



Resettlement Country: Denmark

Last updated: February 2023

1. Resettlement Policy and Programme Description

1.1 Programme Year/Cycle:

- Start date: 01-Aug-21 End Date: 01-Feb-23

1.2 Resettlement Policy and Programme

Since 1979, Denmark has offered resettlement of refugees to Denmark in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

From 1989 to 2016, Denmark resettled approximately 500 refugees per year, from 2005 to 2016 operating a flexible quota lasting three years and consisting of 1.500 places.

As of 2017, the Danish Parliament has approved funding for the Danish resettlement quota within the annual budget covering an allocation of up to 500 resettlement places per year.

1.3 Ministries and Departments

The Minister for Immigration and Integration each year decides on the number of places allocated for resettlement, cf. section 8 (6) of the Aliens Act, which reads as follows:

The Minister for Immigration and Integration will determine the number and general distribution of the aliens to be granted a residence permit under subsections (1) - (3).

This decision on number and general distribution of refugees is generally made in the middle of the year after a total consideration of the social and economic capacity in the Danish society. In extraordinary situations in connection with international strategic resettlement agreements, the quota can be decided to exceed 500 places.

The Minister also decides which country the selection mission shall take place in, and can decide to have focus on particular profiles such as women and children at risk.

The Ministry for immigration and Integration can ask The Danish Immigration Service to recommend nationalities/profiles for resettlement. These recommendations are among other based on UNHCR's Projected Global Resettlement Needs.

As a main rule, the majority of refugees accepted for resettlement in Denmark are selected during in-country missions.

1.4 Process for Determining the Resettlement Admission Targets

See section 1.3.



2. Eligibility for Refugee Status and other forms of International Protection

2.1 National Legislation defining refugee status eligibility

Section 7 of the Danish Aliens Act provides the legal basis for refugee status eligibility in Denmark:

7.-(1) A residence permit will be granted to an alien upon application for the purpose of a temporary stay if the alien is covered by the provisions of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951.

(2) A residence permit will be granted to an alien upon application for the purpose of a temporary stay if the alien risks the death penalty or being subjected to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment if returning to his country of origin. An application as mentioned in the first sentence above will also be considered an application for a residence permit for the purpose of a temporary stay according to subsection (1).

(3) In cases comprised by subsection (2) where the risk of a death penalty or being subjected to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment originates from a particularly grave situation in the alien's country of origin characterised by random violence and assaults on civilians, a residence permit will be granted upon application for the purpose of a temporary stay. An application as referred to in the first sentence will also be considered an application for a residence permit under subsections (1) and (2) above.

Refugee status criteria are the same for asylum-seekers as for resettled refugees. Section 8 of the Danish Aliens Act provides the legal basis for the Danish resettlement programme. It is a precondition that resettlement to Denmark takes place based on an arrangement with UNHCR or a similar international organization. To qualify for resettlement to Denmark, the person must meet either the criteria of section 8 (1) or (2):

8.-(1) A residence permit will be granted upon application for the purpose of temporary residence to aliens who arrive in Denmark under an agreement made with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees or a similar international agreement, and who are comprised by the provisions of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951 and section 7(1) of this Act.

(2) In addition to the cases referred to in subsection (1), a residence permit will be granted upon application for the purpose of temporary residence to aliens who arrive in Denmark under an agreement as mentioned in subsection (1) and risk the death penalty or being subjected to torture or other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment if they return to their country of origin, see section 7(2).

Further, there is also a possibility of offering resettlement to persons who would otherwise be able to obtain a residence permit in Denmark, upon application, such as persons with humanitarian needs, cf. Danish Aliens Act Section 8 (3):

8. -(3) In addition to the cases referred to in subsections (1) and (2), a residence permit will be granted upon application to aliens arriving in Denmark under an agreement as mentioned in



subsection (1) where it may be assumed that they would have satisfied the basic conditions for obtaining a residence permit under one of the provisions of the Aliens Act if they had entered Denmark as asylum seekers.

