

# Welcome to Norway



Bufetat



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You may be wondering where you are now and what will happen today.

Here, at the police station, is where you apply for asylum. This is not a prison. Later today you will be going to a home where you will be living with other children. This is called an *omsorgssenter* (care centre).





This is Muhammad and Sofia. They fled to Norway without their parents. They became friends while staying at the same *omsorgssenter*.

**You have the right to feel safe.**



- *When I came to the police station in Norway I was scared.*
- *Me too. On my way here, a police officer in another country shouted and was mean to me.*

Many children are scared of the police. Some have been badly treated by the police in other countries. Some may have been beaten or shouted at by the police.

In Norway, it is against the law for the police to beat people, and they will treat you with respect.

The adults you will be meeting today will be doing their best to make you feel safe.

**No one is allowed to harm you.**

# This is who you will be meeting today



## **The police**

The police will register your application for asylum. They will be talking to you several times today.

The police are here to help you.

## **Interpreter**

The interpreter translates what is said into a language you understand and translates what you say into Norwegian, so that those you talk to can understand you.

The interpreter has a duty of confidentiality. This means that what you say to the police, will not be shared with anyone else.



## **Representant (guardian)**

Because you don't have your parents in Norway, your Representant is here to help you and make sure that your rights are being respected. They do not work for the police or the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI).



Your representant also has a duty of confidentiality.

## **A worker from the omsorgssenter**

After the police have finished talking to you, you will go to a *omsorgssenter*. Here there are adults who will take care of you. You will be living here – usually for several months.

The workers at the *omsorgssenter* do not work for the police or the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI). They also have a duty of confidentiality.





# What will happen today?

- *I had to wait a long time at the police station.  
I was hungry and tired.*
- *If you are hungry or tired too, you can use the  
picture cards to tell the police what you need.*

**You will be here at the police station several hours.**



First you have to wait for your *representant* and the interpreter to come. Sometimes it's a short wait, other times a long wait. When they come, they will tell you what is going to happen the rest of the day. While you wait, please eat or drink if you're hungry or thirsty. You can rest or sleep if you need to.

When your *representant* and the interpreter come, you will have to answer some questions from the police. You will also fill in some papers.



- *The police will be checking what you have brought with you, in your luggage as well as in your pockets.*
- *The police will usually keep your phone for some time as well.*

The police and your representant will tell you why the police keep your phone and when you will get it back.





- You will be able to use the omsorgssenter's phone to call your family or other people you know.
- You can write important phone numbers here:

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**You have the right to stay in contact with your family.**

# What happens when I have finished talking to the police?

After the police have finished talking to you, you will be taken to a *omsorgssenter*. Sometimes the police drive you, and other times people who work at the Omsorgssenter will pick you up.

Children often have to return to the police for a second interview. If you have to, the police or those who work at the *omsorgssenter* will tell you.



You will be living at the *omsorgssenter* for several months. The adults working here will look after you, and you will be living with other children who have fled their home country and arrived in Norway without their parents.

- *When I came to the omsorgssenter I got to know Sofia. It was nice to meet someone who spoke my language.*
- *You will also meet other children your age.*

You will be given your own room with a bed to sleep in. They will give you food and clean clothes, and you can take a shower if you want.





Soon, you will be starting school. The adults at the *omsorgssenter* will help you get ready for school.

**You have the right to go to school.**



- *While living at the omsorgssenter, you will be able to play and do activities like football, dance or swimming.*
- *What do you like to do?*

**You have the right to rest, relax, play and take part in cultural and creative activities.**



There are many adult workers at the *omsorgssenter*, both men and women. They all want what's best for you.

The adults at the *omsorgssenter* do not work for the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) or the police, and they do not decide the outcome of your asylum application. Their job is to take good care of you while you are staying at the *omsorgssenter*.





- *The drive to the omsorgssenter may take a long time.*
- *Use the picture cards to show what you need*



In the car you can see photos of the *omsorgssenter* you will be staying at.

- *Everyone at the omsorgssenter is here to help you, and we look forward to getting to know you*





**Bufetat**