. APPEAL



7. APPEAL HEARING

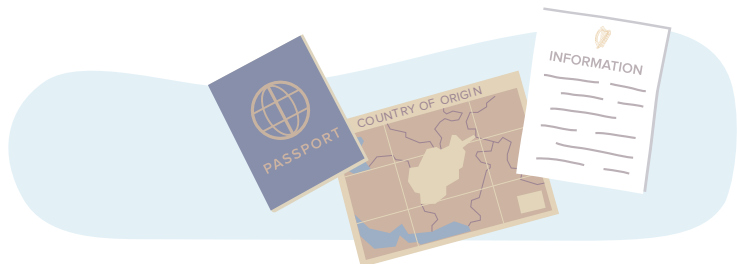


8. IPAT DECISION

If the IPO decides that you do not need asylum, your social worker and/or lawyer will talk to you about whether you should appeal the decision to the IPAT.

If an appeal is made, your social worker and lawyer will go to the appeal hearing at the IPAT with you.

After the hearing, the IPAT will decide whether the IPO made the right decision. If the IPAT finds that you need asylum, you will be allowed to stay in Ireland and you will have certain rights and entitlements. See page 47 in this guide for further information on these rights and entitlements. If the IPAT agrees with the IPO and finds you do not need asylum, your social worker and/or lawyer will talk to you about what to do next.



5.

The IPO
process

Let's take a closer look now at each step of the procedure:

SHORT INTERVIEW

Your social worker will go with you to the IPO office in Dublin, where you can apply for asylum. An IPO officer will hold a short interview with you and your social worker. **At this interview you will be asked questions about your identity, your parents' identity, your home country, the route you travelled to Ireland and the reasons why you are applying for asylum.** If you are over 14 years of age your photograph and fingerprints will also be taken so that the IPO can establish your identity and see if you have applied for asylum in another country in the European Union (EU). You will also be issued with an IPO card and reference number for your application which you should keep with you at all times.

QUESTIONNAIRE

The IPO will ask you to fill in a questionnaire and send it back to the IPO office. This questionnaire will ask more **detailed questions about you and your asylum application.** Your social worker and lawyer will give you some advice on how to fill in the questionnaire. The completed questionnaire assists the IPO officer to understand the reasons why you fear returning to your home country. It also helps them prepare for your long interview.



LONG INTERVIEW

The IPO will send your social worker a letter with an appointment date for a long interview. Your long interview is the main one to examine whether you are in need of asylum in Ireland. Sometimes it is called your **personal or main interview**. Your lawyer and social worker will help you prepare for this interview. The IPO officer dealing with your application will have read all your papers, including your questionnaire. He or she will also have researched information about your home country before the interview; this information is called **country of origin information** or COI.

Do you need or would you prefer to have an interpreter for your interview?

Remember to tell your social worker and/or lawyer before the day of the interview.

Would you be more comfortable if you were interviewed by a male or female IPO officer?

You may also want to have a male or female interpreter present for the interview. Remember to tell your social worker and/or lawyer before the day of the interview. The IPO will then try to make sure that the interpreter and interviewer is a man or a woman, depending on what you asked for.

"I need an interpreter as I don't speak English that well.

There are also some parts of my story that I find difficult to talk about, I think I will ask Esther if I can have a female interviewer and interpreter. This would make me more comfortable in the interview."



This interview will usually last around 2 or 3 hours, but you will be allowed to take regular breaks during this time. **If you need a break, you can tell the IPO officer, and he or she will give you the time you need.** It is important to be honest and truthful during this interview, and to give as much detail as you can remember. The IPO officer wants to hear your story, and will ask questions to help you tell it. This is your main opportunity to tell him or her all the reasons why you need asylum in Ireland. **Don't be afraid to tell the IPO officer about any bad**

experiences you may have had in your home country. What you talk about in the interview **will not be communicated** to anyone in your home country.

If you do not understand any of the questions that the IPO officer asks you, say so and ask him or her to repeat or rephrase the question. The IPO officer will take a written record of the interview. He or she will stop the interview from time to time and will read the record back to you. The officer will ask you to confirm if it is correct.

Important

When the written record is read back to you it is important that you listen very carefully. Is everything recorded exactly as you said it? Is all the information on the written record correct? Is there some important information that is left out? Tell the IPO officer if it is correct or not. He or she will correct any errors and mistakes in the written record. You also may remember something at this point which you forgot to say before. Now is the time to give that information to the IPO officer as it might be really helpful when he or she is deciding your asylum application. Once you are happy that the record is correct, you can sign it. Your signature means that everything written on this page is correct and true.



