

# Applying for asylum in France

## DEFINITIONS

**Refugee:** a person who is forced to flee their own country and seek refuge in another country, but who cannot return to their own country because they fear persecution. This persecution must be based on at least one of the following grounds: race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group (for example, LGBTQIA+ people or women).

**Asylum seeker:** a person seeking international protection, but whose application for refugee status or other protection has not yet been examined.

**Subsidiary protection:** a form of protection which may be granted to a person who does not meet the conditions for refugee status, but who is at risk in their country of origin of the death penalty or execution, torture, inhuman treatment, etc.

**SPADA :** the Structures de Premier Accueil des Demandeurs d'Asile (First Reception Structures for Asylum Seekers), generally run by associations, are responsible for guiding asylum seekers and helping them to obtain an appointment with the GUDA.

**GUDA :** the Guichets Unique des Demandeurs d'Asile, located in the Prefecture, are staffed by agents from the Prefecture and the OFII.

**OFII :** The Office français de l'immigration et de l'intégration (French Office for Immigration and Integration), under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior, is responsible for the initial reception of asylum seekers. Its role is to interview each asylum seeker to determine whether he or she is vulnerable, and then to offer suitable accommodation or support at the reception centre.

**OFPRA :** The Office Français de Protection des Réfugiés et Apatrides (French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons) examines the asylum application, through an interview with the asylum seeker, and determines whether they meet the criteria for refugee status or subsidiary protection.

**CNDA :** when OFPRA rejects an asylum seeker's application, the person concerned has the right to request an appeal, i.e. to oppose this refusal: this appeal is examined by the Cour Nationale du Droit d'Asile (CNDA).

## KEY FIGURES

965  
665

In 2022, there were **965,665** asylum seekers in the European Union, out of a total European population of 447,033,117.

167  
000

In 2023, France recorded **167,000** asylum applications, including 21,896 new applications.

33%

In 2023, **33%** of applications submitted to OFPRA were accepted.

4,2

In 2023, applications were processed by OFPRA in an average of **4.2** months (compared with 5.2 months in 2022).

## ISSUES



Applying for asylum is a right guaranteed by the Geneva Convention. **However, the asylum application procedure is full of pitfalls:** difficulties in accessing information and accommodation, language barriers, lack of financial resources, etc.



**Applying for asylum is a long and testing procedure for asylum seekers,** who not only have to open up about their traumas in front of strangers, but also adapt to European cultural expectations (posture, emotions, manner of expression, etc.).



**During the asylum application process, the burden of proof lies with the asylum seeker: this means that it is up to him or her to provide proof of what he or she claims to have experienced.** But very often there is no proof, which makes the procedure more difficult.

## RESOURCES



For more information on the asylum application procedure, visit the Ofpra website: <https://www.ofpra.gouv.fr/en/applying-asylum>



Amnesty International provides information on the situation of people in exile and migrants: <https://www.amnesty.org/fr/what-we-do/>



Action Contre la Faim has published a survey in partnership with other associations on the situation of asylum seekers in France: <https://www.actioncontrelafaim.org/en/>

Our training courses to take you further (French only):

- Specific forms of violence in a migratory context
- Vulnerabilities and asylum procedures

# ASYLUM APPLICATIONS IN FRANCE

## Pre-reception in SPADA

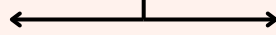
- Asylum application form
- Making an appointment at the GUDA



## Meeting at the GUDA

### Préfecture :

- registration of the application
- fingerprinting
- interview to retrace history



### OFII :

- vulnerability assessment
- access to material reception conditions :
  - allowance
  - accommodation



## Meeting at OFPRA

### Positive answer



- the person is granted **refugee status**: they receive a 10-year residence permit
- the person receives **subsidiary protection**: they receive a temporary card (maximum 4 years)

### Negative answer



No appeal lodged

Order to leave the country (OQTF)

Appeal before the CNDA

Negative answer



Positive answer



Refugee status / subsidiary protection