



## The interview during the asylum procedure

### 1. Before the interview:

If you have applied for asylum in Germany at the Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, BAMF for short (Federal Agency for Migration and Refugees), § 25 AsylG grants you a personal interview, in order to give voice to your reasons for fleeing your country. On the basis of this interview the BAMF will determine whether you will receive a protective status or not.



The summons for the interview will be sent by post to your address or to the address of your accommodation. Therefore, it is especially important that the BAMF is always aware of your current address. The summons must be brought along to the interview, as well as all other documents that are relevant in supporting your story.

### *What if I am sick or otherwise hindered on the day of the appointment for the interview?*

A new appointment can be made if “sufficient reasons” are given, that make keeping the appointment unreasonable for you. For example, such reasons include sickness, an important family event or another official administrative appointment. Evidence of this should be submitted to the BAMF as soon as possible. **Important:** If you miss your interview without a justified cause, your application for asylum can be considered as retracted, pursuant to § 33 Abs. 1 AsylG. A readmission of the asylum procedure can be possible under certain circumstances (§ 33 Abs. 5 AsylG).

### *Can I be accompanied to the interview by a companion/a translator of my confidence?*

A lawyer, as well as a companion can be present during the interview (see § 14 VwVfG). This must be requested along with the submission of the identity papers of the companion. You may also bring a translator of your choosing, but he/she will not be performing the official translation. However, they can monitor the official translation for you (§ 17 Abs. 2 AsylG). If the BAMF refuses to grant access to your companion: stay persistent, it is your right to have them present!

### *I want to have a female interviewer/a female translator*

Women have the right, to only have females present during their interview. This request should be submitted to the BAMF in advance, as the appointment might need to be moved in order to accommodate this wish.

**Will I be interviewed together with my family/my spouse?**

Family member and spouses are interviewed separately, due to the fact that every person has their individual reasons for fleeing that must be heard. Also accompanied and unaccompanied underage children starting with 14 years can be, if they are capable of this, summoned to an interview alone. They can be accompanied by their parents or their legal guardian.

**Interview for people with special protective needs:**

For people with special protective needs (for example persons with physical or psychological sicknesses, women, minors, LGBTIQ+ persons, victims of any form of violence, victims of human trafficking) the BAMF deploys special representatives for the interview. These special representatives are people that have received a training in the handling of people with special protective needs.

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Bundesallee 171, 10715 Berlin

Tel.: 0911/943-27901  
Fax: 030/68408127999

U-Bahn/Subway: U7  
Berliner Straße



**Tip:** For the day of the interview bring sufficient food and drink with you, often it is the case that you will have to wait for a longer period of time.

**2. During the interview:**

In general you should describe in as much detail and as elaborately as possible the reasons that led you to flee your home country and how you came to Germany.



**Protocol:** Throughout the whole interview a protocol will be kept, on the basis of which the decision on your asylum application will be made. The interviewer and the decision maker will not necessarily be the same person, therefore the completeness of the protocol is especially important.



**Translation:** Before the start of the interview, it can be helpful to exchange a few words with the official translator, in order to make sure that you can understand each other well. In case you cannot understand the translator well, make sure to clearly communicate this **directly at the beginning of the interview** and insist on a translator for your language and dialect.

**a. Personal Information**

During this part of the interview you will be asked questions regarding your last place of residence, your family and your previous professional or academic education. These questions are the same in every interview and can be viewed online.

([https://www.fluechtlingsratthr.de/sites/fluechtlingsrat/files/pdf/Beratungshilfe/BAMF%20Frage n.pdf](https://www.fluechtlingsratthr.de/sites/fluechtlingsrat/files/pdf/Beratungshilfe/BAMF%20Frage%20n.pdf))

**b. Travel route**

In this part of the interview you will be asked questions regarding your exact travel route to Germany. Especially if your route took a long time or is a long time ago it can be helpful to recall and visualize the details again before the interview.

**c. The reasons for fleeing**

This is the most important part of the interview. It is structured much more freely than the preceding parts. Often only one question is posed: „What are the reasons that you left your home

country"? **When answering you should especially make sure to address the following questions:**

- Who/what persecuted/threatened/endangered you?
- For what reasons were you persecuted/threatened or were in danger?
- Why could your country not offer you protection from the persecution/threat/danger?
- Would it have been possible for you to find safety in a different area of your country?
- What would happen, if you now had to return to your home country?



To talk about what you experienced can be very difficult, make sure to take the time you need and make sure you tell your entire story, even if can be uncomfortable.



**Tip:** If possible, it is helpful to prepare for your interview in advance with the help of legal advice centers. Through this you can ensure, that questions and gaps in your memory can be resolved before the interview. Furthermore, you can ensure that important documents for your asylum procedure are sent to the BAMF in time.

### Your rights during the interview:

- You have the right to talk for as long as you need, in order to tell your story in full detail.
- If you did not understand a question, it is important to communicate this and ask for clarification.
- Neither the interviewer, nor the translator are allowed to rush you, interrupt you or break you off before you are done talking.
- You are allowed to ask for a break at any time when you want to rest, are hungry or need to use the toilet.
- At the beginning of the interview make sure you request that the entire protocol is translated back to you. This can take place piece by piece during the interview or at the end of the interview. During this you can make changes or additions to the protocol. After the completion of the interview this can be very difficult, so make sure you use this opportunity to review what you said.
- Only sign the protocol after it has been translated back to you, does not contain mistakes and you feel you have had the opportunity to say everything you wanted to say.

### 3. After the interview:

After the interview it can take a few weeks and sometimes months before a you receive the decision. Make sure to check your mailbox regularly or ask at the post room of your housing accommodation to see if your decision has arrived.

- ⇒ If you were granted a protective status, with which you are in agreement with, make sure to keep the decision safe. It is now possible for you to apply for a residence title at the Ausländerbehörde (Foreigners Authority).
- ⇒ Have you received a **negative decision**? (look at the Fact Sheet **negative decision**).

**Address of KommMit/BBZ e.V.**

Turmstr. 21, House M, Entrance O, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 10559 Berlin

Open consultation hours for advice on the asylum procedure: Tuesday 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Wednesday 1 p.m.-5 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Contact: [n.essmat@kommmit.eu](mailto:n.essmat@kommmit.eu)

Dieses Factsheet entstand im Rahmen des Projekts „Gut Beraten, gut Ankommen!“, das aus Mitteln des Asyl-, Migrations- und Integrationsfonds (AMIF) der Europäischen Union, sowie Berliner Landesmitteln kofinanziert wird.



Europäische Union

