

USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

Please note that the services mentioned below are provided by institutions and organizations to asylum-seekers and stateless persons free of charge.

Migration Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of RA

Migration Service examines asylum applications and makes decisions on asylum requests in Armenia.

Tel: +374 60 27 50 25; +374 60 27 50 34

Address: Yerevan 0037, 31 Ulnetsi Str.

Email: smsasylum@gmail.com

Website: www.smsmta.am

The Human Rights Defender (Ombudsman) of RA

The Defender is an independent state official who observes the maintenance of human rights and freedoms on the part of state and local self-government bodies and officials, as well as organizations operating in the field of public service. The Defender also contributes to the restoration of violated rights and freedoms.

Tel: +374 10 53 76 51

Address: Yerevan 0002, 56a Pushkin Str.

Email: ombuds@ombuds.am

Hot Line: 116

Website: www.ombuds.am

The Office of Public Defender of the Chamber of Advocates of RA

The Office of Public Defender provides free legal aid *inter alia* to asylum-seekers, refugees, persons who received temporary protection in Armenia, victims of trafficking (subject to human trafficking committee recognition as such) and torture, as well as to persons who cannot afford legal services to protect their rights and freedoms before judicial, as well as other public bodies.

Tel: +374 10 60 07 14

Address: Yerevan, 0010, 7-2 Zakyan Str., floor 2

Email: pashtpan@advocates.am

Website: www.advocates.am

Penitentiary Service of the Ministry of Justice of RA

In case of being held in prison, asylum-seekers can apply to the prison administration for referring their asylum request to the Migration Service. The administration of penitentiary institution is responsible for informing asylum-seekers about their legal rights and obligations. The interview and all information provided by the asylum-seekers will be registered and passed to the Migration Service.

Hotline: +374 10 44 22 73

Address: Yerevan 0061, 63 Arshakunyats Ave.

Website: www.ced.am

The Representation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Armenia

UNHCR monitors examination of asylum applications by the Migration Service and provides necessary support to ensure quality asylum procedure. UNHCR complements the Government efforts in meeting basic needs of asylum-seekers, refugees and displaced populations and contributes to bridging assistance gaps in the fields of health, education and income generation by way of projects implemented by its partners.

Tel: +374 91 41 53 87; +374 10 54 59 37 (ext.117)

Address: Yerevan 0010, 14 Petros Adamyany Str.

Email: armyeprt@unhcr.org

Website: www.un.am/hy/agency/UNHCR

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/UNHCRArmenia/>

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

IOM enhances the humane and orderly management of migration and the effective respect for the human rights of migrants and facilitates the voluntary return and reintegration of refugees, displaced persons, migrants and other individuals in need of international migration services, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations as appropriate.

Tel: +374 10 58 56 92

Address: Yerevan 0010, 14 Petros Adamyany Str.

Email: IOMArmenia@iom.int

Website: www.iom.int/countries/armenia



INFORMATION LEAFLET

**For asylum-seekers
in penitentiary
institutions**

Yerevan 2018

HOW TO APPLY FOR ASYLUM FROM PENITENTIARY INSTITUTIONS

Right to seek asylum in Armenia

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

“Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.” (Article 14(1))

Constitution of the Republic of Armenia

“Everyone subjected to political persecution shall have the right to seek political asylum in the Republic of Armenia.” (Article 54)

“No one may be expelled or extradited to a foreign state, if there is a real danger that the given person may be subjected to death penalty, torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in that country.” (Article 55(1))

WHO IS AN ASYLUM-SEEKER?

- A foreigner who is outside of his/her country of nationality or permanent residence applying for asylum in the Republic of Armenia (RA) is an asylum-seeker until a final decision is made on asylum application.
- You can submit an asylum application to the Migration Service, if:
 - ✔ you have a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, or
 - ✔ owing to your life, safety, or freedom being threatened by generalised violence, foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive violation of human rights, or other circumstances, which have seriously disturbed public order.

YOU, AS AN ASYLUM-SEEKER

- Shall not be subjected to criminal or administrative liability for illegal entry or illegal stay in Armenia.
- Shall not be expelled or extradited to a foreign state, if there is a real danger that you may be subjected to death penalty, torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in that country.
- Have the right to stay in the Temporary Accommodation Centre for asylum-seekers, if there are available rooms.
- Have the right to interpretation and translation free of charge.
- Have the right to free legal aid for which you need to contact the Office of Public Defender (*see contact information*).
- Have the right to apply to the Human Rights Defender, if you believe that your rights have been violated by the state, local self-governing bodies or officials, as well as organizations operating in the field of public service.
- Have the right to contact the UNHCR Representation in Armenia and the International Organization for Migration.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW?

- You should express your intention of seeking asylum to the administration of the penitentiary institution, which will then refer your asylum application to the Migration Service.
- An asylum application can also be submitted in cases of illegal entry to Armenia (without proper travel documents). In such situations you should approach the prison administration and inform about your intention to seek asylum in Armenia without delay, if you have not already approached other state authorities (border guards, police, the Migration Service).
- You can apply through the prison administration to the Office of Public Defender of the Chamber of Advocates of RA requesting to provide you with free legal aid.
- You should participate in the interview conducted by the competent state bodies, including the prison administration.
- Asylum application is examined by the MS within a period of three months after having it registered with the MS and may be extended by the MS for up to three months, with the exception of cases where accelerated procedures are applied.
- Information provided by you during the interview is not shared with the authorities of your home country and any third party under any circumstances.
- You should follow the Armenian legislation.