



TEMPORARY HUMANITARIAN PROTECTION (THP)

WHAT IS TEMPORARY HUMANITARIAN PROTECTION?

Temporary Humanitarian Protection (THP) is a national status granted by the International Protection Agency to failed asylum-seekers who may not be returned to their country of origin due to humanitarian reasons. It is regulated by Article 17A of the [International Protection Act](#).

The Act lists the following as possible reasons for which to be granted THP:

- An unaccompanied minor who is unable to go back to their country when the best interests of the child are taken into consideration;
- An individual who is very sick, on a terminal level, or has a very serious medical issue which cannot be catered for in their country of origin;
- A person who cannot be returned due to other humanitarian reasons **such as** a debilitating disability.

WHO MAY APPLY FOR THP?

All asylum-seekers who are found not to be in need of international protection, so who have had their applications rejected, may apply for THP.

The following persons are excluded from THP:

- If you committed, instigate or participate in a crime against peace, war crime, crime against humanity;
- If you commit a serious crime;
- If you are found guilty of actions contrasting the aims and principles of the United Nations as confirmed through the Preamble and Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter of the United Nations;
- If you are considered a danger to either to national security or to the community.



**HOW DO I APPLY
FOR THP?**

You may apply for THP either during your asylum procedure, or at any point after this has been concluded.

Applications should be made to the International Protection Agency. The Agency has **specific forms** for such applications, and once completed they should be sent to this email address: thp.ipa@ipa.gov.mt together with any supporting documents, if any.

It is recommended that you seek assistance from professionals, as the application needs to be accompanied by **documentation** confirming your vulnerability or reason for requesting THP, such as a medical certificate or a report from a social worker.

There is no appeal against a negative decision on a THP application.

**WHAT RIGHTS
ARE AFFORDED
TO THP HOLDERS?**

THP holders are entitled to a renewable one-year residence permit and to the same rights enjoyed by [beneficiaries of subsidiary protection](#).