

Lesbos Bulletin

Update on the EU response in Lesbos, by the Greek Council for Refugees & Oxfam



Aerial view of Mavrovouni camp. Tents can be seen built on the shores of the sea. March 2021. Photo by Giorgos Moutafis

SUMMARY

As many families in Mavrovouni ('Moria 2.0') prepare to weather their second winter in tents, living conditions and bureaucratic incompetence remain a daily reality for many camp residents. Facilities and infrastructures are absolutely inadequate, with protection issues in the camp affecting single women, survivors of gender and sexual based violence, and children. Asylum seekers have been subjected to unjustified and disproportionate limitations on their freedom of movement and a significant portion of the population of the camp remains unvaccinated. Concerningly, in the last months, the management of the camp has denied UNHCR access to new arrivals in the quarantine area, calling their involvement 'unnecessary'.

A significant number of vulnerable asylum seekers have received a rejection of their application in second instance and remain in legal limbo. Their return to Turkey is impossible due to the suspension of returns, but an application of a subsequent application is hindered by recent legislation amendment and bureaucratic failures. The Greek authorities imposed an unjustified fee to second subsequent applications but has failed to define the way that it may be paid. As a result, many asylum seekers on Lesbos are prevented from applying for international protection and are deprived of health insurance, medical care, and proper reception conditions.

In September, the Greek government opened the new 'closed and controlled' center on the island of Samos. Exit from the new camp, surrounded by two razor wire fences and video surveillance, is permitted only during specific hours of the day. The camp's location and prison-like structure results in the complete isolation of asylum seekers and undermines any hope of integration.

CALL TO ACTION

The Greek Council for Refugees and Oxfam are calling on EU member states' governments, with the support of the European Commission, to accept their collective responsibility for those who seek asylum in Europe.

The Greek Council for Refugees and Oxfam are calling on the government of Greece, with the support of all other EU member states' governments and the European Commission, to:

- Monitor the living conditions of migrants in the camps and ensure that they are not deprived of basic services, financial aid or of their freedom of movement
- Use their influence to encourage the Greek government to put an end to the legal limbo of vulnerable migrants whose application has been rejected and are deprived of access to health insurance and medical care.
- Ensure that the new camps funded by the EU will not turn into *de facto* prisons for asylum seekers where their right to private life is violated by surveillance mechanisms and basic human needs such as access to efficient medical care are denied.

In addition, the Greek Council for Refugees and Oxfam are calling on Greece, with the support of the European Commission, to:

- Make sure EU financial aid is supplied in a timely manner to asylum seekers. Leaving people with no cash assistance strips causes enormous and unnecessary obstacles.
- Ensure that all migrants living in the camps have full and informed access to vaccination against covid-19.
- Remove the fee for each subsequent asylum application after the first and accept subsequent applications by migrants trapped in legal limbo between Greece and Turkey.
- Abandon the strategy of "closed and controlled" centers that isolate asylum seekers from the local communities and prevent any integration prospects.
- Abandon the unjustified and unfair restrictions of freedom of movement of asylum seekers that turns the camps into *de facto* prisons.
- Respect the right to personal and family life of the asylum seekers and ensure safety mechanisms of the new camps protect the right to privacy.

Greek's failure to plan infringes on refugee's rights on Lesbos

According to the most recent data, about 2,797 asylum seekers live on Lesbos.¹ The vast majority of them, 2,620 (94%), are in Mavrovouni Temporary Reception & Identification Center (RIC) ('Moria 2') in substandard conditions.² The majority of the population is from Afghanistan (72%), Somalia (9%) and Democratic Republic of Congo (5%).³ A third of them are children (31%), with nearly 1 out of 4 children younger than 12 years old.

The Greek authorities' inability to plan continue to cause confusion and distress to asylum seekers on Lesbos and deprive them of basic rights.

Delays in the provision of cash assistance

Greece has an obligation to provide so-called 'material conditions' to applicants for international protection, in accordance with the requirements of EU law (Article 17 Directive 2013/33/EC). In particular, according to the said directive, as it was incorporated into the Greek legal order with Law 4375/2016 and Law 4636/2019, material reception conditions "*are the reception conditions that include the provision of shelter, food and clothing, in kind or in the form of financial assistance; or coupons or a combination of the three, as well as an allowance for daily expenses*".

