



BELGIUM

Transfer under the Dublin Regulation

Information for refugees who are returned to Belgium



Transfer under the Dublin Regulation

Under the Dublin Regulation, refugees may be transferred to the EU country responsible (in most cases, the country of first entry), so that the asylum procedure is carried out there. Refugees who have already been recognised in another EU country will be returned to that country based on the safe third country clause because their asylum application is not admissible in Germany.

For many refugees, their imminent return to another EU country creates great uncertainty.

Our guide is intended for advisers, voluntary support groups and people who are affected. It is supposed to show existing services and contacts. Refugees will be given information about their situation after being returned as well as addresses of organisations they may contact locally for support.

However, no assessment of these organisations and services is made. Many services offering help are short-term projects and not subsidised on a regular basis.

Therefore, there are often only a few permanent support structures.

We therefore do not claim that the list is exhaustive. This report must not be used as general proof of existing services offering help.

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Procedure after re-entry into Belgium

Returnees are given instructions by Belgian authorities as to what needs to be done after their re-entry. Usually, they must report to the registration centre for asylum seekers at the Immigration Office in Brussels. There they will lodge an asylum application and their entitlement to accommodation will be examined.

**Centre d'enregistrement Protection Internationale/
Registratiecentrum voor aanvragen Internationale Bescherming**
Rue Belliard / Belliardstraat 68
1000 Brussels

Returnees must organise the trip from the border or the airport to the registration centre themselves. No general support will be provided. In the case of vulnerable persons, it is recommended that advisers contact the Belgian Dublin Unit at the Immigration Office before departure in order to ensure the necessary support. Contact details: Tel. +32 2 4889720, e-mail: asylum.dublin@ibz.fgov.be.

The reception system in Belgium has been overstretched for some years. This concerns accommodation facilities, services offering help that are provided by various organisations and also homeless shelters that are unable to meet the increased needs.

There are not enough places to accommodate refugees in the reception centres. Usually, single men are not assigned a place there and remain homeless.

See also the information under "Accommodation after re-entry".

Consequently, there are judgments given by administrative courts that decide against a transfer under the Dublin Regulation for single men due to systemic faults in the Belgian reception system because these men are excluded from the support structures.

What needs to be done first?

That depends on whether the person concerned left Belgium while the asylum procedure was in progress or whether he/she had not yet initiated an asylum procedure in Belgium before his/her departure. Depending on the situation, different steps must be taken:

1. The person concerned has not yet lodged an asylum application in Belgium

Asylum seekers must lodge their asylum application according to the procedure described below.

2. The person concerned had already lodged an application for asylum in Belgium and left Belgium during the asylum procedure

a) A decision in favour of granting the asylum application has been taken:

Protection status has been granted. The person concerned has residence status in Belgium. The decision is sent to the last known postal address of the asylum seeker and to his/her lawyer. If returnees have not received any proof thereof, they should contact the Immigration Office or an advisory centre.

b) No decision has yet been taken on the asylum application:

Asylum procedures of asylum seekers who leave Belgium before the first interview are terminated. A new asylum application must be lodged upon return. That application is usually assessed as a subsequent application and must first be admitted by the asylum authority. Since the initial application was not concluded, the subsequent application is normally admitted. Until a decision on admissibility is taken, the applicant is not entitled to accommodation.

c) The asylum application was rejected:

If a decision on the asylum application is taken during the absence of the applicant, the decision is sent to the last known postal address of the asylum seeker and to his/her lawyer. An appeal against a negative decision may only be lodged within a certain period of time from receipt of the decision. After expiry of such period of time, the refugee concerned must leave Belgium and may be deported. It is only possible to start a new asylum procedure if new circumstances arise; in that case, a subsequent application may be lodged.

3. Recognised refugees in Belgium: the person concerned had already been granted protection status when he/she left Belgium

If their residence permit expired during their absence, an application for extension must be filed with the Immigration Office as soon as possible. Returnees are advised to contact an advisory centre that can support them in this connection. (See addresses in the annex.)

