REQUESTING ASYLUM IN LATVIA

In order to request asylum in the Republic of Latvia, a person has to submit an application.

The application shall be **PERSONALLY** submitted:

1. **WHEN ENTERING LATVIA**
   - at the State Border Guard office
   - in the transit zone of airport

2. **WHEN STAYING IN LATVIA**
   - at the State Border Guard office

Many people leave their home land due to persecution threat, war, economic circumstances and other reasons. If such persons arrive to Latvia and request protection (asylum), they are asylum seekers.

Asylum seeker may obtain a **refugee** or **alternative status** in Latvia.

**THE REFUGEE STATUS** may be received by the asylum seeker, who reasonably fears from persecution in his/her country or previous country of residence due to:

- race
- nationality
- social background
- religion
- political opinion
- war
- torture, punishment
- humilitating attitude
- death penalty
- nationality

**ALTERNATIVE STATUS** may be received by the asylum seeker, who is in danger of his/her home country or previous country of residence from:

- torture, punishment
- humilitating attitude
- political opinion
- war
- nationality

People, who leave their country only due to unemployment or poverty, cannot acquire a refugee or alternative status.

An asylum seeker has the right to withdraw from the asylum procedure and return to his or her country at any time.

If the asylum seeker cannot receive a refugee or alternative status and he/or she does not have any other ground to stay in Latvia (visa or residence permit), he/she shall leave Latvia.

**CONTACTS**

Information about places of location of the Border Guard offices:
- https://www.rs.gov.lv/lv/filiales

In Riga you have to go to Ieriķu iela 15, but applying in advance via phone:
- during working days via phone 6707 5732;
- during weekends and public holidays, outside working hours via phone 6732 3994

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RECEIVING PROTECTION IN LATVIA

REFUGEES RECEIVE

- Permanent residence permit (for 5 years – shall be registered every five years)
- Travel document
- Right to employment
- Right to family re-union right after acquisition of the refugee status
- Possibility to declare the place of residence in Latvia

In case of lack of sufficient means, a single-time financial support from OCMA:
  - for an adult person – 278.00 euro
  - for a minor person – 194.00 euro
  - if the persons are spouses, then for one person – 278.00 euro, the other – 194.00 euro

In case of lack of sufficient means, a benefit for 10 months from SSIA:
  - for an adult person – 139.00 euro per month
  - for a minor person – 97.00 euro per month
  - if the persons are spouses, then for one person – 139.00 euro per month, the other – 97.00 euro per month

PERSONS WITH ALTERNATIVE STATUS RECEIVE

- Temporary residence permit (for 1 year, afterwards – for 2 years; it shall be reissued if there are still grounds for such status)
- Travel document (if it cannot be issued by a home country)
- Right to employment
- Right to family re-union 2 years after acquisition of the alternative status
- Possibility to declare the place of residence in Latvia

In case of lack of sufficient means, a single-time financial support from OCMA:
  - for an adult person – 278.00 euro
  - for a minor person – 194.00 euro
  - if the persons are spouses, then for one person – 278.00 euro, the other – 194.00 euro

In case of lack of sufficient means, a benefit for 7 months from SSIA:
  - for an adult person – 139.00 euro per month
  - for a minor person – 97.00 euro per month
  - if the persons are spouses, then for one person – 139.00 euro per month, the other – 97.00 euro per month

Information about requesting of the asylum is available here: https://www.pmlp.gov.lv/en/asylum-seeking