

Mentioning the accompanying minor's reasons to flee at a later stage

Did you go through the asylum procedure or are you still waiting for a final decision and have the accompanying minor's reasons to flee not been discussed during the asylum procedure? Then go to the Council for Refugees (VluchtelingenWerk). Together you will see how these reasons to flee can still be introduced in the asylum procedure. You can also go to the Council for Refugees in case of any other questions of both adults and children.

The Council for Refugees has offices in all reception centres. Go to www.forrefugees.nl for the opening hours of the Council for Refugees at your reception centre.

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Engels

Mentioning reasons to flee in the asylum procedure

Independent Reasons for Requesting Asylum of Accompanying Minors



Mentioning reasons to flee in the asylum procedure

Independent Reasons for Requesting Asylum of Accompanying Minors

You have applied for asylum in the Netherlands as a family. Hence, it is important that the stories of all family members are told during the asylum procedure. This includes those of the children. This will paint a complete picture of your entire family's situation and this, in turn, will allow the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) to take an informed decision about your asylum application. An accompanying minor child may also be granted a residence permit in the Netherlands for his/her own specific reason to flee. This is called the child's independent reason for requesting asylum.

Reasons for accompanying minor children to apply for asylum independently

1. Applying for asylum for the same reasons as adults

As a child, you apply for asylum for reasons adults may also have. For example because of your religion, because others don't agree with your opinion, or because you belong to a certain ethnic group.



2. Applying for asylum because you are a child

You are at risk as a child because you are a child. For example because you are being forced to fight as a child soldier for the army or a criminal organisation. Or because you are being forced to marry or are at risk of being circumcised as a girl. Moreover, every child has rights. It is possible that a child isn't given these rights in the country of origin. For example the right to good education or healthcare.



3. Applying for asylum because (both or one of) your parents have problems

As a child you are at risk because of problems your parents have. For example because you are threatened with abuse or kidnapping by persons harassing your parents. Or because you were separated from your parents when they were taken by the police.

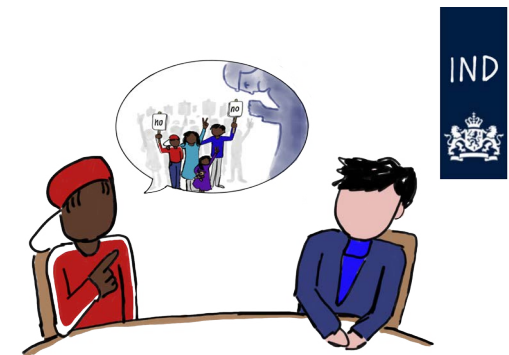


Mentioning reasons to flee of accompanying minor children

The reasons to flee will be discussed during the asylum procedure. This is also the time to talk about the child's reasons to flee. This is in interviews you have with the IND. The IND will decide whether you are allowed to stay in the Netherlands.



- If as an accompanying minor you are **younger than 15 years**, your parents will tell about your reasons to flee. This is done in the same interview in which the parents tell about their own reasons to flee. If you are younger than 15 years and want to tell about your reasons to flee yourself, this can in some cases be arranged through your lawyer. The lawyer can help you to put these reasons to flee forward in the asylum procedure.



- If as an accompanying minor you are **older than 15 years**, you are entitled to an own asylum procedure and you will tell about the reasons to flee yourself. In this case, an individual appointment is made for an interview with the IND.