When assessing submissions for resettlement, Denmark, furthermore, focuses on the refugees' possibilities of growing roots in Denmark and benefiting from the residence permit, cf. section 8 (4) of the Danish Aliens Act:

(4) In the selection of aliens to be granted a residence permit under subsections (1) - (3), weight should be attached, unless special reasons otherwise require, to the aliens' possibilities of growing roots in Denmark and benefiting from the residence permit, including their language qualifications, education and training, work experience, family situation, network, age and motivation. However, weight should moreover be attached to considerations of general public health, unless exceptionally otherwise require.

Exclusion Factors

All refugees who are under consideration for resettlement in Denmark undergo a security investigation by the Danish Security Intelligence Service. Some nationalities also undergo a security investigation by the Danish Defense Intelligence Service.

Pursuant to section 10 (1) of the Danish Aliens Act, a refugee cannot be granted a residence permit under section 8, if the refugee fulfils the following:

- 1) *The alien must be considered a danger to national security;*
- 2) *The alien must be considered a serious threat to public order, safety or health; or*
- 3) *The alien is considered to be subject to Article 1 F of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951.*

Furthermore, under section 10 (2), an alien cannot, unless particular reasons make it appropriate, be granted a residence permit under section 8, if:

- (i) + (ii) the alien has been convicted abroad of an offence or there are serious reasons for assuming that the alien has committed an offence abroad, that could lead to expulsion, if the case had been heard in Denmark, that is if:
 - The alien has been sentenced to minimum four years' imprisonment (in relation to an offence that would have resulted in a punishment of this duration), or
 - For several criminal counts has been sentenced to a minimum of two years' imprisonment (in relation to an offence that would have resulted in a punishment of this duration).

Furthermore, under section 8 (5) all persons who are under consideration for a residence permit under section 8 (1) to (3) must participate in a health examination:

(5) A residence permit under subsections (1) - (3) must, unless special reasons otherwise require, be made conditional upon the alien's cooperation in a special health examination and consent to disclosure of the health information to the Immigration Service



and the council of the local authority to which the alien is allocated and signing of a declaration concerning the conditions for resettlement in Denmark.

In general, IOM performs the medical examinations in-country on behalf of the Danish authorities. In emergency and urgent cases, exceptional circumstances can make it inappropriate to expect the person to participate in the health examination or to sign the declaration on the conditions for resettlement in Denmark.

2.2 Additional Information

See section 2.1.

3. Resettlement Decision-Making

3.1 Resettlement Admissibility and Public Interest Criteria

Shortly after the selection mission, the Danish Immigration Service prepares a tentative list of provisionally accepted refugees to be admitted to Denmark. The refugees are informed about the decisions via UNHCR. A final acceptance for resettlement awaits that the refugee participate in a medical examination and the pre-departure orientation.

After final acceptance, the refugee status can be annulled if the refugee commits a crime that will exclude the person from asylum in Denmark (article 10 of the Danish Alien's Act) or if the refugee have given false information on identity or asylum claim.

3.2 Requests for Reconsideration

There is no recourse against a negative decision. However, if a case was not accepted it may be resubmitted if there is new and relevant information.

3.3. Dependency

N/A

4. Legal Status on Arrival and Citizenship

4.1 Legal Status on Arrival

See section 2.

4.2 Eligibility for Citizenship

If you have resided in Denmark for 9 years and have obtained permanent residency, it is possible to apply for Danish Citizenship. However, a range of supplementary criteria should be met to obtain citizenship.



It is the Ministry for Immigration and Integration who processes applications for citizenship.

5. Processing Priorities

5.1 Processing Priorities

Denmark mainly accepts cases submitted as *normal* priority. However, if an already submitted case changes priority from normal to emergency/urgent during the case handling, DIS will assess it as soon as possible, see also section 9.

