



DRC DANISH
REFUGEE
COUNCIL



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Family-reunification

Practice and challenges

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DRC Danish Refugee Council

Private humanitarian organisation founded in 1956

31 member-organisations from civil society

Internationalt and nationalt work

Present in more than 30 countries providing emergency aid and humanitarian programmes

+7000 employed, +8000 volunteers

Our work with family-reunification / lobbying and reporting

- Meetings with politicians
- Reporting to the relevant international report mechanisms, e.g. UPR, Commissioner for Human Rights etc.
- Talking to media

Our work with family-reunification / counselling and legal aid

- DRC Danish Refugee Councils Voluntary advisory services for refugees all around Denmark
- Family reunification, citizenship, prolonging of residence permits, integration-issues etc.
- Assistance from the lawyers in the Asylum Department who take on the hard and heavy cases – also internationally

Paradigm shift – temporary stay

Danish Aliens Act sec. 7

Sec. 7, 1 Convention-status
Individual grounds for
persecution as mentioned in
the Refugee Convention

Sec. 7, 2 B-status
Individual grounds for
persecution not mentioned in
the Refugee Convention.
Before 2015: Including risk
from war/general security
situation

Sec. 7,3 Temporary protection
status implemented in 2015
Persons with no individual
asylum motive who flees from
a situation of generalized
violence e.g. civil war.

Family reunification

Danish Aliens Act sec. 9

Sec. 9, 1

Family
reunification for
spouses and
children under 15
years

Sec. 9c, 1

Family
reunification for
children over 15-18
and other family
members if very
special grounds

Sec. 9, 3

Residence permits
for unaccompanied
minors

Sec. 9b

Humanitarian
residence permits

Section 7, 3 – temporary protection status – statutory waiting period

- Syrians
- 1 year – then three years – then two years prevention of the right to family reunification
- M.A. V. Denmark in 2021 (two years)
- UNLESS special grounds

Biggest challenges

- Very strict demands for documentation for e.g. marriage, co-habitation, previous relationship
- Lack of proper assessment of the best interest of the child
- VERY long case assessment periods
- Different rules for family reunification for refugees
- Not enough focus on special grounds
- Not an automatic right to family reunification for children between 15-18 years



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