

THE
ASYLUM PROCEDURE
IN DENMARK



The Danish Refugee Council is a private humanitarian organisation working for the rights of asylum seekers and refugees in Denmark. We provide free legal counselling to asylum seekers in Denmark independently of the Danish authorities.

December 2015



Asylum Seeker



Police

UDLÆNDINGESTYRELSEN



Immigration
Service



Translator

DRS DANISH
REFUGEE
COUNCIL



Danish Refugee
Council



Lawyer



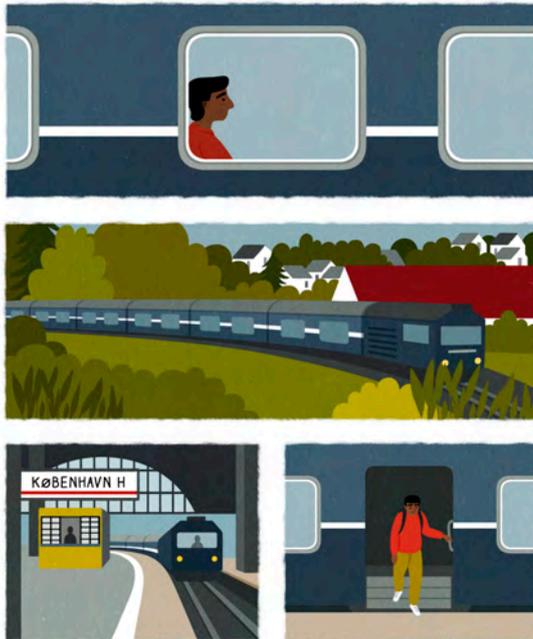
Asylum Case



Refugee Appeals Board

PHASE 1