6. Special Considerations

6.1 Unaccompanied and Separated Children

An unaccompanied minor asylum seeker is a foreign national, under the age of 18, who arrives in Denmark without parents or other adults who can be considered to have taken the place of parents.

The rights of children residing in Denmark is in line with UN's Convention on the Rights of the Child that was ratified by Denmark in 1991. Among others:

- Children's right to food, health and a place to live
- Children's right to school, development, playing
- Children's right to protection (against war, violence, neglect, abuse)
- Children's right to freedom of speech, to be heard and to participation

In submissions that include unaccompanied minors or minors who are submitted without their biological or legal parents, a BID and BIA is required.

For more details on unaccompanied minors, see section 11.

6.2 Minor Marriage

Minor marriage is illegal in Denmark. Therefore, it is unlikely that Denmark would accept submissions that include refugees who are minors and have entered into marriage.

6.3 Refugees with psychosocial, intellectual, sensory or physical disabilities or a serious medical condition

A psychosocial, intellectual, sensory or physical disability is not on its own a limitation for resettlement in Denmark. However, a refugee suffering from the above, risk to be rejected e.g., where the refugee is not part of a family with minor children and/or is illiterate. The factors mentioned can, when accumulated, have a negative effect on the refugee's possibility of growing



roots in Denmark, cf. section 8 (4) of the Danish Aliens Act.

6.4 Large families and single adults

There are no limitations on the size of the families/unities.

6.5 Polygamous Marriage

Polygamous marriage is illegal in Denmark. Therefore, it is unlikely that Denmark would accept submissions from UNHCR that include refugees in polygamous marriage.

7. Dossier Selection Processing

Cases submitted on a dossier basis do not involve resettlement country selection interviews. Acceptance decisions are based on the documentation submitted by UNHCR. If the programme does not include dossier selection processing indicate "N/A."

7.1 Dossier Selection Policies

N/A

7.2 Additional Information

N/A

8. Interview Selection Processing

8.1 Interview Selection Policies

The majority of refugees resettled to Denmark are selected following an in-country selection mission.

The UNHCR Regional Offices may, according to internal UNHCR guidelines and prior agreement with the Danish Immigration Service, submit cases for resettlement directly to the Danish Immigration Service.

Under exceptional circumstances, virtual selection interviews are conducted via Skype for Business. Examples of exceptional circumstances could be widespread COVID-19, if an applicant is unable to show up for the physical in-country interview or if UNHCR Regional Offices submit new cases after the selection mission is carried out.

The Danish Immigration Service undertakes the selection missions. Staff members from the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), a Danish NGO, participates in the in-country selection missions contributing with their background knowledge of the refugee group and acting as the refugees' stakeholder. Where necessary, officials from the security authorities can participate.



Interview teams consisting of staff members from the Danish Immigration Service and the Danish Refugee Council will interview the persons in question. The Danish Immigration Service usually requests the assistance of UNHCR or IOM with regards to the provision of interpreters and to all logistical arrangements.

The decision-making body is the Danish Immigration Service. The final decision on whether to offer resettlement or not is made by the Danish Immigration Service upon return to Denmark.

8.2 Additional Information

The RRFs should be submitted well in advance of the missions, i.e. three to four weeks before the departure of the delegation. After an initial screening of the submitted cases prior to the departure of the delegation, the Danish Immigration Service may inform UNHCR that certain cases cannot be accepted for resettlement and UNHCR will be requested to cancel the interview dates for those individuals.

The documentation required for submissions in connection with an in-country selection mission is the Resettlement Registration Form (RRF) and any available medical files and/or other relevant information about the country of origin and the country of residence.

A carefully completed RRF with exact bio data and family details is of utmost importance as well as a full and detailed account of the political activities in which the refugee has been engaged in his/her country of origin and/or any other circumstances that may be relevant for understanding the reasons for flight. The possible application of article 1 F of the 1951 Convention is of particular concern. A specific and detailed paragraph in the RRF or a separate declaration done by UNHCR dealing with the possible application of article 1 F of the 1951 Convention is, therefore, mandatory in all submissions.