Residence status in Belgium

The documents presented by those seeking advice should be used to examine what kind of status the person concerned had before departure from Belgium. In Belgium, the following residence permits are granted to refugees:

International protection

- **Refugee status:**
A residence permit is granted ("A card"); initially, it is limited to five years. Subsequently, an unlimited right of residence is granted. The status may be withdrawn or revoked, e.g. if the situation in the country of origin has changed substantially. The refugee concerned is entitled to family reunification subject to certain conditions.
- **Subsidiary protection:**
A limited residence permit for one year is granted ("A card"). It may be extended twice for two years in each case after re-examination of the situation in the country of origin. If the status is not revoked, an unlimited right of residence is granted after five years in total. The refugee concerned is entitled to family reunification subject to certain conditions.

Procedures under the law of residence / asylum procedures

Applications for international protection are filed with the registration centre for asylum seekers at the Immigration Office in Brussels.

There asylum seekers are interviewed briefly, their identity is established and they must fill in a questionnaire. Moreover, they are examined by a doctor and their particular vulnerability, if any, is examined. They will then receive proof of the

asylum application lodged: "Annex 26" in the case of an initial application or "Annex 26-quinquies" in the case of a subsequent application. If it is not possible to lodge the application on the same day, the person concerned will receive a registration certificate as proof (*bewijs van aanmelding/attestation de présentation*).

Subsequently, the application documents are forwarded to the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS) (*Commissariat général aux réfugiés et aux apatrides, CGRA*). There the application for asylum is examined.

Usually, at least one interview before the CGRS in Brussels takes place. Asylum seekers are invited in writing. They may be accompanied by a lawyer or another trusted person.

The decision must be taken within six months of transmission of the application to the CGRS. This time limit may be extended by nine months. The written decision is sent to the address stated as the place of residence.

In the event of a positive decision, refugee status or subsidiary protection is granted.

An appeal may be lodged against a negative decision. In the event of final rejection of the asylum application, the applicant is requested to leave the country. Under the regular procedure, the time limit in this regard is 30 days.

Interpreting

Asylum seekers whose knowledge of French or Dutch is not sufficient may ask for an interpreter. They must inform the Immigration Office of their request for an interpreter when they submit the asylum application. Then a decision is taken on whether their asylum procedure is carried out in French or Dutch. That decision also extends to any subsequent application at a later time.

Appeal

An appeal may be lodged with the Council of Alien Law Litigation against the decision of the CGRS on the asylum application. The time limit to do so is specified in the decision of the CGRS; usually, it is 30 days. It is advisable to contact a lawyer about this.

Legal assistance

Asylum seekers are entitled to legal assistance during the asylum procedure. Asylum seekers may apply to a bureau for legal assistance for free assistance from a lawyer

(a so-called *pro Deo* lawyer). In reception centres, social workers provide help in this regard.

Accelerated procedure

An accelerated procedure is carried out for persons from countries of origin considered safe and for persons from countries with a low recognition rate (2024: Democratic Republic of the Congo and Georgia). An accelerated procedure is also carried out for subsequent applications.

The following countries are considered safe countries of origin: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, India, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. The list of countries is reviewed every year.¹

Under the accelerated procedure, the CGRS takes a decision within 50 workdays (15 days in the case of safe countries of origin). If the application for asylum is rejected, the asylum seeker must leave the country within seven days.

Subsequent applications

If new circumstances arise, a new application for asylum (subsequent application) may be lodged. This is possible if there are new reasons for fleeing one's country of origin or if the situation in the country of origin has changed substantially. Subsequent applications are also submitted to the Immigration Office. The CGRS then decides whether the subsequent application may be admitted. If the initial application was terminated because of implied withdrawal, the subsequent application is deemed admissible.

Before a decision on admissibility is taken, the applicant is only entitled to medical care and free legal representation, but not to accommodation and financial or material aid.

