

Importance of Legal Representation during the Asylum Process

Yuvraj Rathore

Summary of two digital stories

Video 1: Haseebullah

Haseebullah (name changed) worked in a media house in Afghanistan, as a result of which he was targeted by the Taliban. He fled to India in 2014, however, his case was rejected twice by the UNHCR, at the first instance as well as the appeal stage of the RSD process. His case was closed and his family was forced to live as undocumented migrants in India. In 2016 our organisation helped re-open his case, after which he was accepted as a refugee by UNHCR. In this video he and his family members talk about their experiences during the RSD interviews, the problems they faced while the interview was ongoing, the impact of UNHCR rejecting their claim, life as an undocumented migrant in India, the role played by the legal representative in making a stronger case for the family, and during the re-opening interview.

Video 2: Rosine

Rosine (name changed) is a Congolese woman and came to India in 2014 fleeing persecution in her home country. She was rejected by the UNHCR after her first interview and our organisation helped her secure refugee status after the appeal interview. In this video she talks about the difficulties she faced during the UNHCR RSD process, especially in regard to the translation of her claim. She presents in detail, her experiences at the office of the legal representative and the comfort she found in going forward with her appeal interview because of the legal representative's presence and help.