

GREEK COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES

ANNUAL REPORT
01/01/2004 – 31/12/2004

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I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The key developments in the GCR in 2004 were the following:

1. The General Meeting of the GCR was held on the 23th of March 2004 according to the Articles of Association. After having been informed of the GCR's activities in 2003, the annual report for the same year and the action plan for the year 2004, the General Meeting απόλαξε the Board of Directors for the year 2003 and approved the proposed budget for the year 2004.
2. A considerable decrease of 19% was noted in the asylum applications in the EU Member States in the year 2004. A decrease in the asylum applications was also noted in Greece in the same year. While in 2003 8.178 asylum applications were submitted to the Greek authorities, in 2004 this number fell to 4.469, thus noting a decrease of 46%. Despite this reduction, there are still 50.000 asylum applications pending registration by the Greek authorities. Also, according to the data of the Ministry of Public Order (Asylum Office), there are 5.328 asylum applications that are pending examination at the first degree. Moreover, in 2004 just 11 people were granted refugee status and 22 people were granted humanitarian status. In 2003, asylum was granted in 3 cases and humanitarian status in 25 cases.
3. In this framework and despite the efforts of the competent authorities, the services provided by the GCR often continue to be the sole source of help that asylum seekers and refugees can turn to in Greece.
4. The GCR had undertaken a series of projects in the framework of the Community Initiative EQUAL and the European Council of Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) that were all successfully completed in 2004. The GCR also brought to a successful end the "New Start" Programme that falls within the Measure 2.1: Provision of Accompanying, Supportive Services of the "Employment & Vocational Training" Entrepreneurial Programme of the Community Support Framework 2001 – 2006. The GCR has also submitted a number of new proposals for the second phase of the Community Initiative EQUAL and it will initiate, in the second half of 2005 and in cooperation with the General Secretariat of Equality and the Centre for Research on Gender Equality Issues, a new project that targets at the women population in the framework of the new phase of the Provision of Accompanying, Supportive Services of the "Employment & Vocational Training" Entrepreneurial Programme.
5. The Service of International Development Co-operation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, considering the GCR to be the organization par excellence on issues of international protection, undertook to finance a new GCR project that offers legal advice and services to asylum seekers that have been victims of trafficking. The project is scheduled to continue up to August 2005 with many chances of its further continuation.
6. There were some changes in the GCR's staff in 2004. Although the number of the staff that is on the payroll remained the same, the number of the volunteers increased considerably. Moreover, on the 31st of December 2004 Mr Mastakas and Mrs Migirou resigned from the position of the Director and the Co-ordinator of the Legal Service respectively.

7. Based on the experience and the ideas of the Board of Directors, some new initiatives were taken in 2004 for the more efficient running of the GCR. So, it was deemed necessary to work out an Action Plan for the following year, to apply a scheme for the internal evaluation of the staff and a method for the self-evaluation of the work of the Board of Directors. The regular weekly meetings of the Director and members of the Board of Directors with the Co-ordinators of the different divisions of the GCR continued in 2004 as these meetings are considered necessary for the more effective co-ordination of the different services of the GCR.
8. Particular attention was paid to efforts to raise funds from the private sector. As a result, various publicity campaigns were organized, a closer cooperation with the Mass Media was attempted, and information leaflets and other printed matter on the activities of the GCR was produced.
9. The GCR organized a series of scientific – informative events in which members of its Legal and Social Services participated.
10. Members of the Board of Directors as well as members of the staff participated in Seminars, Conferences and Meetings that were organized by different Government departments and Services, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Non-Governmental organizations on issues concerning the harmonization of the Asylum Policy of the EU Member States, the Children’s Rights, the Illegal Trafficking of Women, Violations of Human Rights and a number of other issues regarding the promotion of the Refugee Law and the protection of refugees. In many of the afore-mentioned events the GCR’s representatives made presentations, gave lectures, or submitted essays and reports. The GCR is a member of many Non-Governmental Organizations, such as the Maragopoulos Foundation for Human Rights. The GCR is a member of the National Committee on Human Rights and a member of its Board of Directors has been elected in the Presiding Board of the afore-mentioned Committee.
11. Moreover, in 2004 the GCR intensified its contacts with the State Authorities and the local governments in order to further promote its aims. The GCR has also made contacts with companies that are members of the Greek Corporate Social Responsibility Network in order to inform them and raise their awareness on its work. At the same time, the GCR managed to collaborate with Research Institutes and Universities (for example the Panteion university, the Law School of the Athens University, **The Centre for International and European Economic Law**, το **Εργαστήριο Μελέτης της Μετανάστευσης και Διάσπορας** of the Athens University) in order to cooperate on issues of common interest.
12. The GCR collaborated with **the Network for the Protection of the Children’s Rights** in order to address the various problems that the minors who enter the country as asylum seekers and refugees face.
13. The GCR’s work attracted 70 volunteers in 2004 who offered their help in the GCR’s Legal and Social Service, thus promoting the GCR’s objects and acquiring, at the same time, valuable experience.

