

WELCOME TO GERMANY!!!

Here is some information about asylum and your rights in Germany.

With this information, which we gathered from the internet, books and our experience, we would like to give you an overview on the legal conditions and possibilities for refugees in Germany. Additionally you will find some hints and contacts which might be helpful for your case and in everyday life. Of course every case is different and information is always changing, and sometimes bureaucratic procedures are hard to understand, but don't give up! No one is illegal! Good luck!

www.welcome2germany.wordpress.com

How do I apply for Asylum?

You can apply at every police station. Or at the LAGeSo (Landesamt für Gesundheit und Soziales). Address: Turmstr. 21, 10559 Berlin. After that the *Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF)*, the ministry for refugees, is responsible for you. There you will send your asylum application. At first you might be asked for personal details, photographed, fingerprinted, and be asked 25 questions about yourself

and how you got to Germany. Your answers will be recorded and used later in your big interview.

How long do I have to wait for papers?

It can take a very long time to get a final decision. In the meantime you will get a paper (*Aufenthaltsgenehmigung*) which allows you to stay for several months until your case is closed. During the first three months of your asylum claim, you can only travel in the region where you are registered. If your case is rejected it is possible to appeal, you must do this within two weeks.

Will I get a house?

After you applied for asylum in the police, you will be brought to a big house for refugees, called *Erstaufnahmehaus*. You have to go to the place where they send you. Sometimes the house is in a village. In every house you will get a bed, food and some money. It should be clean and safe. If the living conditions are bad, or you are not treated with respect by the staff and security, then it is your right to complain. Take pictures, record your experience and speak to an organisation about this. In this house you stay there for 3 months. You are not allowed to leave the area where you live in this time. After that you will be sent to another place. Unfortunately you cannot choose where.

You will get a place to sleep and money there also. After you get your papers you can get your own room and choose your city.

Can I go to school to learn German?

If you get papers you can go to a school and learn German for free. You may have to do an integration course which will teach you German. If you are still waiting for your papers or you are rejected, there are also some schools in Berlin where you can learn German for free. There are different classes in many areas in Berlin. Previous registration is necessary, you can find all of the classes and addresses on this website:

<http://www.netzwerk-deutschkurse-fuer-alle.de/course-overview/>

Can I work in Germany?

After three months in the asylum processes you can apply for a work permit. But you will only be given a job if no other European person or migrant who already has papers wants same to do the same job. After 15 months in Germany you will get a normal work permit. If you get papers then you have the right to work and get an education. You will get money (350€ a month) and the government will pay for your room as long as you do not have work.

What if I am a minor (under 18) and without my family?

You will get a room in a house with other refugees under 18. There will be social workers to support you. Also you get food and some money. You can go to school, learn German and get education. You should have the opportunity to learn a job (like mechanic etc.) and after you finished it is possible to get a job. A problem is, that it is unfortunately not possible to bring your family in most cases.

What if I need to see a doctor?

During the first 15 months of your asylum case you have only access to emergency health care or if you need urgent care for pain or serious conditions. If you are **pregnant** you can be accompanied during your pregnancy or if you choose to not to continue the pregnancy have an abortion. Abortions are legal in Germany during the first three months of the pregnancy or for specific medical reasons.

What about my family?

Only once you have been given asylum your husband/wife and your children have the right to come to Germany as well. This is called *Familienzusammenführung*.

Is it possible to stay in Germany forever?

This depends on the papers you get and the situation in your country. After 8 years you can apply for a passport but you need to prove German skills and financial income.

What if I am a victim of torture or political persecution?

You should make this clear in your interview. It can be very hard to talk about torture, but it is important that you declare it as soon as possible. Victims of Torture should be recognized as vulnerable persons in the EU asylum process and may be treated differently than other applicants (for example they should not be detained).

What if I am a woman?

Certain persecution happens almost only to women, and are recognised as asylum grounds, such as : rape , forced sterilization , laws or customs rules that discriminate women in your country; such as disproportionate punishment for female adultery, forced marriage and genital mutilation, or when violence against women is used as a weapon in a conflict. You need to show either that your country is responsible for this persecution or that the country and its laws do not protect you from it. German asylum law recognises this as political persecution if the state of origin does not provide sufficient protection.