This is what the interview room at the IPO will look like.

During your interview, each person has a different role and everyone sits in a particular place. Let's take a closer look at the different roles people have in the interview room.

SOCIAL WORKER



INTERPRETER

IPO OFFICER





The IPO officer is in charge of the interview. He or she will ask you questions about your asylum application and will listen carefully to everything you say. He or she will record that information either on a computer or in writing. This is known as an **interview record**.



Your social worker will go to the interview with you. He or she is there as a support for you but you will be expected to answer the questions in your own words. At the end of the interview the IPO officer may ask your social worker if he or she has anything else to add before closing the meeting. Your lawyer may also go to the interview if he or she feels it is necessary.



INTERPRETER

You may also have an interpreter to help you during the interview. The interpreter will help you, the IPO officer and other persons in the interview room to talk to one another. Interpreters speak both English and the language you speak. The interpreter will translate the IPO officer's questions into your language and

what you say into English. He or she plays a key role in helping you communicate so it is important to check at the beginning if you understand one another.

Remember that interpreters are not allowed to give their own opinion or change what you say. The interpreter is there to only help with communication and he or she has no role in the decision being made.

Interpreters are not allowed to tell other people about you. He or she must keep the interview confidential so don't worry about saying why you are afraid of returning to your home country in front of them.

Important

If you don't understand the interpreter very well, you should let the IPO officer or your social worker know immediately. This will **not** have a negative effect on your asylum application and may just mean that the IPO interview is changed to another day with an interpreter that you understand.



After your interview, the IPO officer will further examine your asylum application. To do so, he or she will consider the following:

- **the information you provided about what happened to you or others close to you in the past**
- **the general situation in your home country, including what the country of origin information says**
- **the chance that you could be at risk of harm or persecution if you go back to your home country**

Sometimes people are called back to the IPO office for a second interview if some information needs to be clarified or if the IPO officer has any further questions.



You can read more about the asylum procedure for unaccompanied children and young persons in the [International Protection Office's Information Booklet for Unaccompanied Minors/Separated Children who are Applicants for International Protection](#).

"A few weeks after my long interview with the IPO officer they contacted me again to have a further interview.

I was worried but Esther, my social worker, reassured me that it was ok to have another interview. The IPO officer was very friendly and just wanted to check some of the information about my application again."



6.

The IPO
decision

Some time after your interview, your social worker will receive a decision from the IPO.

This decision is a recommendation and if you are granted refugee status or subsidiary protection, you will receive another official letter from the Minister for Justice and Equality which is known as a declaration. Please be patient, as sometimes it can take a while before you get a final decision on your asylum application.

There are a number of different decisions that you could get:

- **A grant (positive decision) of refugee status.**
- **A grant of subsidiary protection. If you are granted subsidiary protection you can still appeal the decision not to grant you refugee status.**
- **If you are refused refugee status or subsidiary protection, the Minister for Justice and Equality will decide whether or not to grant you permission to remain. If you are granted permission to remain, you can still appeal the decision not to grant you refugee status or subsidiary protection.**

Your lawyer and social worker will talk to you about your options once a decision has been received from the IPO.

7.

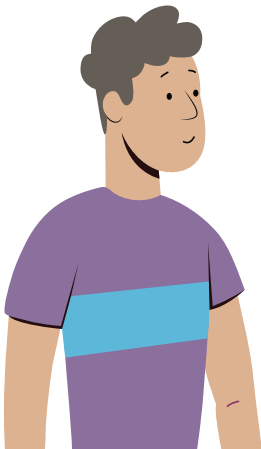
The IPAT
appeal

If you are not granted refugee status or subsidiary protection by the IPO, you can appeal these decisions to the IPAT.

If you are granted subsidiary protection by the IPO, but you feel that you should have been granted refugee status, you can also appeal this decision. Your lawyer and social worker will talk to you about these options if they apply in your case.

What does it mean to appeal the IPO decision? **It means that you believe the IPO decision was wrong and that you need asylum in Ireland.** An independent tribunal, the IPAT, will then review the decision to see if it was correct or not.

When your lawyer submits an appeal against the IPO decision, you will be given a date for an **IPAT appeal hearing**. This is where you, your social worker, your lawyer and an IPO officer will have a meeting with a Tribunal Member from the IPAT. Your lawyer will explain why he or she thinks the IPO made the wrong decision. The Tribunal Member may ask you some questions at the hearing.