14. The GCR organized both in March and June 2004 a radio-marathon in order, on the one hand, to inform the public about the hardships of the refugees' life and, on the other hand, to raise money for the needs of the refugees.
15. The "IOLAOS" programme for the psychosocial rehabilitation of refugees with mental disorders not only continued in 2004 but it also extended its activities with the running of a sheltered apartment that can accommodate four people who are going through a de-institutionalization process.
16. The GCR obtained a generous donation from the *Johnson* company for the housing of five, acutely needy, refugee families.
17. The GCR published two books in 2004. *The Handbook on Multicultural Education*, edited by Mrs K. Sklavou, is particularly useful for everyone interested in the subject and it has been deemed a "best practice" by the competent EU Directorate. The second book, *Legal Aid to Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Greece*, written by Mrs E. Spathana, is a thorough, scientifically sound study that offers both a theoretical and a practical approach to the subject and has been received with praise by all those working in the field.
18. Representatives of the GCR were received by the President of the Greek Republic, Mr Konstantinos Stefanopoulos, in December 2004. The President expressed his genuine interest in the GCR's efforts to protect the rights of the refugees that arrive in Greece.
19. The GCR assisted 12.845 persons (8.783 persons the Legal Service and 4.062 the Social Service) in 2004. The great majority of these people were asylum seekers. 201 of them were unaccompanied minors.
20. There are about 7.000 **recognized refugees** in Greece. According to the data of the Ministry of Public Order, 4.469 foreigners are holders of the **ειδικού δελτίου αλλοδαπού αιτούντος άσυλο**, the "red card". There are also about 50.000 people who have applied for asylum but have not been given yet the "red card". It is also estimated that there are some thousands of foreigners who want to apply for asylum but they don't have access to the relevant procedure. Also, it is still pending the examination of 5.328 applications at the first degree, the examination of 2.000 to 3.000 applications at the second degree (before the "Appeals Board") and the examination of at least 131 applications for annulment before the Council of State. A great percentage of these appeals and applications for annulment were submitted by the GCR's Legal Service.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGAL SERVICE

1. Introduction

The activities of the GCR's Legal Service consist in providing free of charge legal aid to refugees, asylum seekers and holders of **residence permits on humanitarian grounds**; the training on issues regarding the asylum and the protection of refugees of the staff of national and international institutions and the staff of Non Governmental Organisations; the participation in working groups with an aim to promote issues regarding the asylum procedure. To be more specific:

- Provision of legal aid free of charge, assistance and representation of the asylum seekers in Greece: a) at the first degree of examination of their application and b) before the ad hoc advisory committee (the "Appeals Board") at the second degree of examination of their application or before the courts or other authorities, according to the evaluation and the requirements of each case (on merits),
- Maintenance of a national network of legal aid for the provision of efficient assistance to asylum seekers;
- Monitoring of political/ legislative developments and organisation/ participation in informative seminars.

2. Activities

2.1 Assistance during the Administrative and Judicial Formalities

Between January 2004 and December 2004, 3.163 asylum seekers (2.756 cases) were registered with the GCR. 68 of them were unaccompanied minors. All of these asylum seekers were provided with initial orientation and guidance regarding the asylum procedure, the situation in Greece, their rights and their obligations.

Legal counselling and support was rendered to 8.783 individuals/ 7.658 cases regarding the access to/ and the further support during the asylum procedure, the issue and the renewal of papers, the representation before the courts, the resettlement procedure, etc.

Interventions before the Greek authorities have been realised for the benefit of 1.834 individuals/ 1.624 cases regarding issues concerning the access to the asylum procedure.