If some facts of your personal story are difficult to say in front of your family, you can meet your lawyer or support organisation alone.

What if I am gay/lesbian/bisexual/trans*/inter*/queer?

It is sometimes possible to claim asylum based on the fact that you are LGBTIQ. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Inter people are recognized under EU asylum law as people facing persecution based on membership in a particular social group (Geneva Convention). You must prove that due to your sexual orientation you will be severely punished in your home country.

An LGBTIQ applicant in Germany coming from a country that criminalizes homosexuality must show that the punishment is “unbearably severe and in every sense completely unreasonable. ”

More details about asylum

Your application will be used to decide if you have already experienced persecution, or whether you fear future persecution, if you returned to your country of origin. The primary elements of persecution are seen as threats to life, physical injuries and false imprisonment. Other threats to your life, body and freedom will be considered such as human rights violations based on discrimination,

danger due to war or civil war and serious health dangers caused by an illness.

The legal definition of a refugee is: “A person with a well founded fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular group”.

Dublin agreement

The Dublin agreement can be used to decide that your asylum procedure must be processed in another European country, if for example you have already registered or applied for asylum in another country, if you came with a visa for another country or if there is evidence to show you spent time in another European country. You can be deported back to this country. At the moment, this does not apply for people from Syria in Germany. You will not be deported to Greece, but your procedure will be made longer. You can make an appeal (Eilantrag) against being deported to another European country but you have to make it within 1 week after having been told about your deportation.

What about the interview?

It is very important that you prepare for the interview. Before, try to speak to an advice service or lawyer. Be sure you know your story very well. Prepare dates and details in advance because they will look for contradictions in your story. It is good to give lots of concrete details about your reasons for leaving your country. Have as much evidence as you can to show threats to your life, physical injuries or false imprisonment. For example: medical or legal reports, newspaper articles, documents or letters to show you are in danger, letters to show membership to a social/religious/political group, arrest warrants etc. You must try to show that there is a real future risk to yourself in your home country and that you can not be protected anywhere inside your country. You will maybe have to say why Germany in particular should be responsible for your protection.

In the interview take your time, ask for a break, and if you did not understand a question then ask again. Feel free to say anything without shame or embarrassment. If you have a problem with the translator, you can say it. Women can ask to be interviewed by a woman and have a woman translator. At the end, only sign the transcript if you are happy with it and sure there are no mistakes. You can ask for a copy of it. If you are not happy with the transcript or

how the interview went then speak to a lawyer or support organisation.

What happens if I am granted asylum?

With residency in Germany, it is possible to take part in free German language courses to improve your chance of getting a job. You will receive welfare money until you are able to support yourself. You may travel to but not live or work in other European countries.

What happens if I am not given asylum?

If you are rejected, the Federal Office will write to you with the result. It is possible to **appeal a rejection** but you have to do it within 1 week in writing. You can apply for legal aid, but it may not be granted. You may have to wait for many months in a closed detention center before deportation.

In the case of *Duldung* (toleration), this means you are rejected but not able to travel or you don't have a passport for deportation or the situation in your home country makes it impossible for you to return. This is a short-term agreement for a few weeks but can be extended to several years. You are legally allowed to work but practically it is very difficult the first 4 years. It is possible to get training for a job.

If chances of getting asylum seem low, marrying a partner with European papers will give you a residency permit.

What if I get I.D. controlled?

In Germany the police have the right to stop you in the street and ask for your identification papers. If you do not have them they can take you to the police station to find out who you are. They don't have the right to keep you more than 12 hours in the police station for this.

What if I get arrested?

You should be informed of your rights upon arrest. A written document containing a list of rights (in German) should be shown to you. If you do not speak German, an interpreter has to explain what is on the list. Ask for this. You will then be asked to sign a document confirming that you were informed of your rights. You have the right to ask for an interpreter for free and to make a phone call and see a doctor and a lawyer.

How can I live here without papers?

