

**Know Your Rights guide for**

**international protection applicants**

We are currently compiling a Know Your Rights guide for international protection applicants to be published by ICCL and the Irish Refugee Council.

The Guide will aim to explain rights within the protection process, under the EU Reception Directive, and the range of broader rights under the Irish Constitution and human rights law that apply to everyone in Ireland.

This includes civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights such as the right to protest, freedom of expression, freedom of religion, the right not to be subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment, the right to education and the right to earn a livelihood.

The Guide will outline the current law in a clear and accessible manner to empower international protection applicants to both exercise and vindicate their rights.

The research team are Dr Lucy Michael, Dr. Niloufar Omidi and Roos Demol. We can be contacted at [enquiries@lucymichael.ie](mailto:enquiries@lucymichael.ie)

**Outline of proposed Know Your Rights Guide**

1. Table of Contents
2. Definitions
3. Rights related to the international protection application process
   * including legal assistance, appeal, right to be accompanied/represented, right to hold one’s own documents, impact of previous statuses (if any), right to information and translation, right to timely processes, rights to recognition of statelessness
4. Banking
5. Driving
6. Education
7. Employment
8. Healthcare
   * including mental health care, reproductive and mental health care
9. Rights in Direct Provision and emergency accommodation,
   * Including rights to basic needs (food, accommodation, medical care), right to basic conditions in reception and accommodation centres, protection from harm, right to privacy, freedom of movement, security, right to be accommodated with family.
10. Accommodation and rights during transition out of Direct Provision
11. Right to justice
    * including legal support, policing, access to courts and other legal mechanisms
12. Freedoms relating to autonomy, identity, dignity, anti-discrimination, harassment
13. Freedom of speech, assembly, political participation
14. Detention and Deportation
15. Right to residence, citizenship
16. Children’s Rights
    * including unaccompanied children in care (and after turning 18)
17. Women’s Rights
18. Family rights, including marriage, privacy, child protection. reunification
19. Rights in the events of revocation of drivers licences, caught working illegally, etc.
20. Differentiation of rights between applicant status, refugee status and subsidiary protection status
21. Relevant Contacts: Complaint and Redress Bodies, Legal Bodies, Information on Public Services, Government Agencies, Helplines, Asylum Seeker / Refugee Support, Thematic Contacts (Children, LGBT, Family, Justice System)
22. Glossary
23. Keeping track of changes in rights

**About the focus group research**

In order to check that the Guide is covering the right range of issues, and in enough depth, we are running a series of focus groups to discuss the contents.

The purpose of the focus group research is only to produce a useful guide to rights for international protection applicants. The guide, and a short report on how it was produced, will be sent to the Irish Council of Civil Liberties at the end of the project.

**The focus group**

A focus group is a discussion around a set of questions. Each group will take 1.5 hours.

Most focus groups will be held on Zoom. Some may be held in person if it is safe to do so.

Each focus group will be 4- 7 people. We will only ask for your first name.

**Your contribution**

We would like to know:

1-How do you normally get information on your rights? Where do you look for information?

2-What is the biggest challenge in getting correct information on your rights?

3- What problems have you experienced because you did not know your rights?

4-How would you prefer to get information about your rights?

5-How could you have better access to information on your rights on arrival, and now?

**Recording**

A recording will be made of the focus group to capture important points from what you say. The recording will be used only by the researchers, and will be deleted as soon as notes are made from the event. Notes of the event will not include any names or identifying details of nationality, location, or other things which might identify you.

**Your rights in the research**

Your participation in the research is voluntary.

Your participation in the research will only be known to the research team and others in the focus group. We will keep all details confidential.

You are free to withdraw from the research at any time. If you have any concerns, please raise them with the research team. We are happy to answer your questions.