

BOOK II

European countries working together

ASYLUM, FINDING FAMILY & RELOCATION



WELCOME!



This story is about four young people — just like you.

They have arrived safely in Europe after a long journey.

Some of the young people arrived alone. Some of them arrived with family.

They have lots of questions — and they are helped by the people who work where they live.



This story can help you too!

You will learn:

- what **asylum, finding family & relocation** means
- what to expect
- why it is necessary for you to participate and work with the officers
- who can help you
- about your rights

You can read this story:

- alone
- with a friend
- with someone who works here



Take your time. It's OK to stop and come back to it later.

If something is hard to understand, **ask for someone to explain it to you.**

Your guardian, social worker or lawyer can help you.

AT THE END, YOU WILL FIND:

-  a page with local information
-  a fun quiz
-  space to write your own questions and add useful contacts



For people **below 18 arriving alone**, a guardian will be appointed. In some countries, the guardian is also called a representative.

Also, in some countries, **asking for asylum** is called **asking for international protection**.



Lastly, be aware that all services offered at the reception facilities where you are staying are free. If a staff member asks you for money, talk to an officer you trust or your guardian.

MEET THE CHARACTERS IN THIS STORY

Mohamed

I am 17 years old. I am happy most of the time. I like helping my friends and family whenever I can. I arrived alone some weeks ago and I am looking for my grandfather. I am eager to start working.



Ahmed

I am 15 years old. I arrived with my older sister Jasmine, who has been taking care of me since our mother died. I like to hang out and make new friends. I really want to go back to school as soon as I can. At the moment, I am learning the local language here.

Jasmine

I am 24 years old. I arrived together with my brother, Ahmed, who I take care of as best I can. We arrived recently and are trying to join our uncle who has been living in Europe for some time. I love sports and I am very good at playing football.



Adam

I am 9 years old. I am here on my own.
For now, I have decided not to speak.
I experienced many bad things before arriving here. I need some time before I will talk again.
But I am smart and I understand everything. I am a very good listener and want to go to school.
I like all the new friends I have made so far.



Ms Ines

I am a guardian working in this reception centre. I try to support all children and young people seeking asylum as best I can. I love cooking and it makes me happy when everyone is busy and active. Exercise keeps us all physically and mentally healthy.



Mr Fred

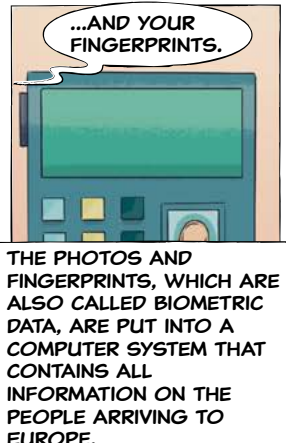
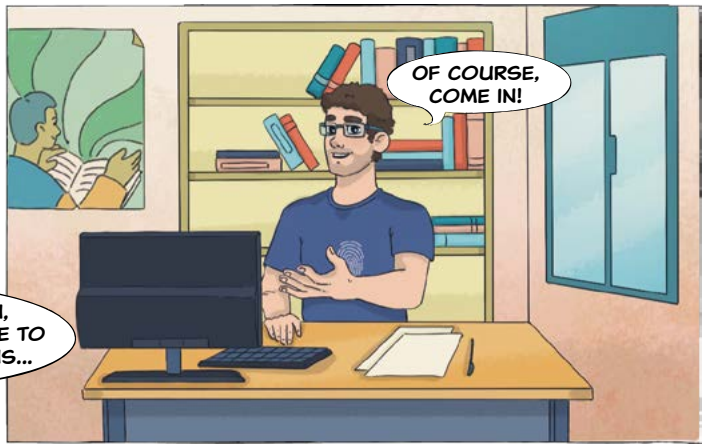
I am a legal counsellor, which is a type of lawyer. I work here together with many well-trained colleagues.
I give information and support to all asylum seekers on legal matters and on their asylum applications. I love wearing colourful t-shirts with a message.