On 1 October 2021, the Ministry of Migration and Asylum took over the provision of EU-funded financial aid to asylum seekers from UNHCR.⁴ The provision of financial aid is an important part of material reception conditions. Despite its importance, about 36,000 people did not receive their cash assistance in October.⁵ The Ministry of Migration and Asylum confirmed that financial aid had not been given to asylum seekers at that time.^{6,7} Instead, the Ministry provided asylum seekers with portions of food, reportedly of very poor quality and often not fully cooked.⁸ On 1 November, the Secretary General for Immigration Policy sent an invitation to all NGOs registered in the National Register of Greek and Foreign NGOs to submit proposals for actions to the National Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) regarding the financial aid programme.⁹ To date, no cash assistance has been provided. As the handover of the program management from the Ministry to NGOs will be a lengthy procedure, this means thousands of people will be without much needed cash for the foreseeable future.

Freezing of each subsequent asylum applications' registration after the first

A recent amendment of asylum legislation imposed a fee of 100 euro for each subsequent application after the first submitted by any applicant.¹⁰ 'Subsequent application' is a further application for international protection submitted after a final negative decision has been taken on a previous application; new substantial elements need to have arisen or been submitted by the applicant for the application to be found admissible, and thus be examined on the merits.¹¹ The amendment violates EU law. The submission of a subsequent application forms part of the fundamental right to asylum enshrined in Article 18 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.¹² Moreover, Greece has already incorporated the Asylum Procedures Directive provisions on special procedural rules for the rapid and efficient processing of subsequent applications.¹³

In practice, this new obstacle has resulted in a *de facto* inability of any second subsequent application since the implementation of the new legislation (4 September 2021), as the Greek authorities failed to define the way in which the fee could be paid. The combination of an unlawful amendment and bureaucratic incompetence has resulted in hundreds of asylum seekers in the Greek islands being prevented from submitting a subsequent application.

Shortage of oil gas and electricity

Hundreds of people in Mavrovouni camp were left with limited access to electricity and heating, with winter approaching.¹⁴ This is due to the generator maintenance contract not being renewed by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, despite the contract with the Greek army expiring on 30 September. Many Mavrovouni residents report that they still only have electricity for 1-2 hours during the morning and 1-2 hours during the night.¹⁵ The lack of electricity and thus lighting is also causing protection risks, particularly for women. Women in Mavrovouni report sexual harassment and assaults on a regular basis, especially during the night due to inadequate lighting and slow response by the police.¹⁶

Safety issues

Other security issues for single women and single-headed families remain critical, as there is still no safe space for women in the camp. Many organizations, including UNHCR and NGOs operating on Lesbos, have voiced their concerns repeatedly regarding these security issues and the need for safe spaces for women and GBV survivors. Additionally, actors on Lesbos report the lack of competence of the Mytilene's police station personnel on GBV cases. This incompetence creates barriers to effective and safe procedures before and after the submission of a complaint by the survivor.¹⁷ Safe spaces should be available inside the camp as well as adequate safe shelters outside the camp for GBV survivors. This includes survivors of domestic violence who, without safe shelters and being geographically restricted on the island, are otherwise forced to reside in the same tent or container as their abusers. Additionally, on November 15th, a fire destroyed two large tents.¹⁸ The first unconfirmed eyewitness information report that the fire was caused by an electrical problem¹⁹

Barriers to Covid vaccination for refugees without appropriate documents

People residing in Greece without a Social Security Number (SSN) can access a Provisional AMKA (P.AMKA): a temporary SSN, exclusively for the purpose of vaccination against COVID-19 and the issuance of a vaccination certificate.²⁰ However, for the issuance of the temporary SSN, specific identification documents are required. These documents are not always available to the refugee population depending on their asylum status and/or other factors related to their asylum procedure. As a consequence, around 323 refugees on Lesbos have had no access to vaccination either because they were out of the asylum procedure and they could not issue a P.AMKA, or because they were granted international protection shortly after their arrival and never received the temporary insurance and health coverage number.²¹ The National Public Health Organization (EODY), the competent actor in charge of vaccination of Mavrovouni residents, has raised the issue to the Ministry of Asylum and Migration. incompetence but it is also a serious public (and personal) health risk.

Following the campaign "Vaccines for All"²², run by Intersos Hellas, the Greek Forum of Migrants and the Greek Forum of Refugees, a new Joint Ministerial Decision²³ was issued on November 12th. The decision was in effort to fill the gaps by provides for the issuance of P.AMKA exclusively for the Covid-19 vaccination and the issuance of the vaccination certificate, by various administrative structures of General Government bodies.

