

Asylum and Human Rights

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HELP

Human Rights Education for
Legal Professionals

Funded
by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



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by the Council of Europe



Asylum and Human Rights HELP/UNHCR ONLINE COURSE

Duration: 6 hours
Available for free on the CoE HELP e-learning platform
Statement of Accomplishment

START COURSE [➔](#)

Council of Europe
Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme

2021

Co-funded
by the European Union



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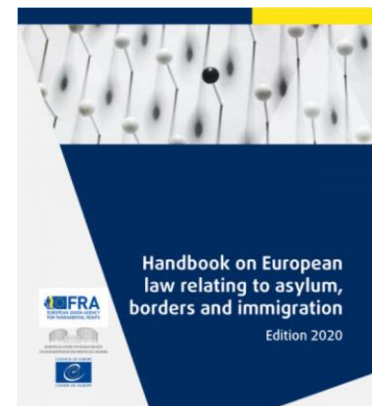
The update of this course was funded by the European Union's Justice Programme (2014-2020).

Background & key concepts

The right to asylum may not be enshrined within the European Convention on Human Rights (the ECHR). However, the ECHR applies to any asylum seeker and refugee under the jurisdiction of a High Contracting State.

In the recent years, hundreds of thousands of migrants arrived in Europe and many died along the way. The scale of the crisis has put huge pressure on transit and destination countries. States have a **shared responsibility** to welcome asylum seekers in a dignified manner, ensuring that their case is examined and determined fairly and efficiently. Asylum seekers waiting for a decision on their application must be provided with proper reception conditions. However, in many instances, authorities are increasingly detaining asylum-seekers for irregular crossing of the border while such detention is not always necessary.

The HELP course “**Asylum and Human Rights**” covers in an interactive way the key concepts, the international and European (**UN, CoE and EU**) **framework** related to asylum and the impressive body of **case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)**. One of the key reference materials to develop this course has been the [Handbook on European law relating to asylum, borders and immigration](#), developed jointly by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency and the European Court of Human Rights.



About the course

The course was initially developed in 2015 **jointly** by the Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (**HELP**) **Programme of the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**. It was updated in 2021 under the EU-CoE “HELP in the EU II” project to contain the most recent developments. The update process was done in cooperation with the **UNHCR Office in Strasbourg** and involved several representatives of relevant CoE services, namely the **Council of Europe Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on migration and refugees**, the **Independent Human Rights Bodies Division** as well the **Registry of the European Court of Human Rights**.

Course outline

The course consists of **an introductory module**, as well as **4 specific modules** addressing the main aspects related to asylum: non-refoulement, the right to life and prohibition of ill-treatment; detention and reception; family life; and effective remedies.

1

Introduction

- Why this course?
- What are the relevant human rights standards?
- What are the relevant complaint mechanisms?
- Redress



2

Non-refoulement, the right to life and prohibition of ill-treatment

- Non-refoulement principle
- Right to life
- Prohibition of ill-treatment
- Access to territory
- Non-refoulement and the Dublin Regulation



3

Detention and reception

- Meaning of liberty
- Lawfulness of detention
- Procedural safeguards
- Reception and alternatives to detention



4

The right to family life and asylum

- The importance of family unity
- Legal standards
- The different meanings of family
- Admission and expulsion of family members
- Procedural safeguards



5

Effective Remedy

- General principles
- Procedural safeguards and non-refoulement
- Procedural safeguards related to collective expulsions



Target audience

This free on-line course is primarily addressed to legal professionals:

- judges,
- prosecutors,
- lawyers
- senior court staff

It can be also useful for law enforcement authorities, border officers or staff in national authorities in charge of asylum and migration issues.

How to access the HELP online course

The course is freely available in self-learning format on the [CoE HELP e-learning platform](#). The overall length of the new edition of the online course is approximately **six hours** and those who complete it in self-learning format can obtain an electronic '**Statement of accomplishment**'.

To access the course, you need to have a HELP account. If you haven't created one yet, you can sign up here, it only takes 2 minutes: <http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/login/signup.php>.

