**Asylum process**

A **refugee** is a person who ‘owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country’

*Article 1, 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*

An **asylum seeker** is a person who has left their country and is seeking protection from persecution and serious human rights violations in another country, but who hasn’t yet been legally recognized as a refugee and is waiting to receive a decision on their asylum claim.

A **refused asylum applicant** has had unsuccessful in their asylum application and has no other claim for protection awaiting a decision. Some people who have their case refused voluntarily return home, others are forcibly returned.

**Legal support**

* A guide to UK asylum and immigration system [Right to Remain Toolkit – Right to Remain](https://righttoremain.org.uk/toolkit/)
* Asylum questionnaire FAQ

If a young person is **disputing their age** as it is recorded with the Home Office, please advise them to contact [Migrant Help](https://www.migranthelpuk.org/) and refer them to local authority child social services for assessment or email us for advice.

**Supporting letters**

Please provide these without charge where possible as GP letters can have a significant bearing on asylum case decisions. For example, the medical notes may contain documentation of injuries sustained as a result of trauma or detail a diagnosis of PTSD.

Unfortunately, it may not be appropriate to write a medical supporting letter to support a move to non-hotel accomodation, as there are very limited alternative accomodation options. Consider sending an **advice and guidance email** if you feel there is a significant reason why an individual or family need alternative accomodation provision.