4.411 individuals/ 3.980 cases received legal aid for the follow-up to the course of their asylum applications, the issue and the renewal of their documents, the acceleration of the whole procedure, etc.

For 1.817 individuals/ 1.643 cases of the afore-mentioned individuals/ cases, interventions were deemed necessary and were realised before the competent authorities with phone calls, faxes, e-mails, visits – especially weekly visits to the Attica Police Directorate and to the Ministry of Public Order for the acceleration of the asylum applications' examination as well as for the further processing of issues before the Ministry of Public Order.

It should be noted that 1.377 individuals/ 1.292 cases received assistance from the GCR for the submission of their recourse before the Minister of Public Order regarding the examination of their asylum application at the second degree.

126 individuals/ 98 cases received assistance for the submission of their application regarding the granting of humanitarian status. 14 applications were submitted for the “ab initio” examination of asylum applications.

Legal counselling was given to refugees on issues of family reunion, obtainment of travel documents and naturalisation. 13 applications for family reunion were submitted in the Ministry of Public Order.

Legal counselling was also provided to 20 cases regarding their voluntary repatriation to Afghanistan.

Interviews in order to evaluate the need for further legal aid were realised with 2.225 individuals/ 1.905 cases.

In particular, private interviews were realised with 1.512 individuals/ 1.293 cases at the premises of the GCR, with 96 individuals/ 92 cases in detention centres and with 617 individuals/ 607 cases at arrival points and Reception Centres.

10 missions were realised at arrival points and Reception Centres for the provision of legal aid to newcomers.

In particular, the following missions were realised:

- Kymi, Evia (09/01/2004)
- Karystos, Evia (06/02/2004)
- Chania, Crete (16 -17/03/2004)
- Patmos (26 – 27/04/2004)
- Mytilini, Lesvos (04 -05/05/2004)
- Komotini & Alexandroupoli (29 – 31/07/2004)
- Samos (24 – 25/08/2004)
- Mytilini, Lesvos (24 -27/10/2004)
- Mytilini, Lesvos (09 -11/11/2004)

The missions in Lesvos showed an increase in the number of unaccompanied minors from Afghanistan who are kept in detention centres. The GCR made an unofficial record of them and it was found that there are about 162 unaccompanied minors in the island. The arrival of unaccompanied Afghan minors and their detention in conditions that violate the principles set by the international and national legal framework for their protection and, generally, the situation of the newly arrived in the island of Lesvos made the GCR's Legal Service to remonstrate with the relevant authorities against the degrading conditions of their detention.

A representative of the Legal Service attended 44 ordinary meetings of the Ministry's of Public Order Appeals Board in order to support 276 asylum seekers (255 cases) before the Board.

During the year 2004, lawyers – members of the Legal Service of the GCR defended before the Criminal, Administrative and Civil Courts of the country various cases of asylum seekers.

Also, during the year, the members of the Legal Service of the GCR offered legal counselling and assistance to 385 asylum seekers with issues concerning their social integration and employment situation.

2.2 Education – Promotion of the Refugee Law

In 2004, members of the GCR Legal Service participated in a great number of Workshops, Meetings, Seminars, Conferences and Press Conferences organised by the Ombudsman, the National Committee for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Non Governmental Organisations regarding issues related to Children's Rights, Illegal Trafficking of Women, Violations of Human Rights as well as the promotion of the Refugee Law in general. In most of the afore-mentioned events the representatives of the Legal Service made presentations, gave lectures, or submitted essays and reports.

2.3 Implementation of European Programmes

- In the framework of the programme “Phare Twinning Latvia”, the participation, as EU experts, of members of the GCR's Legal Service was continued with visits in Riga of Latvia that aimed at boosting the know-how and improving the structures as well as at the joint submission of proposals for Latvia's harmonisation with the European Law regarding asylum and immigration issues.
- In 2004 started the implementation of the European Programme “Strengthening Refugee Participation in European Asylum Policies and Programmes” with emphasis on the voluntary repatriation of the exiles. The leader of the programme is the European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE). The Legal Service of the GCR as well as NGO's and Refugee Associations from another 4 EU Member States participate in the programme.
- The Legal Service of the GCR, in co-operation with the Ministry of Public Order, undertook the implementation of the European Programme “ARGO” in 2004. The programme aims at promoting the co-operation on asylum issues among the relevant administrative authorities and the harmonization of the Greek legislation on asylum with the European directives. In the framework of this programme three conferences were realized in Greece and one in Portugal.
- The GCR's Legal Service filled in the Questionnaires of the European Council concerning the Greek legislation on asylum, the intergovernmental agreements about the readmission of deportees, the protection and the treatment of the Iraqi refugees by the Greek Authorities.
- A member of the GCR's Legal Service participated in a two-day workshop in Vienna that was organized by ACCORD for the evaluation of the training methods, the networking system and the provision of information about the countries of origin.
- On behalf of ECRE, the GCR's Legal Service prepared the annual report for Greece on asylum and refugee issues.

