

ASYLUM AT THE HUNGARIAN BORDER

You are now **at the border of Hungary**. The official language of Hungary is Hungarian but during the asylum procedures you can use your own language. Hungary is a Member State of the European Union (EU) and is in Central-Eastern Europe.

Since 15 September 2015 there are new rules for asylum seekers in Hungary. The Hungarian-Serbian border is closed now with a border fence and there are **two transit-zones** along this border in Horgos-Röszke and Kelebija-Tompa, where you can enter and ask for asylum. If you do not enter Hungary through these transit-zones but you come through the border fence, then you commit a **crime according to the Hungarian law**. The police will send you back to the other side of the fence if they find you inside Hungary **within 8 km from the border**. If they find you beyond 8 km, then you can submit an asylum application.

Entering the transit zone

If you enter Hungary through the transit-zones, you will go through a **police check** and **registration** (they will ask your name, who your family members are and take your fingerprint). During the police registration, you will be asked if you wish to seek asylum in Hungary. If you say yes, then you will have an interview with the **Asylum Office** in the transit zone.

Families with children and persons with special needs are transferred to one of the reception centres on the same day they enter. A family in Hungary means: your wife/husband and/or your children. Family members who are older than 18 years have to submit their own asylum application, but the family has the right to stay together. If you have any documents that can prove your family ties, please show them.

Special needs means: for example a pregnant woman, any disability or serious illness or psychological problem as a result of torture or any form of violence or the use of force. If your special needs are not visible, please tell the police and the Asylum Office about it. If you have any documents that can prove your special needs, please show them.

Children under 18 travelling alone are transferred to an open children's home. If you are under 18, you need to inform the police immediately after you enter the transit zone when they register your details. If there are doubts to your age, the Asylum Office will ask the doctor in the transit-zone to do an age assessment. The age-assessment is free of charge. If you do not agree with the decision of the doctor, then you can ask for a second age assessment in writing. Please sign this document. If you need support, the **Hungarian Helsinki Committee will provide you with legal aid if you request it**. Please, show any documents you have that can prove your age.

Asylum procedure at the border

You will have an interview with **the Asylum Office** where you have to tell **if you have problems in your country and why you had to leave**. You also need to explain whether you have asked for asylum in any other country before arriving to Hungary such as in Serbia or Croatia, Greece or Bulgaria. It is important to talk about everything in detail, even the painful memories.

You will have an **interpreter**. Don't be shy, let them know if you do not understand each other! At the end of the interview the interpreter has to read the interview record back to you. If this does not happen, please ask for it. If something is recorded differently from what you said, please ask the case officer to correct it. Make sure to ask for a copy of the interview's record. The case officer and the interpreter will not tell your story to anyone else, **you can speak openly**.





If your **fingerprints were taken** in another European Union (EU) country, you may be sent back to that country. Your asylum claim will then be dealt with in that country. This is called the **“Dublin procedure”**. If this applies to you, the Asylum Office will contact the country that is responsible for your case. You will receive a short decision about this from the Asylum Office. The answer from the country can take several months, but you can only be kept in the transit-zone for maximum 28 days.

According to the **Dublin system**, you may apply for family reunification with your wife/husband or minor unmarried children, or if you are a child with your parents and other relatives. If you are seeking family reunification in another EU country, please inform the Asylum Office during the interview.

If your **fingerprints were not taken** in another European country, then the Asylum Office will want to know if you had refugee status in another country before, and/or whether you came to Hungary through a so-called “safe third country”. Hungary considers for example **Serbia a safe third country**, which means a country that can provide protection to asylum seekers. According to the law those asylum seekers who have travelled through Serbia may not be able to receive asylum in Hungary because they could have asked for refugee status in Serbia.

If you **do not want to be sent back to Serbia** you need to explain **during the interview** why you could not apply for asylum there and also explain in detail the conditions in Serbia. **Please** give the Asylum Office your reasons in writing in your own language and signed within **3 days after the interview**.

After the interview, the authorities have **8 days to decide** on your application.

