

Issues to consider during the assessments

1. Current circumstances, particularly including **asylum process related/ legal and social problems** that may be having a major impact on mental health.
2. Background information on person's **country of origin, culture and ethnicity**.
3. **Family history**, including childhood experiences.
4. **History of traumatic events and persecution** in country of origin (including arrests torture, sexual violence, war)
5. **Booking interpreters** if required or providing information in the appropriate format as determined by the individual, ensuring gender specific interpreters are available if requested.
6. **Social and political experiences** relevant to the person's asylum claim.
7. **Journey to exile** (when and how did they leave their country and how did they get here)
8. Family **separation** and losses
9. **Physical complaints** and injuries(including head injury sustained during torture or abuse)
10. PTSD symptoms & **Mental health status** prior to traumatic events
11. **Experiences** of isolation, hardship, racism
12. **Caring responsibilities, e.g.** welfare of children in the family