The Refugee Convention and the right to protection

The Refugee Convention describes who is a refugee and the kind protection a refugee is entitled to receive, which has been included in Dutch law. On these very rules, the IND founds its decision on whether a person should be protected according to the Refugee Convention.

To be given protection in the Netherlands it is important to provide as complete and detailed as possible information on the following five points:

1. Why were you persecuted in your country of origin?
2. What have you been prosecuted for, or could you possibly be prosecuted for?
3. Who is the persecutor?
4. What do you fear if you have to return?
5. On what grounds were you prosecuted?

In addition to these key questions, there are other important points that we will pay attention to when analysing the account of your flight.

Making an appointment

Would you like the help of the Dutch Council for Refugees with analysing and substantiating the account of your flight? The staff members of the Dutch Council for Refugees will be glad to help you.

Would you like more information? In that case, go to the consulting hours at one of the offices of the Dutch Council for Refugees. There you may also make an appointment for an analysis of the account of your flight. The Dutch Council for Refugees is present at all asylum seekers’ centres and in the majority of the Dutch cities and villages. Locate the office near to you on www.forrefugees.nl
You requested asylum in the Netherlands. Now the authorities will assess if you qualify for a residence permit. The IND (the Immigration and Naturalisation Service) will take a decision thereon after having had interviews with you. During this period, your attorney-at-law will counsel you. The Dutch Council for Refugees could also assist by analysing the account of your flight with you. We thus ensure that the IND has the information it needs to make an informed decision.

**Why analyse the account of one’s flight**

Requesting asylum does not automatically mean obtaining asylum. You follow an asylum procedure, which is a legal procedure in which the Dutch authorities assess whether you need protection. During interviews with the IND you tell the account of your flight. After these interviews, the IND decides whether you – according to the Dutch authorities – have fled your country for well-justified reasons and will obtain a residence permit in the Netherlands. It is, therefore, very important that you share all the information on why you fled completely and correctly with the IND. The Dutch Council for Refugees is an independent organisation that advocates the interest of asylum seekers and refugees in the Netherlands. In the opinion of the Dutch Council for Refugees, all asylum seekers are entitled to a fair and careful asylum procedure. With this in mind, we may be of help to you and your attorney-at-law by formulating an analysis of the account of your flight.

**Contents of the analysis of the account of one’s flight**

The Dutch Council for Refugees enters into a dialogue with you on your situation and the account of your flight. We review your file carefully and discuss this with you. In concert with you, we list all the important points. We also consider what can be done to substantiate your account. We may thus help to retrieve evidence such as a birth certificate. Also, the Dutch Council for Refugees may request information that supports the account of your flight, e.g. from human-rights organisations operating in your country. During our conversations, we discuss the things you can take care of yourself and where the Dutch Council for Refugees may be of help. If necessary, we use a telephone interpreter during our conversations for correct understanding.

**What we do not do**

The Dutch Council for Refugees does not provide information to the IND nor to other organisations without your permission. The account of your flight remains your account. We do not make any changes. The Dutch Council for Refugees cannot predict whether or not you stand a good chance of getting a residence permit.