"During the appeal hearing the Tribunal Member asked me similar questions to the IPO officer. My social worker and lawyer prepared me well for the hearing so I knew what to expect. At the start of the procedure the Tribunal Member explained the process in a way that was easy to understand."

This is what the hearing room at the IPAT will look like.

During the appeal, each person has a different role and everyone sits in a particular spot. Let's take a closer look at the different roles people have in the hearing room.

LAWYER

INTERPRETER

SOCIAL WORKER



IPAT MEMBER

IPO PRESENTING
OFFICER





The Tribunal Member is in charge of the hearing. He or she will ask you questions about your asylum application and will listen carefully to everything you say. He or she may also take some notes during the hearing.



You may have an interpreter to help you during the appeal. The interpreter will help you, the Tribunal Member and other persons in the hearing room to talk to one another. Like at the IPO, the interpreter's role is to translate everything that is said by you, the Tribunal Member and other persons in the hearing room. You should make sure you understand the interpreter. If you do not understand the interpreter, you should tell the Tribunal Member and/or your social worker immediately. Remember this will **not** have a negative effect on your asylum application and may just mean that the IPAT hearing is changed to another day with an interpreter that you understand.



Your social worker and lawyer will go to the appeal hearing with you. They are there as a support for you, but you will be required to answer questions in your own words. Sometimes the Tribunal Member will ask your lawyer and your social worker to speak for you on some matters related to your asylum application. Your lawyer will make legal arguments as to why you need asylum.



An officer from the IPO will also be at the hearing. At the IPAT hearing, the Tribunal Member may ask this officer questions about the IPO decision.

WITNESS

Sometimes witnesses may attend the IPAT hearing. A witness tells the Tribunal Member relevant information about your asylum application, such as if he or she saw something happen in the past to you and/or your family. Your lawyer will talk to you about this if it applies to your asylum application.

If the Tribunal Member thinks that the IPO made the wrong decision, they will make a new decision. Then the Minister for Justice and Equality will issue you with a declaration for either refugee status or subsidiary protection, depending on what the Tribunal Member decides.



The IPAT has special guidelines for hearing appeals from children and young people. For more information see the [International Protection Appeals Tribunal Guidelines No. 2017/5 Appeals from Child Applicants](#).



If your appeal to the IPAT is not successful, and you were not previously granted subsidiary protection or permission to remain by the IPO, you will have **5 days** to provide new information to the Minister for Justice and Equality.

This information will explain why you should be given permission to remain. It is important that you, your social worker and/or lawyer provide that information as soon as possible. The Minister for Justice and Equality will then review the original decision not to grant you permission to remain. If you are refused permission to remain, your lawyer and social worker will discuss all of the options available to you, including reuniting with your family in your home country if that is in your best interests.



8.

Other
information

What is an age assessment procedure?

Sometimes if an IPO officer or Tusla social worker has doubts about your age they may arrange to have an age assessment carried out. This may involve a separate interview with the IPO and/or Tusla. If you have any identity document, birth certificate or other information which shows your age then share it with your social worker and the IPO officer. If the IPO decides you are over the age of 18 for the purposes of your asylum application then you will be examined in the asylum procedure as an adult. This may also mean that you have to move out of your current accommodation and move into a different type of accommodation known as a direct provision centre.

What is the EU Dublin Regulation?

The European Union (EU) Dublin Regulation is an agreement between countries in the EU. It sets out the rules to follow in deciding which country in the EU should examine your asylum application. It is called the Dublin Regulation because the agreement was signed in Dublin.

Does your mother, your father, your sister, your brother, your aunt or your uncle live in another country in the EU? Do you want to join them? Please tell your lawyer and social worker about family members in other EU countries as soon as possible. The IPO may then ask that other EU country to examine your asylum application so you can go and join your family there.

Your lawyer will be able to provide you with more information if the Dublin Regulation applies in your case.

What is Prioritisation?

You may have heard your social worker or lawyer talking about prioritisation of your application. This means that, if your application falls into certain categories, then it may be ‘prioritised’ and your interview will be organised as soon as possible. Reasons for prioritising applications include: if you are an unaccompanied child, if you have serious health issues, or if you are from one of these countries: Syria, Eritrea, Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Libya or Somalia.

Can I work when my asylum application is being processed?

If you have not received a decision from the IPO within 9 months of submitting your asylum application you may be granted permission to work in a similar manner to young Irish people. There are certain rules for employing young people in Ireland, for example, children under 16 years of age cannot be employed in regular full-time jobs but can do some work during summer holidays. Your social worker will provide further information on your right to work.



