

YOUR ASYLUM SCREENING INTERVIEW

What will happen?

- On average screening interviews take **about 30 minutes**, though it may be a little longer and there may be quite a lot of waiting time. Take food and water with you as this is not available in the Home Office.
- Your **photo and biometrics** (including fingerprints) will be enrolled.
- An **ARC card** may be issued on the day, if not this will be sent to you later – there can be long delays in this being received.
- The Home Office interviewer will take **notes on a screening interview form** during the interview, in English. It is very **important that you get a copy** of this screening interview record and give it to your lawyer so you can check (with the help of an interpreter if needed) that the information you gave was written down correctly. Very often the Home Office interviewer does not take a full note of everything said during the screening interview, if you feel this is happening say something. If you keep your answers brief it is less likely to be a problem.
- If you are not given a copy of the interview, ensure that you remind your representative to obtain this from the Home Office and that once received you check it carefully and flag to your representative any errors or matters that need clarifying.

How to prepare?

- Ensure that you **arrive in good time** (ideally 30 minutes prior to the appointment time) as there may be a queue to enter the Home Office Asylum Screening Unit (ASU).
- Have with you either printed out or on your telephone, the Screening Interview **appointment confirmation letter**
- Take with you your **national passport** if available as you are required to lodge this with the Home Office when you register your claim for asylum. **Ensure that you have taken good quality images of all pages of your passport prior to attending the ASU.** The Home Office will not provide you with a copy of the passport or any other document that you submit.
- If you are present in the UK with a visa / leave to remain, also take with you your **Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)**.
- Also take the **passports / BRP's of all family members** who are to be dependant to your claim for asylum (also having taken images of all pages of each of their passports). Each of your family members are required to attend the ASU with you so that their biometrics can be enrolled
- Your asylum claim will be processed in the name that is recorded on your screening interview. ***It is essential that this is checked and any errors in the spelling of your name corrected, especially if you do not have available your national passport or a national ID. It can be extremely difficult to correct errors in the spelling of your name at a later date.***
- Do not take any other documents with you – all other documentation will be submitted later in the process. There is a high risk of documentation submitted at the ASU not being linked to your Home Office file so don't give them anything except the passport/s and BRP/s referred to above.
- The only exception to this would be medical reports relating to serious vulnerabilities. Again, *ensure that you have taken good quality images of all documents prior to attending the ASU.*
- You have been provided with the Screening Interview template. **Ensure that you are familiar with the questions that you will be asked.**

- Make sure the **interpreter can understand you and you can understand them**. Ask for an interpreter in your first language and dialect. While it may not be possible to have this, ensure that you stress to the Home Office that you need an interpreter in your mother tongue for the full asylum interview and ensure that any issues that arise during the interview with understanding the interpreter are flagged to the interviewing officer.
- The interpreter is likely to only be present via telephone or video link. If there are connection issues you must say this during the interview.
- The questions asked in the screening interview may seem fairly straightforward. However, all the information you give will be used by the Home Office to compare with what you say in other interviews or statements. **It is very important that your account is consistent** throughout the process and with anything you may have said in another European country.

