

WHAT IS A PASSPORT?

AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?



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WHAT IS A PASSPORT?

The passport is an official document issued by your country of origin.

It serves:

- **as an identity document** to state who you are and where you come from;
- **as a travel document** to cross borders and travel abroad.



It is not the same thing as a residence permit!



WHAT IT CONTAINS AND WHY IT MATTERS

The passport includes your personal information:



- first name,
- last name,
- date of birth, etc.

But be careful!
This information
is not the same in
every country.

Some countries don't have last names, others use different calendars → that's why sometimes problems arise when transcribing data or confirming identity.

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WHY IT'S IMPORTANT FOR FOREIGN MINORS

It serves to prove who you are and **where you come from**.

When you become an adult, it's essential for:

- **renewing** or converting your residence permit
- **traveling and returning** to your country (if your status allows it)



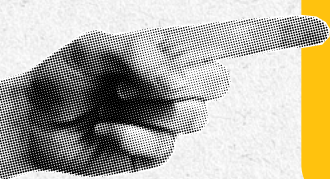
For this reason, it's useful to get information and start the procedure as soon as possible, if you are not applying for international protection.



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WHEN NOT TO REQUEST IT

If you are **applying for asylum or international protection**, you must not go to the consulate or embassy of your country.



Talk immediately with your guardian, social worker, or lawyer.

If you obtain international protection, you can later request an Italian Travel Document. (It allows you to travel to European countries, but it is not valid for returning to your own country).




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HOW TO REQUEST IT

If you haven't applied for asylum and can do so safely, here's how to apply for a passport:

- 1 Obtain the basic documents** from your country of origin (such as your birth certificate or identity certificate). Often, you'll need the support of family members or acquaintances.
- 2 Submit the application** to the consulate or embassy of your country in Italy.

 *Processing times and costs vary from country to country — always ask your guardian or a lawyer for help.*



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IMPORTANCE OF BIRTH DOCUMENTS

In many countries, not all children are registered at birth.

Without a birth certificate, it can be difficult to prove your age and identity.

Legal assistance is needed to resolve any discrepancies in the data.

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COMMON PROBLEMS

- Not being registered at birth
- Different data between Italy and your country of origin
- Consulate far away or absent in Italy (e.g., Benin or other African countries)
- Corruption or high costs to obtain documents



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The passport is very important, but **your safety comes first**.
Not everyone needs to apply for it, and every situation is different.

Always inform the person supporting you (guardian, educator) before making any decisions.

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THE HERE4U PROJECT

Are you between 14
and 24 years old?



Here4U is a free and anonymous service
that offers legal assistance and
psychological support, also in your
language.

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