¹ Cf. Country Report: Belgium; aida Asylum Information Database, 2024 update, pp. 103 ff;
<https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/belgium/>

Competent authorities

Stage of the procedure	Competent authority (FR/NL)	English name
Application at the border	<i>Police Fédérale / Federale politie</i>	<i>Federal Police</i>
Application in the territory	<i>Office des étrangers (OE) / Dienst Vreemdelingenzaken (DVZ)</i>	<i>Immigration Office</i>
Dublin procedure	<i>Office des étrangers (OE) / Dienst Vreemdelingenzaken (DVZ)</i>	<i>Immigration Office</i>
Refugee status determination	<i>Commissariat général aux réfugiés et aux apatrides (CGRA) / Commissariaat-generaal voor Vluchtelingen en Staatlozen (CGVS)</i>	<i>Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS)</i>
Appeal	<i>Conseil du contentieux des étrangers (CCE) / Raad voor Vreemdelingenbetwistingen (RvV)</i>	<i>Council of Alien Law Litigation (CALL)</i>
Onward appeal	<i>Conseil d'Etat / Raad van State</i>	<i>Council of State</i>
Subsequent application	<i>Commissariat général aux réfugiés et aux apatrides (CGRA) / Commissariaat-generaal voor Vluchtelingen en Staatlozen (CGVS) / Dienst Vreemdelingenzaken (DVZ) / Office des étrangers (OE)</i>	<i>Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS) / Immigration Office</i>

Source: Country Report: Belgium; aida Asylum Information Database; 2024 update

What duties do asylum seekers have in Belgium?

Asylum seekers are obliged

- to remain in Belgium until a decision on the asylum application is taken;
- to cooperate with the Belgian authorities, i.e. to provide the information required, to submit documents, to keep appointments;
- to have their fingerprints and photographs taken;

- to undergo a medical examination;
- to inform the authorities of their address in Belgium and any changes.

What rights do asylum seekers have in Belgium?

During the asylum procedure, asylum seekers are entitled

- to remain in Belgium until a decision on the application is taken;
- to free legal advice;
- to interpreters free of charge;
- to health care;
- to accommodation;
- to financial support if they have no means of their own.

In the event of any discrimination or infringement of rights, an advisory centre of an NGO should be contacted; see addresses in the annex.

Return to the country of origin

For some countries and on certain conditions, refugees who want to return to their country of origin may receive financial support for their return to and reintegration into the country of origin.

Further information: www.voluntaryreturn.be
Tel. 0800 32 745 (from Belgium)

Identification document for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of protection

Asylum seekers must report to the local administration at their place of residence after submitting their asylum application. It will grant them a provisional residence permit, the so-called "orange card". The permit is valid for four months and will be extended until the asylum procedure is concluded.

Recognised refugees receive confirmation of their recognition from the CGRS (*attestation de réfugié*). It is issued automatically and sent to the last known postal address.

With this confirmation of their recognition from CGRS, they must report to the municipal administration at their place of residence. It will grant them a residence permit limited to five years ("A card") for the time being. After five years, they receive a permanent residence permit, the "B card".

As regards **persons entitled to subsidiary protection**, the Immigration Office notifies the competent municipal administration. Thereupon they are issued with a residence permit limited to one year, the "A card". It may be extended twice, for two years in each case. After five years, they receive a permanent residence permit, the "B card".

Accommodation after re-entry

After registration of the asylum application, Fedasil, the state agency for the accommodation of asylum seekers, examines whether accommodation is possible.

Asylum seekers who can be accommodated immediately are assigned to a reception centre. This concerns, above all, families, unaccompanied minors and vulnerable persons.

Asylum seekers who cannot be accommodated immediately must ask to be put on a waiting list kept by Fedasil. This concerns almost all single men.

If an asylum application is regarded as a subsequent application, it must, first of all, be examined for admissibility. Until then, the applicant is not entitled to accommodation.

For some years, there have not been enough places to accommodate asylum seekers at the reception centres. Women, families, children and vulnerable persons are prioritised. Single men are usually not assigned a place. Anyone who cannot be accommodated immediately can enter their name on a waiting list. Waiting time is

several months. Meanwhile, the persons concerned are left to their own devices; many are homeless and sleep in the street.²

Especially vulnerable persons and families with children should contact (legal) advisory centres in order to find accommodation.

Most reception centres are collective centres. These are run by Fedasil, the Belgian Red Cross or other organisations.