GUIDANCE ON THINGS TO THINK ABOUT WHEN ANSWERING SOME OF THE QUESTIONS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important that you give all the names for yourself and for ALL your family members if you may want them to join you in the UK – give the names as they appear in full on their passports or ID documents and if you are not sure, do not guess and say that you are not sure of the accuracy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of Birth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is really important not to guess your date of birth - you should say IT IS NOT KNOWN, if you don't know, and explain why
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you require accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is hard to get into asylum accommodation later in the process. If you are not sure you can stay with friends / family say you need asylum support accommodation, you can always change this latter or leave the accommodation if you don't need it
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you don't feel well at the interview, you should say so. If you have been tortured or mistreated in the past, you should say so. You do not need to provide any details of this • If you have mental health issues (e.g. trouble sleeping, flashbacks or nightmares, constant stress, or anxiety) you should mention these things. It may be relevant for your lawyer to show you are not suitable for transfer to Rwanda • If you do not have a formal diagnosis of any medical condition because you have not been able to see a doctor, say this and explain that you feel you need to see a doctor to obtain a diagnosis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journey to the UK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All countries passed through should be disclosed, together with any claims for asylum in other countries or grants of refugee status. If these are not disclosed and they come out later in the process, it can be damaging to your case.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have been tortured or trafficked or victim of sexual violence or other extreme violence on your journey you must say. It may be relevant for the suitability criteria for removal to Rwanda.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What was your reason for coming to the UK? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TO CLAIM ASYLUM <u>-Do not say any other reason, only this</u> - greater detail will be given later. It is not helpful to say – <i>to work, to study, for a better life</i> – you have come to claim asylum and this is all you need to answer to this question
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefly explain why you cannot return to your home country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give a <u>very</u> brief summary of the main reasons- <u>What</u> happened to you in the past – why did you leave your country? If you have been detained or mistreated, say so <u>Why</u> did these things happen to you, for what reason ? What would happen to you if you return home? <p>Aim to answer this question is no more that 3 – 6 sentences, <i>keep it brief and general avoiding dates</i>, the detail will be provided later. As an example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I was a political activist</i> <i>The party I supported in my country is banned</i> <i>I was detained and mistreated due to my political activities and did not have a lawyer or see a judge</i> <i>If I return to my country, I will be detained on arrival and will not receive a fair trial</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you have any family members in the UK? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you can show a close relationship to family members in the UK you may be able to resist a potential removal to Rwanda using Article 8 ECHR (right to family life).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trafficking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have been trafficked or exploited - for instance forced to work without payment - you should say so, whether in your own country or on your journey (e.g. Libya)

(as at Nov 2022)

Screening Interview

**STAGE ONE
 INTRODUCTION**

Date/Time/Location of Screening:	
Are you fit and well and ready to be interviewed?	
What is your primary (main) language and dialect (if applicable) you speak:	
What are ALL of the other languages and dialects (if applicable) you speak?:	
The language and dialect (if applicable) that the interview is being conducted in?	
Can you understand what the interpreter is/I am saying?	
Any application for international protection will be recorded as a claim for asylum. Are you claiming asylum in your own right or do you wish to be the dependant of an asylum applicant? <i>(Refer dependants to dependant process)</i>	
Claim for asylum <u>TO BE READ OUT TO THE APPLICANT</u> You have claimed asylum or international protection in the United Kingdom. Do you believe that you have a well founded fear of persecution or that there is a real risk you will suffer serious harm if you are removed from, or required to leave, the United Kingdom? <i>(Yes/No)</i>	
From what country/countries do you claim to fear persecution?	

The questions I am about to ask you relate to your identity, background and travel route to the United Kingdom. The information you will be asked to provide will be used mainly for administrative purposes. You will not be asked at this stage to go into detail about the substantive details of your asylum claim as, if appropriate, this will be done at a later interview. However, some details you will be asked to provide may be relevant to your claim.

Do you understand this? (Yes/No)

You will not have to leave the United Kingdom while your asylum application is being considered. However, it is possible that the United Kingdom may not be the state responsible for considering your asylum application. You will be informed of any application or decision to transfer your case to another country.

The information you give us, including biometrics data such as fingerprints, will be held in confidence. However, this may be disclosed to other government departments and agencies, local authorities, law enforcement bodies, international organisations and asylum authorities of other countries that may have responsibility for your asylum claim. This is to enable them to carry out their functions, including the prevention and detection of fraud.

Information you give us may also be used for documentation purposes in the event your asylum application is refused.

You must answer the questions fully and truthfully. Failure to do so may damage your credibility and may affect the outcome of your asylum application. You should also be aware that making a false statement or representation may constitute an offence under immigration legislation and may, therefore, render you liable to prosecution and imprisonment

Do you understand this? (Yes/No)

You *may* be notified of a requirement to attend your First Reporting Event after this interview. If you are required to attend a personal interview you will be given an Invitation to Substantive Interview letter. This letter will inform you of the date, time and location of your asylum interview. Your application may be treated as implicitly withdrawn if you fail to attend the personal interview, unless you demonstrate within a reasonable time that the failure was due to circumstances beyond your control. This is in accordance with the provision outlined by paragraph 333C of the Immigration Rules. If your application is recorded as being withdrawn, it will not be substantively considered.

