

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND RIGHT TO WORK

From the moment you arrive in Italy and present an application for international protection, you are defined as an "asylum seeker". It may take many months to evaluate your request, but 60 days after submitting the application you can carry out a job.

IN ITALY, ASYLUM SEEKERS CAN:

- work, 60 days after having formalized the asylum request, i.e. from completing the "C3 form"
- sign up in a "Centro per l'Impiego" (public services present in Italy, which help people find a job)

The police headquarter ("questura") issues you a receipt proving that you have submitted a request for international protection. The receipt generally contains a photo, the date of birth, the fiscal code and a code, called Vestanet ID, i.e. an identification number of the asylum seeker.

This receipt is a temporary residence permit, it is valid as an identification document and allows you to work.

CAN ASYLUM SEEKERS WORK EVEN WITHOUT AN IDENTITY CARD?

If they are not registered in the registry office, therefore even in the absence of residence and identity card, asylum seekers can be employed with a regular contract and registered in the Employment Centres: domicile is sufficient for the issuance of the DID (Declaration of Immediate Availability for Work) and for access to other services provided by the Employment Centres.



WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION?

International protection is a system of rules to guarantee, safeguard and protect the fundamental rights of persons forced to flee their country due to the well-founded fear of suffering personal persecution or serious harm, that are in a country in which the 1951 Geneva Convention, relating to the Status of Refugees, is in force. Italy is among these countries.

International protection includes refugee status and subsidiary protection status (when it has not been possible to prove personal persecution as set out in the Geneva Convention, but is deemed to be at risk of suffering serious harm in the event of return to the country of origin).

REMEMBER:

- Having a work contract does not entitle the asylum seeker to obtain a residence permit for work reasons. Indeed, your stay in Italy depends on the assessment of your asylum application. Therefore, the residence permit for asylum request cannot be converted into a residence permit for work reasons.
- If you have been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection, you have the right to request reunification with your family and, after 5 years of stay in Italy and in the presence of certain requisites, you can request the issue of an EU residence permit for long-term residents.
- The residence permit for international protection issued by the Italian State does not allow the carrying out of work activity in another EU Member State.



IF YOUR ASYLUM APPLICATION IS REJECTED, CAN YOU WORK?

In the event that an asylum seeker does not obtain a positive response from the Territorial Commission, it is possible to appeal against this decision, in first instance to the Ordinary Court, with the support of a lawyer who can apply for free legal aid.

Once the appeal has been filed, the asylum seeker's residence permit is renewed as an "richiedente-ricorrente" and can continue to work for the entire duration of the appeal.

GLOSSARY:



- **Territorial Commission:** The Territorial Commission for the Recognition of International Protection has the task of evaluating and deciding on the application for international protection, after having listened to the asylum seeker. He can decide to recognize refugee status, grant subsidiary protection, or refuse the application.
- **Free legal aid** ("Gratuito patrocinio"): it is a free legal assistance to those who cannot afford to pay the legal costs of a trial, which are therefore covered by the Italian State. In addition to having a regular residence permit, you must also demonstrate that you have an income not exceeding approx. €11,400 (the exact amount is updated every two years).
- **Dichiarazione di immediata disponibilità (DID)**
It is a declaration that formally determines the beginning of the state of unemployment. You can do it on the Anpal portal, with the help of the operators of the Employment Center or of the INAS.

WHO CONTACT?



For subsidiary protection and other forms of international or national protection you can contact the police headquarters, while for the residence permit for asylum you can contact:

PATRONAGE

Patronage offers assistance and protection to workers, retirees, and, in general, to all citizens within Italy, including foreigners, in managing bureaucracy and in knowing and exercising their rights.

PATRONAGE PROVIDES INFORMATION, ASSISTANCE, AND CONSULTANCY ON:

- Pensions;
- Work injuries and occupational illnesses;
- Disabilities;
- Income support: family allowances, unemployment, and maternity;
- Immigration: requests for and renewal of permits to stay.

The majority of services offered by Patronage is free.



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