

# Input by civil society to the 2021 EASO Asylum Report

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

D e a r

C o l l e a g u e s ,

The production of the *EASO Asylum Report 2021* is currently underway. The annual [Asylum Report series](#) present a comprehensive overview of developments in the field of asylum at the regional and national levels.

The report includes information and perspectives from various stakeholders, including experts from EU+ countries, civil society organisations, UNHCR and researchers. To this end, we invite you, our partners from civil society, academia and research institutions, to share with us your reporting on developments in asylum law, policy or practice in 2020 (and early 2021) by topic as presented in the online survey.

Please note that the EASO 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. Your input can cover practices of a specific EU+ country or the EU as a whole. You can complete all or only some of the sections.

All submissions are publicly accessible. For transparency, 2021 contributions will be published on the EASO webpage. Contributions to the 2020 EASO Asylum Report by civil society organisations can be accessed [here](#), under 'Acknowledgements'. All contributions should be appropriately referenced. You may include links to supporting material, such as analytical studies, articles, reports, websites, press releases or position papers. If your organisation does not produce any publications, please make reference to other published materials, such as joint statements issued with other organisations. 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 EASO Asylum Report is subject to terms of reference and volume limitations. Contributions from civil society organisations feed into EASO's work in multiple ways and inform reports and analyses beyond the Asylum Report.

Your input matters to us and will be much appreciated!

**Nina Gregori** - EASO Executive Director

\*Please complete the online survey and submit your contribution to the 2021 EASO Asylum Report by **Thursday, 25 February 2021**.\*

## Instructions

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Before completing the survey, please review the list of topics and types of information that should be included in your submission.

For each response, only include the following type of information:

- New developments and improvements in 2020 and new or remaining challenges; and
- Changes in policies or practices, transposition of legislation or institutional changes during 2020.

Please ensure that your responses remain within the scope of each section.

## Contributions by topic

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**1. Access to territory and access to asylum procedures (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. Availability and use of country of origin information (including organisation, methodology, products, databases, fact-finding missions, cooperation between stakeholders)

### 1) EASO COI Commentaries

ARC Foundation, together with the Dutch Council for Refugees, published the following commentary on EASO COI reports in 2020:

- ARC Foundation/Dutch Council for Refugees, Commentary on the EASO Country of Origin Information Reports on Syria (December 2019 - May 2020), July 2020, [https://asylumresearchcentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Commentary-EASO-COI-on-Syria\\_July2020.pdf](https://asylumresearchcentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Commentary-EASO-COI-on-Syria_July2020.pdf)

### 2) Commentaries on methodologies

- ARC Foundation, Comments on the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) Country Information Report on Sri Lanka of 4 November 2019, July 2020, [https://asylumresearchcentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ARC-Comments-on-DFAT-SL-report\\_July-2020.pdf](https://asylumresearchcentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ARC-Comments-on-DFAT-SL-report_July-2020.pdf)

- ARC Foundation, Observations on the Report of a Home Office fact-finding mission to Sri Lanka, Conducted between 28 September and 5 October 2019, 20 January 2020, July 2020, [https://asylumresearchcentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ARC-Foundation-observations-on-HO-Sri-Lanka-FFM\\_July2020.pdf](https://asylumresearchcentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ARC-Foundation-observations-on-HO-Sri-Lanka-FFM_July2020.pdf)

### 3) Comparative analysis of the U.S. Department of State's annual human rights reports

- ARC Foundation, Comparative analysis U.S. Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices (2016-2019), Summary, October 2020, [https://asylumresearchcentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Executive-Summary\\_USDOS\\_ARC\\_21-October-2020.pdf](https://asylumresearchcentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Executive-Summary_USDOS_ARC_21-October-2020.pdf)

### 4) UK Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration

- UK Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, Inspection of Country of Origin Information, Thematic Report on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity or Expression, 8 December 2020, [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/941969/Inspection\\_of\\_Country\\_of\\_Origin\\_Information\\_Thematic\\_Report\\_on\\_Sexual\\_Orientation\\_and\\_Gender\\_Identity\\_or\\_Expression.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/941969/Inspection_of_Country_of_Origin_Information_Thematic_Report_on_Sexual_Orientation_and_Gender_Identity_or_Expression.pdf)

**11. Vulnerable applicants (including definitions, 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. Relocation (ad hoc, emergency relocation; developments in activities organised under national schemes or on a bilateral basis)**

**16. National jurisprudence on international protection in 2020 (please include a link to the relevant case law and/or submit cases to the [EASO Case Law Database](#))**

**17. Other important developments in 2020**

## References and sources

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**18. Please provide links to references and sources and/or upload the related material in PDF format**

Provided under our response in Box 10

**19. Feedback or suggestions about the process or format for submissions to the EASO Asylum Report**

Please upload your file

The maximum file size is 1 MB

## Contact details

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\* Name of organisation

Asylum Research Centre (ARC) Foundation

### Name and title of contact person

Stephanie Huber, Director

### \* Email

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

### Useful links

[EASO Asylum Report 2020 \(https://easo.europa.eu/asylum-report-2020\)](https://easo.europa.eu/asylum-report-2020)

[Executive Summary -EASO Asylum Report 2020 \(https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EASO-Asylum-Report-2020-Executive-Summary.pdf\)](https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EASO-Asylum-Report-2020-Executive-Summary.pdf)

[Bibliography for the EASO Asylum Report 2020 \(https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/easo-asylum-report-2020-bibliography.pdf\)](https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/easo-asylum-report-2020-bibliography.pdf)

[Summary of legislative, institutional and policy developments in asylum in EU+ countries in 2019 \(https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/easo-asylum-report-eu-developments.pdf\)](https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/easo-asylum-report-eu-developments.pdf)

[Online database with data and latest asylum trends \(https://easo.europa.eu/asylum-trends-easo-asylum-report-2020\)](https://easo.europa.eu/asylum-trends-easo-asylum-report-2020)

[Online database for EU+ developments \(https://easo.europa.eu/eu-developments\)](https://easo.europa.eu/eu-developments)

### Contact

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