Submitted cases where PRA or included family members have known medical needs or problems should include medical documentation.

Submitted cases including unaccompanied minors, or cases including minor children with only one parent included in the submitted case, must include a best interest assessment (BIA) or best interest determination (BID).

In all cases, as much information as possible regarding language qualifications, educational background, working experience, family situation and network should be included in order to enable the receiving Danish municipality to prepare for a successful welcome, and in order for the interviewing delegation to assess the integration potential of the refugees.

Refugees submitted for resettlement in Denmark should be made aware beforehand by UNHCR that medical documentation and personal bio data, with the exemption of details of asylum claim, will be passed on to the receiving municipality in Denmark. The RRF will also be submitted to other relevant Danish authorities, such as the Danish Security Intelligence Service and the Danish Defence Intelligence Service and possibly the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Information will not be passed to the authorities of the country of origin.



9. Processing Timeframes

9.1 Policies for receiving emergency and/or urgent submissions

Denmark mainly accepts cases submitted as *normal* priority. However, if an already submitted case changes priority from normal to emergency/urgent during the case handling, DIS will assess it as soon as possible and within 5/14 days.

9.2 Average Processing Times for Emergency Cases

Processing time should be maximum 5 days.

After assessing the case, including submission to the Danish Intelligence Services, the refugee will be asked to sign a declaration regarding the conditions for resettlement in Denmark. After receiving the signed declaration, the Danish Immigration Service can make the final decision. UNHCR's Resettlement Service, and possibly the relevant in-country UNHCR office which has submitted the case, will be informed of the decision.

The relevant Danish in-country representation is at the same time informed about positive decisions and authorized to issue travel documentation and entry permits and IOM is also informed for travel purposes.

In emergency and urgent cases, exceptional circumstances can make it inappropriate to expect the person to participate in the health examination or to sign the declaration on the conditions for resettlement in Denmark.

9.3 Average Processing Times for Urgent Cases

Processing time should be maximum 14 days.
For more details, see section 9.2.

9.4 Average Processing Times for Normal Cases

6-8 months from submission to final acceptance.

9.5 Additional Information

N/A

10. Pre-departure Arrangements

10.1 Pre-departure Medical Screening

It is a condition for a residence permit under subsections (1) to (3) that the refugees undergo a medical examination and consents to the health information being passed on to the Danish Immigration Service and to the local council of the municipality to which the refugee is allocated.

IOM performs the medical health examinations in-country on behalf of the Danish authorities.



10.2 Required Pre-departure Treatment

Those found to be TB positive are not declined for resettlement, but their travel is temporarily delayed while they receive treatment to ensure they are fit to travel. The Danish government covers the cost.

10.3 Pre-departure Orientation

After each in-country selection mission, the Danish Authorities conduct a pre-departure cultural orientation and Danish language training programme before the departure to Denmark. Staff members from the receiving municipalities in Denmark may also participate in the training programme.

The pre-departure orientation for adults consists of ten lessons in Danish language and ten lessons in Danish cultural orientation provided over a period of seven days for adults. Children and teenagers also participate in a similar training programme.

It is a condition for resettlement in Denmark that the refugees participate in the pre-departure orientation.

The regional IOM office coordinates the logistics around the training location and the refugees' travel and stay during the 7 days of training.

The training is conducted in English with the use of an interpreter that translates into the refugees' native language.

10.4 Travel Arrangements and Documents

The Danish government covers all expenses connected with the travel to Denmark including possible medical escorts. The Danish Immigration Service prepares the travel arrangements in close cooperation with IOM.

All refugees travelling will be issued laissez-passers by the Danish in-country representation or by Danish Immigration Service.

Upon arrival in Denmark, representatives from IOM, the Danish Immigration Service and the receiving municipality receive the resettled refugees at the airport.