"A person without a country is like a living person in a graveyard. We don't have any future. At least, when you go to a prison, you have a sentence, you know how long you will stay there, but here we are waiting every day for a decision to be made and this is affecting us psychologically."

-Sayed*, Afghan man trapped on Lesbos since 2019

Discriminatory treatment of asylum seekers in 'Moria 2' – unjustified movement restrictions

Mavrovouni residents are still subject to disproportionate restrictions on their movement, under the pretext of Covid-19, while the rest of the Lesbos population moves freely.²⁴ Specifically, according to a weekly "exit list" used by the administration of the camp, refugees are allowed to leave the camp only for three hours per day, three days per week. On Sunday, no one is allowed to leave the camp. Exceptionally, Mavrovouni residents are allowed to exit the camp if they hold certificates for an appointment with a doctor, lawyer, psychologist and/or social worker, and upon approval of the RIC administration. However, to obtain a certificate presupposes the prior access to the above services provided outside the camp. Additionally, Mytilene's General Hospital does not provide certificates for appointments with the patients, meaning asylum seekers with appointment to the hospital are likely to not be able to access needed healthcare.

Sometimes I think that if it was Taliban, they would just kill us once. Here, we are dying everyday"

-Zahra*, elderly woman from Afghanistan trapped on Lesbos for 2 years

Legal organizations operating in Lesbos, including GCR, sent a request for information to the Commander of the Mytilene RIC, regarding the measures applied in Mavrovouni. The RIC Commander, in his official letter, confirmed the above-mentioned restriction measures. Regarding the legal basis for the movement ban on Sundays, the RIC's administration response was that "on Sundays the supermarkets, stores, bakeries etc. are closed" and that exit on Sunday can be permitted exceptionally either for urgent extraordinary needs or to groups for church attendance after relevant submitted requests.²⁵

The movement restriction measures, which are applied disproportionately, unjustly and without an end date, trap refugees in inappropriate and unsafe reception conditions. They are forced to live trapped in tents and containers in a few square meters of personal living space, socially isolated and without free access to the amenities like food and healthcare²⁶ European Commission's representatives in their meeting with the Working Group for the Protection of the refugee population on Lesbos stated that refugees should not be discriminated against in the overall response to the Covid-19 pandemic.²⁷

UNHCR's lack of access to new arrivals during the quarantine

For the last four months, Mavrovouni site management has not permitted UNHCR staff to access new arrivals in the RIC's quarantine area and provide them with information, in violation of the law.²⁸ The quarantine time period lasts one week in cases where there is no positive Covid-19 case and two weeks if a positive Covid-19 case is found. However, there have been also instances where the quarantine period lasted for more than two weeks. In practice, this means that during the quarantine period UNHCR is not able to provide information to new arrivals regarding their basic rights and asylum procedure, unable to access and identify vulnerable asylum seekers in need of immediate assessment and protection response. They were also unable to distribute the leaflet with information of legal aid actors nor to refer cases to legal aid actors before the registration of the asylum application or keep informed of the new arrivals' figures, nationality and gender background.²⁹

It is noteworthy that, initially, the RIC management supported that there is no need for UNHCR's access to new arrivals because there are sufficient info sessions conducted by the competent authorities.³⁰ However, people who arrived on Lesbos in August reported later to UNHCR that they did not receive any information session

regarding their rights and asylum process by the RIS personnel (and/or EASO).³¹ Following UNHCR's persistent advocacy, UNHCR received access to one new group arriving in October in the RIC's quarantine area.

However, RIC management, without any justification, again did not permit UNHCR to access other arrivals in October and November.

People trapped on Lesbos for years deprived of adequate healthcare and protection

Since March 2020, Turkey stopped accepting the return of refugees and asylum seekers from Greece.³² This means that people who have had a final rejection of the asylum application are stuck in a legal limbo, as they also lose all their rights that they had during their asylum application. The delivery of a second instance negative decision thus opens the gate for a series of fundamental rights' infringements. At the exact moment that the second rejection is being delivered, the person must hand over their asylum applicant card. The asylum applicant card is the identification document that ensures, among other rights, the asylum seeker's access to public services, healthcare and medication and labor market. Subsequently, 30 days after the delivery of the second instance negative decision, people are no longer eligible for basic reception conditions, such as cash assistance, and access to food.³³

This means that they do not receive any cash assistance, lose their insurance and health coverage number, and are excluded from all asylum-related procedures (such as vulnerability assessment, transfer to the mainland). They are only allowed to reside in Mavrovouni camp, as they are *de facto* trapped on the island. As a result, people with severe medical conditions and special protection needs are stuck in Mavrovouni which is completely inadequate. In addition, as they no longer have a (temporary) health insurance, people with a second negative decision can only access public hospitals' emergency departments for urgent health issues and have no access to prescription for medication and medical examinations.

