

Greece: Transfer Refugees and Asylum seekers to Safety on Mainland

Respect for Human Rights should Prevail over Use of Force

Following the fire in Moria on Tuesday September 8, on Lesbos, which destroyed the Reception and Identification Centre, 48 civil society organizations call on the Greek Government to immediately provide assistance to people who lost their shelter. Those affected, among them many children and at-risk groups, must be carefully transferred to safety on the mainland.

The transfer of at-risk groups, including unaccompanied children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, people with medical and mental health conditions, and older people should be prioritized. People who tested positive for Covid-19 should be given safe housing for the quarantine period, healthcare, and hospitalization if necessary.

Moving people from Lesbos to mainland Greece requires finding urgent solutions to address the fact that many current housing facilities for refugees and asylum seekers are at full capacity. We urge the Greek authorities to work on a coherent plan that maximises all available resources including those from the EU and we renew our call to European leaders to share the responsibility for the reception and support of asylum seekers now more than ever.

In these difficult times, it is of outmost importance that respect for human rights is at the centre of the response to the fire at Moria, and that authorities do not resort to use of force or inflammatory language, but take appropriate steps to de-escalate any risk of violence.

1. ActionAid Hellas
2. Amnesty International
3. Boat Refugee Foundation
4. CRWI Diotima
5. ECHO100PLUS
6. ELIX

7. Equal Rights Beyond Borders
8. Fenix - Humanitarian Legal Aid
9. Greek Council for Refugees (GCR)
10. Hellenic League for Human Rights
11. Hellenic Platform for Development (Ελληνική Πλατφόρμα για την Ανάπτυξη)
12. Help Refugees
13. HIAS Greece
14. HumanRights360
15. Humanitarian Legal Aid
16. Human Rights Watch
17. International Rescue Committee (IRC)
18. INTERSOS Hellas
19. Legal Centre Lesbos
20. Médecins Sans Frontières
21. Melissa
22. Network for Children's Rights
23. Omnes
24. Refugee Legal Support (RLS)
25. Refugee Rights Europe (RRE)
26. Refugee Support Aegean (RSA)
27. Refugee Trauma Initiative
28. Solidarity Now
29. Symbiosis-School of Political Studies in Greece
30. Terre des hommes Hellas
31. The HOME Project
32. ANTIGONE - Information and Documentation Centre on Racism, Ecology, Peace and Non Violence
33. Are You Syrious?
34. ARSIS – Association for the Social Support of Youth
35. CEAR (Spanish Commission for Refugees)

36. Ecological Movement of Thessaloniki
37. Generation 2.0 RED
38. Greek Housing Network
39. InterVolve - Irida Center
40. Lesvos Solidarity
41. Medecins du Monde – Greece
42. Mobile Info Team
43. Odyssea
44. Safe Passage International
45. Solomon
46. Wave – Thessaloniki
47. World Refugee and Migration Council
48. ZEUXIS