11. Reception and Integration

11.1 Overview

According to the Danish Integration Act, the local municipalities have the primary responsibility for the reception and integration of foreign citizens.

The municipalities offer a one-year mandatory Self-support and Return Programme on behalf of the government and financial support if the refugees have not found self-support through e.g. employment. The programme can be prolonged up to five years and consists of Danish language



training and offers of employment support and training. Furthermore, the social workers from the municipalities provide assistance with housing as well as assistance with an individual contract of action for finding employment in Denmark.

The **Danish Refugee Council**, the **Danish Red Cross**, the **United Churches Integration Service** and other organisations offer various activities across the country in order to promote the integration of newcomers into the local communities. It is voluntary for the newly arrived refugees to participate in such activities. The activities are carried out by volunteers and are set up in order to create a dialogue, understanding and tolerance between newly arrived refugees and the rest of the population.

11.2 Placement

When a residence permit is granted to a refugee, the Danish Immigration Service decides in which municipality the refugee shall take up residence. The decision must take into account the personal situation and needs of the refugee in question, including medical needs and family relations.

11.3 Reception

Upon arrival in Denmark, representatives from IOM, the Danish Immigration Service and the receiving municipality receive the resettled refugees at the airport. The municipality takes over the responsibility immediately after arrival and escorts the refugees to their new home.

In many cases, the municipalities will make use of an interpreter at least in the beginning.

During the first weeks in Denmark, the municipality is in close contact with the refugees on a daily basis in order to guide and help the refugees to settle in their new home and local environment.

11.4 Orientation

According to the Danish Integration Act, the Ministry of Immigration and Integration has the principal responsibility for the reception and integration of foreign citizens. Actual integration is carried out by the local municipalities in Denmark, but also demanding the refugees to take an active part themselves.

Refugees resettled to Denmark are offered a one-year Self-support and Return Programme, whose main objective is to ensure integration of newcomers into Danish society. The programme can be prolonged up to five years.

The Self-support and Return Programme consists Danish language lessons and employment related training. The offers of employment training related to companies should be 15 hours a week at average and with only breaks of 6 weeks between different offers.

The municipality shall, together with the person in question, prepare an individual contract of action based on an assessment of the person's particular skills and qualifications and the needs at the labour market in order to facilitate the person's access to employment.



The main objective of the programme is to enable the person to get an understanding of the fundamental values and norms of Danish society and to ensure that the person, within a relatively short period of time, will be able to support him or herself through employment.

The municipality and the refugee decide on the scope and content of the programme in a contract. The contract runs until the refugee obtains permanent residency.

11.5 Support Services

The refugees are entitled to income support from the Danish social services as part of the Self-support and Return Programme until they have found employment and can provide for themselves and their families.

Refugees resettled to Denmark who, without reason, do not participate in the Self-support and Return Programme, may have their income support reduced.

As a supplement, all families with minor children in Denmark receive child support that depends of the number of minor children in the family.

11.6 Housing

As soon as the municipality has taken over the responsibility of a refugee, the municipality must assign housing to the refugee. The municipality cannot assign housing in deprived neighbourhoods.

The housing allocated can be temporary or permanent. Where temporary housing is offered, the refugee must make an effort to look for a permanent housing solution.

Once allocated to a municipality, the refugee can choose freely to take up residence elsewhere within the same municipality.

A refugee is also free to settle in a different municipality. But in order for the refugee to continue his or her integration programme and get complete income support in the new municipality, the receiving municipality must accept responsibility for the integration programme.

11.7 Health

All persons registered as residents in Denmark have access to public health care.

Public health care is financed through taxes. This means that patients are treated either free of charge or must pay only partially for the treatment. The latter is relevant only for certain health care services e.g. dental treatment.

Once arrived, the resettled refugee will receive a Health Insurance Card. The card must be shown when accessing the public health care as proof of one's entitlement to health care.

