

Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2025

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Dear Colleagues,

The production of the Asylum Report 2025 is currently underway. The annual [Asylum Report](#) presents an overview of developments in the field of international protection in Europe.

The report includes information and perspectives from various stakeholders, including experts from EU+ countries, civil society organisations, researchers and UNHCR. To this end, we invite you, our partners from civil society, academia and research institutions, to share your reporting on developments in asylum law, policies or practices in 2024 by topic as presented in the online survey (**'Part A' of the form**).

We also invite you to share with us any publications your organisation has produced throughout 2024 on issues related to asylum in EU+ countries (**'Part B' of the form**).

These may be reports, articles, recommendations to national authorities or EU institutions, open letters and analytical outputs.

Your input can cover information for a specific EU+ country or the EU as a whole. You can complete all or only some of the sections.

Please note that the Asylum Report does not seek to describe national systems in detail but rather to present key developments of the past year, including improvements and challenges which remain.

All submissions are publicly accessible. For transparency, contributions will be published on the EUAA webpage and contributing organisations will be listed under the Acknowledgements of the report.

All contributions should be appropriately referenced. You may include links to supporting material, such as analytical studies, articles, reports, websites, press releases, position papers.

Some sources of information may be in a language other than English. In this case, please cite the original language and, if possible, provide one to two sentences describing the key messages in English.

The content of the Asylum Report is subject to terms of reference and volume limitations. Contributions from civil society organisations feed into EUAA's work in multiple ways and inform reports and analyses beyond the Asylum Report.

NB: This year's edition of the Asylum Report will be significantly revamped to achieve a leaner, more analytical report with streamlined thematic sections. The focus will be on key trends in the field of asylum rather than on individual developments. For this reason, information shared by

respondents to this call may be incorporated in the Asylum Report in a format different than in the past years.

Your input matters to us and will be much appreciated!

Please submit your contribution to the Asylum Report 2025 by Friday, 10 January 2025.

Contact details

*** Name of Organisation**

RFSL - The Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Rights
RFSL Ungdom – Queer Youth Sweden

Name and title of contact person

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I accept the provisions of the EUAA [Legal and Privacy Statements](#)

General observations

Before sharing information by thematic area, please provide your general observations on asylum developments as indicated in the following three fields:

What areas would you highlight where important developments took place in the country/countries you cover?

In 2024, significant changes were made in migration law, in Sweden and the EU. RFSL continued to take part of many hundreds of negative decisions in LGBTIQ+ asylum cases, mainly based on credibility. RFSL also took part of an increased number of cases where people who had recently or many years ago been granted refugee status and residency based on SOGIESC asylum grounds, had their status and residence permit revoked. This led to deportations to countries where LGBTIQ+ people face persecution, imprisonment, or even the death penalty.

The increased number of cases of revoking status and permit started with the Swedish Government's appropriation letter in 2022 to the Swedish Migration Agency to prioritize revocation:

<https://www.regeringen.se/regeringsuppdrag/2022/12/uppdrag-att-starka-arbetet-med-arenden-om-aterkallelse-av-uppehalls--och-arbetstillstand/>

Sweden and EU-Level Reforms

Significant changes were made in migration law in Sweden and across the EU. In May, the EU Council of Ministers approved ten regulations reforming the EU's common asylum and migration system. Sweden submitted its implementation plan in December.

Proposed Reception Center Law

A government investigation proposed abolishing the ability for asylum seekers to arrange private housing during the asylum process, requiring them to live in state-controlled reception centers. This proposal was sent for consultation at the end of 2024.

Extended Deportation Statute of Limitations

A proposed law would extend deportation orders' validity indefinitely while the person remains in Sweden and for five years after leaving. Critics, including RFSL, warned this change could force vulnerable individuals into hiding, exacerbating humanitarian crises.

Credibility Assessments

RFSL identified systemic stereotypes in assessing SOGIESC asylum claims, contributing to wrongful rejections. A September conference in Amsterdam, "Believe it or Not," presented research on improving these assessments, with participation from 100 experts, including the UNHCR and the Swedish Migration Agency.

https://coc.nl/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/BELIEVE-IT-OR-NOT-Conference-program-_DEF.pdf

Uniformity and Legal Certainty

The Swedish Agency for Public Management reported deficiencies in the Swedish Migration Agency's handling of SOGIESC and religious asylum claims, citing weak governance and inconsistency in decision-making. RFSL's legal investigations corroborate these issues, linking them to violations of Swedish and international law.

<https://www.statskontoret.se/publicerat/publikationer/publikationer-2024/manga-oar-sma--migrationsverkets-styrning-och-uppfoljning-av-den-rattsliga-kvaliteten-i-asylprocessen/>

<https://skrift.meltwater.io/site/5f4e06644f68c7001c4b3301/article/6704ed8d54cd66001321d466>

<https://www.rfsl.se/en/aktuellt/strengthening-of-legal-certainty-in-lgbtqi-asylum-cases-requires-action/>

RFSL's legal research 2024: <https://www.rfsl.se/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Rejection-Motivations-in-SOGIESC-asylum-cases-in-Sweden.pdf>

Changes to Swedish Citizenship Rules

In October, new rules were introduced, for young people, vulnerable individuals, and Nordic citizens to gain citizenship.

<https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/About-the-Migration-Agency/Current-topics/News-archive/News-archive-2024/2024-09-25-On-1-October-the-rules-for-Swedish-citizenship-will-change---for-young-people-for-people-in-a-vulnerable-situation-and-for-Nordic-citizens.html>

Practical EU Guide

In November, the EUAA released its first practical guide on SOGIESC asylum applicants. Its implementation in Sweden's migration courts and agencies remains uncertain.