A big thank you goes to all the young asylum seekers who read this story before it was published and helped to finish it so nicely.

They also helped choose the names of the main characters.

Thanks also goes to the authorities in Malta and the Netherlands who supported the discussions with the teenagers.

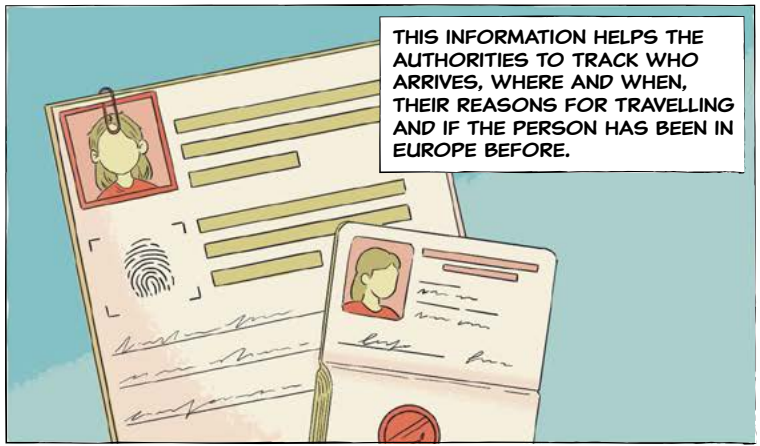


THIS HELPS ASYLUM AUTHORITIES IN ALL EU COUNTRIES TO FIND YOUR INFORMATION.





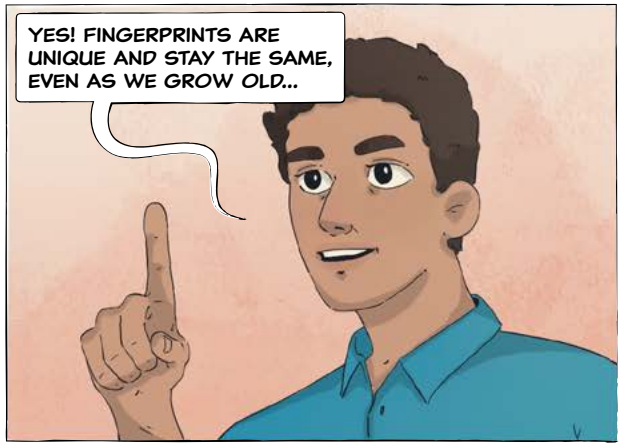
YES!



THIS INFORMATION HELPS THE AUTHORITIES TO TRACK WHO ARRIVES, WHERE AND WHEN, THEIR REASONS FOR TRAVELLING AND IF THE PERSON HAS BEEN IN EUROPE BEFORE.



ISN'T IT AMAZING THAT NO OTHER PERSON IN THE WHOLE WORLD HAS THE SAME FINGERPRINTS AS YOU?



YES! FINGERPRINTS ARE UNIQUE AND STAY THE SAME, EVEN AS WE GROW OLD...



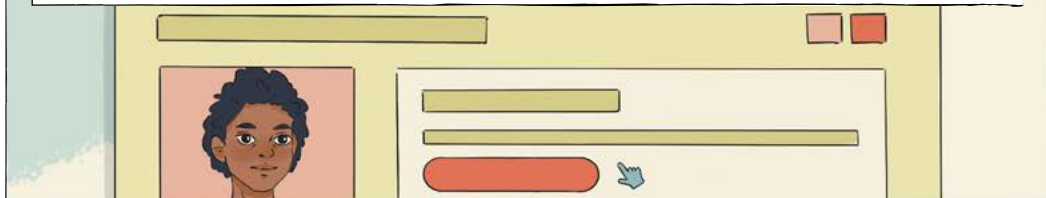
MR FRED, ONCE MY PHOTO AND FINGERPRINTS ARE IN THE COMPUTER SYSTEM, CAN THE GOVERNMENT OF MY HOME COUNTRY FIND THIS INFORMATION?



