



"Nasc" is the Irish word for "**Link**"

**Nasc**, the Irish Immigrant Support Centre is a non-Governmental organization that seeks to respond to the needs of immigrants in the area of Cork, Ireland.

**Our Vision:** To contribute to an environment of social inclusion for all communities, based on the principles of equality, social justice and human rights.

**Mission:** Nasc is a source of support and self-development for migrants, individually and collectively, and uses its experiences to promote fair, consistent and transparent policies.

There are three parts to our work:

- One to one Advice & Advocacy
- Group capacity building
- Policy & Campaigning

This information leaflet was produced by Nasc and funded by Citizens Information Board.



**Disclaimer:** The contents of this leaflet are intended for informational purposes only and should not be relied upon as a substitute for legal advice. Nasc does not accept liability for the use or misuse of the information contained in this leaflet. Thank you for your co-operation.

# The Asylum Process

## The Asylum Process

Those who seek recognition as refugees are termed '**asylum seekers**' whilst their claim for asylum is processed.

The first stage is entering the country and making an **application** for asylum with at point of entry or at Office of the Refugee applications Commissioner, ORAC, , which will investigate if the application should be dealt with in Ireland or elsewhere in accordance with the Dublin regulation. This document is the basis of your asylum claim and it is very important that you give a full account in the document of the reasons why you left your own country.

You must return the application form to ORAC within 2 weeks. You are strongly advised to register with the Refugee Legal Service (RLS), or to obtain legal advice privately, before completing the questionnaire.

It is important that you did not apply in other EU country before Ireland, if ORAC presume that they will investigate it with your fingerprints. If a match is found it is likely that ORAC will attempt to transfer you to that country without considering your asylum claim.

When you complete the questionnaire you will be moved to full board (all meals) accommodation elsewhere in Ireland.

You will not be allowed to seek or enter employment while your application for refugee status is being processed.

You will receive €19.10 per adult and €9.60 per child Direct Provision Allowance as well as full board.

### **Interview**

When ORAC is ready to deal with your application you will be called for an interview. An interview may be scheduled when you register with ORAC. **It is important that you give a full account of the reasons why you left your country and why you cannot return to it.**

### **Decision of the Refugee Applications Commissioner**

The Commissioner will make a decision whether to make a recommendation that you be declared a refugee or not.

If positive, you should receive a letter declaring them a refugee and setting out their rights and entitlements in Ireland.

If negative, you will be sent a letter by registered post informing you of this by ORAC.

## Appeal to the Refugee Appeal Tribunal (RAT): two types

1. Accelerated Procedure. This is the 10 working days appeal which is issued in some cases such as if you are from Croatia, Nigeria, South Africa or if ORAC finds that you have provided false, contradictory or misleading information relating to your asylum application.
2. Substantive Procedure. This is a 15 working days appeal which is issued in other cases

If the Refugee Appeals Tribunal's decision is positive, that is to say that you should be granted refugee status.

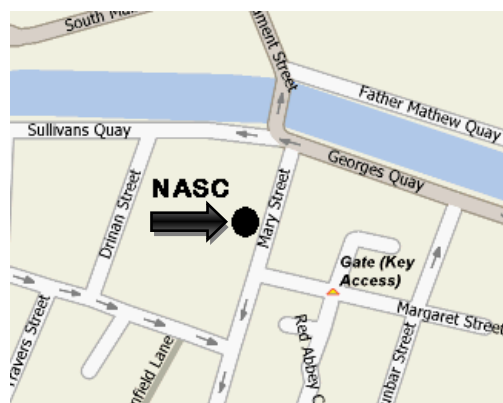
If the decision is to refuse your appeal the RAT will advise you of this by letter.

## Refusal of Refugee Status

You will receive a letter from Irish Nationality and Immigration Service (INIS) telling you that the Minister intends to deport you. You will be given four options which are:

1. To make representations to the Minister within 15 working days setting out why you should be allowed remain in the State (often called "Leave to Remain");
2. To apply for Subsidiary Protection; this is to provide for persons who do not fall within the Refugee Act but are in need of protection.
3. To leave the State before the Minister decides the matter and inform the Minister in writing of the arrangements you have made for this purpose;
4. To consent to the making of the deportation order within 15 working days.

For further information please see the website of the Office of Refugee Applications Commissioner at: [www.orac.ie](http://www.orac.ie)



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You can visit or phone our drop-in service at the following times:

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday**  
10.00 am to 1:00 pm  
2:00 pm to 4.30 pm