

## **MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR**

### **RESPONSE TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION SYSTEM DURING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY**

#### **1. What should I do if I wish to apply for international protection at the present moment?**

Given that this procedure must necessarily be carried out in person, it is not possible to make this application at the habitual places, in view of the current health crisis. Nevertheless, once normal business resumes, it will be possible to carry out all of the applications required.

Furthermore, we hereby inform applicants that the principle of non-refoulement shall be guaranteed for those who wish to apply for international protection on Spanish territory during this period (see answers to Questions 2 and 5).

#### **2. What happens if I have an appointment to process my application (interview with the National Police) or to renew my documentation during the state of emergency period?**

Once normal business resumes, the appointments that could not be held over these few weeks shall be rearranged, once the best way of implementing this reorganisation has been decided. Information regarding this matter shall be published on the web page [www.https://www.policia.es/documentacion/documentacion.html](http://www.https://www.policia.es/documentacion/documentacion.html)

Applicants are also reminded that the validity of the accreditation document that reflects the desire to apply for international protection, the “international protection application slip” (white slip) and the document that attests to your status as an international protection applicant (red card), shall be extended as long as the state of emergency and health crisis last, provided that these documents expire during this period or, having expired beforehand, the applicant has an appointment to renew said documents within the state of emergency period.

#### **3. What do I do if I have an appointment for a second interview at the International Protection Sub-Department/Office for Refuge and Asylum during this exceptional period?**

When normal business resumes, the International Protection Sub-Department/Office for Refuge and Asylum will contact all applicants whose appointments have been cancelled so that these can be rearranged. You do not need to take any further measures in this respect.

**4. What will happen with my international protection procedure or my application for recognition as a stateless person, which are currently being processed at the International Protection Sub-Department/Office for Refuge and Asylum?**

The International Protection Sub-Department/Office for Refuge and Asylum continues to work in a remote manner, based on certain restrictions. You do not need to take any additional step in this respect.

Should it be necessary for you to submit any documentation or allegation regarding your specific case, we request that this be done solely through electronic registration of same.

Should you wish to consult any specific matter, you can contact us through any of the customary departments, and, as a last resort, through [oar@interior.es](mailto:oar@interior.es). It is important to point out that this office cannot answer any doubts regarding prior appointments for procedures with the National Police, such as formalisation of requests or renewal of documents.

**5. If I cannot register my wish to apply for international protection, how can I gain access to refuge and asylum procedures?**

Given that it is not possible to register a desire to request international protection at the present time, those persons who wish to request access to refuge and asylum procedures should contact refugee and asylum-seeker reception organisations directly that are located within each province, where they can sign a declaration manifesting their intention to continue the application procedure once normal business resumes.