

ASYLUM PROCEDURE IN BELGIUM

You applied for asylum for the first time in Belgium and Belgium accepted to treat your case

First interview

- Done by the Immigration Office
- Short interview with translator, but without lawyer (you can prepare this interview with your lawyer in advance)
- You will be asked questions about your identity, family members, your itinerary to Belgium, all the reasons why you cannot go back to your country of origin (in short) and if you have documents to submit

Second interview

- Done by the Commissioner-general for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS)
- Long interview with translator and lawyer
- You will be asked the same questions as during your first interview, but you will be interviewed in more detail about the reasons why you cannot go back to your country or origin
- If you do not have identity documents or if there is doubt about your identity, questions will be asked about your country of origin and the region you come from

Decision

- The decision is taken by the Commissioner-general for Refugees and Stateless Persons
- It can be positive or negative and will depend on your ability to show that:
 - you fear persecution in your country of origin because of your nationality, race, religion, political opinion or the fact that you belong to a specific social group (women, homosexuals, etc.) = REFUGEE
 - you fear harm because of the violence in your country of origin = SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION

Appeal

- In case of negative decision
- Before the Council for Alien Law Litigation
- Within 30 days of your decision or within 10 days when you are detained
- By your lawyer

2nd Appeal

- **Only in very specific cases** when the Council for Alien Law Litigation did not follow the correct procedure
- Before the Council of State
- Within 30 days of the decision of the Council for Alien Law Litigation
- By your lawyer

New asylum application

- **Only if you have new elements** and you have a good reason why you were not able to submit them in your first application
- At the Immigration Office
- Please note: you will not receive accommodation until the CGRS has accepted to look into your case