

***Grandparents pro Asylum's* 10 demands for Denmark's asylum and refugee policy.**

Refugees are vulnerable people in danger. They need protection, and must not be subjected to the obligations that Denmark imposes on immigrants. *Bedsteforældre for Asyl* has 10 demands for Danish asylum and refugee policy:

1. In its treatment of asylum seekers and refugees, Denmark must observe all the international conventions and agreements that its Government has signed, and which will guarantee women's, men's and children's personal freedom, dignity and welfare.
2. The ruling prohibiting the splitting up of families contained in the Human Rights and Children's Conventions must be respected. The child's best interest must be protected by means of separate legal representation.
3. The Danish Institute for Human Rights must be recognised as the independent national authority for ensuring that the conventions that Denmark has signed are adhered to.
4. The Danish Refugee Appeals Board must be constituted so as to ensure its independence of the Government. The Board must respect the United Nations' recommendations, and the law courts must be authorised to hear appeals against its verdicts.
5. The police's role in the treatment of applicants for asylum

should be confined to registering their identities on entry. An applicant should then be given impartial guidance in the Danish asylum procedure, with the assistance of a qualified interpreter, who should continue to assist in the same way during the subsequent stages of the asylum process.

6. If processing of the asylum seeker's application has not been completed within 18 months from the date of entry, then the applicant should automatically be granted a residence permit. If an asylum seeker whose application has been rejected cannot be deported to the country from which he or she has fled within 18 months after the date of rejection, they should automatically be granted a residence permit. The deadline for processing each and every phase of the application shall be individually enforceable.

7. After a maximum of six months in a refugee centre, every asylum seeker must be granted the rights to move out into society, to take paid work, and to enrol in a course of education. Everyone in this situation must be covered by public health insurance and the provisions in the law on social services. Children must be guaranteed access to normal school classes and education immediately after their arrival.

8. Neither asylum seekers nor those whose applications have been rejected shall be subject to administrative detention nor imprisonment without trial.

9. The fixed procedure for processing asylum applications should include an invitation to every applicant to be

optionally screened by medical personnel for the effects of torture. Victims of torture should immediately be offered medical treatment. Impairment in an applicant's ability to function normally as a consequence of posttraumatic stress disorder should be recognised as a humanitarian basis for issuing a residence permit. The Ministry of Justice should be obliged to submit to independent medical guidance when determining residence applications based on humanitarian considerations.

10. Asylum seekers who have fled from war zones and similar circumstances – including zones where civil war is being waged – should be awarded interim residence permits in consultation with UNHCR. If the fighting hasn't stopped after 3 years, then permanent residence should be granted.

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