

Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2026

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Dear Colleagues,

The production of the Asylum Report 2026 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 2025 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 2025 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: Similarly to last year, this year's edition of the Asylum Report will be leaner and more analytical, 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. It will also feature prominently as info boxes in the [country overviews](#).

Your input matters to us and will be much appreciated!

Please submit your contribution to the Asylum Report 2026 by Friday, 9 January 2026.

Contact details

* Name of organisation

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Name and title of contact person

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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:

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

1. Since February 2025, the Home Office 'good character requirement' guidance denies citizenship to refugees deemed to have entered the UK 'illegally'. It removed the possibility of naturalisation for recognised refugees who previously entered the UK 'illegally'.
2. The Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2025/31/enacted>) contains many articles that criminalise migration with a focus on border security.
3. The Runnymede Trust report (<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/publications/a-hostile-environment-language-race-surveillance-and-the-media>) shows that in parliamentary debates and media reporting, from which we analysed 52,000 articles and 300 debates, negative terms like "illegal", "flood" and "influx" are persistently used in association with migrants, posing them as a threat, dangerous and outsiders. 'Illegal' is the word most commonly used with 'immigrants'.

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

The UK Hostile Environment continues to limit asylum and refugee rights in the UK

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?

The EU Asylum and Migration Pact establishes a common asylum system at EU level that deliver results while “remaining grounded in European values”. It contains provisions that extend the use and reliance on digital technologies. For instance, Eurodac transitions from being an asylum database into a fully-fledged asylum and migration database that will make it possible to count not only applications but also applicants. The type of data registered will expand (not only fingerprints but also facial image, etc.) and will also include data from children. My forthcoming book chapter 'Asylum, borders and digital technologies: The coloniality of power in techno-borderscapes' in R. Bhandari and A. Meloni (eds) "Critical Reflections on the European Union's Pact on Migration and Asylum: A Fresh Start?" examines the ways in which the coloniality of power frames, reinforces, and transforms hierarchical elements of bordering processes in digital spaces. The coloniality of power identifies and describes the living legacy of colonialism in contemporary societies in the form of social discrimination that outlived formal colonialism and became integrated in succeeding social orders (Quijano, 2000). The coloniality of power works through counting, ordering, creating hierarchies and normalising difference; it operates through neo-colonial engagements and alliances; it manifests itself in relations of exploitation and extraction from people in vulnerable and powerless circumstances. Lastly, the coloniality of power operates through a narrative of technological innovation and progress that marginalises other perspectives. The paper shows how power asymmetries of the past are reproduced in the present EU's Asylum and Migration pact, and how the digitalisation of migration governance creates new configurations of hierarchical relations of subjectification, exploitation and extraction.

PART A: Contributions by topic

Please share your reporting on developments in asylum law, policies or practices in 2025 by topic.

Kindly make sure that you provide information on:

- New developments and improvements in 2025 and new or remaining challenges;
- Changes in legislation, policies or practices, or institutional changes during 2025.

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 Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act contains provision that make it very challenging for individuals who arrived via the undocumented route (channel crossing) to apply for asylum, contravening the 1951 Refugee Convention.

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

While free legal aid is still available to people claiming asylum who do not have the means to pay for legal representation, access to these services has been reduced due to financial constraints.

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 impacted on 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)

The new UK Secure Borders, Asylum and Immigration limits admissibility procedures. This includes not only undocumented crossing but also limits family reunifications. see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c626p66d6jxo>

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)

Tensions surrounding hotel accommodation for asylum seekers has led the government to put in place policies to reduce this type of accommodation. While this is welcome news, new measures include relocating asylum seekers to former military barracks which reproduce similar conditions of isolation and are likely to lead to community tensions. Alternative to hotel accommodation that are more community based are also in place and can be strengthened. A co-written piece highlights the situation and discusses alternatives (Doná, G., Lindsay, A., Novak, P. and Sanders, C. (2025) As protesters and politicians call for the closure of asylum hotels, what are the alternatives?" The Conversation, 7 August 2025
<https://theconversation.com/as-protesters-and-politicians-call-for-the-closure-of-asylum-hotels-what-are-the-alternatives-262270>)

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)

see new bill for increase use of detentions facilities

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)

see above

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)

see above limits to family reunification. Furthermore, children continue to be placed in detention facilities

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)

The new Act limits access to assistance for people coming to the UK via the undocumented route

13. Return of former applicants for international protection

New agreements are being sought for relocation of failed asylum applicants and those arriving via the undocumented route to home and third countries

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)

Limitation to the resettlement routes are in place for people arriving via the undocumented route and those classified as not meeting the 'good character' requirement.

15. National jurisprudence on international protection in 2025 (please include a link to the relevant case law and/or submit cases to the [EUAA Case Law Database](#))

16. Other important developments in 2025

PART B: Publications

1. If available online, please provide links to relevant publications produced by your organisation in 2025.

Doná, G., Linday, A., Novak, P. and Sanders, C. (2025) As protesters and politicians call for the closure of asylum hotels, what are the alternatives?" *The Conversation*, 7 August 2025
<https://theconversation.com/as-protesters-and-politicians-call-for-the-closure-of-asylum-hotels-what-are-the-alternatives-262270>

Doná, G. (2025) 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) 2249-2258. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/01419870.2024.2438285?needAccess=true>

Doná, G. and (in progress) Asylum, borders and digital technologies: The coloniality of power in techno-borderscapes, in R. Bhandari and A. Meloni (eds) "Critical Reflections on the European Union's Pact on Migration and Asylum: A Fresh Start?"

Romit Bhandari, The refugee definition in international law by Hugo storey, *Migration Studies*, Volume 13, Issue 4, December 2025, mna031, <https://doi.org/10.1093/migration/mnaf031>

Meloni, A. (2025). Visa. In *Elgar Concise Encyclopedia of Migration and Asylum Law* (pp. 606-611). Edward Elgar Publishing.

2. If not available online, please share your publications with us at: Asylum.Report@euaa.europa.eu or upload your file using the functionality below (max. file size 1MB).

Please upload your file

The maximum file size is 1 MB

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/Organisation	Date
1				
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Useful links

[EUAA Asylum Report 2025 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2025\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2025)

[Executive Summary -Asylum Report 2025 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2025-executive-summary\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2025-executive-summary)

[Sources on Asylum 2025 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/sources-asylum-2025\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/sources-asylum-2025)

[National asylum developments database \(https://euaa.europa.eu/national-asylum-developments-database\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/national-asylum-developments-database)

[International Protection in Europe: a Year in Review \(https://euaa.europa.eu/international-protection-europe-year-review\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/international-protection-europe-year-review)

Background Documents

[Word template to submit input to the 2026 Asylum Report.docx](#)

Contact

[Contact Form](#)