

HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM HOTLINE

Human Rights Platform Hotline provides service on weekdays between 10.00 - 18.00. The hotline is controlled by legal experts of the Human Rights Platform Association. You can call, send an SMS message or text via WhatsApp to our hotline to receive legal counselling (free of charge) regarding the five thematic areas (Anti-trafficking, LGBTI+ rights, democratic participation in decision making, refugee rights, detention conditions and freedom from torture) covered by the Human Rights Platform Project.

HOTLINE NUMBER

+90 542 862 00 60

Please scan here for detailed information about the hotline and its service areas



ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM

The Human Rights Platform struggles for an egalitarian, just, democratic and inclusive world where universal human rights and freedoms are accessible and secure for everyone, protected, and constantly improved through effective mechanisms.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM PROJECT

The Human Rights Platform Project aims for developing a more just, equitable, democratic and inclusive society where human rights are not only respected but cherished.

Follow us to get further information about the Human Rights Platform and the Human Rights Platform Project.

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Human Rights Platform

INFORMATIVE BROCHURE ON ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEE RIGHTS



THE RIGHT TO SEEK ASYLUM

The right to seek asylum is a human right. It is guaranteed under Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The article states that “Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution”. Since the announcement of UDHR, the right was embedded in the 1951 Refugee Convention 1951 (“1951 Convention”) and several other human rights treaties. 1951 Convention was drafted to identify and frame the rights of refugees and asylum seekers under international law.

WHO IS A REFUGEE?

The universal definition of the term refugee comes from 1951 Geneva Convention and its 1967 Convention.

Refugees are people who are forced to leave their countries because of persecution or conflict.

Refugees are not able or willing to return their countries since they fear that they will be persecuted due to their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, political opinion, conflict, violence or any other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order.

WHO IS AN ASYLUM-SEEKER?

An individual who has applied but hasn't yet been legally recognized as a refugee and is waiting to receive a decision on their asylum claim. Not every asylum seeker will ultimately be recognized as a refugee, but every recognized refugee is initially an asylum seeker.

WHO IS A PERSON OF CONCERN (POC)?

In addition to refugees and asylum seekers identified above, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) extended its protection to PoCs identified as a person whose protection and assistance needs are of interest to UNHCR. The definition includes refugees, asylum seekers, stateless people, internally displaced people and returnees.

THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-REFOULEMENT

The principle of non-refoulement refers to the states obligation not to return anyone to a territory where there are substantial grounds to believe that they will be at risk of persecution, ill-treatment, torture or any other serious human rights violations.

This principle is well founded under international refugee law, human rights law and customary law. The most known expression of the principle is provided under Article 33(1) of the 1951 Convention. In addition, it is explicitly included some international or regional conventions such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). The principle has also been affirmed by several human rights mechanisms such as the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

Non-refoulement is part of the customary international law which means that it is binding on all states, regardless whether they are parties to the 1951 Convention or any other convention that includes the principle.

THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-PENALIZATION

Refugees will rarely have the time or opportunity or resources to access their travel documents or obey the immigration procedures while escaping from war or persecution. The non-penalization principle means that refugees or asylum seekers should not be prosecuted for their irregular entry or stay in a territory. The principle is explicitly stated under Article 31 of the 1951 Convention.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Refugees are at risk of facing serious human rights violations in the northern part of Cyprus. The principles of non-refoulement and non-penalization are not being implemented by the local bodies. Thus, refugees may be penalized for their irregular entry or stay and sent back to the territories where they would face persecution, torture or serious human rights violations.

Human Rights Platform conducts advocacy, capacity building, lobbying and monitoring activities to promote refugee rights in the northern part of Cyprus.

The Platform also provides legal aid to refugees or refers cases to its founding member Refugee Rights Association to assist their legal and/or social needs.