Some people live in Germany without papers. Some come secretly to work in Germany. Others once had a residency status, but lost it. There are also those who hide after their application for asylum has

been refused. The living conditions of illegalised people are hard because they cannot claim social rights such as medical help and, as illegal labourers, can be exploited by their employer. But it still stays a possibility to not follow the official request to leave Germany, but rather stay here secretly.

More information on: www.w2eu.info

Useful contacts around Berlin

Your situation is very difficult but please keep on fighting for your rights, there are many people who are in solidarity with you and want to support you. Having contact with organisations and networking with groups and individuals can also be very helpful!

ADVICE AND INFORMATION

KUB – Information centre, advice in many languages, meeting, legal aid

Telephone. 030 -614 94 00, 030 - 614 94 04,

Office hours: Mo, Tu, Th, Fr 10-13h

Albanien, Arabic, English Farsi, Turkish, Serbo-Croatian, Kurdish

Address: Oranienstr. 159, 10969 Berlin (the nearest u-bahn train is Mortizplatz)

Website in many languages with lots of information:

<http://www.kub-berlin.org/> email: kontakt@kub-berlin.org

Al Muntada - For people from arabic regions

Telephone. 030 - 68 24 77 19

Tuesday. 10 - 13h and Thursday. 14 – 17h

Morusstr. 18 A, 12053 Berlin

email: almuntada@diakoniewerk-simeon.de

Asyl in der Kirche Berlin - 'Asylum in the church' legal counselling

Telephone: 030 - 691 41 83

<http://www.kirchenasyl-berlin.de/>

Beratungstelle für Migrantinnen und Migranten von Arbeit und Leben - Work, social and legal counselling

Telephone: 030 - 40 39 92 56

Address: Keithstraße 1-3, 10787 Berlin

<http://www.berlin.arbeitundleben.de/kontakt.html>

Verein iranischer Flüchtlinge in Berlin - Counselling for iranian and afghani refugees

Telephone: 030 - 62 98 15 30 <http://iprberlin.com/fa/>

Nevenda Kurdi - Social and legal counselling for refugees in Kurdish, Turkish, Arabic

Telephone: 030 - 615 90 92

Dresdenerstr. 8, 10999 Berlin

<http://www.kurdisches-zentrum.de/kontakt.html>

Flüchtlingsrat Berlin e.V. -Refugee council Berlin

Georgenkirchstr. 69-70 ,10249 Berlin

Telephone.: 0 30 2 43 44 57 62

E-Mail: buero@fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de

www.fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de

Migrationsrat Berlin-Brandenburg – Information about migrant rights

Oranienstr. 34, 10999

U1, U8, (U Kottbusser Tor) Bus M29 (Adalbertstr./Oranienstr.)

Office: 030 – 61658755 Advice: 030 – 60031139

E-Mail: info@mrbb.de

PRO ASYL - Independent human rights organisation on asylum

Email: proasyl@proasyl.de

website in English and German: www.proasyl.de

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UNACCOMPANIED UNDER 18 REFUGEES

AKINDA – Support and accompaniment for unaccompanied refugees

Tel.: 030 - 32 70 93 40 <http://xenion.org/angebote/akinda/>

Paulsenstr. 55-56, 12163 E-Mail: akinda@xenion.org

Alafia - Supporting children refugees

Tel.: 030 - 45 60 64 16 <http://www.alafia-kinderrechte.de/deutschland/>

BBZ - Social and legal counselling and care centre for young refugees

Telephone: 030 666 407 20, 030 666 407 23

<http://www.bbzberlin.de/>

Turmstr. 72, Floor 4, 10551 Berlin

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WOMEN

S.U.S.I. Interkulturelles Frauenzentrum - Health, psychological and social support.

Support for women in French, Russian, Polish, Farsi, Spanish, Portugese, Italian, English and Vietnamese.

Telephone: 030 78 95 93 94 Address: Innsbrucker Straße 58

<http://www.susi-frauen-zentrum.com/> and on facebook.