2.4 Cooperation with NGOs – Working Groups

- The GCR's Legal Service organised a workshop in the framework of the initiative for the creation of a network of NGOs that are active on asylum issues. 9 NGOs participated in the workshop.
- The GCR's Legal Service, in co-operation with the Bar Association of Athens, organized a round-table discussion on the "European Union and Asylum" on the occasion of the commemoration of the Refugee Day (17/06/2004).
- The **Εργαστήριο Μελέτης της Μετανάστευσης και Διασποράς** of the University of Athens and the GCR's Legal Service organized a conference on the topic of the "Social Inclusion of Asylum Seekers in Greece: an Incomplete Attempt?" ((10/12/2004).
- The GCR's Legal Service organized a discussion on the subject of "Inclusion and Employment of the Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Greece" (14/12/2004).
- During the year, members of the GCR's Legal Service gave interviews to printed and electronic mass media, worked together with other NGO's on individual cases of refugees and had regular meetings with representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIAL SERVICE

1. Introduction

The aim of the department is to facilitate the integration and the attainment of independence of the asylum seekers, the refugees and those admissible under humanitarian status. The activities of the social workers are shaped according to the needs of the people served.

- The Central Social Service provides counselling and information and contacts Institutions and Services in order to help the people served to settle various educational, health, vocational training issues, etc.
- The Reception of Newcomers focuses primarily on ensuring accommodation in Reception Centres and temporary accommodation in hotels in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity.
- The Employment Service, operating in the framework of the Community Initiative EQUAL, aims at referring the people served to job positions.
- The “PYXIDA” Intercultural Centre facilitates the integration of the people served through activities such as the instruction of the Greek language, tutorial teaching, setting up and operation of hobby groups, cultural activities, etc.

2. Activities

2.1 Central Social Service

During the year, the GCR’s Social Service provided counselling and assistance to 523 cases. At the same time, the support to refugees and asylum seekers that had failed to resolve the problems they faced was continued. Moreover, the Central Social Service conducted counselling sessions with 850 individuals and proceeded to 2.474 interventions in Institutions and Services for the arrangement of various problems concerning the integration of the people served into the Greek society. More specifically, the Social Service intervened in 196 cases concerning financial issues, in 342 cases concerning employment issues, in 1.303 cases concerning social issues, while it referred 536 individuals to hospitals and 70 people to mental hospitals.

In co-operation with the relevant Institutions and Organizations, the Social Service managed to send 36 children to summer camps free of charge. Also, with the valuable help of volunteers, the Social Service managed to distribute clothes, various sorts of foodstuffs and other articles, all coming from donations of individuals and business enterprises, to a great number of refugees and asylum seekers. Furthermore, financial aid was given to 53 particularly needy cases. The Employment Service assisted 1308 individuals in issuing work permit, TIN, insurance booklet, etc. Finally, 148 individuals were placed in job positions.

2.2 Reception of Newcomer Asylum Seekers

The Reception of Newcomer Asylum Seekers was financially supported by the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity and operated in cooperation with it as the ministry assigned to the GCR the coordination of the references for newcomers in need of

accommodation in Reception Centres, hostels and hotels. During the year 2004, the Social Workers assisted 1.023 individuals and attended to the housing of 357 of them. Specifically, 149 individuals were admitted to Reception Centres, 146 to hotels, and 62 to other accommodating facilities.

Meanwhile, the Social Service realized 843 interventions concerning the settlement of health issues (medical tests, treatments, medical attendance, securing of artificial limbs and paramedical material), 1120 counselling sessions and 1214 informative interventions on integration issues (education, health, employment).