Asylum seekers' right to submit a subsequent asylum application - and possibly get out of this legal limbo - has been hindered by the Greek authorities. Lesbos asylum service had suspended the registration of subsequent applications for at least two months, without any previous official announcement or justification.³⁴ Additionally, the majority of the subsequent applications' registrations were delayed for several months and the asylum service failed to respond to an intervention of the Greek Ombudsman for timely registration of a subsequent applications.

On 30 August 2021, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) granted interim measures in the case of a Syrian man with disabilities and chronic health issues, and ordered the Greek authorities to guarantee him living conditions and medical care appropriate to his state of health.³⁵ This man's asylum application had been rejected on second instance, on the grounds that Turkey is a safe third country for him, therefore he has been considered to be outside of the asylum procedure and therefore denied medical care.³⁶ Only following the ECtHR's decision, the police lifted his geographic restriction on the island and transferred him to Athens. The case was brought to the Court by the NGO Legal Centre Lesbos.³⁷

"If I get another rejection, I will kill myself. As a homosexual, if I return to Afghanistan, the Taliban will either execute me by hanging or will stone me to death. I just want to get out of this situation."

-Ali*, young man from Afghanistan trapped on Lesbos for 3 years

Testimonies on Greece's neglect and incompetence

An Afghan family with five children live in Mavrovouni camp. This family arrived on Lesbos in December 2019, two years ago. Despite Commissioner Johansson promises of "No More Moria", this family will now spend their second winter in tents in Mavrovouni camp after surviving the fire in Moria.³⁸

They fled from their country and sought international protection as family members worked for the Afghan government and they received death threats from the Taliban. They submitted their first asylum application in January 2020 and received their first negative decision 14 months later, in March 2021. For this 14-month period, despite their documented physical and mental health problems, they have not been provided with special reception conditions. Instead, they have been living under substandard, unsafe and inappropriate conditions, firstly in Moria camp, and later in the precarious camp of Mavrovouni, while being further traumatised due to delays and failures by the Greek authorities.

Three members of this family are extremely vulnerable but have no access to appropriate care and protection to which they are legally entitled. Sayed*, the father has been diagnosed with nephrolithiasis, arrhythmia and anxiety disorders. The mother, Fatima*, suffers from depression, insomnia and a general feeling of withdrawal. The eldest daughter Maryam*, a survivor of sexual violence in Moria camp, has suffered for two years from depression, self-harm, suicidal thoughts and attempts. Despite several emergencies transfers to the hospital, after suicidal and self-harming attempts, she still lives in a tent with her family in Mavrovouni camp. She is under weekly supervision by a psychologist and a psychiatrist and provided with medication, but these services are being provided by an NGO operating on Lesbos, not the Greek authorities.

The family finally had their geographical restriction lifted on Lesbos island, in May 2021. This meant they had been recognized as vulnerable as well as considered in need for transfer to the mainland and provision of better living conditions. However, while waiting to be transferred, the family received a second instance rejection in July 2021. This made them non-eligible for a transfer to the mainland. The family managed to submit a subsequent asylum application in October and are now awaiting decision by the Asylum Service. All of them continue to live in a tent in Mavrovouni camp.

"I have had a heart problem since I was a child. I have been asking to go to the hospital for two years now but they have not done anything. I have only been to the hospital once, when I tested positive to Covid-19 and was hospitalized for 5 days. However, I don't worry about myself so much. I am worrying for my daughter who has attempted suicide."

– Sayed*, father of the family

"We are suffering here. We are here for 2 years now and it feels like 20 years to us. I am wishing for death [...] The situation is so bad that my eldest son asked me once: "If one of us died, would they release us from here?". Most of the times I have to go outside, somewhere far away from here [tent] just to express myself; I don't do it in front of my children. And it's not just us, there are a lot of other people here stuck without any future. Please, respect the fact that you have a country. A person without a country is like a living person in a graveyard.

