

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Central Europe's Regional Office. 2010. OSOBITOSTI TLMOČENIA V AZYLOVOM KONANÍ [eng.: Specifics of Interpreting in Asylum Proceedings]. Budapest: UNHCR.

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In life, we experience a variety of situations, some of them involuntarily. When one applies for asylum, it is an unexpected experience and a necessity emerging from unfavorable living conditions in the country of their origin. The stress and the mental strain caused by being forced to leave your home and undergoing all the procedures and meetings necessary to be granted asylum are further compounded by not knowing the language of the country of application. In that case, all the interviews between the asylum-seeker and officers are mediated by an interpreter, who needs to be prepared for such situation accordingly.

Interpreting is always challenging in the given situations and each type of communication situation requires specific preparation. More specifically, interpreting for asylum seekers differs from other types of interpreting in terms of its added dimensions, such as the emotional load the interpreter must deal with, especially when mediating information between an emotional client and a decision-making officer. There is also the neutrality an interpreter needs to maintain when interpreting for a client from the same country/region. Additionally, one must consider the accuracy necessary when specifying a given situation of an asylum seeker, and lastly, maintaining attention during the entire interpreting situation without taking turns has to be taken in account as well. The Slovak publication *Osobitosti tlmočenia v azylovom konaní [Specifics of Interpreting in Asylum Proceedings]* covers these specifics and offers essential information for interpreters in asylum proceedings.

The text is comprised of four chapters, of which the first three include information in the form of questions and answers covering the necessary education of such an interpreter, what interpreting in asylum proceeding means, as well as pragmatic and culturally-conditioned specificities of asylum seekers. The first chapter describes the basic characteristics of a professional interpreter – what is and what is not considered professional in the profession. The second chapter focuses on language in social contexts and the polysemy associated with it as it influences how demanding each interpretation act is. The chapter also offers methods to achieve higher efficiency in interpreter's work. The third chapter discusses the pragmatic aspects of interpreting for asylum seekers as well as the specifics of asylum seekers that must be accounted for by the interpreter. The fourth and final chapter contains an Ethical codex for interpreters in asylum proceedings – general regulations including confidentiality, impartiality, accuracy of

translation, expertise and professional solidarity; and concluding regulations.

The practical nature of the publication *Osobitosti tlmočenia v azylovom konaní* [*Specifics of Interpreting in Asylum Proceedings*] makes it an essential guidebook for interpreters that already interpret in asylum proceedings, as well as for those who yet merely intend to since interpreting for asylum seekers represents a specific field of interpreting that requires not just basic knowledge of translation strategies - it is a complex activity interpreters must prepare for diligently. This publication shall help in this regard, especially when it comes to Slovak interpreters.