The Refugee Rights Centre is a newly founded project situated in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape. The centre falls under NMMU’s Faculty of Law and is located at Bird Street Campus. The main purpose is to assist and give legal advice to asylum seekers and refugees.
The difference between a Section 22 permit and a Section 24 certificate

- An asylum seeker is issued with a Section 22 permit on completion of their first interview at the refugee reception office.
- An asylum seeker is a person who has requested refugee status from the South African government and whose case is not yet finalised by the Department of Home Affairs.
- A spouse or a child’s application is normally included in the principal applicant’s application.
- A Section 22 permit does not recognise a person as a refugee, but will only serve as proof that a person submitted an application for refugee status.
- Remember that this permit gives an asylum seeker the same rights as a South African citizen. This permit must be renewed before its expiry date and until a decision has been made regarding a person’s status.
- A refugee is an asylum seeker who has successfully applied for refugee status. A Section 24 certificate will be issued to such a person.
- This certificate is valid for two years and can be extended.

Obligations of asylum seekers and refugees

- To obey the laws of South Africa.
- To renew their permits timeously and in person.
- To comply with the conditions stated in the Section 22 permit or Section 24 certificate.

We provide the following services to asylum seekers, refugees and urban migrants:

- Legal advice, assistance and protection.
- Support with the submission of asylum applications and applications for refugee status.
- Pro bono legal services and legal representation.
- Support with the refugee status determination procedure.
- Support with appeals against rejected claims.
- Support to access civil, social, economic and cultural rights.
- Representation in cases of unlawful arrest and detention.
- Support with application for permanent residence.

The contribution of the Atlantic Philantrophies and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is acknowledged.

Rights of asylum seekers and refugees

- Access to housing
- Health care
- Food and water
- Social security
- Education
- Freedom and security of the person

All other rights stipulated in Chapter 2 of the Constitution of South Africa with exemption of the right to vote.

Enquiries

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