We don't have any future. At least, when you go to a prison, you have a sentence, you know how long you will stay there, but here we are waiting every day for a decision to be made and this is affecting us psychologically. My children are keep asking me about the decision, and I don't have an answer for them [...]

We had a life in Afghanistan. We were someone in Afghanistan. We had an identity there [...] We are human beings. Human beings cannot take pain and sorrow for a long time, because if they have sorrow in their heart, they develop sickness. We didn't commit any crime. We didn't make any mistake. We lost our country, we are asylum seekers now. We don't want to stay in Greece, it's just a path we just want to cross and they are keeping us here. We don't dislike Greek people, the Greek people are very good."

– Sayed*

"I have an infection at my chest. I have a history of cysts and I fear I might have cancer. I need a mammogram at the hospital. My initial appointment at Vosta-neio – Mytilene General Hospital was cancelled due to the delivery of the second instance rejection. Lately I have pain and numbness of my right hand and shoulder; I cannot lift my hand. I need to be examined and I need medical treatment.

I have 5 children, I need to be healthy, because I need to take care of them. [...] Three people in this family have been recognized as vulnerable... we haven't been moved even to a container yet. If we are not eligible for transfer with all these problems, who is?"

– Fatima*. mother of the family

Ali* is 28 years old LGBTIQ+ man from Afghanistan who arrived on Lesbos and submitted his asylum application in November 2018, more than three years ago. He received his first negative decision eleven months later, in October 2019. In July 2020, he received a second instance negative decision and hasn't received cash assistance since. He is in severe mental health distress and has been diagnosed with personality disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and brief reactive psychosis. He is currently receiving medication and medical services, provided again by an NGO rather than Greek authorities.

"Initially, I was living in Moria camp. Because of my sexual orientation, I was constantly harassed and one day I was stabbed in the neck with a knife. Since then, I have received death threats to drop the complaint [...] I haven't received any cash assistance since July 2020. I managed to submit a subsequent asylum application in September 2021. It was a very tough year for me.

I am under supervision of a psychiatrist and a psychologist. IRC is covering my medication. I am overthinking and I am cutting myself. Once I tried to harm myself, I hit my head and I was transferred to the hospital for stitches. If I get another rejection, I will kill myself. As a homosexual, if I return to Afghanistan, the Taliban will either execute me by hanging or will stone me to death. I just want to get out of this situation. I am having hard days. I have anxiety. I cannot focus on my life, on my studies, on my work future".

--Ali*

An elderly Afghan couple, who belong to an ethnic minority targeted and persecuted by the Taliban, together with their adult young son, arrived on Lesbos in August 2019.³⁹ To this day, they are still trapped on the island, living in a tent in Mavrovouni camp. They submitted their asylum application in September 2019 and received their first instance negative decision seven months later, in April 2020. After the submission of the appeal, they were notified of a second instance rejection, in July 2020. They submitted a subsequent asylum application in August 2020 and they received a second instance negative decision in August 2021. Now they want to submit a second subsequent asylum application but, as noted above, the Asylum Service are not registering second subsequent asylum applications for two months. They have no access to a vulnerability assessment or healthcare. They have no access to a COVID vaccination. They are physically and psychologically exhausted.

"I was a teacher in a public school and in a mosque in Afghanistan. There, as a woman, you have no right to teach, especially the boys. Taliban and Daesh [ISIS] threatened to kill my family. [...] Sometimes I think that if it was Taliban, they would just kill us once. Here, we are dying everyday"

"It's more than a year now that we don't get any cash assistance – our cash assistance stopped before the fire in Moria [...] My husband, who is 65 years old, suffers from knee and back pain. I am also suffering from intense back pain and the humidity in the camp makes it worse. At the camp, they just give us painkillers. Because we don't have an asylum card, we cannot go to the hospital, we don't have health insurance. They don't even vaccinate us!"

-- Zahra*, mother and wife

"We have another son back in Afghanistan; recently, we lost contact with him, he is missing. We have learned that my brother has been killed."

–Abdullah*, father and husband, when he has been asked about the current situation in Afghanistan

Samos closed and controlled access center: more a prison than a modern reception structure

On 18 September 2021, the Minister for Migration and Asylum, Notis Mitarakis, inaugurated the new closed controlled access center in Samos.⁴⁰ The new camp is in the middle of nowhere, and has been designed as "closed and controlled". It seems to have been designed like a prison rather than a modern reception center.