Do you understand this? (Yes/No)

I certify that the above details are fully understood and are correct

Signature of applicant:

Date:

Signature of Interviewing Officer *(Sign, print name and grade)*

Interpreter's Code:

PART ONE: Bio-data

1.1	What is your <u>family</u> name?	
1.2	What are your first name(s)?	
1.3	Have you ever used any other names? Alias?	
1.4	Male or Female?	
1.5	What is your date of birth?	
1.6	What is your nationality?	
1.7	What is your race or ethnicity?	
1.8	What is your religion?	
1.9	What is (or was) your occupation?	
1.10	Do you require accommodation in the UK? If "yes" advise that the applicant will not have a geographical preference. If "no" please record current full UK address	
1.11	Do you have a contact number? Landline: Mobile:	
1.12	Do you have dependants with you in the UK? If "yes" record all names, relationships and dates of birth	

I certify that my personal details (as recorded above) are correct	
Signature of applicant:	Date:

Port/HO Ref:	Surname:	First Name:	Nat:	Gender :	DOB:
/	UDUMULA	ANUSHA	India	Female	06

PART TWO: Travel History and Documentation (*annexable*)

PLEASE NOTE: Any continuation sheets used should be kept separate from answers from other sections and should be clearly marked TRAVEL HISTORY/DOCUMENTATION ANNEX

Travel History		Departure	Transit	Arrival
2.1	<p>How did you enter/travel to the United Kingdom? Screening Officer to explore the applicant's travel history and method of entry into the UK. Suggested points to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What countries did you travel through on your way to the UK? - Documentation used to travel? (<i>This will be explored in greater detail in 2.5</i>) - How long in transit? - Mode(s) of transport? - What date did you arrive in the UK? - Where did you arrive in the UK? 			
Documentation				
2.2	<p>Have you ever had your own national passport?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If "yes" - refer to 2.3 - If "no" - why not? - refer to 2.5 			
2.3	<p>Can you produce your own national passport today?</p>			
2.4	<p>Can you produce your own national passport within 3 days?</p> <p>If "yes" issue ASL.2582 following screening. If "no" continue to 2.6.</p>			

2.5	<p>What document did you use to travel to the UK? <u>(Ask all supplementary questions below if the applicant is in possession of an invalid document or no document has been provided)</u></p> <p>a) Where did you get this document? b) Who showed this document when you checked in for your flight/mode of transport? c) Who had control of this document during your journey to the UK? d) Can you produce this document today or within 3 days? If not, why not? e) If the document was given to an agent: Why did you do this? f) What would have happened if you had not returned the document to the agent?</p>	
2.6	<p>Have you ever had your own national identity card/military identity card or driving licence? If "yes" where is it now?</p>	
2.7	<p>Have you ever used any other names or aliases?</p>	
2.8	<p>Have you ever claimed asylum in the UK before? If "yes": - Where? - When? <u>Do not explore the reasons behind the claim here</u></p>	
2.9	<p>Have you applied for or been issued a UK visa before coming to the UK? If "yes" provide all details. - Were you fingerprinted as part of the application process?</p>	
2.10	<p>Have you ever applied for or been granted leave to enter/remain in the UK before? If "yes": - Where? - When?</p>	

	- Why?	
2.11	Have you applied for or been issued a visa for any other country before?	
2.12	Have you been fingerprinted in the UK or any other country before? If "yes": - Where? - When? - Why?	

DECLARATION TO BE READ ALOUD AND UNDERSTOOD BY THE APPLICANT:

I am aware that it is a criminal offence to fail to provide a document establishing my identity and nationality at a leave or asylum interview and/or seek to obtain leave to remain in the United Kingdom by deception. I understand that my fingerprints will now be taken and examined against existing Immigration and Police databases. I declare that the information I have given is correct and complete.

Signature of Applicant:	Date:
Signature of Screening Officer:	Date:
Interpreter's Code	Date:

PART THREE: Health

Please read to the applicant:

It is important that you answer the following questions and disclose any relevant information relating to your health (including any contagious diseases) at the earliest stage so that we can ensure you are able to access the correct medical treatment throughout the process of your application.

Furthermore, any medical information you disclose may help you with accessing health services.

