

Preliminary Information Meetings (PIMs)

Information for young people



What is a PIM?

- The PIM is an alternative to the substantive (big) asylum interview for some young people.
- The PIM is a meeting between a young person and the Home Office decision-maker, with an interpreter and responsible adult present (**usually your Social Worker or Personal Advisor**).
- According to the Home Office – the PIM is not an interview.

 A PIM should be short and it should speed up the asylum process.

- You **do not need a legal representative**, but they can attend if you do have one.
- As of May 2026, PIMs are only available to young people from 2 **High-Grant nationalities**:

Eritrea



Sudan

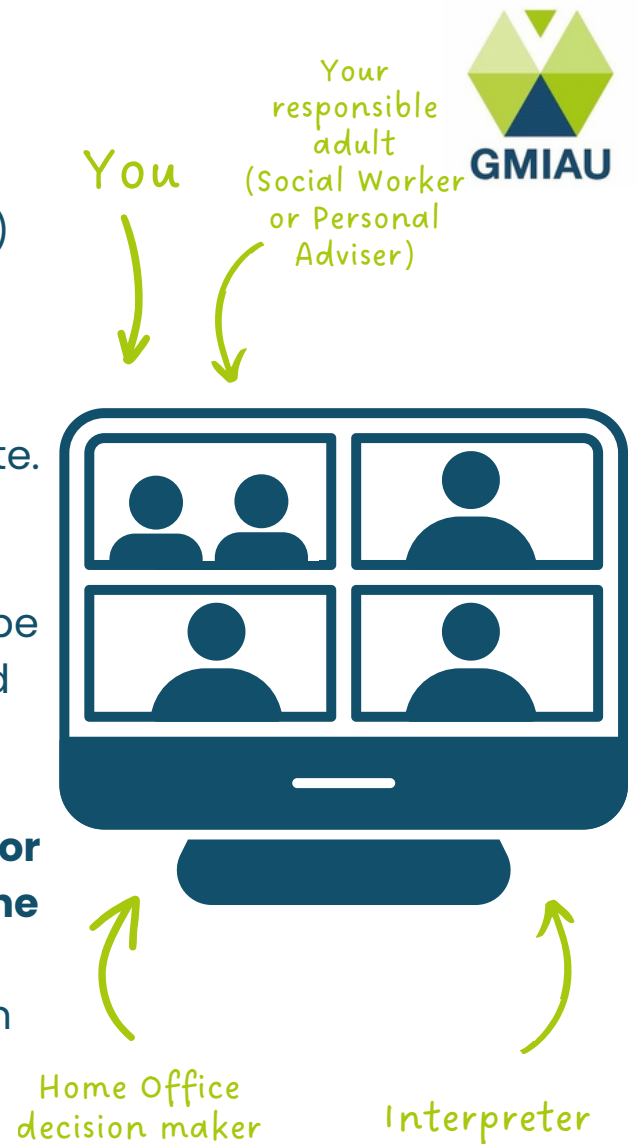


If your nationality is different – don't worry! Your asylum claim will still be considered under the normal process, which usually involves an interview where you can explain your reasons for claiming asylum.

If you are eligible for a PIM, you can ask your Social Worker or Personal Advisor to request a PIM invitation from the Home Office.

What happens at the PIM?

- The PIM is usually via a Teams (video) meeting, but you can request it in person.
- You will always be with your **Responsible Adult**, somewhere private.
- Brief questioning on: identity and nationality; basis of asylum claim; family background; any evidence to be submitted; issues around welfare and safeguarding; your journey to the UK; and national security questions.
- **You can ask for a break at any time, or your responsible adult can ask for one for you.**
- The meeting is not recorded. A written record is taken.



Before the PIM, your responsible adult or legal representative will be asked about your **family background** and **national security questions** by the Home Office. If you are comfortable speaking to your responsible adult about these things, they can send on the information, and you will not need to answer the same questions in your PIM. If they do not send this information the PIM will go ahead, including these questions.

What happens after the PIM?

- **The Home Office cannot refuse an asylum claim on the basis of a PIM.**
- They can either make a **POSITIVE DECISION**;
- Or, if more information is required, they can request a SEF form; a short interview, or a full substantive interview.