The new camp is surrounded by two razor wire fences. It is guarded 24 hours a day by the Greek police and a private security agency with 50 men in uniform.⁴¹ The camp has an advanced security system including x-rays and magnetic gates. Entrance and exit are controlled using electronic cards and fingerprints. Residents of the camp are not free to enter and leave the camp. If an asylum seeker is found to be absent outside the timetable, they could be ordered to leave the camp and their material reception conditions could stop.⁴² Entry and exit procedures to leave the camp are exhausting, putting a barrier on camp residents exercising their right to visit the city for reasons of medical and psychosocial care, legal aid, education or entertainment.⁴³ Across the camp a closed system of surveillance (CCTV) has been installed that can transfer internal images of the camp to the headquarters of the Greek Police.⁴⁴ This undoubtedly consists of a violation of the right to private and family life of the asylum seekers.⁴⁵

The new camp is 9 km away from the nearest town (Vathy) and 11 km away from the General Hospital of Samos. The cost of a return ticket for the local bus is €3.20. The daily financial aid – when actually paid – is €2.50 per day for a single person and for a four-member-family €1.75 euro per person.⁴⁶ This cash assistance has not been provided in more than two months. These transport costs make it practically impossible for families to travel to the city as it would cost €14 for a round trip. The location and lack of transportation solutions will also result in limited access to medical, legal and psychological services.

The construction of the new camp has costs €43 million euro and has been fully funded by the EU.⁴⁷ The camps have a capacity for 3,000 residents but currently only holds 362 migrants.⁴⁸ GCR and other civil society organizations have stated their opposition to this camp as it resembles a prison and undermines every possibility of integration. Reception under these conditions, practically in isolation and with no real connection with the local communities, will cause the segregation of migrants. Additionally, close cohabitation with locals is more likely to overturn racist and xenophobic stereotypes. Last but not least, access of asylum seekers children to education becomes impossible under these conditions.

GCR and Oxfam believe that this policy of isolation as a means of deterrence is fundamentally wrong. Integration is a process that should be promoted from arrival of the migrants. Camps should be used only for a very limited time and only for the reason of reception and registration. After this stage, asylum seekers

"With great joy and satisfaction, I am welcoming you in the first closed controlled access center, in Samos. We are keeping our commitments towards the societies in the islands. We have created a modern and safe new closed controlled access center for residents, employees and local communities, away from the urban area".

-Minister for Migration and Asylum Notis Miarakis

should be transferred to suitable and safe accommodation that guarantees that they are not isolated, and they may have access to basic services such as healthcare and education. In the meantime, residents of the camp should be free to enter and leave the camp at any time and there should be care for their safe, proper and affordable transfer to the closest towns.

The policy of “closed and controlled” camps implies that persons applying for international protection should be punished like criminals for attempting to seek safety in Europe. It is deeply concerning that the Greek authorities have already declared their aspirations and plans to expand this model to another four islands, namely Leros, Lesbos, Kos and Chios. These camps are funded by the EU with a budget of 276 million euros for all five camps, despite the fact that these centres contradict the European Policy for integration as it prevents access of asylum seekers to services and any kind of interaction with the local societies.⁴⁹⁵⁰ The EU - to the extent that it funds, legitimises and praises this trend - is fully responsible for a policy that undermines freedom, human dignity and the right to asylum.

NOTES

¹ <https://migration.gov.gr/statistika/>, 11 November 2021.

² As above

³ Lesbos Island Weekly Snapshot, 18-24 October 2021

⁴ KYA 2857/ΦΕΚ 4496/Β/29-9-2021, Joint Ministerial Decision 2857/Gov.Gazette 4496/Β/29-9-2021. See also: <https://migration.gov.gr/en/to-ypoyrgeio-metanasteysis-kai-asyloy-analamvanei-apo-tin-paraskeyi-1i-oktovrioy-2021-tin-parochi-oikonomikoy-voithimatos-stoys-aitoyntes-asylo/>

⁵ <https://www.gcr.gr/en/news/press-releases-announcements/item/1828-are-you-eligible-to-eat>

⁶ <https://migration.gov.gr/oloi-oi-aitoyntes-asylo-lamvanoy-n-sitisi-stis-domes-filoxenias-apo-1-oktovrioy-kai-tha-lavoyn-chrimatiko-voithima-telos-toy-mina/>

⁷ EU Law (Directive 2013/33/EC and recast Directive 2016), incorporated into the Greek legal order with L.4375/2016 and L.4636/2019.