In 2004, the Reception Department also covered the needs of particularly vulnerable cases, like 151 unaccompanied minors, 12 persons with serious disabilities, 64 women lacking a supportive social environment, 119 individuals with very serious health problems, 29 one-parent families, 32 large families and 31 pregnant women. In 2004, the particularly vulnerable cases amounted to 62% of the total number of people served by the GCR's Social Service, while, in 2003, these cases amounted to just 29%.

2.3 The Intercultural Centre "PYXIDA" (compass)

The Intercultural Centre "PYXIDA" organized various educational and cultural activities in 2004. More specifically it offered,

- Greek language classes for adults
- English language classes for adults
- Computer classes for adults
- Preparatory classes for young children who were about to enter school
- Tutorial classes to primary and secondary school students
- English classes for children and adolescents
- Computer classes for children and adolescents
- Various cultural activities (many in co-operation with other cultural institutions like the British Council, the Child's Museum, the Planetarium, etc)

2.4 Provision of Accompanying, Supportive Services – The "New Start" Programme

The "New Start" Programme falls within the Measure 2.1: Provision of Accompanying Supportive Services of the Entrepreneurial Programme "Employment and Vocational Training" of the Community Support Framework 2001 – 2006 and aims at improving the immigrants' and refugees' opportunities for their social and employment integration into the Greek society.

The main objectives of the "New Start" Programme are to help the participants to improve their knowledge of the Greek language, to acquire vocational skills or to master a craft, to get informed about the labour relations and the way the various Insurance Funds operate in Greece.

260 persons benefited from the Programme as they received individual counselling in legal and employment matters. As a result, 139 of them found a permanent, a temporary, or a subsidised job. About 90 people attended the Greek language courses. Also, in the framework of the Programme, workshops, conferences, antiracist and informative activities were organized, brochures were printed and newsletters were edited.

In the framework of the “New Start” Programme, the *Handbook on Multicultural Education* was published. This handbook aspires to be of great help to the teachers of all grades in their effort to effectively receive and integrate the foreign students in their classrooms. A section in the handbook offers advice and guidance to the foreign students and their parents by mentioning the most common problems and difficulties that these students face at school and by indicating effective practices for overcoming these problems. This section has been translated into 7 different languages.

3. Education – Promotion of social integration

In 2004, the members of the GCR’s Social Service participated with interventions, recommendations, reports and presentations in numerous Working Groups, Workshops, Meetings, Seminars, Conferences and Press Conferences organised by various Institutions and Organizations.

Members of the Social Service followed members of the Legal Service in 2 missions to asylum seekers’ entry points in order to provide social assistance to newcomers and to discuss with the local authorities about the possible solutions to the pressing problems that accumulate in the entry points.

During the year 2004, the GCR’s Social Service strengthened its co-operation with providers of dental, medical, psychiatric care and pharmaceutical services. The Social Service also strengthened its relations with Institutions, Universities, the Ministry of Education, Municipalities, Communities, Prefectures, the Social Services Departments of various Services of the Public Sector, the Juvenile Prosecution Service and the Network for the Protection of Children. Because some of the afore-mentioned organizations do not deal with issues concerning refugees, asylum seekers and the people under humanitarian status, the Social Service undertook to inform and sensitize these organizations to the serious problems that these people face, thus obtaining to cover the acute needs of some particularly vulnerable cases.

4. “IOLAOS” PROGRAMME FOR THE PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES WITH MENTAL DISORDERS

In 2004, the work on the rehabilitation of refugees that present mental disorders continued. The “Iolaos” special Unit, which was set up for this particular cause in 2001, consists of the Hostel and the Day Centre and it is financed by the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity.

Moreover, in 2004, the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity approved of the GCR’s request for financing a sheltered apartment that will accommodate people who are going through a process of de-institutionalization. The apartment has started its operation with the object of encouraging its tenants’ independent living in order to prepare them for their de-institutionalization and their autonomous living in society.

The innovative character of the “IOLAOS” programme has been recognised both by its supervising authority (the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. As a result, the programme has been characterized as a “best practice” example to be imitated by other organizations abroad.

5. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIONS

The GCR co-operates internationally with:

1. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
2. The European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)
3. The international Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)

The GCR has also examined the possibility of participating in a variety of activities in the framework of EURASIL.