SOLWODI - Solidarity with women in distress

Counceling for victims of trafficking, violence and forced marriage

Tel: 030 - 81 00 11 70 Address: Kranoldstr. 24 Email: berlin@solwodi.de

BIG Hotline - Aid for women victims of violence

Telephone.: 030 61 10 30 0. Phone 24 hours a day

Al Nadi - Meeting, advice and courses for arabic women

Telephone: 030 - 85 20 60 2.

Rheinstrasse 53-54. Monday to Friday 9 to 4 oclock.

Languages: Arabic, German

Ban Ying - Helping migrant women who have experienced violence, exploitation or human trafficking

Anklamer Str. 38, 10115

Telephone: 030 440 63 73, or 030 440 63 74

info@ban-ying.de www.ban-ying.de

BAIP - Advice for African Women.

Karl-Marx-Str. 42, 12043. Telephone: 030 - 62 72 93 30

TIO - Meeting, information, training.

Köpenicker Str. 9 B, 10997 Berlin Telephone: 030 612 20 50, 030 / 624 10 11

Tio-ev@gmx.de www.tio-berlin.de

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GAY AND LESBIAN / LGBTQI

LesMigraS - Counselling, support, self empowerment

Kulmer Strasse 20a, 10 783 <http://www.lesmigras.de/>

Telephone: 030 21 91 50 90 info@lesmigras.de

MILES des LSVD Berlin - Help and legal advice for individuals and families

Kleiststraße 35, 10787 Berlin Telephone: 030 – 22 50 22 15

email: miles@blsb.de <https://berlin.lsvd.de/projekte/miles/>

Support, counselling, meeting point for queer refugees Schwulenberatung, Cafe

Kuchus, Wilhelmstraße 115, 10963 Berlin-Kreuzberg, Tues & Fri 2-6pm:

<https://www.schwulenberatungberlin.de/wir-helfen/queere-fluchtlinge/>

HEALTH

Malteser Migranten Medizin – Medical practice for people without a health insurance

Aachener Str. 12, 10713 Berlin-Wilmersdorf,
Telefon: 030 82 72 26 00 email: MMMedizin@malteser-berlin.de
Tue, Wed, Fri 9-15 oclock.
Getting there: U- & S-Bahn: Heidelberger Platz, Bus 101: Paretzer Straße,
Bus 249: Brabanter Platz

Büro für Medizinische Flüchtlingshilfe - Medical support for people without papers

Tel: 030 - 69 46 746
Monday and Thursday 16.30 to 18.30 Uhr
Address: Mehringhof, Gneisenaustr. 2A, Hinterhof, Aufgang 3, 2. Stock, Berlin-Kreuzberg
U-Bahnhof Mehringdamm U6/U7
Telephone: 030. 69 46 746 email: info@medibuero.de
www.medibuero.de

BzFO - aid for people who have experienced torture

<http://www.bzfo.de/homeen.html>
Tel: 030 30 39 06 / 0 Email: mail@bzfo.de

Xenion- psychosocial support for people who have experienced political persecution. <http://xenion.org>

Paulsenstr. 55-56
Telephone: 030 3232933
E-Mail: info@xenion.org

EXTRA

Free german courses and tandem partners: KUB. Address: Oranienstr. 159, 10969. Telephone: 030 / 614 94 00
<http://www.kub-berlin.org/index.php/en/german-classes/164-german-courses>

Start with a friend: This website connects refugees with people in Berlin who want to support people and help with administration and starting a new life.
<http://www.start-with-a-friend.de/refugees>

English class for refugees: Tuesdays at the cafe engels, Herrfurthstraße 21 Ubahn 8 Boddinstr6pm-8pm

Search for missing family members

<https://www.facebook.com/searchandfindrefugees>
<http://familylinks.icrc.org/europe/en/Pages/home.aspx>

Refugee phrasebook with useful words and phrases

<http://www.refugeephasebook.de/>

Watch the Med – Alarm Phone +334 86 51 71 61

www.facebook.com/watchthemed.alarmphone

If your friends or your family are going to travel towards Europe, please share our emergency number with them. We offer a 24 hour emergency telephone for people in distress on sea.