If the Asylum Office rejects your claim, you can turn to the **court within 7 days and you can request a personal hearing**. Please explain in writing, in your own language why you do not agree with the decision. If you need help with writing this, please ask the lawyer of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee or UNHCR staff. If the court rejects your appeal and agrees with the Asylum Office, you can still submit a new asylum application. Otherwise you will be returned to Serbia.



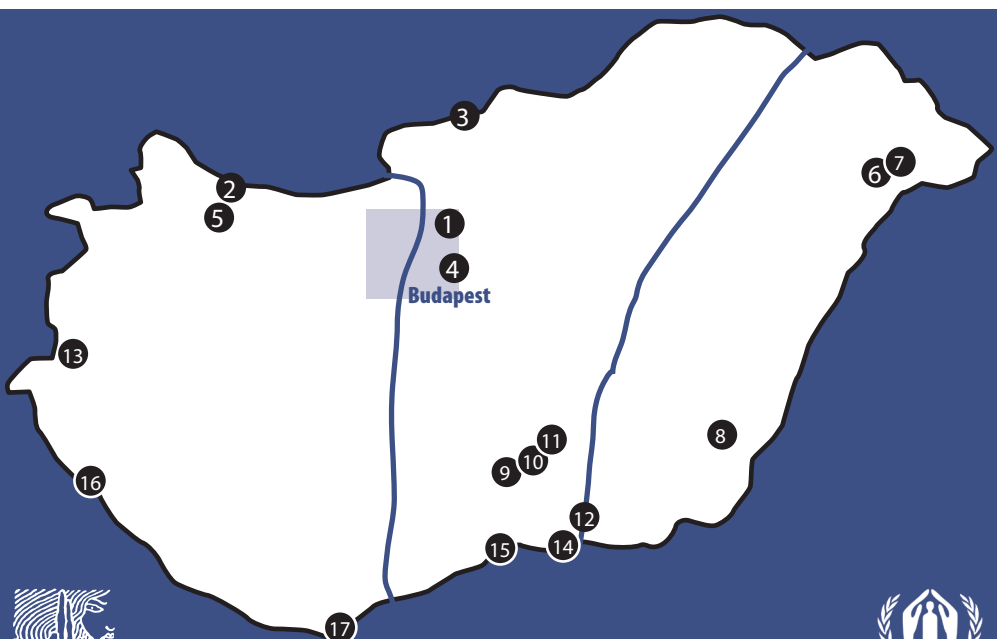
Services and support in the transit zone:

If you have to stay in the transit-zone, you will get a **bed** and **food** every day. You can ask for the **doctor** if you have medical problems. A social worker is available every day. If you need a lawyer, you can ask for support from the **Hungarian Helsinki Committee**. The lawyer is for **free**, you do not have to pay anything. You can also request to meet with **UNHCR staff** visiting the transit-zone every day. You also have the right to request a government lawyer to assist you.

The maximum time you will have to spend in the transit zone is **28 days**.

If you are transferred from the transit zone to an open reception centre or a closed centre please see the Hungarian Helsinki Committee’s information leaflet on the procedure, your rights and the services available.

Please see the **map** of Hungary for the list of asylum facilities in **Hungary**.



- 1 Fót Children’s Home
- 2 Vámosszabadi Open Refugee Centre
- 3 Balassagyarmat Community Shelter
- 4 Budapest Airport Immigration Detention Centre
- 5 Győr Immigration Detention Centre
- 6 Nyírbátor Immigration Detention Centre
- 7 Nyírbátor Asylum Detention Centre
- 8 Békéscsaba Asylum Detention Centre
- 9 Kiskunhalas Immigration Detention Centre
- 10 Kiskunhalas Asylum Detention Centre
- 10 Kiskunhalas Open Refugee Centre
- 12 Szeged Border Police
- 13 Körmend Open Refugee Centre
- 14 Rösztke Transit Zone
- 15 Tompa Transit Zone
- 16 Letenye Transit Zone
- 17 Beremend Transit Zone

