

Contact Information

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is the main international organization working on refugees and asylum procedures in Georgia.

Phone number: (+995 32) 238 62 02

Hotline: (+995) 577 415 610

Address: 2a, Aleksandre Kazbegi Avenue, 0160, Tbilisi, Georgia

Email: geotbprt@unhcr.org

Rights Georgia NGO (former Article 42 of the Constitution)

This is the partner of UNHCR providing free legal assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees in Georgia.

Phone number: (+995 32) 299 88 56

Hotline: (+995) 593 111 405

Address: 11a Akaki Gakhokidze Street, 0160, Tbilisi, Georgia

Website: <https://www.rights.ge>

Reception hours: Monday-Friday/10:00 - 18:00

E-mail: office@rights.ge

The Division of International Protection of the Migration Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia is the main state agency, which registers asylum-seekers and carries out the asylum procedure.

Phone number: (+995 32) 241 96 07; (+995 32) 241 96 34; +995 598 08 00 97

Address: 16, Mikheil Gakhokidze Street, 0186, Tbilisi, Georgia.

Reception Hours: 09:00 – 18:00.

Emails: migration@mia.gov.ge; dipi@mia.gov.ge

Legal Aid Service of Georgia (LAS) is the entity under public law, which provides legal consultations, prepares legal documents and provides court representation for free.

Phone number: (+995 32) 292 00 55

Address: Tbilisi Legal Aid Bureau

14, Tamar Mepe Avenue, 0112, Tbilisi, Georgia

Email: info@legalaid.ge

Public Defender of Georgia (Ombudsman) is a constitutional institution, which supervises the protection of human rights and freedoms within its jurisdiction on the territory of Georgia.

Hotline: 1481 (Functional 24/7)

Address: 150, Davit Aghmashenebeli Avenue, 0112, Tbilisi, Georgia

Email: info@ombudsman.ge

International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the international organization, which supports state agencies in development of national migration related management systems. IOM provides assistance in voluntary return, also for persons in detention.

Phone number: (+995 32) 225 22 16

Hotline: (+995 32) 2 91 34 61

Address: 12, Tengiz Abuladze 1st Lane (Dead End), 0162, Tbilisi, Georgia

Email: iomtbilisi@iom.int

Web-page: www.iom.ge / www.informedmigration.ge



Asylum Procedure in Georgia

If you seek asylum, you have the right to address any state agency or the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia (hereinafter "the Ministry") and express your will to apply for asylum in Georgia.

After you submit an asylum application with the Ministry, you will be interviewed about your asylum claim in the next 4 months. Generally, your application for international protection will be reviewed by the Ministry within 6 months, but depending on the complexity of the case, the review period might be prolonged for 9 months; overall, the administrative procedure will not exceed 21 months from the date the application was submitted.

Interview: The Ministry conducts the interview with you and with your adult family members accompanying you. Authorized officials of the Ministry will explain the asylum procedure and your rights before the start of the interview. You should be prepared for an individual interview. During the entire asylum procedure, you must tell the truth, provide detailed information about the reasons for applying for international protection and present all available documents (i.e. ID and civil documents, education or work related documents and other documents that you possess); Interview and related written/audio recordings are confidential, which means that the information about you will not be shared with anyone but the authorized officials, who are reviewing your application or other Georgian state agencies, involved in the asylum procedure; You have the right to have an interpreter during the interview. You have the right to change the interpreter if you cannot understand him/her.

Decision: the Ministry may grant you refugee or humanitarian status or reject your application for international protection.

The decision will be delivered to you in a written form in a language you understand. **Appeal:** if you receive a negative decision from the Ministry, you have the right to appeal it to the court within a month from the moment you receive the decision. Your claim will be examined by the Tbilisi City Court (first instance) and by the Tbilisi Court of Appeals (second instance). For free legal aid you can address the Legal Aid Service of Georgia. For legal counselling you can also address the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Office in Tbilisi. You can also benefit from free legal consultation and legal assistance (for selected cases) at Rights Georgia NGO, which is the legal partner of UNHCR.

Who will know that you have applied for asylum in Georgia?

Information about you as well as the information regarding your application for international protection is confidential and will not be shared with mass media, other organizations, citizens of Georgia and/or with the state agencies and citizens of your country of origin, without your written consent.

Rights of asylum-seekers in Georgia

As an asylum-seeker you have the right:

- to stay in Georgia after applying for international protection;
- not to be extradited or refouled from Georgia, until the Ministry's decision or a court's final judgement on your asylum application enters into force;
- to receive information on your rights and obligations and asylum procedure from the representatives of the Ministry and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- to be interviewed by an authorised official and the interpreter of the same gender;
- to benefit from free of charge services of an interpreter during asylum procedure;
- to benefit from the free legal service in accordance with the Law of Georgia on Legal Aid during the court procedures (in case when the Ministry rejects to grant you international protection);
- to stay in Martkopi Reception Centre for the period of the review of your application for international protection by the Ministry;
- to receive an asylum-seeker certificate and a temporary ID card during the period of the asylum procedure;
- to benefit from the state healthcare programmes similar to citizens of Georgia except for the limitations provided by the legislation of Georgia;
- to enjoy the right to pre-school and general education similar to citizens of Georgia and apply to professional and high education in accordance to the legislation of Georgia;
- to withdraw your application for international protection on a voluntary basis;
- to be exempted from the payment of court fees during the appeals proceedings before the courts;
- to enjoy right to work (including through self-employment) after applying for international protection;
- to address administrative bodies and courts in accordance with the procedures provided by the legislation of Georgia;
- to be informed about the opportunity to contact the UNHCR;
- to apply to the Public Defender's Office of Georgia if you want to report a violation of your rights.

Obligations of asylum-seekers in Georgia

As an asylum-seeker you have an obligation:

- to comply with the Constitution of Georgia, Law of Georgia on International Protection and other laws of Georgia;
- to respect the local culture, traditions and customs;
- not to leave Georgia during the asylum proceedings;
- to submit all available documents and relevant evidence, in particular, the information about your identity (ID cards and/or travel documents), citizenship, previous country (countries) or place(s) of residence, transit route(s), identification documentation, including travel documents and on the reasons for which you are applying for international protection;
- to state the truth and cooperate with the Ministry in order to fully establish all the circumstances specified in your application on international protection;
- to submit the travel document if any, to the Ministry upon the receipt of the asylum-seeker's certificate;
- to provide the Ministry with the current residence address during the initial interview;
- to inform the authorised official within 10 calendar days, of any change of address of the place of actual residence, or legal or civil status, or of losing or damaging the identity document issued by the relevant state agencies of Georgia;
- to have the photo and fingerprints taken and undergo relevant medical examination, if so required by an authorized official;
- to obey the rules of Reception Centre, if accommodated there.

What happens in case of rejection of your asylum application?

In case you are not granted international protection and there are no other legal grounds for you to remain in Georgia, you should leave the territory of Georgia within 10-30 days, in accordance with the Law of Georgia on Legal Status of Foreigners and Stateless Persons. If you don't leave the territory of Georgia within this timeframe, relevant state agencies might start the official expulsion procedure. Voluntary Return: you can decide to return to your country of origin anytime. You can address International Organization for Migration (IOM) and receive the information about the voluntary return program. You cannot leave the territory of Georgia if criminal proceedings against you are ongoing or if you are serving the sentence in Georgia.