

GATWICK DETAINEES WELFARE GROUP



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INFORMATION PACK ABOUT SPAIN

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

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 Spain**
- 2. The Spanish asylum system**
- 3. Arriving in Spain**
- 4. Organisations in Spain that can help you**
- 5. Some useful words and sentences in Spanish**
- 6. *Also included is a Spanish Phrasebook***

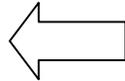
The information contained within this pack was, to the best of GDWG's knowledge, correct in July 2003.

1. WHY YOU ARE BEING SENT TO SPAIN

You are being sent to Spain 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**
- **Spain**
- **Italy**
- **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 Italy, for example. You can only ask for asylum in one of those two countries: Greece *or* Italy.
- **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 Spain before arriving. Because Spain 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. SPAIN'S ASYLUM SYSTEM

Spain's asylum system is similar to the British one, 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.

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 Spanish words for "I would like to ask for asylum".

They will ask you some **questions about your identity** and take your **fingerprints**. They will then give you an **appointment date** to come back for a **first interview**. While you are waiting for this next appointment date, you usually do not receive any help with accommodation or money.

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

It **can take some time** for your application for asylum to be processed. If the Spanish authorities decide to **refuse** your asylum application, you usually have the **right to appeal** against this. If you do not have a solicitor, ask **one of the organisations on page 5** for help.

3. ARRIVING IN SPAIN

➤ **SPAIN** is a country in South-West Europe. The Spanish name for Spain is **ESPAÑA**.

➤ The capital of Spain is **MADRID**, which is in the middle of the country.

The other big cities are **Barcelona** (in the North-East), **Bilbao** (in the North), and **Sevilla** and **Cadiz** (in the South).

➤ There main airport in Spain is called "Barajas International Airport". If this is where you arrive, you can find information on the Religious Services team there on page 6.

➤ In Spain, 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 **SPANISH**.

A lot of **Spaniards** (people from Spain) speak some English, but not everyone. There are some **useful Spanish words and sentences on page 5**.

➤ Because you will travel by plane from England to Spain, you will probably arrive at Spain's **Barajas Airport in Madrid**. This is Spain's main airport.

Map of Spain:



Spain has borders with 2 other countries:

France to the North-East,
and Portugal to the West.

The Mediterranean Sea is to the East of the country,
and the Atlantic Ocean is to the North and West of
the country.

Spain has an area size of **504,780 square kilometres.**

4. SOME USEFUL WORDS AND SENTENCES IN SPANISH

El aeropuerto = Airport

España = Spain

Buenos Dias = Hello / *Adiós* = Goodbye

Por favor = Please / *Gracias* = Thank You

Si = Yes / *No* = No

Que? = what?

No hablo Español.

I don't speak any Spanish.

No entiendo.

I don't understand.

Quiero pedir el asilo.
I would like to ask for asylum.

He llegado desde Inglaterra.
I have come from England.

No conozco a nadie en España.
I don't know anyone in Spain.

Me puede ayudar?
Can you help me please?

No tengo dinero.
I don't have any money.

Necesito un abogado.
I need a solicitor.

No tengo lugar donde dormir.
I don't have anywhere to sleep.

Gracias para su ayuda.
Thank you for your help.

5. ORGANISATIONS IN SPAIN THAT CAN HELP YOU

If you are calling from another country, the international code for Spain is: 0034

Asociación Comisión Católica Española de Migración (ACCEM)

Catholic organisation that provides legal advice and moral support to all asylum seekers (you do not have to be Catholic or a Christian!). The main office is in Madrid, but there are offices all over Spain.

Address: Calle Valenzuela 10, 1 Izqda
28014 Madrid
Telephone: (+34) 91 532 74 78/ 9
Fax: (+34) 91 532 20 59
E-mail: accem@sintax.es

Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado (CEAR)

Provides legal advice and practical help to asylum seekers. Also gives information about living in Spain. The main office is in Madrid, but there are offices all over Spain.

Address: Plaza de la Constitución No 2
Bajo, Local 15, 28760 Tres Cantos
Madrid
Telephone: (+34) 91 804 54 04
Fax: (+34) 91 804 68 86
E-mail: servjurideur@cear.es
Website: <http://www.cear.es>

Comité Internacional de Rescate (CIR)

Provides legal advice and practical help to asylum seekers.

Address: Calle Luchana, 36-4º dcha.
28010 Madrid
Telephone: (+34) 91 447 29 60
Fax: (+34) 91 447 23 23
Website: <http://www.ongrescate.org/>

Chaplaincy at Madrid Barajas International Airport

Cannot help you with your asylum claim but can maybe offer religious guidance and support.

Telephone: (+34) 91 393 6308
Fax: (+34) 91 521 7451

Spanish Red Cross

May not be able to help you directly, but can maybe put you in touch with the International Committee of the Red Cross and/or give you information about other organisations.

Address: Rafael Villa, s/n (Vuelta Ginés Navarro)
28023 El Plantío
Madrid
Telephone: (34) 91 335 44 44 / 335 45 45 (Emergencies)
Fax: (34) 91 335 44 55 / 335 45 55 (Emergencies)
E-Mail: informa@cruzroja.es
Web: <http://www.cruzroja.es/>

International Organization for Migration

International organisation that provides advice and help to people who want to return to their country of origin, or who want to move to another country.

Address: Calle San Bernardo
99 bis Bajo A
28015 Madrid

Telephone: (+34) 91 445 71 16 / 446 32 38
Fax: (+34) 91 594 32 83
E-mail: iommadrid@iom.int