



Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2025

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: Centre for Migration, Refugees and Belonging (CMRB), University of East London

<https://www.uel.ac.uk/our-research/research-institutes-centres-groups/centre-research-migration-refugees-belonging>

Name and title of contact person: Professor Giorgia Dona'

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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:

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

- The decision to scrap the Rwanda plan that was going to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda from the UK without giving them the option to apply for asylum in the UK if they arrived undocumented.
- The start of processing people's asylum claims that means that the asylum backlog will slowly begin to lower.

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

- The UK rhetoric is still framed by the Hostile Environment policy approach to migration
- Statistics on migration and asylum continue to conflate asylum seekers with international students and work-visa arrivals, resulting in the ongoing politicisation of asylum and consequent restrictions of asylum rights





3. 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?

- Brexit continues to have an impact on the ways in which the UK responds to regional and especially EU policies, always trying to minimise its obligations.

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)

- The decision to scrap the Rwanda plan that was going to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda from the UK without giving them the option to apply for asylum in the UK if they arrived undocumented.
- The start of processing people's asylum claims that means that the asylum backlog will slowly begin to lower.
- The Illegal Migration Act 2023 has brought asylum decision making to a standstill and this issue is only very slowly beginning to be addressed

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

- There needs to be a coherent strategy in place to promote refugee protection in the UK





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)

Brexit has affected asylum claims in the UK

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

Brexit has changed immigration rules under the ‘take back control’ political rhetoric

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)

- The appeals process, with increasing number of asylum decisions has led to an increase in the numbers of asylum appeals being lodged. A plan needs to be put in place to increase capacity to hear appeals.

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)

- Almost 20,000 migrants were held in immigration detention centres in 2023-2024 . Independent charities have recorded declining conditions, and barriers to healthcare and legal support.

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, decision-making, 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, health care, 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)

Variable programmes, very welcoming for asylum seekers from Ukraine and discriminatory towards others





Area	Ukrainians	Afghans
Protection status	Ukraine Family Scheme Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) Humanitarian protection (group violence; 3 years)	Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (20,000) Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy 51 Refugee Convention protection (individual persecution; 5 years)
Admissions	Open system (no quotas)	Quota: 20,000 over 5 years
Employment	Immediate access and work permits	New approach to employment Jobs First
Welfare	Same as UK citizens	New approach to employment, housing and integration
Accommodation	Ukraine Family Scheme Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine)	New approach to housing (hotels and temporary accommodation)

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:

- Doná, G. (2024) Decoding “decolonising” in decolonising *living and writing* integration: Commentary of the Special Issue on Decolonising Refugee Paradigms, Special Issue “Decolonising Refugee Integration paradigms: Visions for a new politics of inclusion and participation in Europe and beyond” guest edited by F. Murphy and U. M. Vieten, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 48 (11) DOI - 10.1080/01419870.2024.2438285 Doná G. (2024) [Decoding “decolonising” in decolonising living and writing integration: commentary of the special issue on decolonising refugee paradigms](#)

The Centre for Migration, Refugees and Belonging at the University of East London is founding member of the network “Social Scientists against the Hostile Environment” Public events organised in 2024 include:

- <https://ssahe.net/2024/11/20/no-child-is-illegal-education-and-the-hostile-environment-register-for-ssahe-webinar/>
- <https://ssahe.net/2024/10/30/a-new-chapter-or-more-of-the-same-migration-policy-under-labour-video/>
- <https://ssahe.net/2024/09/03/video-dehumanisation-criminalisation-contestation-june-2024/>

For other events of the centre please look at the following website

<https://www.uel.ac.uk/our-research/research-institutes-centres-groups/centre-research-migration-refugees-belonging>

2. If not available online, please share your publications with us at:
Asylum.Report@euaa.europa.eu





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	Date
1	1. Digital emotions and emotional labour among professionals supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children,	Doná G. and Nanton, R.	<i>Voluntary Sector Review</i> . 1–19, DOI: 10.1332/20408056Y2024D00000027	(2024)
2	1. Ambivalent State Governance and Counter-Governance: Migrants on the Move in the France-UK Techno-Borderscape In N. Streamlau and C. Voyvodic Casabo' (Ed) <i>Tehcnology and Governance Beyond the State: The Rule of Non-Law,</i>	Doná, G., Godin, M	2. London: Routledge, pp. 78-91	2024
3				
4				
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