



16 June 2020  
Ju2020/01529

**Ministry of Justice**  
Minister for Justice and Migration

Muhammad Shehada  
Euro-med Monitor for human rights  
World Trade Center II  
Route de Pré-bois 29  
1-1215 Geneva

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter.

You have asked Anne Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs, if she and the Government of Sweden intend to review among others the system of health care to asylum seekers. Since your letter includes reviewing the system of health care to asylum seekers the work within the Government is so distributed that it is I, as Minister for Justice and Migration, who will answer.

It is an exceptional situation that exists today in relation to the spread of covid-19 and the pandemic affects our entire society. The pandemic requires that all authorities adapt their activities to both combat the spread of infection and to ensure that the current legislation can be implemented to the extent possible in this situation.

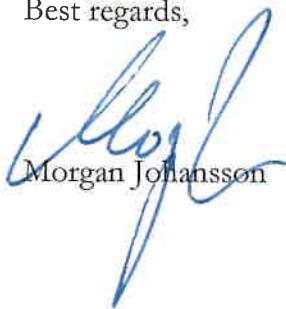
When you seek asylum in Sweden, you are covered by The Act (2008:344) on Health Care for Asylum Seekers and Others and are entitled to both emergency health care and health care that cannot wait. Asylum seekers are also entitled to healthcare under the Swedish Communicable Diseases Act (a law intended to prevent the spread of contagious diseases as for example covid-19). Children and young people under 18 years of age seeking asylum are entitled to the same healthcare as children resident in Sweden. The expenses paid for healthcare may also be reimbursed by the Swedish Migration Agency. In addition, all asylum seekers are offered a health assessment.

Due to the current situation, the Swedish Migration Agency has temporarily decided that former asylum seekers with a rejection on their asylum applications can keep their accommodation and their financial support even

after the time for returning voluntarily has expired. The former asylum seekers who have already lost their accommodation and financial support and was entitled to health care covered by The Act (2008:344) on Health Care for Asylum Seekers and Others are covered by The Act (2013:407) on healthcare for certain foreigners residing in Sweden without the required permit. This act also covers other foreigners residing in Sweden without residence permit and gives you the right to health care equivalent to asylum seekers.

Although entry restrictions, limited air traffic and infection prevention measures of course limit the practical possibilities of enforcing return decisions, both the Swedish Migration Agency and the Police Authority are working, in line with the rest of the EU Member States, to review what activities are possible in the current situation so that a return could be made as safely as possible within a reasonable time.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Morgan Johansson', is written over the typed name.

Morgan Johansson