You can read more about the EU Dublin Regulation in the IPO Children asking for International Protection Booklet for Children in the Dublin Procedure.

You can read more about IPO’s prioritisation policy in Prioritisation Of Applications For International Protection Under The International Protection Act 2015.



9.

Your
rights

Your rights if granted refugee status or subsidiary protection

If you are granted refugee status or subsidiary protection you have certain rights including the following:

- **Permission to live in Ireland for at least 3 years.**
- **You will be allowed to work like young Irish people, if you wish.**
- **You can attend the same primary and secondary education and training as young Irish people and may be eligible for free fees to attend third level education after three years residency.**
- **You can receive the same social welfare benefits and medical care as young Irish people.**
- **You can travel abroad just like Irish people but you may need a visa to go to another country and/or need to apply for a travel document (like a passport). There are different rules for applying for a travel document if you have refugee status or subsidiary protection so speak to your social worker.**
- **You can apply to the Minister for Justice and Equality for permission for your immediate family members to come to Ireland and live with you; this is called family reunification. An application for family reunification must be made within 12 months of being granted refugee status or subsidiary protection.**
- **You can apply to become an Irish citizen after 3 years if you have refugee status. If you have been granted subsidiary protection you can apply to become an Irish citizen after 5 years.**

Which family members can you apply for as part of a family reunification application?

When you are given refugee status or subsidiary protection, and as long as you are unaccompanied and under the age of 18, you can apply for the following family members to come and live with you in Ireland.

- **Your parents**
- **Your brother and sisters, if they are under 18 and are not married**

Under the International Protection Act the Minister for Justice and Equality may only refuse such applications in limited circumstances. More generally, you may still be able to make an application for family reunification if you have turned 18, or to apply for other relatives to join you but this will depend on your circumstances. Your social worker will talk to you about this and help you to apply for family reunification.

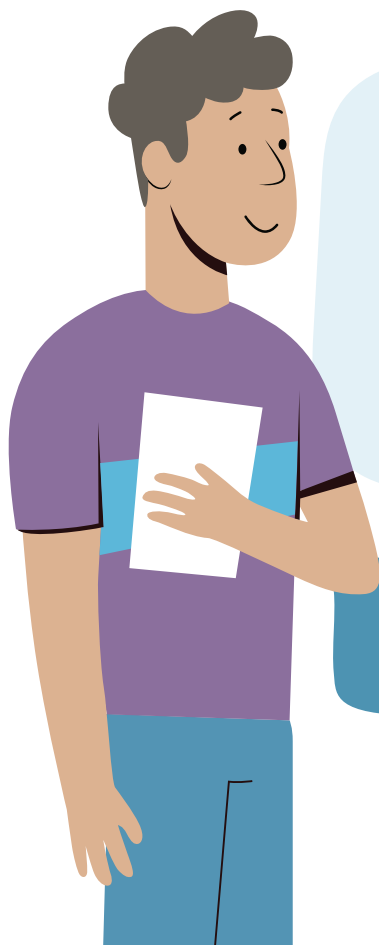
Important



You must apply for family reunification under the International Protection Act **within 12 months** of being granted refugee status or subsidiary protection. Remember to ask your social worker for help in preparing a family reunification application.

Your rights if granted permission to remain

Permission to remain means that you can stay in Ireland for a period of time under certain conditions. This permission is likely to be extended at the end of that period if the Minister for Justice and Equality is satisfied that the conditions have not been broken. You can apply to become a citizen of Ireland once you have lived in Ireland for 5 years.



"I was so happy when I was granted refugee status. I can now plan my future in Ireland."

You can find out more about your rights at any **Citizens Information Office**.

10.

Details of
organisations
you can
contact for
assistance

The Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum, Tusla - Child and Family Agency

can be contacted at Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Lower Grand Canal Street, Dublin 2 D02 P667 or by calling 01 647 7000. For more information visit: www.tusla.ie/services/alternative-care/separated-children/

The Legal Aid Board (LAB), Separated Children's Unit (Refugee Legal Service)

provides legal advice to asylum seekers, including young people in the asylum procedure. Their main office is based at 48-49 North Brunswick Street, Georges Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7, D07 PEOC. You can contact them by calling **1800 23 83 43** or by emailing smithfieldlawcentre@legalaidboard.ie. You can read more about the LAB and how to apply for assistance at: www.legalaidboard.ie

