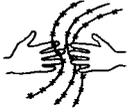


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INFORMATION PACK ABOUT ITALY

We are sorry to hear about what has happened, and wish you luck when you arrive in Italy.

This is to help you when you arrive there. Keep this document with you when you travel, as it contains some useful information, such as:

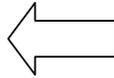
- 1. Why you are being sent to Italy**
- 2. The Italian asylum system**
- 3. Arriving in Italy**
- 4. Some useful words and sentences in Italian**
- 5. Organisations in Italy that can help you**
- 6. *Also included is a Italian Phrasebook***

1. WHY YOU ARE BEING SENT TO ITALY

You are being sent to Italy because of something called the **DUBLIN CONVENTION**. This is an agreement made by the countries in the European Union in the year 1990. Since February 2003, The Dublin Convention is also called “**DUBLIN II**”.

The European countries that belong to the **EUROPEAN UNION** are:

- Great Britain
- The Republic of Ireland
- France
- Austria
- Belgium
- Luxembourg
- Italy
- Spain
- Portugal
- Netherlands
- Greece
- Denmark
- Sweden
- Finland
- Germany



Before, all these countries were very different from each other, and each country had its own separate laws. Now, because all these countries belong to the European Union, they share many laws. For example, they all share the law called the ‘Dublin Convention’.

10 New EU Countries

There are 10 more countries that are now joining the European Union. These are:

Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

- **The Dublin Convention says that only one country in the European Union should be responsible for your asylum application.**
This means that you cannot ask for asylum in Greece *and* in Spain, for example. You can only ask for asylum in one of those two countries: Greece *or* Spain.
- **The Dublin Convention also says that you should ask for asylum in the first European Union country that you enter.**
This means that you cannot choose which country in Europe to ask for asylum in. This is because the Dublin Convention says that all the countries in the European Union are safe. Therefore, it says that you should ask for asylum in the first European Union country you arrive in. (Often, this is not really the first European Union country you arrived in, but the first country where you came into contact with immigration officials.)
- **According to the Dublin Convention, when you ask for asylum in a European Union country, that country must find out if you were in *another* European Union country before arriving.**
So, when you asked for asylum in Great Britain, the Home Office (who deals with your asylum application) saw that you were in Italy before arriving. Because Italy is a European Union country, the Dublin Convention says that your asylum case should be looked at there, because it is a safe country.

REMEMBER: Cases like yours, where you are sent to another European Union country because of the Dublin Convention, are called **THIRD COUNTRY CASES**. So, the Home Office has decided that your claim for asylum in Great Britain is a ‘Third Country Case’.

2. ITALY'S ASYLUM SYSTEM

Italy's asylum system is similar to the British asylum system, because it recognises the **1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees**. That means that asylum is given to someone when it is proved that he or she is "in danger of persecution" in the country of origin.

In Britain, the 'Home Office' deals with your asylum case. In Italy, it is the '**Central Commission for the Recognition of Refugee Status**' – or 'Central Commission' – that makes the first decision about your asylum application. Its name in Italian is '**Commissione Centrale per il Riconoscimento dello Status di Rifugiato**'.

When you arrive at the airport, tell an **immigration officer as soon as possible** that you want to ask for asylum. If the immigration officer does not understand you, you can **show page 4 of this Information Pack**, which has the Italian words for "I would like to ask for asylum".

The normal way to apply for asylum is to go to the **nearest police station**, or '**questura**' in Italian. They will give you an **appointment date** to come back for a **first interview**. At the first interview, you will **formally apply for asylum** (usually in writing). You will be **asked some questions** about how and why you arrived, your **picture** will be taken, and you may have to give them **your personal documents**. All this will then be sent to the Central Commission.

It is important to remember that there are organisations in Italy that can try to help you, by giving you support and legal advice. You can contact them as soon as you arrive in Italy: **the telephone numbers are on page 5**. Don't worry if you don't speak Italian, because someone there will be able to speak English.

After the interview at the police station, you will usually be given a **temporary residence permit**, or '**permesso di soggiorno**' in Italian. This allows you to live in Italy legally for **3 months**, or for as long as your asylum application is being considered.

While you are waiting for a decision on your asylum application, you are **not allowed to work**, but you will receive some **money** (about 17 Euros) **each day** to help you - in Italian this is called '**contributo di prima assistenza**'. You also have the right to receive **free medical treatment**. However, you **do not automatically receive help with accommodation!** If you do not have anywhere to sleep, **contact one of the organisations on page 5**.

A short time after your first interview, the police station will give you an **appointment date for a second interview**. This second interview will not be at the police station, but at the **Central Commission, in Rome**. If you are not sure what will happen at this interview, or how to get there, **ask one of the organisations on page 5 to explain things to you**.

It **can take some time** for the Central Commission to consider your application for asylum. They will **send their decision to your local police station**, and the police station will **pass it on to you**. If the Central Commission decides to **refuse** your asylum application, the police station will **take back your residence permit**, and give you a letter saying you must **leave Italy in the next 15 days** – in Italian, this is called a '**decreto di espulsione**'.

Please note that you usually have the **right to appeal** against a refusal. If you do not have a solicitor, ask **one of the organisations on page 5** for help with legal advice.

3. ARRIVING IN ITALY

- **ITALY** is a country in Southern Europe. The Italian name for Italy is **ITALIA**.
- The capital of Italy is **ROME**, or '**ROMA**' in Italian. It is in the middle of the country, close to the Tirreno Sea.

The other big cities are **Milan**, or '**Milano**' (in the North, close to the border with Switzerland), **Naples**, or '**Napoli**' (about 200 kilometres South of Rome), **Palermo** (on the island of **Sicily**, or '**Sicilia**', which is to the South-West of Italy), and **Turin**, or '**Turino**' (in the North-West, close to the border with France).