In addition, there are individual accommodation facilities operated by public welfare institutions (local reception initiatives, LRI) or by NGOs. Especially vulnerable asylum seekers with special needs or asylum seekers from countries with a high recognition rate are accommodated there.

At the reception centres, asylum seekers are provided with food and clothes, they are given pocket money as well as medical, social and psychological assistance and access to legal advice, interpreting services and educational opportunities. Asylum seekers who have been placed in private accommodation – because they have sufficient funds of their own or decide against state accommodation for other reasons – are not entitled to benefits in kind or financial benefits. They are only entitled to medical care.

As soon as the asylum procedure is concluded, entitlement to accommodation ends. Persons whose application for asylum was granted must look for accommodation on their own. In the meantime, they are allowed to stay in the accommodation facility for two more months.

Persons whose application for asylum was rejected are placed in open return centres. They are given advice on returning to their country of origin to avoid deportation. Persons who do not cooperate with the authorities in organising their return to the country of origin may be transferred to closed centres.

² Cf. Country Report: Belgium; aida Asylum Information Database, 2024 update, pp. 114 ff;
<https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/belgium/>

Access to housing

Beneficiaries of protection must leave the reception centre within a period of two months and look for accommodation on the private housing market.

They may apply to the Public Social Welfare Centre (PSWC) for social housing, but the waiting lists are long. Affordable housing is in short supply. NGOs such as Convivial and Caritas International as well as volunteer initiatives assist in finding accommodation.

In case of emergency, there are night shelters where homeless persons find a place to sleep. However, these are often overcrowded.

Access to health care

Asylum seekers have access to basic health care. Certain services are excluded.

Asylum seekers who are placed in reception centres are usually only permitted to visit doctors who have signed a contract with Fedasil. If necessary, patients are referred to specialists.

Asylum seekers who are placed outside reception centres also need Fedasil's promise to pay for the costs before they are treated.

After the application for asylum is rejected, the applicant is only entitled to emergency care.

According to an aida report³, there are obstacles when it comes to access to health care because of a lack of language skills and interpreters. Transport to services outside the reception centres sometimes presents a problem as well. In particular, there are not enough services relating to psychological care.

³ Country Report: Belgium; aida Asylum Information Database, 2024 update, pp. 152 ff.; <https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/belgium/>

Beneficiaries of protection are given health insurance after their application for asylum is granted. They are entitled to health insurance either because of gainful employment or because their place of residence is in Belgium.

Anyone who does not have sufficient funds may apply to the social welfare office for assumption of a part of the cost of treatment.

For homeless people, access to health care is often difficult in practice.

Access to the labour market

Asylum seekers may work if they have not yet received a decision on their application for asylum within four months of lodging the application. This is noted on their provisional residence permit, the "orange card". They do not require a separate work permit.

Asylum seekers lodging a subsequent application may only work if and when the subsequent application was admitted and they have received the "orange card".

Asylum seekers having access to the labour market may register with the local employment office as a job seeker. They are entitled to support in their job search and training programmes.

Due to the insecure residence status, it is difficult for asylum seekers to find a job. A lack of language skills and non-recognition of qualifications make the job search even more difficult.

To engage in self-employment, asylum seekers must apply for a permit, the so-called "professional card" (*carte professionnelle/beroepskaart*).

Recognised refugees have free access to the labour market and do not require a work permit. They may also engage in self-employment and do not need a "professional card".

Beneficiaries of subsidiary protection do not require a work permit, either. However, they must apply for a "professional card" if they want to engage in self-employment. As soon as they have a permanent residence permit, they do not require the "professional card" any longer.

Access to social services

Asylum seekers who are placed in accommodation facilities of the Belgian reception system are given benefits in kind there and also receive some pocket money.

Beneficiaries of protection are entitled to the same social services as Belgian citizens. This applies both to recognised refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection. They may apply for social assistance as soon as their protection status has been confirmed. The social assistance benefit will only be paid when they are no longer accommodated in a facility for asylum seekers.

An application for social assistance is filed with the Public Welfare Centre (*Centre public d'action sociale CPAS, Openbaar centrum voor maatschappelijk welzijn OCMW*) at the place of residence. It may take some time to process the application for social assistance.