NO, IT'S KEPT PRIVATE AND IT WILL NOT BE SHARED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF YOUR HOME COUNTRY. ALWAYS WORK WITH THE OFFICERS AND ALLOW THEM TO TAKE YOUR PHOTO AND FINGERPRINTS. IF YOU REFUSE, IT CAN CAUSE DELAYS OR MAY LOOK LIKE YOU NO LONGER WANT TO ASK FOR ASYLUM.

YOUR PHOTO AND FINGERPRINTS CAN ALSO HELP TO FIND YOUR FAMILY IF YOU HAVE ANY HERE. IT CAN ALSO HELP TO SEE IF YOU ARE ALREADY REGISTERED FOR ASYLUM OR FOR SECURITY REASONS.

EVERYONE WHO ARRIVES AND WANTS TO APPLY FOR ASYLUM SHOULD DO SO IN THE FIRST COUNTRY THEY ARRIVE IN. IT IS IMPORTANT TO STAY IN THE COUNTRY WHERE YOU ARE REGISTERED.



SOME APPLICANTS TRY TO MOVE ON WITHOUT THE AUTHORITIES KNOWING.



ME TOO. I WANTED TO FIND MY GRANDFATHER. I WAS SEPARATED FROM HIM DURING THE JOURNEY. SINCE I AM UNDER 18, I HAVE A GUARDIAN SUPPORTING ME. WHO ADVISED ME TO STAY AND GET HELP.

THERE ARE ORGANISATIONS WHO CAN FIND MY GRANDFATHER SAFELY WITHOUT ME MOVING ON ALONE.

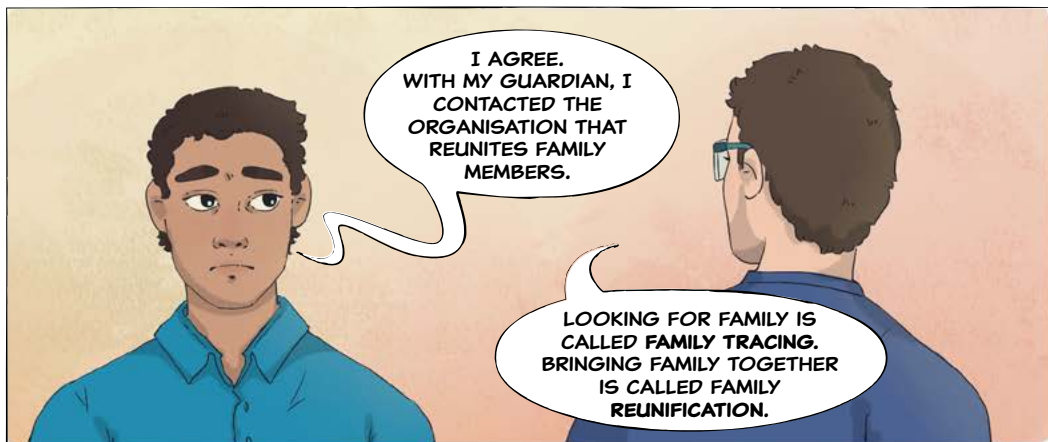
ALSO, IF I LEAVE, I RISK LOSING SOME SERVICES AND SUPPORT ELSEWHERE IN ANOTHER COUNTRY.

EXACTLY! YOUR GUARDIAN ALWAYS WANTS WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU. TOGETHER WITH THE AUTHORITIES, THEY TRY TO MAKE SURE CHILDREN ARRIVING ALONE ARE SAFE.









WHEN WE SAY FAMILY, THE AUTHORITIES NORMALLY FOCUS ON CLOSE FAMILY LIKE PARENTS, SIBLINGS, GRANDPARENTS, UNCLES AND AUNTS.



WHAT INFORMATION DO THEY NEED TO TRACE THEM?



... THEY'LL ASK THEIR NAMES, WHERE AND WHEN YOU LAST SAW THEM, IF YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE AND SO ON...



