

How to claim asylum?

To Register an asylum claim

Registering an asylum claim¹ is done at a 'screening'. This is a meeting with an immigration officer where people start talking about their case.

At the screening applicants:

- are photographed
- have their fingerprints taken
- have an interview to check who they are and where they are from.

They'll be asked why they want to claim asylum.

How to register an asylum claim?

People who want to claim asylum need to do so as soon as possible. It can be done in the port and airport on arrival.

If already in the UK, asylum applications must be submitted in person at the Asylum Screening Unit in Croydon.

Claimants can either make an appointment in advance or attend the walk-in service. They will be seen without an appointment if they are destitute.

If claimants have had a change of circumstances in their immigration history it is advisable to seek legal advice before claiming asylum.

If claimants are not newly arrived in the UK, it is advisable to seek legal advice from a qualified immigration adviser before claiming asylum.

People who meet vulnerability criteria, can be referred to Migrant Help who can request a screening appointment in Glasgow and support with accessing emergency support.

The Migrant Help definition of a vulnerable person is:

- A disabled person
- An elderly person
- A pregnant woman
- Lone parent with a child
- A person who has been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence
- A victim of human trafficking
- A minor
- Any person identified in 1-7 above who has had an individual evaluation of their situation that confirms they have special needs
- A person that has an inability to access services by website or telephone advice line.

1. www.gov.uk/claim-asylum

Asylum support

Once someone registers their asylum claim, they can access asylum support (accommodation and/or financial support) from the Home Office. Application for asylum support is made via Migrant Help.

Emergency support

If an asylum applicant requires support out of office hours and support from the Home Office cannot be arranged, Local Authorities have a duty to accommodate as per Section 12 or 13a of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and Section 22 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. In such cases, referral to Social Work Office must be made.

Additional Support

How to find an OISC regulated adviser

www.gov.uk/find-an-immigration-adviser

Scottish Refugee Council

Scottish Refugee Council's Services and Helpline can be contacted for advice – more information is available here

www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/what_we_do/refugee_services

Scottish Guardianship Service

The service supports unaccompanied asylum-seeking and trafficked children and young people. All of the refugee children and victims of trafficking that we support, have arrived in the country without their parents.

www.aberlour.org.uk/services/scottish-guardianship-service/

British Red Cross

British Red Cross offices offer services to asylum seekers and refugees, including family tracing and family reunion

www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/get-help-as-a-refugee##

Migrant Help

Migrant Help is a charity contracted by the Home office to provide advice and information to all asylum seekers in the UK. They run an asylum helpline that is free. Advice can be given in several languages on:

- How to claim asylum
- Financial support
- Finding legal representation
- The asylum process
- Accessing healthcare
- Accommodation support
- Any other asylum issues.

They can also help you complete the application form for asylum support (financial and/or accommodation) and assist if you need to notify the Home Office of a change of circumstance.

Free asylum helpline: 0808 8000 630