No illnesses or treatment you may have will affect your application for asylum in the UK

3.1	Do you have any medical conditions? Investigate: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- How long have you suffered with this condition?- Diagnosed by a recognised medical practitioner?- Receiving specific treatment in the UK? (NHS?)- Name/Address of GP?- Any medication?- Any specialist care?	
3.2	Do you have any disability? Investigate: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Nature of the disability- Specialist treatment/care in the UK?- Name/Address of GP?- Medication	
3.3	If the applicant is female: Are you pregnant? Investigate: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Approximate due date?- Any complications?- Have you seen a Doctor?	

PART FOUR: Basis of Claim Summary

4.1	What was your reason for coming to the UK?	
4.2	Can you <u>BRIEFLY</u> explain why you cannot return to your home country?	
4.3	Have you ever claimed asylum or been granted refugee status/leave to remain in any other country before? If "yes" record all details	
4.4	If you passed through or stayed in any other countries prior to your arrival in the UK, why did you not apply for asylum there?	

PART FIVE: Criminality and Security Screening

5.1	<p>Have you ever been arrested, charged with or convicted of an offence in any country (including traffic offences) If "yes" record full details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Date?- Country?- Offence?- Sentence?	
5.2	<p>Are you subject to an arrest warrant or wanted by any law enforcement authority for an offence in any country? If "yes" record full details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Date?- Country?- Offence?	
5.3	<p>Have you ever been involved in or supported terrorism or engaged in violent opposition to a national government? (This includes financial support.) If "yes" record full details</p>	
5.4	<p>Have you ever been detained as a suspected terrorist or enemy combatant, whether charged or not? If "yes" record full details</p>	
5.5	<p>Have you ever said or written anything which: Praises or justifies terrorism; or tries to make others commit terrorist/serious criminal acts; or encourages hatred between communities? If "yes" record full details</p>	

5.6	<p>Have you ever taken part in any illegal activities or activities which might cast doubt on your good character which you have not already mentioned If "yes" record full details</p>	
5.7	<p>Have you ever worked for any of the following organisations: (state or non-state)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Armed forces (<u>explore if they have ever been a combatant or fought in any war</u>) - Government - Judiciary - Media - Public or civil administration - Security (including police and private security companies) <p>If "yes" to any of the above provide the following details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Name(s) of all the relevant organisation(s) - Your position/rank - Dates you worked for the organisation(s) 	

[Read to applicant] We realise that because of the nature of their claim, some applicants may possibly feel more comfortable talking to a man and others feel more comfortable talking to a woman.

Do you have any preference as to whether you are interviewed by a man or a woman?
(please specify Y/ N along with the applicant's exact answer)

[Read to applicant] We will accommodate your request wherever possible. If you don't express a preference now but change your mind later, we will as far as possible accommodate that preference. Furthermore, you should be aware that if we are unable to accommodate your request because an interviewing officer and/or interpreter is not available the interview will go ahead as originally planned.

Applicant to sign below to confirm that they have understood all of the questions asked and have received a copy of this interview.

Applicant to sign below to confirm that they have understood all of the questions asked and have received a copy of this interview.

Signature of Applicant:

Date:

Screening Interview

STAGE TWO

PART SIX: Family Background

6.1	<p>What was your last permanent address in your country of origin?</p> <p>Record all addresses in the last five years of occupancy</p>	
6.2	<p>What is your marital status?</p> <p>If "yes" investigate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where is your spouse now? - How long have you been married? <p>If the applicant is not married ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are you in a relationship with another person in the UK or abroad? 	
6.3	<p>When did you last see your spouse/partner?</p>	
6.4	<p>How many children do you have?</p> <p>Record all name(s), date(s) of birth and current location(s)</p>	
6.5	<p>When did you last see your children?</p>	

6.6	<p>What are the names and dates of birth for the rest of your family?</p> <p>Include details of all immediate family members and siblings including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- any alias used (if known)	

6.8	<p>Do you have any family in the United Kingdom?</p> <p>If "yes" provide all relevant details such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Names - Dates of birth - Current Address/contact telephone number - Immigration Status? - How long have they been in the UK? 	
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<p>Applicant to sign below to confirm that they have received a copy of this Screening Record</p>	
<p>Signature of Applicant:</p>	<p>Date:</p>