



Interpreters of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) during the personal interview Indications for refugees and supporter

The interview is decisive in determining if your asylum application will be successful. The informations that will be collected during the protocol are decisive for the award or rejection of your claim. Most interviews take place in the presence of a translator, who therefore plays a very important role.

There are again and again problems with the interpreters of the Federal Office during the interview. This may be due to the lack of quality of the translation, or also to repeated cases of abuse of power and intimidation on behalf of the translators.

That is why we have compiled below a list of **indications about what to consider before, during and after the interview and about the rights you have as a refugee.**

Before the interview:

- Visit a center for asylum procedure consultation.
- Mandate if possible a lawyer who is specialized in asylum procedures and who will be able to come with you during the interview.
- You have the right to choose the language in which you want the interview to take place; this should be the language you can speak best. The Federal Office will provide you a translator.
- If you are a woman, you have the right to ask for a female interpreter.
- You have the right to come with a translator of trust in addition to your lawyer.
- You can also bring a friend or adviser as a person of trust. This could be particularly useful when this person is competent in both your language and in German.
- If a person of trust is to take part in the interview with you, please inform the Federal Office as soon as possible.

During the interview:

- If you have the impression that the translator is not correctly fulfilling his/her task or that you did not understand something, please communicate this to the BAMF staff member and request that the interview be conducted with another translator. The interview can be adjourned if necessary.
- Your statements will be recorded in a transcript during the interview. Make sure that the transcript has been completely retranslated and sign only if you are sure that your statements have been reported like you said them.
- The interview is about YOUR story and YOUR experiences. You therefore decide how long the interview lasts.
- If the interpreter has urged you to hurry, even though you still had something to say or you did not understand a question, do not sign the interview transcript or add handwritten in your language what is missing.
- If the transcript contains mistakes or is not exhaustive, request its correction.

After the interview:

- In case there were irregularities during the interview, write them all in a report which you can then give to your lawyer or adviser.
- If your asylum application has been refused and you want to appeal against this decision in court, contact immediately a lawyer or an advice center.

You can find more indications concerning the interview here: <http://www.asyl.net/index.php?id=337>.

You can also contact the Refugee Council for further indications and questions (Flüchtlingsrat e.V.).