

RIGHT TO HOUSING

These notes were produced as part of a collaboration between the Coordination asile.ge and the Law Clinic of the University of Geneva. They are intended for unaccompanied minors and unaccompanied young adults living in Geneva. Their purpose is to inform about certain rights in understandable terms to make them accessible to everyone. For more detailed information, you can consult the Law Clinic's brochure on the rights of young unaccompanied migrants.

Principles

If you are in an asylum procedure, you are in principle housed in a collective housing centre. The accommodation should be adapted to your needs as a minor, and you must be able to feel safe there. In some cases, you can ask for accommodation in a family or an individual accommodation, but without any guarantee.

If you are without legal status and you are a minor, the authorities have an obligation to provide you with suitable accommodation. If you are of legal age (18 years or more), you are entitled to certain minimum benefits, which include a place to sleep. However, to obtain these benefits, you must report to the cantonal authorities. Depending on your situation, this may lead to your expulsion from Swiss territory.

If you obtain a B permit, an F permit or an F-refugee permit, the Hospice Général must continue to house you for as long as you need, but will encourage you to look for accommodation on your own.

As an LGBTIQ+ person, you are entitled to special protection. It's therefore important to be able to talk about it with an adult you trust.

People who work in collective housing centres

Collective housing centres are managed by teams made up of:

- social assistants in collective intervention (ASIC) who develop activities within the collective housing centres, in conjunction with associations and the municipality. You can contact them for everything related to living together and neighbourhood issues.
- local social stewards (IS) who primarily take care of the technical aspects and the safety of the premises. You can contact the social stewards for everything concerning the buildings (door, window, WC, kitchen, furniture, etc.)
- security guards, especially at night.

The nurses of the Migrant Health Program (Programme Santé Migrants) ensure regular consultations. You can contact the nurses for all questions related to your health. If it is necessary to consult your doctor, they will tell you.

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Privacy in collective housing centres

In principle, you have access to a lockable cabinet to safeguard your personal belongings. People who visit you may be searched.

Security guards search everyone who enters the centre (foyer), including people who visit you. They may search your room and your belongings, even without giving you a specific reason. On the other hand, the police are not allowed to enter your room without your authorization or the authorization of a court. Security guards and other adults working in the collective centers cannot give this authorization on your behalf.

Find accommodation in Geneva

It is very difficult to find affordable accommodation in Geneva, and the waiting times are often very long.

The Hospice Général can offer you an individual apartment under certain conditions, especially if you are self-reliant.

You can also stay with private individuals who wish to accommodate refugees. The Hospice Général will be able to inform you about this possibility and help you with the process. One framework is called the “host family program” (programme famille d’accueil).

You can also search for accommodation on your side, by registering with public real estate agencies

(<https://www.fidp.ch/images/fichiers/inscription/Formulaire-demande-de-logement.pdf>).

You can create an alert on housing search sites (for example, immobilier.ch). In this case, you need to prepare your application in advance. Your social worker can help you with this process.

⚠ Warning: Beware of sites that offer you help for a fee, it's usually a scam. If you register for these kinds of services, even by just checking a small box, you may end up having to pay a lot of money. Before registering on sites, check with your social worker, a free legal consultation service, or a person you trust.

If you are in training, in apprenticeship or working, you can consult the AGLAE site, which lists accommodations for students and young workers.



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Addresses

AGLAE - Geneva Association for the accommodation of Apprentices and Students:
<https://aglae.ch/>

ADRET, intergenerational housing: www.adretlancy.ch/fr/Logements-pour-etudiants.htm

Secretariat of real estate foundations under public right / SFIDP :

Rue Gourgas 23bis, 1205 Genève,
+41 22 328 12 24
www.fidp.ch

Municipal property management / GIM:

Rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville 5, 1204 Genève,
+41 22 418 34 05

Asile LGBT (LGBT asylum) : rue de la Navigation 36, Pâquis,

+41 76 663 78 29
<https://asile-lgbt.ch/>

Asloca-Geneva (association for the defense of the right to housing):

Rue du Lac 12 (3e étage), Eaux-Vives,
+41 22 716 18 00
<https://www.asloca.ch/geneve/>