The public health care includes such services as hospital and maternity care, visits at general practitioners, visits at a wide range of medical specialists (following referral from a GP), district nurses as well as medicine, vaccinations and preventive health care.

Resettled refugees are offered medical screening after arrival. The purpose of the medical screenings is to expose severe health problems at an early stage so adequate health treatment or social measures can be activated as early as possible preventing health problems from becoming a



barrier for successful integration. The medical screening is normally carried out by general practitioners.

11.8 Language

All children residing in Denmark have access to the public Danish school system, which is free of charge. Children who cannot speak sufficient Danish when they start school may be placed in special reception classes before they proceed to a regular class. After moving to a regular class they may continue to receive special language lessons if necessary.

Danish language classes are part of the mandatory Self-support and Return Programme for adults mentioned under section 11.4. There are special literacy courses for persons in need of literacy education.

11.9 Education

There are no restrictions on resettled refugees' access to the Danish adult education system that is free of charge. In order to promote educational opportunities and job prospects, special courses may even be designed in order to meet their needs.

Some courses are of short duration and aimed at finding actual work, whereas others are aimed at preparing the person for further education. In order to access certain types of higher education, however, sufficient knowledge of Danish is required.

Resettled refugees who have been accepted by an educational institution are entitled to the same student grants as Danish citizens.

If the resettled refugee has completed an education abroad, it may be relevant to establish whether his/her qualifications are recognised in Denmark, or whether he/she needs supplementary training to be able to use the education in Denmark. It is therefore highly useful for the resettled refugee to bring along documentation of his/her qualifications if possible.

Upon application, the Danish Ministry of Higher Education can assess how the educational credits earned abroad compare with Danish academic and labour market standards. Such an assessment is free of charge. However, the service does not include translation of documents.

11.10 Employment

See section 11.4

11.11 Financial Assistance

See section 11.5

11.12 Supporting Specific Needs

It is the responsibility of the municipality to assess whether a resettled refugee is in need of a guardian. When the need for a guardian is established, e.g. in the case of an unaccompanied minor, the municipality will contact The Agency of Family Law who is the competent authority to appoint a temporary guardian.



A temporary guardian is often a voluntary, who secures that the unaccompanied child gets the necessary care and that all decisions are in the best interest of the child.

In cases where the refugee is unable to take on a full time job or education due to chronic health issues or have other needs, the municipality will support the refugee in finding suitable activities as well as a sustainable way to support financially.

11.13 Family reunification

Refugees in Denmark with convention status or protection status may under certain circumstances be granted family reunification with their spouse/cohabitating partner and unmarried children under the age of 15. Unmarried children between 15 and 18 years can be granted a residence permit if very special reasons apply, taking Denmark's international obligations into account.

Family reunification cannot normally be granted to children aged 18 years and older or to other family members outside the scope of the nuclear family.

Unaccompanied minor refugees under the age of 18 may under certain circumstances be granted family reunification with their parents and minor siblings if very special reasons apply.

An application for family reunification can be submitted at a Danish mission (embassy or consulate), at an outsourcing office in the country where the applicant lives, digitally or by post to The Danish Immigration Service. The spouse living in Denmark can also submit the application to The Danish Immigration Service on behalf of the applicant.

Rules and regulations

The Danish Immigration Service will, if relevant in the specific case, make a renewed assessment on whether the refugee in Denmark is still in risk of persecution in his/her country of origin, and if so, the additional requirements for family reunification will be waived

Normal requirements for family reunification with a spouse who is still in risk of persecution:

- The marriage must be valid both according to the rules of the country in which the marriage was contracted and according to Danish law; this means, among other things, that both parties have turned 18 at the time of the marriage and both were present at the marriage ceremony;
- If the parties are not married or if the marriage can't be validated in Denmark, they need to be
- able to document permanent cohabitation, which is defined as living together at the same address for a minimum of 18 months prior to applying for family reunification; Both parties must have entered into the marriage/relationship of their own free will;
- The marriage or the co-habitation may not have been entered into with the sole purpose of obtaining a residence permit for the applicant;
- Both parties normally need to be at least 24 years old;
- The spouse in Denmark may not have been found guilty by a Danish court of assault or domestic violence involving a former spouse/partner within the past 10 years;



- The applicant should normally hold a valid passport.