Mandatory Reporting of Undocumented Persons

In the end of November the Government's assigned investigation was also presented, about an information

duty regarding undocumented persons in Sweden. The new law is suggested to make it mandatory for certain authorities and employees to inform and report undocumented persons in Sweden who have received a decision about deportation. These authorities are suggested to be the Swedish Public Employment Service, the Enforcement Authority, the Swedish Social Insurance Agency, the Swedish Pensions Agency, the Prison and Probation Service and the Swedish Tax Agency.

Concerns

RFSL and other NGOs warned that the new policies, particularly the indefinite validity of deportation orders, would harm LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers who are legally entitled to protection but face wrongful rejections. Many could face persecution, torture, or death if deported. The changes also eliminate the four-year limitation, a critical fallback for individuals to reapply and secure their rights.

<https://regeringen.se/rattsliga-dokument/lagradsremiss/2024/12/preskription-av-avlagnandebeslut-och-vissa-fragor-om-aterreseforbud/>

<https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2024/02/utredning-foreslar-att-utvisningsbeslut-ska-galla-under-langre-tid>

What are the areas, where only few or no developments took place?

SOGIESC asylum case law

RFSL's new legal investigation showed that no improvement was made by the Swedish Migration Agency or the Migration Courts, and that the credibility assessments still rely on unlawful stereotypes, and that discretion-reasoning still occurs. This is contrary to Swedish law, the EU directives, CJEU case law and the UNHCR Guidelines No. 9.

<https://www.rfsl.se/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Rejection-Motivations-in-SOGIESC-asylum-cases-in-Sweden.pdf>

Would you have any observations to share specifically about the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum in the national context of the country/ countries you cover?

PART A: Contributions by topic

Please share your reporting on developments in asylum law, policies or practices in 2024 by topic. Kindly make sure that you provide information on:

- New developments and improvements in 2024 and new or remaining challenges;
- Changes in legislation, policies or practices, or institutional changes during 2024.

1. Access to territory and access to the asylum procedure (including first arrival to territory and registration, arrival at the border, application of the non-refoulement principle, the right to first response (shelter, food, medical treatment) and issues regarding border guards)

2. Access to information and legal assistance (including counselling and representation)

3. Provision of interpretation services (e.g. introduction of innovative methods for interpretation, increase/decrease in the number of languages available, change in qualifications required for interpreters)

4. Dublin procedures (including the organisational framework, practical developments, suspension of transfers to selected countries, detention in the framework of Dublin procedures)

5. Special procedures (including border procedures, procedures in transit zones, accelerated procedures, admissibility procedures, prioritised procedures or any special procedure for selected caseloads)

6. Reception of applicants for international protection (including information on reception capacities – increase/decrease/stable, material reception conditions - housing, food, clothing and financial support, contingency planning in reception, access to the labour market and vocational training, medical care, schooling and education, residence and freedom of movement)

7. Detention of applicants for international protection (including detention capacity – increase /decrease/stable, practices regarding detention, grounds for detention, alternatives to detention, time limit for detention)

8. Procedures at first instance (including relevant changes in: the authority in charge, organisation of the process, interviews, evidence assessment, determination of international protection status, decisionmaking, timeframes, case management - including backlog management)

9. Procedures at second instance (including organisation of the process, hearings, written procedures, timeframes, case management -including backlog management)

10. Issues of statelessness in the context of asylum (including identification and registration)

11. Children and applicants with special needs (special reception facilities, identification mechanisms/referrals, procedural standards, provision of information, age assessment, legal guardianship and foster care for unaccompanied and separated children)

12. Content of protection (including access to social security, social assistance, healthcare, housing and other basic services; integration into the labour market; measures to enhance language skills; measures to improve attainment in schooling and/or the education system and/or vocational training)

13. Return of former applicants for international protection

14. Resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes (including EU Joint Resettlement Programme, national resettlement programme (UNHCR), National Humanitarian Admission Programme, private sponsorship programmes/schemes and ad hoc special programmes)

15. National jurisprudence on international protection in 2024 (please include a link to the relevant case law and/or submit cases to the [EUAA Case Law Database](#))

16. Other important developments in 2024

PART B: Publications

1. If available online, please provide links to relevant publications produced by your organisation in 2024

2. If not available online, please share your publications with us at: Asylum.Report@euaa.europa.eu or upload your file using the functionality below (max. file size 1MB).

Please upload your file

The maximum file size is 1 MB

`a61b507c-fe40-4b80-856c-f40636d9c736/joint-cso-submission-sweden-pdf.pdf`
`d5d0b9b7-d577-4837-aa2f-62ab99d48cbd`

`/UPR_Sweden_2004_Right_to_health_RFSU_et_al_Main_submission.docx`

`b5bc45a4-9231-423e-af52-9d90c23b604a/_2024-10-14__ANALYS_STATSKONTORET.pdf`

`19792833-481b-4cfb-9e9b-aeac283d9441/_2024-11-`

`25__INPUT_ON_ADVOCACY_ON_THE_EU_PACT_ON_MIGRATION_AND_ASYLUM.pdf`

3. For publications that due to copyright issues cannot be easily shared, please provide references using the table below.

	Title of publication	Name of author	Publisher/Organisation	Date
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

Useful links

[EUAA Asylum Report 2024 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2024\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2024)

[Executive Summary -Asylum Report 2024 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2024/executive-summary\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2024/executive-summary)

[Sources on Asylum 2024 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/sources-asylum-2024\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/sources-asylum-2024)

[National asylum developments database \(https://euaa.europa.eu/national-asylum-developments-database\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/national-asylum-developments-database)

[International Protection in Europe: 2023 in Review \(https://euaa.europa.eu/international-protection-europe-2023-review\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/international-protection-europe-2023-review)

Background Documents

[Word template to submit input](#)

Contact

[Contact Form](#)