

Information for Refugees for the *Official Hearing/Interview* at the „Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge“ (BAMF)

Before the official hearing

The most important thing at the official hearing is to present your personal reasons for fleeing! Therefore, in preparation for the official hearing, you should try to remember and bring back to mind everything that happened to you and also think about what could happen to you, if you would return to your home country.

- Please list your **reasons for fleeing!**

- Why did you have to flee?
- Why can't you go back to your home country?

It is very important that you tell them your personal reasons!

- Please prepare a **chronology** of your escape. Regarding your description: be as concrete and detailed as possible!

- Who was affected?
- What has happened?
- When did it happen?
- Where did it happen? What did the place look like?
- Who is able to witness to it?
- Why did it happen?

- When did you flee and how?
- Where did you flee from? Where have you been?
- How did you escape?
- With whom did you escape?
- How did your escape route look like?
- Have you been registered in another country? If yes, in which one? (If you were registered in another EU country it is recommended to contact an advocate)

If you have any evidence to prove your escape (e.g. photos, E-Mails, letters, tickets, physical injuries etc.) it is very important to take them with you and show them! Explain in great detail what exactly they depict and where they are from.

Before your official hearing you should visit information centres to discuss your hearing. You can find them on our homepage: www.fluechtlingshilfe-sprockhoevel.de → Counselling.

If you want to be accompanied to your official hearing (Only not-family members) you need to send an official request to the competent authority (**zuständige Außenstelle des BAMF**), you must include your reference number and the date of the official hearing, as soon as possible after you have received the invitation to the interview from the BAMF. In German it is called: **schriftlicher Antrag zur Mitnahme einer Begleitperson**.

If you cannot keep the appointment you must provide a medical report to excuse your absence. This should be sent to the BAMF immediately.

During the official hearing

Describe your escape as detailed and precisely as possible. Gear to your headwords.

It is very important to **know** your **rights** before the official hearing and to **use** them!

Your deposition:

- If you have comprehensible reasons why you would like to tell very specific or/and personal things only to a person of a specific gender, make a claim before the official hearing. For example you can insist on a female judge or interpreter.
- You are allowed to say everything you want to say- no matter how long it takes!
- Take the time you need! You can interrupt the hearing or continue further along the line, if you do not feel very well.
- You can bring along an authorized person of your choice (advocate, lawyer, ...).

Translation

- You are entitled to an interpreter in the language of your choice!
- State at the beginning in which language you want to have your official hearing
- If you cannot understand the interpreter who was provided to you or you feel like he/she does not understand you, you are entitled to ask for another interpreter.
- Alternatively you can bring along your own interpreter of your choice to every interview.
- If you do not understand a particular question, do not hesitate to ask for further explanation.
- You are entitled to use your interpreter for **everything**. Make use of that!
- In the end of the official hearing you get a transcript. You should definitely ask your interpreter to translate it for you.

Documents/Papers

- You can take notes and papers with you to the official hearing. In case someone wants to check them you are allowed to refuse it.
However, it certainly gives a better and more credible impression, if you can tell your story without reading it out from your list of headwords. It is strongly recommended to practise your reasoning and chronology beforehand.
- It might happen that they demand your documents prior to your official hearing. Therefore, you should make **certified copies of all your important documents/papers/certificates**.
- Only sign the protocol/transcript of the hearing if all statements are included the way you worded them and if it is complete. Use the retranslation into your mother tongue to control everything and ask for a copy of the German protocol as well as its translation to take them home.
- Should somebody confront you with a document of your file or from somewhere else and ask questions about it, you have the right to demand access to these files.
- Do not sign anything in regards to obtaining documents from your home country before you have spoken to an expert.

Should somebody refuse your rights during the hearing, you are entitled to refuse the hearing or to appeal the case to the court afterwards. In such cases it is useful to provide potential witnesses.

After the hearing

- You have to get a copy of the transcript. Ask for this transcript in your native language and in German.
- Should there be any mistakes in the transcript, immediately contact a counselling centre or a lawyer to support you.
- In general, it is recommended to show your transcript to a counselling centre or a lawyer to get a rough estimate of a possible success or failure of your application. In case of bad prospects they can advise you what to do next.
- You will receive a letter about the decision regarding your asylum application. Sometimes it arrives quickly but it also may take several months. Please check your post box regularly and always inform the BAMF and the Ausländerbehörde about your current address using the needed reference numbers.
- In case of a negative response you only have very limited time to sue against the decision – in the case of “offensichtlich unbegründet” (manifestly unfounded) you have one week; whereas in the case of “unbegründet” (unfounded) two weeks.

Hearing: Questions of the BAMF

1. Do you speak another language or dialect besides the one/ those that you have already mentioned?
2. Do you hold or did you hold other citizenships?
3. Do you belong to a particular tribe/a specific ethnic group?
4. Can you show me any personal papers such as a passport, a passport replacement or an ID-card?
5. Did you have personal papers like a passport, a passport replacement or an ID-Card in your home country?
6. For what reasons can you not submit personal documents?
7. Can you present any other documents / like certificates, birth certificate, military service certificate, driving license about your person?
8. Do you or did you have a residence document / visa for Germany or any other country?
9. Please tell me your last official address in your home country! Did you stay there until you left the country? If not, where did you stay?
10. Please tell me the family name and if applicable maiden name, first name, date of birth and place of birth of your spouse (partner) and the date and place of marriage! Can you provide evidence now or hand in later?
11. What's his/her address (if he/she no longer resides in your home country, please tell me his/her last address and the current address)? Can you provide evidence now or hand in later?

12. Do you have any children (please specify all, also those of full age including family name, first name, date of birth, place of birth)? Can you provide evidence now or hand in later?
 13. What's the address of your children (if they are not in their home country anymore, please state their last address there and their current address)? Can you provide evidence now or hand in later?
 14. Please tell me the last name, first name and address of your parents
 15. Do you have siblings, grandparents, uncles or aunts, who live outside of your home country?
 16. Do any other relatives still live in your home country?
 17. Please tell me the personal data of your paternal grandfather?
 18. Which schools/universities have you attended?
 19. What is your profession? Who was your last employer? Did you have your own business?
 20. Have you served in the army?
 21. Have you been to Germany before?
 22. Have you already applied for asylum (or for the recognition as a refugee) in another state or has either of those already been granted to you in another state?
 23. Has the refugee status been sought or granted to a family member of yours in another country? And is this country his/her legal residence?
 24. Do you have any objections to your asylum application being examined in this (other) state?
 - 25. Please tell me, how and when you came to Germany. Tell me when and how you left your home country, through which other countries you travelled and how you entered Germany!**
- The asylum seeker is now asked for its personal persecution fate and the reasons for his/her asylum seeking. He/she is asked to tell everything that happened which explains his/her fear of (political) persecution.***

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No responsibility is taken for the accuracy, completeness and how current the above information and instructions are. Any legal claims are therefore excluded.