

YOUR OPTIONS IN SLOVAKIA

You are in the Slovak Republic.

What are your options if you have entered Slovakia without residence permit or visa?

ASYLUM APPLICATION

If you cannot return to your country of origin because your safety is at risk, you have the right to apply for asylum in Slovakia. **Asylum** is a form of international protection granted to people who fear persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or because they belong to a particular social group. If you do not meet these conditions for asylum but you cannot return to your home country because of risk of serious harm (e.g. because of a war in your country), you may be granted **subsidiary protection**, that is another form of international protection. If the reason for leaving your country of origin is purely economic, you do not qualify for international protection and your asylum application will be rejected.



HOW? You can apply for asylum at a police station, informing them **you wish to seek international protection**. **WHERE?** When entering Slovakia, you can apply for asylum at the **border crossing point**. If you are already in Slovakia, you can apply for asylum at **the Units of Asylum of the Police Force in Humenné**. If you apply for asylum at another police department, the police will issue you with a document for transport to Humenné, valid for 24 hours. You can apply for asylum also from detention center or prison.

During the whole asylum proceeding, you have **the right for interpretation into a language you understand** and **the right to legal aid**. Once you have applied for asylum, you will be transferred to the asylum center where you will undergo a medical examination and an initial interview with the Migration Office, during which you can detail the reasons of your asylum application. In the accommodation facility you will be provided with **food, basic material assistance and medical care, legal aid and social assistance**. The Migration Office will decide on your asylum application usually **within 6 months**. During this period, you are **obliged to stay in Slovakia**.

ATTENTION: There are rules within the European Union that determine which country is responsible for assessing and deciding your asylum application (the so-called "Dublin procedure"). If you decide to apply for asylum in another European Union country, **it is possible that country responsible to review your application is Slovakia and you may be returned here**.

For more information on
the asylum procedure in Slovakia:



For more information on
the Dublin procedure:



PERMISSION TO STAY AT THE TERRITORY OF SLOVAKIA

If you decide not to apply for asylum and you are staying in Slovakia without residence permit or visa, you may be taken to the police, where they will check your identity, including your country of origin. You will also be fingerprinted and photographed. You have **the right for interpretation into language you understand**.

If you come from a country where your life or personal liberty may be threatened because of your race, nationality, religion, political opinion or membership in a particular social group, or where you would be in danger of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, there are **obstacles that prevent your expulsion**. In such a case, the police will issue you with a document entitled „Potvrdenie o zotrvaní štátneho príslušníka tretej krajiny na území Slovenskej republiky“ - **Permission to stay of a third-country national in the territory of the Slovak Republic**. With this document, you have **the right to stay in Slovakia for the duration of the obstacles for which you cannot be expelled**.

The permission to stay **is NOT**:

- **permission to stay is not considered as a residence permit**
- **permission to stay is not an order to leave Slovakia**
- **permission to stay does not give you the right to travel to other EU countries without meeting the relevant entry conditions (e.g. having a valid visa)**
- **with permission to stay you cannot work or run a business in Slovakia**

ATTENTION: If you do not have the right to stay in Slovakia and the police find that there are no obstacles to your expulsion, they will issue **an administrative expulsion decision**, which may set a time limit within which you must leave Slovakia. In this case, **the police also have the right to detain you** and place you in a police detention center.

If you find yourself in detention center, you can seek legal assistance:

Centrum právnej pomoci

+421 650 105 100

info@centrumpravnejpomoci.sk

Slovenská humanitná rada

+ 421 250 200 500

shr@shr.sk

HELP WITH RETURNING HOME

If you are staying in Slovakia without residence permit or visa and decide to return to your country of origin, you can contact the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**. IOM will help you to arrange replacement travel documents and organize your safe and dignified return home.

+421 850 211 262

RETURNHOME@IOM.INT

www.avr.iom.sk

Be careful on your journey. Fraudsters may try to take advantage of your difficult life situation.

*Do not become a victim of human trafficking. If you need help, call the police: **158** or the*

*National Helpline for Victims of Trafficking **+421 800 800 818**.*

IF YOU NEED LEGAL HELP, CONTACT THE HUMAN RIGHTS LEAGUE:

+421 918 366 968 (WhatsApp)

hrl@hrl.sk