Arriving in Denmark



Accommodation



When you apply for asylum you will initially be accommodated in Sandholm asylum center. You will receive pocket money. Food is served at the canteen.

Registration



If you hand in personal documents to the Danish authorities, make sure to get your own copy of the documents.

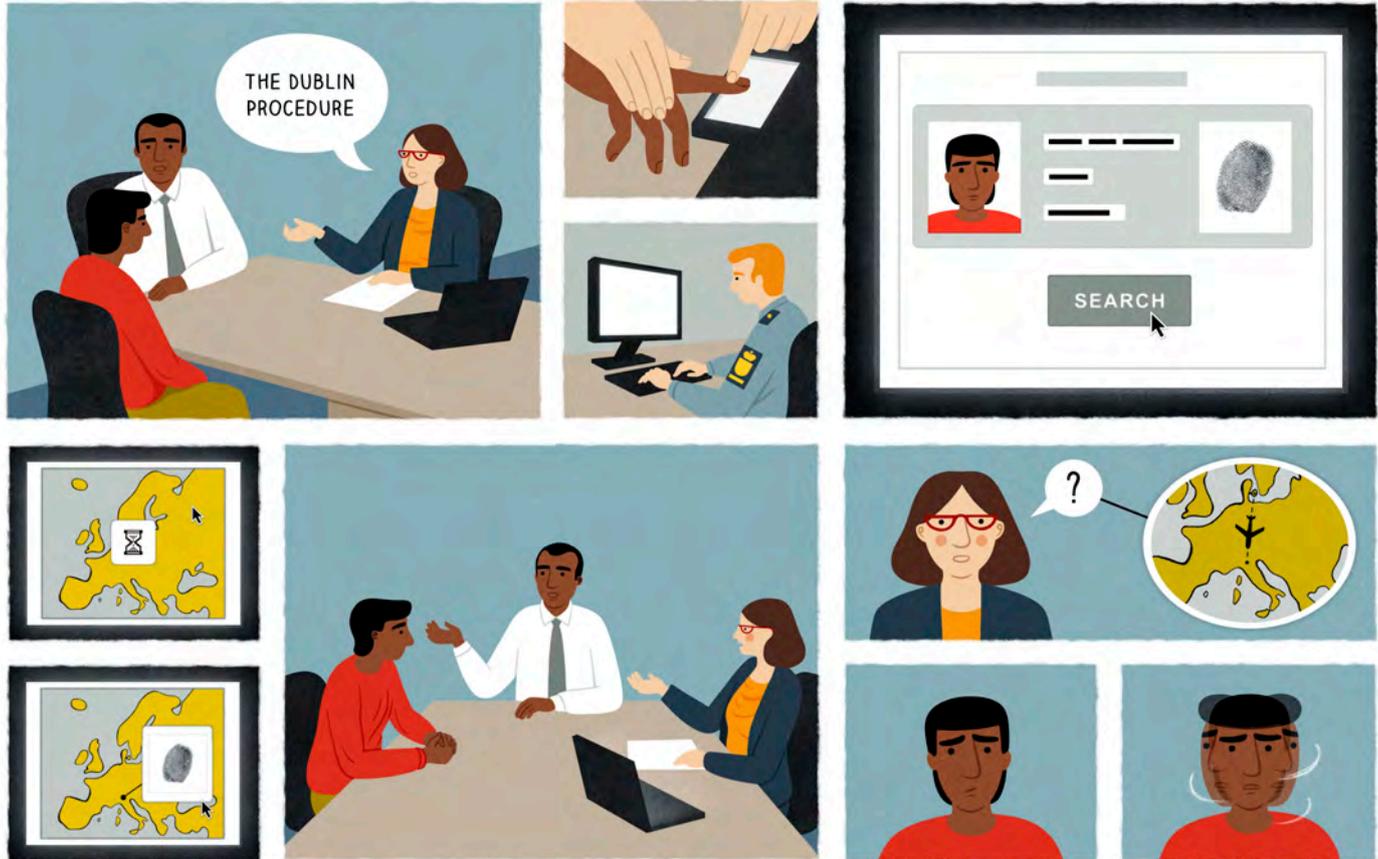
If you are able to read and write, the Immigration Service will ask you to fill out a questionnaire in your mother tongue regarding your identity and reasons for seeking asylum.