Vulnerable persons

Pursuant to the Belgian Aliens Act and Reception Act, the following are among the vulnerable persons: unaccompanied and accompanied minors, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, victims of human trafficking, disabled persons, elderly people, persons with severe physical or mental illnesses as well as victims of torture, rape or other forms of severe psychological, physical or sexual violence, such as genital mutilation.

When registering, asylum seekers can tick certain categories on a form or add additional comments, e.g. if there are special medical needs. Their registration is then processed faster.

The needs of vulnerable persons shall be taken into account when it comes to accommodation. In so doing, especially health problems as well as the situation of vulnerable or pregnant women are taken into account. For families with children, there are family rooms in the normal reception centres. There are special places for persons with health problems as well, e.g. rooms with furnishings and fittings that are adapted to the needs of disabled persons. There are special accommodation facilities for victims of human trafficking and persons with mental problems. However, there are not always enough places in accordance with the special needs.

Asylum seekers may demand that a person of the same sex accompany them to the interview and as interpreter. The needs of children shall be taken into account at the interview. In the case of victims of torture, rape or other forms of severe violence, it is possible to exclude that an accelerated procedure is carried out.

In the event that special needs are not ascertained upon registration or during the first interview, they may be put forward later, e.g. by submitting medical reports. Medical reports may also be submitted to prove health or mental problems.

Some NGOs specialise in certain vulnerable groups. They offer advice and counselling in these fields and issue medical certificates free of charge, for example. Addresses can be found in the annex.

In the event that vulnerable persons are returned from Germany, the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (*BAMF*) notifies the competent Dublin Unit in Belgium. The notification gives information on special needs with regard to accommodation and medical care. This also applies, for example, to families who are transferred separately due to violence within the family and are to be placed in different accommodation facilities. The responsibility of the German authorities ends upon arrival in the country of destination and will pass to the authorities in the country of destination.

In practice, however, it becomes apparent that the special needs are not always sufficiently taken into account in the country of destination. If possible, advisers should remain in touch with the transferred persons where critical cases are concerned. If their needs are not taken into account after arrival, they can take action, if required, and arrange contact with relief organisations. If necessary, advisers can also contact the Dublin Unit at the Immigration Office in Belgium: Tel. +32 2 4889720, e-mail: asylum.dublin@ibz.fgov.be

Annex: Where can I get advice and support?

Information material on Belgium for refugees in various languages:

Information on registration as asylum seeker provided by the Immigration Office:
<https://www.asylumregistration.be/> (16 languages)

International protection in Belgium

Brochure published by the Immigration Office concerning application for international protection in Belgium (19 languages):
<https://dofi.ibz.be/en/themes/international-protection/application-international-protection/lodging-application/brochure>

Information brochures published by the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS, *Commissariat général aux réfugiés et aux apatrides*, CGRA)):

- "The Asylum procedure at the CGRS"
- "You are recognised as a refugee in Belgium. Your rights and obligations"
- "Subsidiary protection. Your rights and obligations"
- "Women, girls and asylum in Belgium"

in English, French and Dutch: <https://www.cgrs.be/en/publications>

Asylum in Belgium

Portal of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS) providing brief information and videos on the asylum procedure; 9 languages: Arabic, English, Farsi, French, Dutch, Pashto, Somali, Spanish and Tigrinya:
https://www.asyluminbelgium.be/language_selection_page?destination=/node/30

w2eu.info – welcome to europe

Independent information for migrants and refugees in Belgium, in English, French, Arabic and Farsi, compiled by a network of activists and organisations from Europe and North Africa, containing addresses of relief organisations:
<https://w2eu.info/en/countries/belgium>

Authorities

Office des étrangers/Immigration Office

Centre d'enregistrement Protection Internationale/Registratiecentrum voor aanvragen Internationale Bescherming

Registration centre

Rue Belliard / Belliardstraat 68

1000 Brussels

Registration of asylum seekers: 8:30 am

Information: <https://www.asylumregistration.be/>

E-mail: infodesk@ibz.fgov.be

Fedasil (state agency for the accommodation of asylum seekers):

Online registration for waiting list for accommodation:

<https://www.fedasil.be/fr/waiting-list-language-select>

Information desk "Fedasil Info Point" (information on the asylum procedure):

Rue Héger-Bordet 3

1000 Brussels

Tel. 088 32 746

E-mail: infopoint@fedasil.be

<https://www.fedasilinfo.be/en/contact>

Commissariat général aux réfugiés et aux apatrides (CGRA)/Commissariaat-generaal voor Vluchtelingen en Staatlozen (CGVS)

Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS)

Rue Ernest Blerot 39

1070 Brussels

+32 2 2055111

E-mail cgvs.info@ibz.fgov.be

<https://www.cgrs.be/en/contact-info>

Contacts / local advisory services

Services by regions

Brussels

HUB Humanitaire

Avenue du Port, 100
1000 Brussels

Centre for asylum seekers organised by Médecins du Monde, the Belgian Red Cross and BelRefugees: basic information and basic provision (day centre, food, clothes, acute medical care, waiting list for emergency sleeping places)

Centrum Algemeen Welzijnswerk CAW

Antwerpselaan 34
1000 Brussels

Tel. 02 486 45 00; 0800 13 500 (freephone number from Belgium)

E-mail: onthaal@cawbrussel.be
www.caw.be

Social counselling service, arrangement of accommodation.

Further locations: <https://www.caw.be/locatie-overzicht/kom-langs/>

Caritas International

Rue de la Charité 43/Liefdadigheidstraat 43
1210 Sint-Joost-Ten-Noode (Brussels)
Tel. +32 2 2293611

E-mail: serv.soc.dienst@caritasint.be or servicesocial@caritasint.be
<https://www.caritasinternational.be/en/>

Social counselling, legal advice, family reunification, return to the country of origin

Convivial

Rue du Charroi 35
1190 Forest
Tel. +34 2 503 43 46
Tel. +34 2 315 39 00 (BAPA)

E-mail: info@convivial.be
www.convivial.be

Bureaux d'Accueil pour Primo Arrivants (BAPA): French-language integration programme (language course, civics, social and professional integration)

Social counselling, material aid (clothes, furniture), support in search for accommodation

Jesuit Refugee Service Belgium

Maurice Liétartstraat 31 / 9

1150 Sint-Pieters-Woluwe

Tel. +32 2 7380818

E-mail info@jrsbelgium.org

<https://jrsbelgium.org/>

Social counselling for migrants in closed centres; social counselling and legal advice for families with minor children, especially in the case of illegal residence

Myria

Place Victor Horta 40, box 40

1060 Saint-Gilles (Brussels)

Tel. +32 2 2123000

Hotline for legal information: +32 800 14 912

E-mail: myria@myria.be

www.myria.be/en/contact-us

Basic information and legal support

Flanders / Dutch

Vluchtelingenwerk Flanders

Kruidtuinstraat 75

1210 Brussels (Sint-Joost-ten-Node)

Tel. +32 2 2254400

E-mail: info@vluchtelingenwerk.be

<https://vluchtelingenwerk.be/>

Basic information on the asylum procedure at the registration centre at Rue Belliard.

Legal advice for asylum seekers over the telephone info line and the legal helpdesk.

Wallonia / French

CIRÉ

80-82, rue du Vivier

1050 Brussels

Tel. +32 2 6297710 (general inquiries)

+32 2 6297723 (social counselling and legal advice)

E-mail cire@cire.be

www.cire.be

Social counselling and legal advice (right of residence, asylum procedure, work, family reunification), French-language courses and integration courses, support in search for accommodation, support in recognition of qualifications

East Belgium / German

Info-Integration

Rathausplatz 14A

4700 Eupen

Tel. +32 87 76 59 71

E-mail: info-integration@roteskreuz.be

<https://info-integration.be/>

Advice is given after an appointment has been arranged over the telephone.

Advice on the right of residence, social counselling.