YOUR ANSWERS ARE NOTED ON A FAMILY TRACING FORM, WHICH YOUR GUARDIAN CAN HELP YOU FILL IN. THE ORGANISATION HELPING WITH FAMILY TRACING WILL TELL YOU IF THEY FIND THEM.

IF YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR GUARDIAN ALL AGREE, YOU WILL BE REUNITED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE AUTHORITIES. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE REUNITED WITH YOUR FAMILY, YOU CAN DISAGREE.



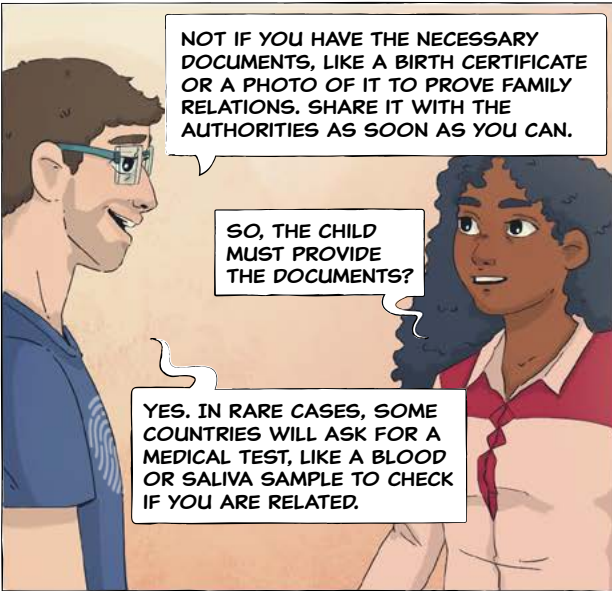
WHY WOULD SOMEONE DISAGREE?



MAYBE A FAMILY MEMBER IS VIOLENT. THE AUTHORITIES MUST ALWAYS CONSIDER WHAT IS BEST AND SAFEST FOR YOU.



I UNDERSTAND. UHM... IS IT HARD TO FILL IN THE FAMILY TRACING FORM?



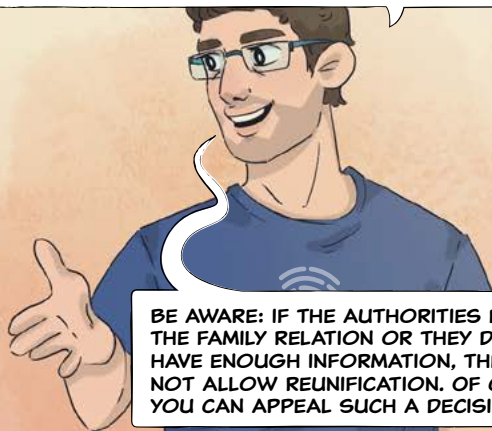
NOT IF YOU HAVE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS, LIKE A BIRTH CERTIFICATE OR A PHOTO OF IT TO PROVE FAMILY RELATIONS. SHARE IT WITH THE AUTHORITIES AS SOON AS YOU CAN.

SO, THE CHILD MUST PROVIDE THE DOCUMENTS?

YES. IN RARE CASES, SOME COUNTRIES WILL ASK FOR A MEDICAL TEST, LIKE A BLOOD OR SALIVA SAMPLE TO CHECK IF YOU ARE RELATED.



YOUR SALIVA CONTAINS LOTS OF INFORMATION. YOU CAN CHOOSE IF YOU WANT TO TAKE THIS TEST OR NOT. TALK TO YOUR GUARDIAN FOR ADVICE.



BE AWARE: IF THE AUTHORITIES DOUBT THE FAMILY RELATION OR THEY DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION, THEY MIGHT NOT ALLOW REUNIFICATION. OF COURSE, YOU CAN APPEAL SUCH A DECISION.



MR FRED,
HOW LONG DOES
FAMILY REUNIFICATION
NORMALLY TAKE?