In addition, joint projects with the UNICEF and the UNESCO have been planned following discussions that took place between the GCR and the Presidents of the National Committees of the afore-mentioned Organizations.

6. PRESENCE OF THE GCR IN WIDER COLLABORATIONS

1. NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS (NCHR)

The GCR is one of the 6 Non-Governmental Organisations that are members of the NCHR.

2. INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION SERVICE (IDCS)

The GCR participates in the NGO National Counselling Committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The GCR is also a member of the Network of the NGOs' with a European Orientation that was established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

3. THE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE "EQUAL"

The GCR, through the Ministry of Labour, participates in two Development Partnerships of the Community Initiative "EQUAL" that were approved in May 2002.

Subprogramme 1. Measure 1. Development Partnership "Equality" led by KEK INE GSEE Aim: the development of a total quality system for counselling support and employment services.

Subprogramme 5.1. Development Partnership "Anadrasi – Istos" led by the Greek Section of the Red Cross Aim: the creation and development of a co-operation network for the support of the asylum seekers.

7. SENSITISATION OF THE PUBLIC FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE REFUGEES – FUNDRAISING FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR - OTHER ACTIVITIES

The effort for raising funds from the private sector continued in 2004 with the valuable help of a group of volunteers. In particular,

1. Proposals for corporate sponsorship were made to various business enterprises and an agreement was reached with the companies CRAFT and JOHNSON.
2. The GCR came into extensive contacts with business firms that are members of the Greek Corporate Social Responsibility Network in order to inform them about its work and to secure collaborations, according to each firm's specific field of activity.

3. Collaborations with Rotary Clubs in Athens were initiated aiming at the organization of various activities and the collection of donations.
4. The GCR set up a press office in order to regularly dispatch press releases both to the printed and the electronic mass media.
5. The GCR organized a series of information campaigns and fund-raising activities.
 - On the 15th of June 2004 the GCR initiated the “Solidarity Chain” campaign seeking, on the one hand, to inform the public on the various aspects of the refugee phenomenon in Greece and, on the other, to raise money for the refugees’ needs, mainly through the creation of a network of donors. The various **Greek Refugee Associations** were very active in promoting the idea of the “Solidarity Chain” among their members who are primarily descendants of the Greek refugees from Asia Minor
 - An auction of works of fine art took place in Iraklion, Crete on the 7th of April 2004 in co-operation with the Committee on Human Rights of the Bar Association of Iraklion. The earnings from the auction were offered to the GCR
 - The GCR continued its information campaign in the private schools of Athens. The innovative character of this campaign is that the students themselves carry out research on various refugee-related issues and present their work to their classmates, while, at the same time, they encourage their peers to raise funds for the refugees in Greece.
 - A number of other activities were also organized in order to promote various aspects of the work of the GCR.

8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The GCR Board of Directors wishes to express their acknowledgments to all these who contributed to its work in 2004.

- The Ministries of the Interior, Foreign Affairs, National Economy, Health and Social Solidarity, Public Order, Culture, Labour, Education, Justice
- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- The European Commission
- The Prefecture of Attica
- The Centre of International European and Economic Law (CIEE)
- The Ombudsman
- The **General Secretariat for the New Generation**
- The **General Secretariat for Equality**
- The **Network for the Protection of the Rights of the Child**
- The Committee on Human Rights of the Bar Association of Iraklion
- All the Bar Associations that supported and promoted the GCR’s initiatives
- The NGOs in Greece and abroad that cooperated closely with the GCR
- The S & B Industrial Minerals Company
- The Johnson and Craft companies
- The radio-station MELODIA FM
- The Athenian and the local newspapers that were keen to publish information on the Radio-marathon, the Works of Art Auction and all the appeals for help that the GCR made to the public and the Authorities, as well as the TV channels
- The artists and the cultural institutions that offered the works of art for the auction

- All the volunteers who offered with enthusiasm their valuable time to the causes of the GCR
- All the private sector donors, that is the members and the friends of the GCR
- All the people who believe in and support the work of the GCR.

Finally, the Board of Directors wish to express their warmest thanks to all the staff members that have worked with fervency and devotion with the sole aim to assist the refugees.

Athens, 13 April 2005

Iro Nikolakopoulou – Stephanou
President

Anna Papadimitriou - Tsatsou
Secretary General