Asylum Interview Orientation Session

December 8, 2022
What is the Purpose of the Asylum Interview?

Do you meet U.S. legal requirements for asylum?

Your chance to tell your story to the Asylum Officer

Helps Asylum Officer make a decision on your case
What is the Asylum Office?
Who is the Asylum Officer?
Getting to the Asylum Office

Metal detector and bag scan
Waiting in waiting room
Fingerprints and photo taken

Asylum Officer will call you by the last three digits of your “A number”
Who Must Come to the Interview?

“Principal applicant”
Person whose name and information is at the top of I-589 asylum application

Spouse and children who are in the United States
Legally married for spouse
Children - unmarried and under 21
Interpreters

Asylum Office asks Dari and Pashto speakers to bring your own interpreter
If you do not, they will try to get an interpreter on the phone

It is BEST to BRING YOUR OWN INTERPRETER if you are able
Who Can Be an Interpreter?

**MUST BE:**
- Fluent in Dari and English

**MAKE SURE:**
- You understand each other!

**MAY NOT BE:**
- Family member who is a derivative on the case or a witness in the case
- Someone with an asylum application that is not yet decided
- Your attorney
How to Work with an Interpreter

Speak 2 or 3 sentences and then let interpreter translate

REMEMBER: The interpreter is a human - not a computer

Asylum Officer will ONLY HEAR WHAT THE INTERPRETER SAYS IN ENGLISH
What Questions Will the Officer Ask You?

Questions from form I-589

Questions about why you are afraid to return to Afghanistan

Questions about things that could bar you from asylum
What Questions Will the Officer Ask Your Derivatives?

Your spouse and children will be asked about their identifying information and asylum bars.

Your children will be asked asylum bar questions even if they are young.

You as principal applicant cannot act as the interpreter for your spouse and children.
How to Respond to Asylum Officer

Tell the truth!

If you don’t know something, tell the officer you don’t know
If you don’t remember something, tell the officer you don’t remember
If you are not sure, tell the officer you are not sure
If you don’t understand the interpreter, tell the officer!
You can ask for a break if you need a break
**How Do I Prepare for the Asylum Interview?**

- Review your application
- Review your declaration
- Make a list of any changes

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### Part A.I. Information About You

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Alien Registration Number(s) (A-Number) (if any)</th>
<th>2. U.S. Social Security Number (if any)</th>
<th>3. USCIS Online Account Number (if any)</th>
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<th>4. Complete Last Name</th>
<th>5. First Name</th>
<th>6. Middle Name</th>
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<th>7. What other names have you used (include maiden name and aliases)?</th>
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<th>8. Residence in the U.S. (where you physically reside)</th>
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<th>Street Number and Name</th>
<th>Apt. Number</th>
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<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Zip Code</th>
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<th>9. Mailing Address in the U.S. (if different than the address in Item Number 8)</th>
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<td>In Care Of (if applicable):</td>
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<th>Telephone Number</th>
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What Happens After the Interview?

Wait for decision

USCIS has 150 days from day you submitted I-589

Different possibilities:

Asylum granted
Notice of Intent to Deny
Denial
Questions?