The First Interview



During the first interview with the Immigration Service you may expect to be asked questions about your identity and nationality, your family and travel route. You may also be interviewed briefly about why you fled your home country.

The Dublin Procedure



If the Immigration Service decides to transfer you to another European country under the Dublin Regulation you will most often be informed about the decision during the first interview. At the interview you can let the Immigration Service know whether you want to complain about the decision. You have a total of seven days to complain.



If you wish to complain about the transfer to another European country, the Danish Refugee Council can assist you. It is the Refugee Appeals Board that makes the final decision.

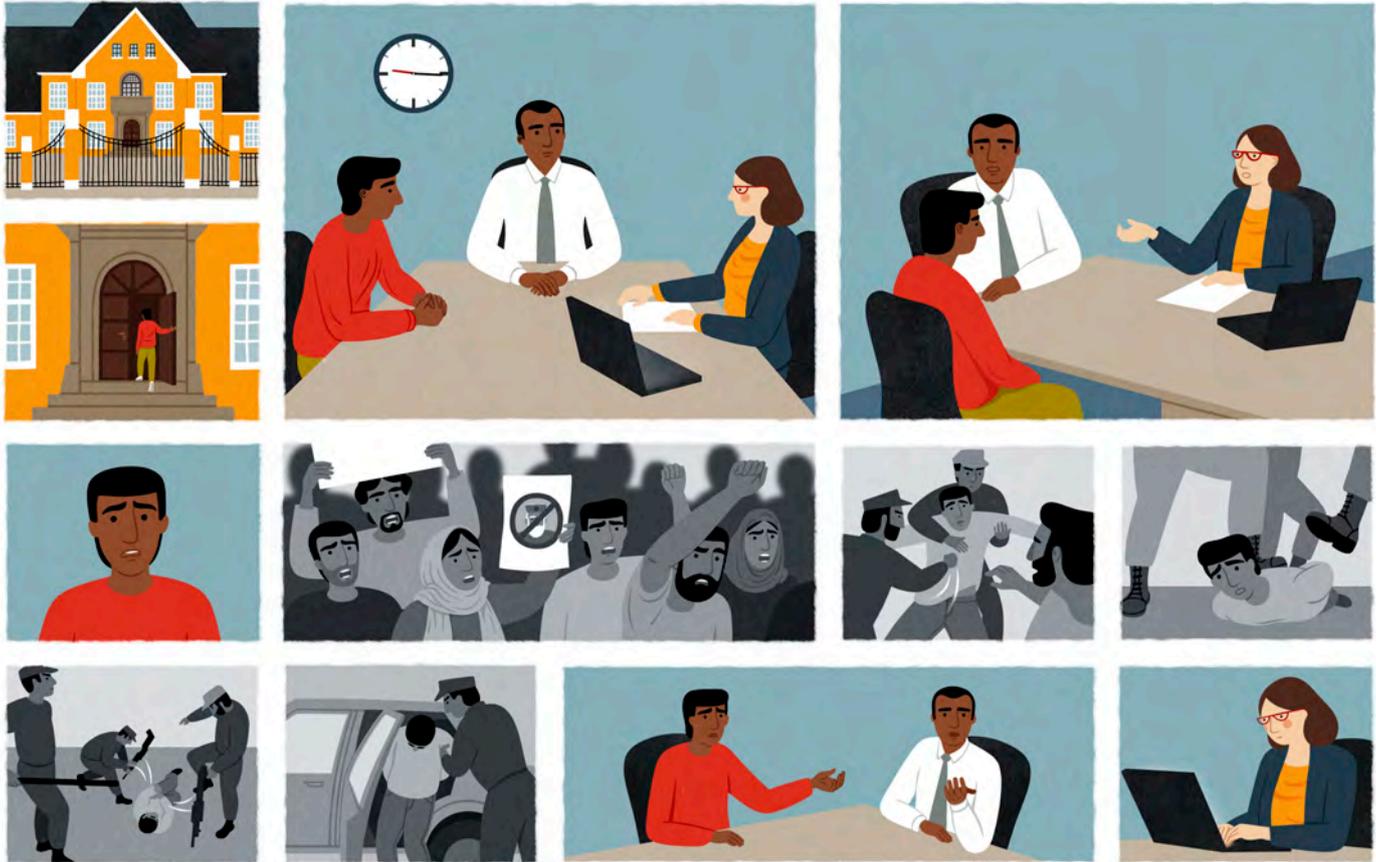
PHASE 2

Accommodation



During your stay in your asylum center you may be offered basic schooling and you can cook your own food in shared kitchens.