- In Italy, the currency (the kind of money you pay with) is the **EURO** (about 1 and a half Euros for 1 British Pound).
- The official language is **ITALIAN**.

Some Italians speak some English, but not everyone. There are some **useful Italian words and sentences on page 4**, but you can also use the **Italian Phrasebook** that comes with this Information Pack.

- Because you will travel by plane from England to Italy, you will probably arrive at one of Italy's **MAIN AIRPORTS**. These are in: **Milan** or in **Rome**.

Map of Italy:



Italy has borders with 4 other countries, all to the North of the country:

France and Switzerland to the North-West,
Austria to the North,
and Slovenia to the North-East.

The **Adriatic Sea**, in the East, separates Italy from Eastern Europe, and the **Tirreno Sea**, to the West of Italy, is part of the larger **Mediterranean Sea**.

Two islands belong to Italy: the **island of Sardinia**, to the West, and the **island of Sicily**, or '**Sicilia**', to the South-West.

Italy has an area size of **301,270 square kilometres**.

4. SOME USEFUL WORDS AND SENTENCES IN ITALIAN

Aeroporto = Airport

Italia = Italy

Buongiorno = Hello / *Arrivederci* (or: *ArrivederLa* if you want to be polite) = Goodbye

Per favore = Please / *Grazie* = Thank You

Si = Yes / *No* = No

Che? = what?

Non parlo italiano.
I don't speak any Italian.

Non capisco.
I don't understand.

Sono un richiedente d'asilo.
I am an asylum seeker.

Vorrebbe richiedere l'asilo.
I would like to ask for asylum.

Sono venuto dall'Inghilterra.
I have come from England.

Non conosco nessuno in Italia.
I don't know anyone in Italy.

E possibile aiutarmi?
Can you help me please?

Non ho dei soldi.
I don't have any money.

Ho bisogno di assistenza legale.
I need legal help.

Non ho nessun luogo in cui dormire.
I don't have anywhere to sleep.

Grazie per la sua aiuta.
Thank you for your help.

5. ORGANISATIONS IN ITALY THAT CAN HELP YOU

If you are calling from another country, the international code for Italy is: 0039

Consiglio Italiano per I Rifugiati (CIR) (Italian Refugee Council)

Provides support and advice to asylum seekers and refugees.

Address: Via del Velabro 5/a
00186 Rome
Telephone: (06) 692 001 14
Fax: (06) 692 001 16
Email: legale@cir-onlus.org
Website: www.cir-onlus.org

Stranieri in Italia (Foreigners in Italy)

Provides a telephone 'advice line' for all foreigners in Italy, including asylum seekers. The computer website has some useful information about the Italian asylum system in 9 languages: Italian, English, French, Spanish, Turkish, Albanian, Russian, Arab and Farsi (go to the website address, and click on "Vademecum Rifugiati" – or ask about this when you call the advice line!).

Advice Line: 166 105 612 (open from Monday to Friday, from 10am to 7pm)
Website: www.stranieriinitalia.it

Alto Commissariato delle Nazione Unite per I Rifugiati (ACNUR) (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

United Nations organisation working to assist refugees and asylum seekers. May be able to provide contact details for UNHCR office in your home country, if you are being sent back.

Address: Via Caroncini 119
00197 Roma
Telephone: (06) 807 81 55 / 807 71 19
Fax: (06) 808 23 38

Amnesty International Italian Section

Human rights organisation, that also campaigns for the rights of asylum seekers and refugees. Probably cannot help you directly, but may be able to give you useful contacts relating to your human rights.

Address: Via Giovan Battista de Rossi 10
00161 Rome
Telephone: (06) 449 01 ..?
Fax: (06) 449 02 22
Email: info@amnesty.it

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) - Italy

Provides advice and help to people who want to return to their country of origin, or who want to move to another country.

Address: Via Nomentana 62
00161 Rome
Telephone: (06) 442 314 28 / 442 314 34 / 442 314 39
Fax: (06) 440 2533
Email: MRFRome@iom.int

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN ROME:

Centro Accoglienza Stranieri

Provides practical help and support to asylum seekers and refugees in Rome.

Address: Via Zoccolette 17, 00186 Roma
Telephone: (06) 686 15 54 / 687 52 28

Servizio dei Gesuiti per i Rifugiati (Italian Jesuit Refugee Services)

Offers moral support and pastoral (christian) care, including programmes to help people to integrate into Italian society.

Address: Associazione Centro Ascalli – Servizio dei Gesuiti per i Rifugiati
Via degli Ascalli 14/a, 00186 Rome
Telephone: (06) 697 003 06
Email: astalli@jesref.org

Comunita S. Egidio

Provides social and legal assistance to asylum seekers in Rome.

Address: Piazza S. Egidio 3, 00153 Roma
Telephone: (06) 589 59 45
Fax: (06) 580 01 97

IN BOLOGNA:

Centro di Prima Accoglienza

Provides practical help and support to asylum seekers and refugees in Bologna.

Address: Via G. Petroni 9, 40126 Bologna
Telephone: (051) 236 136
Fax: (051) 260 066

IN MILANO:

Fondazione Franco Verga

Provides social and legal assistance to asylum seekers and refugees in Milano.

Address: Via Anfiteatro 14, 20121 Milano
Telephone: (02) 869 31 94
Fax: (02) 879 095

IN TRIESTE:

Centro Servizi per I Cittadini Extracomunitari ACLI-Caritas

Provides social and legal assistance to asylum seekers and refugees in Trieste.

Address: Via del Sale 4a, 34121 Trieste
Telephone: (040) 31 34 86
Fax: (040) 31 34 97