Legal advice

Brussels and Wallonia / French

ADDE – Association pour le Droit des Etrangers

Rue du Boulet 22

1000 Brussels

Tel. +32 2 227 42 42

<https://www.adde.be/services/service-juridique/service-juridique-2>

Advice over the telephone on the right of residence, family reunification, asylum, work, social assistance

Flanders / Dutch

Vluchtelingenwerk Flanders

Kruidtuinstraat 75

1210 Brussels (Sint-Joost-ten-Node)

Tel. +32 2 2254400

E-mail: info@vluchtelingenwerk.be

<https://vluchtelingenwerk.be/>

Legal advice over the telephone via the info line

(<https://vluchtelingenwerk.be/infolijn>):

tel. +32 2 225 44 11:

- Dutch, English and French, on workdays from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm
- Pashto and Dari, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm,

tel. +32 2 225 44 21

- Ukrainian, on workdays from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Legal advice for asylum seekers (legal helpdesk):

Timmerhoutkaai/Quai au Bois de Construction 10

1000 Brussels

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Overview of legal advice and contact details of legal advisory centres:

<https://www.fedasilinfo.be/en/need-legal-advice>

Overview of organisations that offer legal advice:

<https://www.vreemdelingenrecht.be/juridische-helpdesk#block-diensten-voor-particulieren>

Health care and advice

Refugee Medical Point

Boulevard de Waterloo 125

1000 Brussels

Health care for refugees who are not placed in a reception centre

Médecins du Monde

Rue Botanique, 75

1210 Brussels

Tel. +32 02 2254300

E-mail: info@medecinsdumonde.be

www.medecinsdumonde.be

Medibus: out-patient medical care at various locations in Brussels, Hainaut, La Louvière

Medimmigrant

Rue Gaucheret, 164

1030 Brussels

Tel. +32 2 2741433

Freephone number: 0800 14960 (from Belgium)

E-mail: info@medimmigrant.be

www.medimmigrant.be

Free Clinic

Chaussée de Wavre 154 a

1050 Brussels (Ixelles)

Tel. +32 2 5121314

E-mail: info@freeclinic.be

www.freeclinic.be

Advice for vulnerable groups

Nansen

Rue Émile Féron 153

1060 Brussels

Tel. +32 487 84 65 40

E-mail: info@nansenrefugee.be

<https://nansen-refugee.be/en/>

Advice for asylum seekers and victims of torture

GAMS Belgique (Groupe pour l'Abolition des mutilations sexuelles féminines)

Rue Gabrielle Petit, 6

1080 Brussels

Tel. +32 2 2194340

E-mail: info@gams.be

<https://gams.be/en/>

Further offices in Antwerp, Ghent, Liège and Namur

Medical and psychosocial counselling as well as legal advice for victims of female genital mutilation, forced marriage and other gender-related violence for asylum seekers, recognised refugees and persons without a residence permit. The service is intended for persons from countries with a high risk of female genital mutilation.

Emergency accommodation and help for homeless persons

Samusocial Brussels

Boulevard Poincaré 68-70

1070 Brussels

Freephone telephone number: 0800 99340 (from Belgium)

E-mail: info@samusocial.be

<https://samusocial.be/en/>

Advice on return to the country of origin

Caritas International

Rue de la Charité 43

1210 Bruxelles

Tel. +32 2 229 36 11

E-mail: servicesocial@caritasint.be

<https://www.caritasinternational.be/fr/asile-et-migration/preparation-en-belgique/>

Further advisory centres:

https://www.voluntaryreturn.be/sites/default/files/public/content/contact_en.pdf

Further information: www.voluntaryreturn.be

Tel. 0800 32 745 (freephone telephone number from Belgium)

Sources

- Country Report: Belgium; aida Asylum Information Database, 2024 update; <https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/belgium/>
- Caritas International Belgium, Dept. of Asylum, Migration and Reception, <https://www.caritasinternational.be/>
- Commissariat général aux réfugiés et aux apatrides (Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons), <https://www.cgra.be/en/international-protection> and brochures "The Asylum procedure at the CGRS", "You are recognised as a refugee in Belgium. Your rights and obligations", "Subsidiary protection. Your rights and obligations", "Women, girls and asylum in Belgium", <https://www.cgrs.be/en/publications>
- Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers, Fedasil, <https://www.fedasil.be/en/asylum-belgium>



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