Some of the most important requirements for family reunification with a child under the age of 15 years are:

- The child must not have established a family of its own; for example, the child must not be married;
- The resettled person must have joint or full custody of the child;
- The child must live together with the resettled refugee following their entry into Denmark;
- The resettled person may not have been found guilty by a Danish court of child abuse within the past 10 years.
- If the normal requirements for family reunification with a spouse/cohabitating partner or an unmarried child under the age of 15 are not met, family reunification can still be granted if very special reasons make it appropriate, including regard for family unity and Denmark's international obligations in general.
- Requirements for family reunification with children between the age of 15 and 18 years:
 - Children between the age of 15 and 18 years can only be granted family reunification if refusing to grant a residence permit would put Denmark in violation of its international obligations e.g. where a rejection of the application is in contravention of the right to respect for family life as set out in Article 8 in the European Convention on Human Rights.
 - The Danish Immigration Service will assess several main issues such as:
 - Whether the child has started his/her own family;
 - Whether the child has been part of the resettled refugee's household up to the departure of the resettled refugee in Denmark or when the child was last part of the household;
 - The contact between the child and the resettled refugee;
 - The time period between the refugee's resettlement in Denmark and the application for family reunification;
 - Provision within the family.

Requirements for family reunification for parents and minor siblings to an unaccompanied minor refugee:

- Parents and minor siblings to an unaccompanied minor refugee can only be granted family reunification if refusing to grant a residence permit would put Denmark in violation of its international obligations e.g. where a rejection of the application is in contravention of the right to respect for family life as set out in Article 8 in the European Convention on Human Rights.
- The Danish Immigration Service will assess several main issues such as:



- The unaccompanied minor's refugee status in Denmark;
- Whether the unaccompanied minor refugee had a family-like relationship with the family members now seeking a residence permit in Denmark, or whether the child cut ties to his/her family, by, for example, living on his/her own or with others, such as other family members;
- The unaccompanied minor refugee's age ;
- If the unaccompanied minor refugee is older, more weight will be placed on other details of the situation, given that an older child normally can be assumed to have less need to live with his/her parents;
- If the unaccompanied minor refugee has a family network in Denmark the Immigration Service will also be taking this into account when making its assessment.
- If the Danish Immigration Service finds that the person living in Denmark is no longer in risk of persecution, and there are no other exceptions from the requirements, the applicant and the person living in Denmark must meet the additional requirements to the above mentioned.

Rules on family reunification may change and we therefore always refer to our homepage www.newtodenmark.dk for updated information.

Processing time

The expected maximum processing time for family reunification with a spouse/cohabitating partner and minor children is 7 months from the submission of the application.

If The Danish Immigration Service grants a residence permit, the applicant will be issued an entry visa, and must enter Denmark within 6 months.

The residence permit for a family reunified spouse/cohabitating partner will be valid for two years, and should then be extended. The applicant can apply for a permanent residence permit when he/she has been residing legally in Denmark for at least eight years, in some cases the requirement is four years.

The residence permit for a family reunified child will be valid for the same period as the residence permit of the refugee; however, it cannot be valid beyond the child's 18 years. The child must apply for extension of its residence permit after the end of the validity period. The child can obtain a permanent residence permit by meeting relaxed requirements when it reaches the age of 18.

12. References & Resources on resettlement

- Danish Immigration Service, Ministry of Immigration and Integration www.newtodenmark.dk
- Danish Refugee Council www.drc.dk

Addendum on complementary pathways

N/A