The Asylum Interview



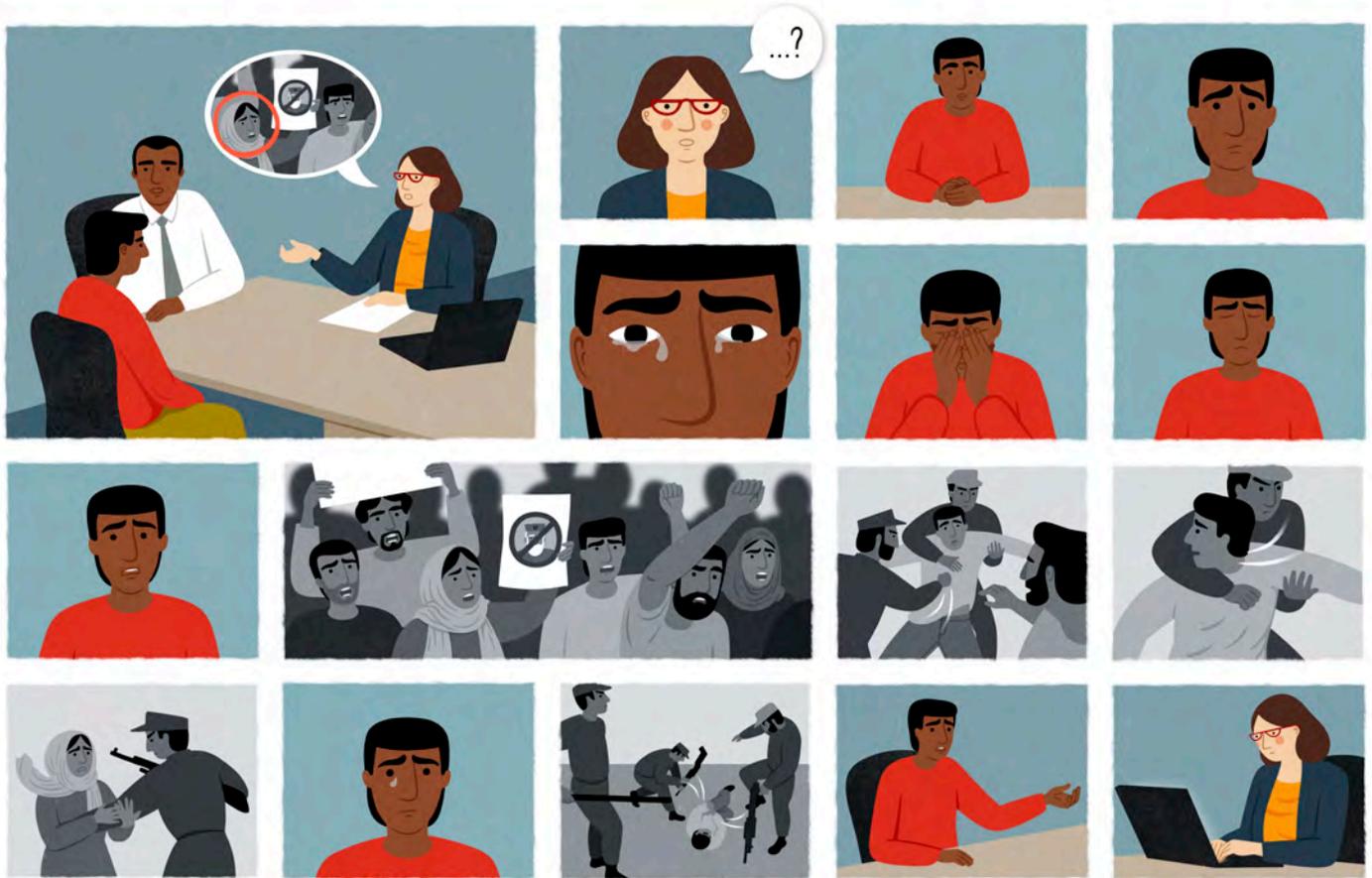
During the asylum interview with the Immigration Service you will be interviewed in detail about why you fled your home country. The case worker at the Immigration Service will write a summary report of what you say.



The case worker at the Immigration Service will ask you a lot of questions. You may expect very detailed questions about your reasons for seeking asylum.



The caseworker from the Immigration Service will compare all the information you have given to assess if she believes what you say. Answer the questions as honestly as possible. If you do not know the answer to the questions it is okay to say 'I don't know' or 'I am not sure but I think...'



You may be asked to give very detailed explanations about your experiences. Some of your experiences may be very difficult to talk about. Take your time and ask for a break if needed.



During your interview a summary report is written. It will be read to you by the interpreter at the end of the interview. You have the opportunity to correct errors in the summary report.



It is a good idea to get your own copy of the summary report. If you become aware of important errors after the interview you can always write a letter to the Immigration Service. You can write the letter in your own language.

The Decision: Positive



If you are granted a residence permit in Denmark you will be allowed to work and go to school like any other person living in Denmark.