The Ombudsman for Children

is an office that looks into complaints made by children and young people regarding the actions of public organisations. They are based at Millennium House, 52-56 Great Strand Street, Dublin 1. You can contact them by calling: **1800 202040** or **01 865 6800** or by emailing: oco@oco.ie. For more information visit: www.oco.ie

The Irish Red Cross Restoring Family Links Service

may be able to help you to if you have a missing family member outside of Ireland. You can contact them by calling: **01 642 4600** or by emailing: restoringfamilylinks@redcross.ie. For more information visit: www.redcross.ie/programmes-and-services-in-ireland/find-missing-family/

The Children's Rights Alliance

has a helpline for children, young people and their families or people who work with them to access legal information. You can contact them by calling: **01 9020494** or by emailing: **query@childrensrights.ie**. It is also possible to book an appointment for their legal advice clinics. For more information visit: **www.childrensrights.ie/content/childrens-access-justice**

The Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC)

is a national child protection charity. Their main office is based at 29 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2. They run a 24 hour national listening service for children called ChildLine. It is private, confidential and non-judgemental. They can be contacted for free from anywhere in Ireland at **1800 66 66 66**. You can also visit their website at: **www.ispcc.ie**

Barnardos

is a children's charity that campaigns for the rights of children and families. Their main office is based at Christchurch Square, Dublin 8. You can contact them by calling: **1850 222 300** or **01 453 0355** or by emailing: **info@barnardos.ie**. You can also visit their website at: **www.barnardos.ie**

Empowering People in Care (EPIC)

advocates for the rights of young people in care and also works with young people preparing to leave care and in aftercare. You can contact the EPIC Dublin office by calling: **01 872 7661**. Their main office is based at 7 Red Cow Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7. For further information visit: **www.epiconline.ie**

SPUNOUT.ie

is Ireland's youth information website created by young people, for young people. The website provides information on a range of different topics including education, employment and health. For further information visit: **www.spunout.ie**

BeLonG To Youth Services

is the national organisation supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI+) young people in Ireland. They provide information and non-judgmental and confidential support. They also run youth groups. Their office is based at Parliament House, 13 Parliament Street, Dublin 2, D02 P658. You can contact them by calling: **01 670 6223** or emailing: **info@belongto.org**. You can read more information about BeLonG To at: **www.belongto.org**

The Irish Refugee Council

has an Independent Law Centre and Drop-in Service who may be able to respond to individual queries and provide information. They also work with young people in the asylum procedure. They are based at 37 Killarney Street, Mountjoy, Dublin 1 and can be contacted by calling **01 764 5854**. The Irish Refugee Council's website is: **www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie**

NASC Ireland

has a free walk-in service providing legal advice and information on a range of immigration and asylum-related issues. They are based at 34 Paul Street, Cork, T12 W14H and can be contacted by calling at **021 427 3594**. For further information see: **www.nascireland.org**

Doras Luimni

provides advice and legal information on a range of immigration-related issues. They are based at Central Buildings, 51a O'Connell Street, Limerick. You can contact them by calling: **061 310 328**. For further information visit: **www.dorasluimni.org**

Crosscare

provides information and advice on housing, social welfare, education, family reunification and other immigration matters. They have a walk-in service for refugees at 1 Cathedral Street, Dublin 1. You can contact them by calling: **01 873 2844** or by emailing: **crs@crosscare.ie**. For further information visit: **www.crosscare.ie/refugee-service**

JRS (Jesuit Refugee Service)

Ireland provides assistance to persons seeking asylum direct outreach, language classes and psychosocial support. Their main office is based at 54-72 Gardiner Street Upper Dublin 1 D01 TX23. You can contact them by calling: **01 814 8644** or filling in a contact form on their website: **www.jrs.ie/index.php/contact**. You can read more information about JRS Ireland at: **www.jrs.ie**

SPIRASI

helps survivors of torture and provides free classes in a number of areas including English, Computer Skills and Art. They are based at 213 North Circular Road, Phibsborough and can be contacted at **01 838 9664**. For further information visit: **www.spirasi.ie**

This guide has been developed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Ireland office.

UNHCR works with governments, NGOs, and other partners to protect refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons.

You can visit our website at: www.unhcr.org/en-ie

If you wish to contact our office, you can email us at ireduprt@unhcr.org, or you can call us at **01 631 4510**.

Our office is based at 102 Pembroke Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.



102 Pembroke Road,
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland

Tel. +353 (0)1 631 4510
ireduprt@unhcr.org
www.unhcr.org