



Dear friends,

We hope that you and your loved ones are all well and that you take good care of each other. Humanitarian Centre for Integration and Tolerance - HCIT, due to declaration of state of an emergency that occurred on 15.03.2020. was forced to, only temporarily however, change modus operandi, which resulted that our teams do most of the work from home, following the measures prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Serbia. Most important measures include staying at home in self-isolation and reducing social contacts to minimum level. The aim of these measures is to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This virus has been reported in most countries in the world and unfortunately, there are no vaccines yet.

**This situation affects the lives of all of us and is reflected in all segments of our society. Based on the Decision on the Declaration of a State of Emergency in order to prevent the spread of infectious disease COVID 19, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted on 24th March 2020 a Decision on the Status of Foreign Nationals in the Republic of Serbia during the State of Emergency.**

What is important to all of you who wanted to apply for asylum in the Republic of Serbia is that this basic human right was never abolished, it has been only put on hold for a limited period of time, and it is very important that you know that. During the state of emergency, police officers temporarily suspended taking of all biometric data due to safety reasons. In practice, this means that the registration of foreigners who wanted to seek asylum in the Republic of Serbia has been suspended only temporarily, while the state of emergency is still ongoing. This does not exclude your right to seek asylum on the territory of the Republic of Serbia after pandemic and state of emergency is over. All capacities of Ministry of Interior are focused now on combating transmission of this virus. The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia stipulates that a state of emergency may last for 90 days, or additional 90 days (all together 6 months).

Also, you need to comply with the measures prescribed in the Decision on Temporarily Restriction of Movement of Asylum Seekers and Migrants located in Asylum and Reception Centres in the Republic of Serbia, as well as to follow instructions of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia and UNHCR.

After the end of the pandemic and the state of emergency, HCIT lawyers will be again as always available to you to schedule registration in police stations and as legal representatives in the asylum procedure.

**Also, if you have any other questions, or would like to report any other developments, human right violation (especially if you have just arrived in Serbia), please feel free to call us at the following phone numbers. Thank you and stay well.**

## **Duty phones of HCIT teams:**

- **Subotica office: 064-6577052**
- **Arabic: 064-4017770 and 064-4217381**
  
- Sid office: 065-6177255
- Arabic: 065-2065737
- Farsi: 060-3461641 and 063-701792

Thank you for contacting us!

*Humanitarian centre for integration and tolerance, HCIT  
Vojvođanskih brigada 17, 21000 Novi Sad, email: [office@hcit.rs](mailto:office@hcit.rs)*

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