

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS DURING THE LOCKDOWN PERIOD?

PROTECTING RIGHTS OF REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS IN THE COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE:

COVID-19 does not distinguish on the basis of nationality, and all within our borders have a role to play in the containment of the virus. However, we all have the right to be treated justly under the law.

CAN I RENEW MY PERMIT OR PASSPORT?

The Department of Home Affairs has confirmed that the Refugee Reception Offices will be closed from 27 March-16 April 2020. If your refugee/asylum permit expires during this period, you will not be penalised or arrested provided you legalise your permit within 30 days of the lockdown being lifted. This includes status determination processes (RSDO interviews and RAA hearings).

CAN I KEEP MY SPAZA SHOP OPEN?

The lockdown regulations make no distinction between South African and "foreign-owned" spaza shops. All spaza shops, regardless of the nationality of the owner, can stay open during the lockdown, but permits to operate are required.

CAN I BE ARRESTED FOR BEING UNDOCUMENTED DURING THE LOCKDOWN?

Police and military have been deployed to make sure the lockdown regulations are adhered to. The regulations require you to carry identification when out of your home for essential purposes during the lockdown, and the authorities are empowered to ask to see this documentation when you are outside of your home.

9 APRIL 2020



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CAN I BE TESTED FOR COVID-19?

Screening will be done house-to-house by healthcare workers. They will ask you questions about your health to determine whether you need to go for a COVID-19 test. If it is necessary to be tested, the government is establishing free testing sites in various locations around the country.

CAN I BE EVICTED DURING THE LOCKDOWN?

Evictions have been suspended during the lockdown. This means no new evictions can begin during the lockdown period. Eviction hearings in court have been suspended, and eviction orders cannot be acted upon during the lockdown, even if the eviction order was granted before the lockdown.

DO YOU NEED SUPPORT?

For refugee and asylum seeker support you can contact:
UNHCR toll free help line | 0800 100 030

For counselling you can contact:

CSVR | +27 71241 1831

Lifeline | +27 861 322 322

To report violence you can contact:

Gender-based violence | 0800 428 428

Police violence:

Eastern Cape | 082 592 9888

Free State | 063 225 6081

Gauteng | 076 745 5718

Limpopo | 078 871 4811

Kwazulu-Natal | 079 895 2741

Mpumalanga | 072 881 4196

Northern Cape | 064 624 8203

North West | 078 163 6874

Western Cape | 073 890 1269

ARE YOUR RIGHTS BEING VIOLATED?

If your rights are being violated during the lockdown you can get access to free legal assistance from one of South Africa's public interest legal organisations.

**CALL THE LEGAL SUPPORT HOTLINE ON:
+27 66 076 8845**



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