⁸ <https://migration.gov.gr/oloi-oi-aitoyntes-asylo-lamvanoy-n-sitisi-stis-domes-filoxenias-apo-1-oktovrioy-kai-tha-lavoyn-chrimatiko-voithima-telos-toy-mina/>

⁹ <https://diavgeia.gov.gr/doc/%CE%A9%CE%94%CE%A1%CE%A346%CE%9C%CE%94%CE%A8%CE%9F-0%CE%99%CE%9C?inline=true>

¹⁰ L.4825/21, Article 23.

¹¹ <https://migration.gov.gr/en/gas/diakasia-asyloy-i-aitisi-gia-asylo/metagenesteri-aitisi/>, <https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/greece/asylum-procedure/subsequent-applications/>

¹² See the paper “*Deportations and Returns Bill*”-*Comments from legal organizations*”, June 2021, available online: <https://www.gcr.gr/en/ekdoseis-media/reports/reports/item/1747-deportations-and-returns-bill-comments-from-legal-organisations>

¹³ Article 83(9)(e), 84(1)(e), 89 and 92(1)(d) L. 4636/2019 (International Protection Act, IPA).

¹⁴ See articles: https://www.lesvospost.com/2021/10/blog-post_7.html and https://www.efsyn.gr/ellada/dikaiomata/313551_afisan-toys-prosfyges-sto-kara-tepe-horis-petrelaio-kai-reyma

¹⁵ Reports by GCR beneficiaries residing in Mavrovouni.

¹⁶ Information acquired at the Lesbos Gender Based Violence (GBV) Working Group meetings of September and October.

¹⁷ As above.

¹⁸ <https://www.stonisi.gr/post/21506/fwta-ston-kataylismo-toy-kara-tepe-realtime-pics-video>

¹⁹ Information acquired at Lesbos Protection Working Group, 16 November 2021.

²⁰ See: <https://emvolio.gov.gr/en/pamka>

²¹ Information acquired at the Lesbos Protection Working Group, 5 October 2021.

²² <https://www.intersos.gr/en/access-to-vaccines-for-everyone/>

- ²³ KYA 5160/ΦΕΚ 5247/Β/12-11-2021 – Joint Ministerial Decision 5160/Gov.Gazette 5247/Β/12-11-2021 (of the Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs, Health, Interior, Immigration and Asylum, Digital Governance and State) Issuance of a temporary A.M.K.A. by other administrative structures of General Government bodies and determination of technical performance details.
- ²⁴ <https://www.gcr.gr/el/news/newsletters/item/1831-newsletter-oktovriou-2021>
- ²⁵ Letter-Response by the Mytilene RIC Commander (ref.: 261019 / 21-9-2021).
- ²⁶ See relatively, the Report of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights (ENNHRI) on the Impact of the Pandemic and its Measures on Human Rights and Recommendations to the State, May 2021, available at: <https://nchr.gr/en/news/1243-extraordinary-times-call-for-extraordinary-responses-summary-of-recommendations-to-the-state-regarding-the-impact-of-the-pandemic-and-the-measures-taken-to-address-it-on-human-rights.html>, and the ENNHRI Report on the need to protect human rights in taking action against Covid-19 and recommendations to the State, June 2020.
- ²⁷ Information acquired at the meeting of the representatives of the Task Force of the European Commission with the Lesvos Protection Working Group, on 22 September 2021.
- ²⁸ Information acquired at the Lesvos Legal Aid and Protection Working Group meetings (July-November). See also: <https://help.unhcr.org/greece/rights-and-duties/rights-and-duties-of-asylum-seekers/>
- ²⁹ Information acquired at the Lesvos Protection Working Group, 5 October 2021.
- ³⁰ Information acquired at the Lesvos Legal Aid Working Group meeting, 31 August 2021.
- ³¹ Information acquired at the Lesvos Legal Aid Working Group, 12 October 2021.
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- ³⁴ Information acquired at the Lesvos Legal Aid Working Group meetings, April - June 2021.
- ³⁵ Legal Centre Lesvos, "Press Release: Greece suspends deportation following European Court of Human Rights' grant of interim measures", 22 September 2021, available at: <http://legalcentrelesvos.org/2021/09/22/press-release-greece-suspends-deportation-following-european-court-of-human-rights-grant-of-interim-measures/>
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