

Datum 24 april 2020
Onderwerp Asylum interviews during the corona crisis

Dear Sir / Madam,

You have applied for asylum in the Netherlands. The Immigration and Naturalisation Service takes decisions on asylum applications in the Netherlands. As you may have noticed, the coronavirus is also affecting the IND's work. The IND understands that the situation regarding the coronavirus raises many questions about how your application is now being processed. In this letter we would like to inform you as well as possible.

Since 15 March 2020, the IND has not held any asylum interviews. In this way, the IND is following the Dutch government's agreements to protect society from the coronavirus.

This letter explains that the IND will again start to hold some asylum interviews. Read on to find out what that this could mean for you.

The IND will hold asylum interviews using computer video-conferencing

At an IND interview, several people often spend a long time in a small room. It is therefore difficult to follow the coronavirus measures (such as keeping 1.5 meters' distance).

That is why the IND will hold asylum interviews using video-conferencing.

Your lawyer will first prepare you for the interview via video-conferencing.

A member of staff from the IND will then interview you the day after via video-conferencing. The interpreter will also connect to the interview via video-conferencing. You can also ask someone from the Dutch Council for Refugees (VWN) to join the conversation. Everyone who participates in the interview will be at a different location. You will sit at a computer in your own reception centre. At the reception centre, mentors will help during the interview. For example, they will explain how the computer works. They can also help you if there are any technical or other problems.

Sometimes your lawyer would like to talk to you about how your hearing went (a debrief). If a debriefing is necessary, this will also happen via video-conferencing.

The IND will start to hold interviews using video-conferencing with a small group

The IND will start with the group of asylum seekers who are going through an accelerated procedure. These are asylum seekers from Syria, Yemen and Turkey. This group will only be expanded if this way of holding interviews works well. In that case, the IND will invite other groups of asylum seekers to interviews via video-conferencing.

You may receive an invitation for an interview via video-conferencing

The IND is currently investigating which locations are suitable for interviews via video-conferencing. It is important that you can be reached, so that you can receive an invitation through COA. This will be done through the mailing lists at reception. If you do not live at a COA centre, please give your address to COA as soon as possible.

You will receive additional information in the invitation

Received an invitation for an interview via video-conferencing? Then you can read more about the modified procedure during the corona crisis in the invitation. You can also find out how to prepare for the interview (together with your lawyer).

The Dutch Council for Refugees can also help you during the corona crisis

Do you have any questions about this letter or as a result of this letter? Then you can also contact the Dutch Council for Refugees (*VluchtelingenWerk Nederland* or VWN). Their contact details are available at every COA centre. You can call them or send them an email or message via WhatsApp. If you like, someone from VWN can attend the interview.

This letter will also be available on our website in several languages

The letter will also be available on ind.nl/asielzoeker. You can read the letter in Arabic, English, Farsi, Tigrinja and Turkish. For more information about the coronavirus, please visit ind.nl/coronavirus. For other questions, please call the information line: 088 04 30430.

With kind regards,

A.N. Molleman
Asylum and Protection Department

More information is available from:

www.ind.nl

www.coa.nl

www.rvr.org

www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl