

During the interview, you will have an interpreter to help you communicate in a language that you understand. The interpreter must translate exactly what you say, and does not participate in the final decision. If, during the interview, it seems that the interpreter is not correctly translating what you say, let the interviewer know, as well as your Guardian, who will be beside you during the interview.

Remember that at the interview, apart from your Guardian, the interpreter and the interviewer, you can ask for an expert such as your social worker, legal advisor or psychologist, to be there with you to help you better explain your situation, if you want. If you are a girl, you can ask for a female interviewer, where possible.

At the end of the interview, everything that was said will be read back to you by the interpreter, as it is written in a document called the **transcript** (*verbale*, in Italian).

You will be asked to sign this document to confirm that what is written is what was said. So if there is something you don't understand or that doesn't seem to be your words, you should say so. You can also ask to correct the transcript and/or add more information.

Nothing you say can be communicated to others without your consent.

Interviewer: one of the people from the Commission who will listen to your story. He/she will explain your story to the others in the Commission who will decide together on your case.

Interpreter: not a part of the Commission. It is a person who speaks your language and helps you communicate during the interview.

Support person: someone who can help you during the interview, if needed. It is up to you whether they are present or not.



DECISION

The Territorial Commission will decide upon the best kind of protection to give you according to your situation. There are three types of protection, depending on whether you are escaping from war, or running away for other specific, individual reasons. Ask the legal staff for more information.

The Commission may also decide not to give you any protection.

Remember that if you receive a negative decision or a different type of protection to the one that you were expecting from the Commission, you can **appeal the decision** in court. Talk to your Guardian and the legal staff to see if this might be the best solution for you.

4. Assistance and useful contact details

If you want to claim your rights, or you are afraid they are not being respected, talk to the centre staff or an adult who you trust, like your Guardian.

Your legal advisor is the first person to talk to about your case, but for more information about international protection, you can also call:

Save the Children +39 3929814506
Protection team

Write the name and number of your Guardian here: _____

Write the names and numbers of other important adults here: _____



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION: WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT WORKS.

A Guide for Unaccompanied Children in Italy.

1. What is this leaflet about?

This leaflet has some important information for under-18s (like yourself) who wish to **request international protection** in Italy. Not all unaccompanied children in Italy make this request because it depends on your particular story. Talk to your **Guardian** (*tutore*, in Italian) about your situation, so that together you can decide what is the best option for you.

Who is your Guardian?

An adult who is responsible for you and guides you throughout your situation in Italy. A Guardian is appointed by a **Judge** when your parents cannot take care of you. The Judge may need some time, so in the meantime the **Manager of the centre** where you live will act as your Guardian. You can talk with him/her about the most important decisions that need to be taken for you, including whether or not request to international protection.



2. What is international protection?

If your country cannot or will not protect you, Italy can give you **international protection**.

If you fear you might be in danger if you return to your country of origin, because of war, violence or because your rights are not respected, talk to your Guardian and/or legal staff. Ask them for information about what could be the best solution for you, and if it is a good idea to request **international protection**.

Centre staff: while you are staying in the centre, its staff will look after you and have a duty to take care of you: you can rely on various experts to help you, such as a legal expert, a doctor, a psychologist, a social worker, who can support and guide you during your stay.

Your Centre's interpreter: in the centre where you are staying, there will be an interpreter to help you communicate with others in a language that you understand.

You could receive international protection if you cannot, or do not want to, return to your country for one of the following reasons



You fear being killed



You fear someone may harm you



You fear being forcibly separated from your parents



You fear sexual abuse



You fear becoming a slave



You fear being forced to do something against your will



You fear being forcibly enrolled in armed groups and/or into military service



You fear being forced into prostitution



You fear being forced to marry someone you don't want



You fear suffering genital mutilation



You fear violence and/or discrimination for the way you are and/or how you act

Remember: you should decide together with your Guardian whether this option is best for you. **Read this leaflet also with your Guardian!**

Now you are in a safe place, you should rest and get your strength back. Use this time to let out your feelings – it is something that will naturally help you feel better.

You could talk to an adult you trust – the centre staff, your Guardian, or even a teacher or another adult you trust. If you don't feel you can talk, try to write or draw what you are thinking.

Learning Italian can help you, as well as interacting with others and doing things that are fun for you.

3. How do I request international protection?

Once you and your Guardian have decided together that requesting international protection is best for you, you should prepare your request. It is essential that you tell the truth to those assisting you during the procedure - they are obliged not to discuss it with others if you do not want them to. False declarations can have negative consequences for your case.

The centre staff and your Guardian will follow all the administrative requirements for your case.

REQUEST

A request for international protection must be presented at a Police station (**Questura**, in Italian).

You will be asked some questions there to understand your story, your life, your family and the journey that brought you to Italy. The answers will be written down in a form, known as C3, and they will help you even more to clarify what the best option for you might be.

Remember that only with your input may the best solution for you be found.

At this point, it is important to give reasons why you fear going back to your country. It may help to write your story down (or ask for someone to help you to do so) and present any supporting documents you have.



Police forces: in Italy they are involved in law enforcement and protection, and are responsible for identification of migrants; in the international protection process, they provide **permits of stay**.

Your Guardian will accompany you and assist you to complete the C3 form. A Police interpreter should translate for you in a language that you understand. If you are over 14, they will take your fingerprints.

Do you have relatives in another European country?

If you have relatives in another European country, there is a law, the Dublin Regulation, that can help you reach them in a safe and legal way. If you wish to be with them, let your Guardian and legal staff know, to see if it can work for you. In some cases, the Dublin Regulation allows your transfer from Italy to another European country, even if you have made an asylum request and had your fingerprints taken in Italy.



EVALUATION OF YOUR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION REQUEST

After you have presented your request for international protection at the Questura, it is evaluated by a group of people. Your input is necessary, so you will be called for a hearing or interview. The timing of the interview changes from place to place, and may take some time. Ask the centre staff about how long you might have to wait.

The people who will hear your case are part of the **Territorial Commission for the Recognition of International Protection (Commissione)**, abbreviated in Italian).

While you wait to have an interview, it is important to keep talking about your case with the centre staff and your Guardian, so that the most important parts of your story come out. Write your story down, if you have not yet done so; it can help your memory and help the Commission to better understand your asylum request. Don't hesitate to ask for help from your guardian and/or legal staff.

The **Territorial Commission** is made up of 4 persons who decide on your case together. Only one of them will hear your story. If you think it would be better, you can ask for all of them to hear your story. Talk to your Guardian about it.

THE INTERVIEW

At the interview, you can explain your story face to face and in more detail. It is important to talk about your family, your life in your country of origin, your journey, the reasons you left your country, and specifically why you cannot or do not want to return. If you are a girl and think that you might be exposed to specific risks because of your gender, don't hesitate to say so. If there are other things you think are important, feel free to talk about them during the interview.

The person listening to you needs to understand your story the best they can, and that is why they may ask many questions. This is to help you give as many details as possible on all aspects of your story and make the best decision for you.

If you don't understand a question, say so, and ask for it to be repeated. If you need a break, don't hesitate to ask.

Try to be as clear as possible. You know about the context where you come from better than anyone; try to give as full an explanation as possible, because it is important that everything comes out during the interview. It might be difficult to talk about painful moments in your life, but this is a decisive process for you.

If there are certain things you do not want to talk about, you should say so.