The Ministry of Justice and Public Security has instructed the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) to process cases under Section 38 of the Immigration Act (residence on strong humanitarian grounds or special ties to Norway) for applicants from Syria in line with clearer guidelines. The aim is to ensure that residence permits are granted only to those who meet the legal conditions.

While the humanitarian situation in Syria is described by many as serious, there are indications that conditions in the country overall are improving. As a result, several applicants may have their protection applications rejected. However, following an individual assessment, humanitarian conditions may provide grounds for a residence permit under Section 38.

The ministry has also instructed the UDI to assess whether residence permits granted on this basis should include restrictions in accordance with current regulations, such as not forming the basis for family immigration, particularly where the need for residence is considered temporary.

Syrians who have residence in Norway and wish to return may receive support through the UDI's return scheme. Those with pending or rejected protection applications may apply for assisted returns.

Source(s)

- Ministry of Justice and Public Security | Justis- og beredskapsdepartementet (19 February, 2026), Gir nærmere føringer for Utlendingsdirektoratets arbeid med saker der søkeren er fra Syria [Provides more detailed guidelines for the Directorate of Immigration's work with cases where the applicant is from Syria], https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/gir-narmere-foringer-for-utlendingsdirektoratets-arbeid-med-saker-der-sokeren-er-fra-syria/id3149675/

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Development type
Practice

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