

INFORMATION LEAFLET

This is a guide for every person who seeks to be recognized as a refugee in accordance with the terms of the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees and the related 1967 Protocol, which provide the foundation for the system of protection for refugees generally.

Our Firm with the present provides basic information for applicants for international protection in the Republic of Cyprus. It is in your best interest to read this leaflet carefully and to ensure that you comprehend it.

APPLYING FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN CYPRUS

1. You have to be someone who cannot, or do not want to return to your country because you are afraid you will suffer serious and unjustified harm, such as:
 - a) Torture, or inhuman or degrading treatment, or punishment.
 - b) Serious and systematic human rights abuses - Threat to your life, security, or freedom, because of armed conflicts, or massive violations of human rights.
 - c) Death penalty or execution.
2. When you declare your intention to apply you will be issued a Verification of Intention certification to apply for International Protection. Then you have to apply your application within six working days from the date of the Verification to the Aliens and Immigration Unit of the Police, personally and/or with all you family members.
3. To apply, you will need passport, identity card or any document that proves your identity. In case you cannot present any such document because you came to Cyprus without bringing such documents with you, you can still apply for international protection.
4. During all the stages of the asylum procedure you have the right to:
 - a) Be represented and accompanied by a lawyer.
 - b) To apply in a language you understand or have the assistance from an interpreter in order to submit your application.
5. All personal information taken, including fingerprints will be transmitted to a European database 'Eurodac', which will be stored by Eurodac for 10 years.
6. Additionally, your application may be examined by another country if you have submitted for asylum in other country before, according to the The fingerprint data is stored by Eurodac for 10 years. 'Dublin' Regulation (no. 604/2013) which is a European Union law that determines which 'Dublin' country will examine your application for international protection.

This law is applied in 32 countries ('Dublin countries'): a) the 28 European Union countries (Austria (AT), Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Croatia (HR), Cyprus (CY), Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Estonia (ET), Finland (FI), France (FR), Germany (DE), Greece (EL), Hungary (HU), Ireland (IE), Italy (IT), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Malta (MT), Netherlands (NL), Poland (PL),

Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovakia (SK), Slovenia (SI), Spain (ES), Sweden (SE), United Kingdom (UK)) and b) 4 “associated” countries (Norway (NO), Iceland (IS), Switzerland (CH) and Liechtenstein (LI).

7. Once you complete all the above steps, the Police will give you a Confirmation Letter, proving that you have applied for international protection and that you are residing legally in Cyprus. You must keep the Confirmation Letter with you at all times because you can use it for various matters within the Republic.
8. After receiving your Confirmation Letter, you must go for a medical examination which is free of charge which will be provided to the asylum authorities for further examination of your application.
9. Afterwards, providing that you have acquired the confirmation letter and medical examinations you must present at the Immigration Office to issue an Alien Registration Certificate.

ACCOMMODATION IN CYPRUS

1. At all stages of your application you can reside at the accommodation center in Cyprus which is near Kofinou village in Cyprus, in which you will be granted daily meals, monthly allowance, free transportation and medical care as long as you have a confirmation letter. You are also allowed to work and minors in the Republic are offered education.
2. On the other hand you can apply for special assistance through the Social Welfare Services if you cannot be accommodated at an accommodation center.

EXAMINATION OF YOUR APPLICATION

1. After your application the Asylum Service will call you for an interview, in which you have the right to a lawyer for the interview to be conducted in a language you comprehend or with the help of an interpreter.
2. If your application is accepted, you will receive a letter stating the status you will be granted, refugee or subsidiary protection status.
3. If your application is rejected you will receive a letter explaining the reasons for the rejection, which can be appealed at the refugee reviewing authority or the administrative court, depending on the decision.
4. If you lack sufficient resources to hire a lawyer/legal advisor you have the right to seek legal aid under the Legal Aid Laws of the Republic of Cyprus.

NOTE:

1. At all times you must follow and obey the Laws and regulations of the Republic of Cyprus.
2. You may not leave Cyprus without the permission of the Civil Registry and Migration Department.
3. You must inform the Aliens and Immigration Units of the Police in case you change address and you must always respond to the Alien and Immigration Units of the Police.

WE ARE AT YOUR DISPOSAL FOR ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS/INFORMATION AND DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US:

ELIAS CHRISTOU L.L.C.

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