The Decision: Negative



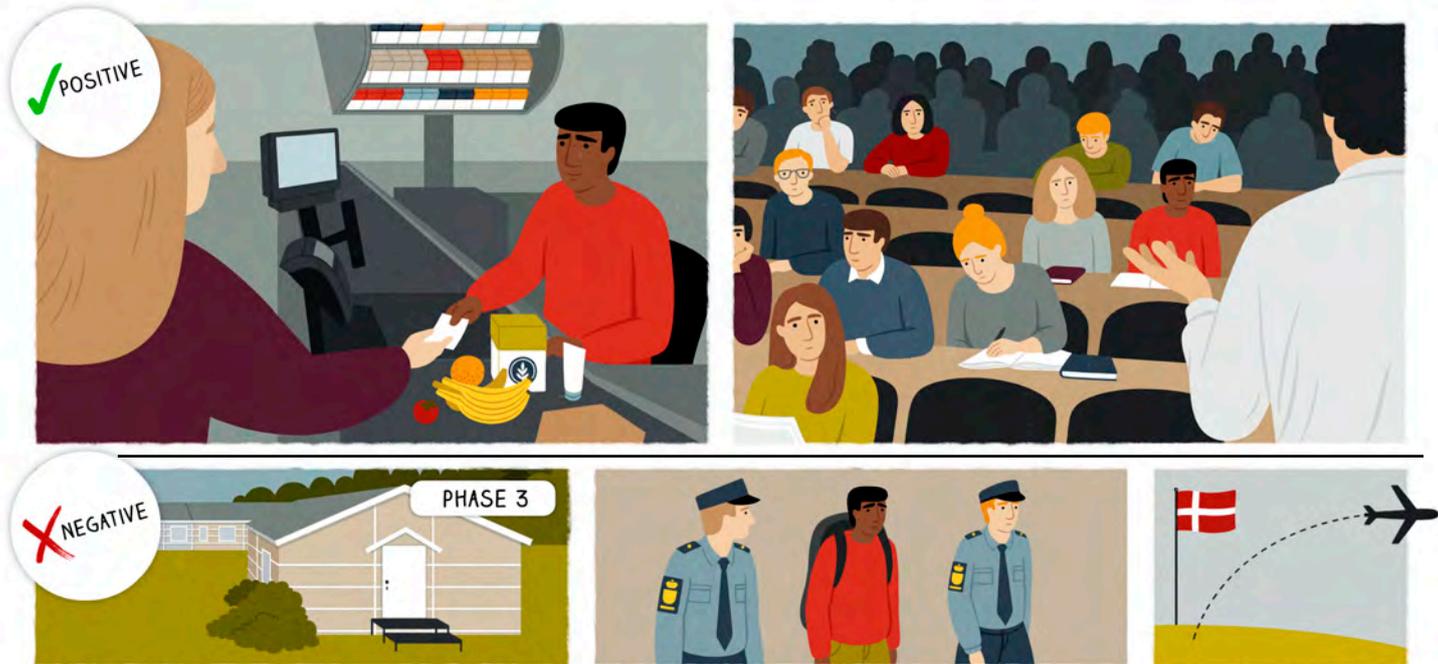
If the Immigration Service rejects your application for asylum it will automatically be appealed to the Refugee Appeals Board. An independent lawyer will be appointed to help you during the appeal proceedings. You will attend a meeting with your lawyer prior to the Board hearing.

Refugee Appeals Board Hearing



You will attend the hearing at the Refugee Appeals Board with your lawyer. A representative from the Immigration Service will also be present. You may be asked questions by the lawyer, the Immigration Service and the Board members. You will also be given the opportunity to put forward your own comments.

Final Decision



The Refugee Appeals Board makes the final decision. If your application for asylum is rejected by the Refugee Appeals Board you must leave Denmark.

About The Danish Refugee Council

The Danish Refugee Council is a private independent organisation working on the basis of humanitarian principles. We provide free individual legal counselling to asylum seekers in Denmark and can answer questions about the procedures, rules and regulations of the Danish asylum system.

All counsellors have a duty of confidentiality. Everything you tell us will be treated confidentially.

How to contact us:

Over video conference

We provide counselling to asylum seekers daily through video conference. Contact the staff at your asylum center to set up an appointment for video counselling. Interpretation will be provided by the Danish Refugee Council.

In detention

Detained asylum seekers are entitled to legal counselling from the Danish Refugee Council. If you are detained and want counselling, contact the prison staff and ask for a meeting with the Danish Refugee Council who will visit you in prison. An interpreter will be provided by the Danish Refugee Council.

In Copenhagen

Personal legal counselling is available at the Danish Refugee Council's office in Copenhagen every Wednesday from 10 am to 1 pm. You must bring your own interpreter if you do not speak English or Danish.

For rejected asylum seekers

Asylum seekers who have received a final rejection of their asylum claim are offered legal counselling about their status, including their rights and obligations. Counselling about return and possible return assistance is also available.

At asylum centers

Newly arrived asylum seekers can get legal advice from the Danish Refugee Council during group-counseling sessions at reception asylum centers and at other asylum centers upon request. The Danish Refugee Council will provide an interpreter.

Telephone and e-mail

Asylum seekers can receive legal advice by contacting us on our

- email address: advice@drc.dk
- or telephone: + 45 33 73 50 00



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