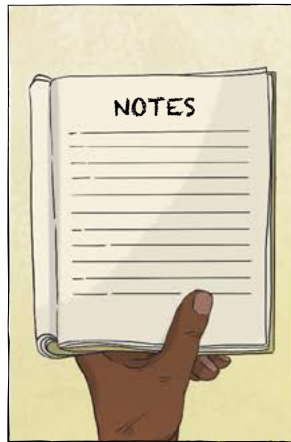
THE TIME VARIES. YOU NEED TO BE PATIENT. THE GUARDIAN WILL GIVE YOU UPDATES.

KEEP BUSY, LEARN THE LOCAL LANGUAGE, ASK YOUR GUARDIAN ABOUT ACTIVITIES YOU CAN JOIN.



SOMETIMES I
WORRY PEOPLE
THINK I'M STUPID
ASKING ALL THESE
QUESTIONS.





QUESTION 1

TELL ME ABOUT A SITUATION WHERE THE AUTHORITIES MIGHT MOVE OR RELOCATE APPLICANTS.



QUESTION 2

WHEN PEOPLE ARE RELOCATED, CAN THEY CHOOSE THE COUNTRY?



QUESTION 3

WHAT IF A PERSON DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE DECISION TO BE RELOCATED?



QUESTION 4
CAN YOU TAKE YOUR TIME TO APPEAL?

NO, DEADLINES ARE TIGHT. ASK A LEGAL COUNSELLOR OR YOUR GUARDIAN FOR SUPPORT. THEIR SUPPORT IS FOR FREE.

CORRECT AGAIN...
AND THE WINNER
IS... UHM... BOTH
OF YOU!

MR FRED,
SOMEONE MENTIONED
THE BEST INTERESTS OF
THE CHILD WHAT DOES IT
REALLY MEAN?

CAN I TRY TO
EXPLAIN?

OF COURSE!

OH... WAIT, THERE IS MS INES.
SHE WILL EXPLAIN MUCH BETTER...
MS INES, CAN YOU JOIN US?

SURE. I WILL EXPLAIN AND
AFTERWARDS YOU CAN READ THIS...

GREAT.



IMPORTANT

In this country ...

The authority in charge of deciding which country is responsible for my asylum application is called:

To meet and talk to my guardian, I can contact: _____

I can contact a legal counsellor for free to learn more about the asylum procedure or to receive support if I want to appeal a decision made by the authorities.

For advice on the asylum procedure or how to appeal, I can contact: _____

If anyone working here, like the officers, legal counsellors, social workers or my guardian treat me badly, I can make a complaint and contact: _____

In case of an emergency, I can contact the ambulance at _____
or the police at _____

The authorities responsible to make sure I have a safe place to sleep, which is also called reception, is called: _____

The services provided where I stay are free of charge. If a staff member asks me for money, I can make a complaint by contacting: _____

IMPORTANT

In this country ...

The organisation(s) that can help me look for my family members are called: _____

The organisation responsible to help me reunite with family, if this is in my best interests, is:

Other important information: _____

QUIZ

I am checking my knowledge on the asylum procedure!

✓ Tick the correct answers.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Why will the authorities take my picture and fingerprints and put them in a computer system? | a. To know who I am and when and where I arrived.
b. To take a closer look at my nice fingers. |
| <hr/> | |
| 2 The authorities check if I am really related to a person to make sure before reuniting me, I am safe. | a. True
b. False |
| <hr/> | |
| 3 No matter what I want, the authorities will always send me to my family, if I have any in the European Union (EU). | a. True
b. False (the authorities will always listen to me and the guardian to find the best solution for me in my current situation.) |
| <hr/> | |
| 4 I can move to another country without any problems whenever I want. | a. True
b. False (it is better to first talk to my guardian to learn about the consequences and potential dangers involved.) |
| <hr/> | |
| 5 The first country where I asked for asylum and where I am registered is normally the country responsible for my asylum application. | a. True
b. False |

Answers to the quiz

Question 1: a; Question 2: a; Question 3: b; Question 4: b; Question 5: a.

NOTES

[illegible]

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

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