**Written interview**

**What does written interview mean?**
The Task Force has been asked to process asylum application from before 1 April 2020 as quickly as possible. One of the ways to do this is to use a form. This form is also known as the written interview. In the form the IND asks questions about the reasons for an asylum application. Asylum seekers fill in the form themselves at the IND.

**Why is the Task Force going to conduct written interviews?**
Because the IND is faced with a backlog, it sometimes takes a long time before an asylum procedure starts. Some asylum seekers must also wait a long time for a decision. The IND hopes that by using a form, it will be able to decide more quickly on asylum applications.

**Who can the Task Force invite to written interviews?**
The Task Force can invite asylum seekers (with an application from before 1 April 2020) who come under the responsibility of the Task Force. At present these are asylum seekers with the following nationalities:

- Syrian (form in Arabic);
- Yemenite (form in Arabic);
- Eritrean (form in Tigrinya);
- Turkish (form in Turkish); and
- Iranian (form in Farsi and Arabic).

**Does the Task Force invite everyone who comes under this group to fill in the form?**
No. The IND assesses in advance whether an asylum seeker is able to fill in the form. For example, is someone unable to read or write? Does someone have medical limitations that make it difficult or too difficult to fill in the form? In that case the IND does not send an invitation. Asylum seekers cannot register on their own to fill in the form.

**Does the Task Force invite asylum seekers aged under 18 (minors) to a written interview?**
The IND does not invite asylum seekers below the age of 15 to a written interview. Asylum seekers aged 15-17 are invited only if they are part of a family. Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) do not receive an invitation.

**Is it mandatory to fill in the form?**
No. It is possible that an asylum seeker is unable or unwilling to fill in the form (for various reasons). That is why this is voluntary. What if the asylum seeker does not fill in a form? Then they will receive an invitation to a general asylum procedure (GA).

**What exactly does the form consist of?**
The form consists of the following sections:

- writing down the reasons for the asylum application (asylum account);
- questions about the reasons for the asylum application;
- questions about an application for family reunification (only for Syrian, Yemenite, Eritrean and Turkish asylum seekers);
- information on handing in original and other documents. The asylum seeker hands this in together with the form; and
- an antecedents certificate.
Where and when does the asylum seeker fill in the form?
The asylum seeker fills in the form at an IND location. The exact address is stated in the invitation. The invitation also specifies on which date and at what time the asylum seeker will fill in the form. It is possible that an asylum seeker will complete the form in the evening. When the form is filled in, the following persons always be present at the location:

- a security guard;
- staff members of the IND;
- an interpreter.

How is the form filled in?
Together with the invitation, the asylum seeker will receive a Dutch and an English appendix with information about the form. The form itself also contains additional and explanatory information. The asylum seeker fills in the form themselves with a pen. The use of electronic devices (mobile phone, tablet, laptop, USB stick) is not allowed. The asylum seeker can hand in original and other documents. The asylum seeker has four hours’ time to fill in the form. The asylum seeker can indicate themselves if they would like a break.

What happens after the asylum seeker has filled in and handed in the form?
The process consists of the following steps:

1. An independent translator translates the answers in the form. This is done within 7 working days. The IND sends the translation to the asylum seeker’s lawyer.

2. The lawyer may send corrections and additions. This can be done within 7 working days after the translation has been received.

3. The IND decides on the asylum application. There are two possibilities:
   - Does the asylum seeker have Syrian, Yemenite, Eritrean or Turkish nationality? Then, after the written interview, a (short) detailed interview in person will follow in the GA. The invitation for the written interview also specifies the date and place of the detailed interview. Please note: the GA starts with the detailed interview on day 3. Lawyers can discuss the interview with their clients on day 4 of the GA.
   - Does the asylum seeker have a different nationality? Then, after the written interview, a (short) detailed interview in person will follow in the GA. The IND then contacts the asylum seeker’s lawyer. The IND informs the lawyer of the progress of the asylum application. This is done 5 working days after receipt of the corrections and additions.

What is the role of lawyers in written interviews?
Lawyers can prepare their clients, just as they prepare them for a GA. They can make an appointment for this themselves with their clients. They can discuss the form afterwards, just as they discuss a GA afterwards. They can also send corrections and additions if there are any.