

The year is ending on a positive note! ###

A week ago, we were informed about the case of Amira, a 13 year old girl from Syria that is alone in Athens. We immediately met the girl and started the case management. We had to be quick and efficient, since the holidays were approaching and the girl would be left unprotected in an apartment with people she doesn't know, exposed to countless dangers.

We informed all competent authorities regarding the severity of this situation and, within 2 hours, a safe shelter was found!

However, there was another obstacle we had to overcome, the medical exams required for the transfer had to be completed within 3 days. We managed to coordinate everything and today we have all the results in our hands.

- The little girl just got transferred to the shelter! She is finally safe!

Now, we are working on her family reunification with her relative in the Netherlands. The dna test is already completed and we are hopeful she will soon be in a loving family.

We will stay by her side and keep supporting her, until she is happy again!

DCI is offering case management and complete child protection services to alone children like Amira. Support us so we can keep offering our services to the most vulnerable of children.

Make a donation today! 🎄

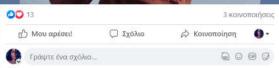
Paypal account: paypal.me/defenceforchildrengr

IBAN: GR1902603670000310200518604

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL-ELLINIKO TMIMA

Swift: ERBKGRAA Bank: Eurobank







In Greece, there are thousands of alone and homeless children on the move. These children remain outside of the radar of the official protection children, while being in risk of all forms of exploitation. They have no access to basic human needs, such as food, healthcare and education.

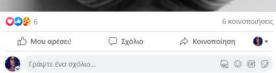
These holidays, help DCI Greece to keep supporting the most vulnerable children.

By donating you allow us to keep standing by their side.

Paypal account: paypal.me/defenceforchildrengr IBAN: GR1902603670000310200518604 Swift Code: ERBKGRAA Bank: Eurobank

Loan more recording our current compaign here https://bit.lu/2.tr.tunf







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L. was a homeless boy in the streets of Athens, struggling to survive. When he came to us, he asked for help to find a safe shelter. He mentioned his brother is in Switzerland and we informed him that he has the right to apply for family reunification. L. had no idea this was even an option, because the smugglers never told him.

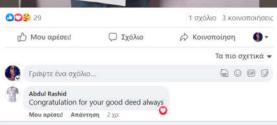
We immediately started the family reunification procedures and, after a few weeks, his application got accepted!

L. from sleeping on the street and trying to find food will soon be safe with his brother in Switzerland.

Yesterday, he came by our office to receive his tickets and give him directions for his trip.

He kept looking at the tickets with the happiest eyes we have ever seen! Good luck, our dear L. We are sure you will achieve everything you want and we will always stay by your side! #dont_leavethekidsalone



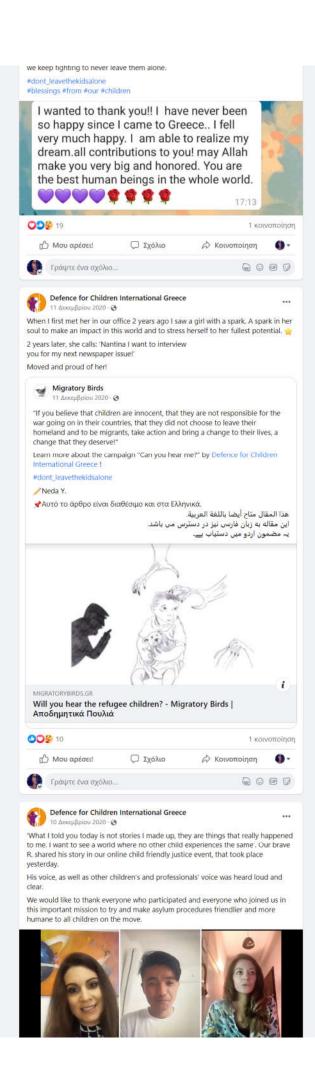




This is how our week started at our Helpdesk. With these words, from L.

L is a homeless, alone child in Athens. After a few weeks and many efforts, his family reunification application got accepted! In a few days, he will finally be safe with his brother in Switzerland.

These words and the smile on our children's faces is what keeps us going. It is why









How child friendly are the administrative proceedings for children on the move in Greece?

Listen to the voice of children and professionals!

Have you registered yet? 👉 https://forms.gle/TQX1kDSrJhBiFpsU9

The link will be sent to the participants, shortly before the event!



Defence for Children International Greece

Save the Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 - 14.30 to 16.00 (Greece time) 📆

After 2 years of research, interviews with our children and professionals, DCI Greece is happy to invite you to the online Child Friendly Justice Event that will take place on December 9, 2020!

How child friendly are the administrative proceedings for children on the move in Greece? Listen to the voice of Children and Professionals!

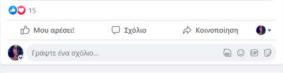
During the Conference, Children but also Professionals will share their own experiences, feelings and suggestions while we will present you the CFJ Project's findings but also best practices and recommendations to improve respect for children's rights in asylum proceedings. We will also unveil the Toolkit for Professionals developed as part of the project, that will be disseminated to all participants!

Please fill this form to register: https://forms.gle/TQX1kDSrJhBiFpsU9

Children on the move upon arrival in Greece and while seeking for protection are involved in different administration and justice proceedings (f.i: First Reception Procedures, Asylum interview, Age assessment, Family Reunification, Detention etc). Procedures that are generally not adapted to the specific needs of children and do not allow the exercise of their Rights!

Application Period: 16 November 2020 - 27 November 2020

- * Program details will be sent to you by e-mail.
- * The link will be sent to all participants shortly before the event.





Here is how you can help DCI Greece to stand by the side of the most vulnerable

#dont leavethekidsalone





Defence for Children International Greece

On this Giving Tuesday, you can support a child in need! 💗

DCI Greece offers free legal aid and child protection services, undertaking the whole case management of alone refugee children. Help a homeless child to find a safe shelter and to regain their future. Help an invisible child, a child out of the radar of the official protection services to become visible.

Help us stay by the side of homeless and exploited children. Help us not to leave them alone.

#dont leavethekidsalone

#givingtuesday



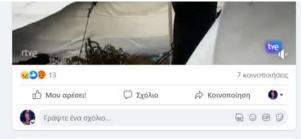


'Thank you for listening. It is important to know I can share as much as I am ready to share. I needed this.'

These are the words of a 15 year old girl, These words are the reason we keep going. R., a girl living in dangerous circumstances, came to our office, despite the lockdown, because she needed imminent help. She also wanted to talk. She wanted to share. Even though she wasn't yet ready to share everything. Trust takes time, especially in SGBV cases. We will keep working on a tailored, individual supportive programme for R., until she feels safe and empowered to continue her life.









Defence for Children International Greece

Exciting news!!! Shelter is found for our K, the young boy who was homeless, stabbed and chased by smugglers, as we informed you in previous post (follows

After activating the official child protection system, and working closely with the official authorities of accommodation, the Juvenile prosecutor and the Ombundsman of Children's Rights, little K. will soon get transferred to a safe shelter. After everything that has happened to him, he will finally find peace, safety, and a chance to heal with wounds, physical and emotional, in an appropriate environment.

Right now, we have to make sure we organise and book all the hospital appointments, so he can undertake all the medical tests required, as soon as possible.

We are overwhelmed with happiness for his new beginning and we cannot wait to see what the future holds for him. Good luck, our dear K.!





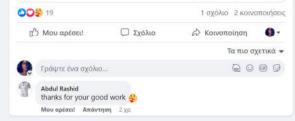
Defence for Children International Greece

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15 year old boy from Afghanistan, trusted a smuggler. He handed him all his money, so he can have a place to stay and to help him reach Germany and be reunited with his sister. The smuggler deceived him and stole his money. He even stabbed the boy multiple times, on his body and his head. The child was transferred to the hospital, where he fell in a coma for days. He has now recovered, but his wounds, both physical and mental, are very deep and painful. Right now, he is homeless, living rough on the streets and squares of Athens.

DCI Greece is currently doing all the case management with all competent actors and authorities, to guarantee the safety of the child, as quickly and as effectively as possible.

This boy's story, along with hundreds of similar ones, proves the absence of an effective protection system for children on the move. Children receive no information when entering Greece, something that makes them an easy prey for people wishing to exploit them, while at the same time there is no guardianship programme to protect them, along the asylum process.





Defence for Children International Greece

Covid 19 has been having a tremendous impact on the lives of homeless, unaccompanied children in Athens. Their vulnerability becomes even more extreme.

More and more homeless children are forced to live in shared apartments with adults. These children are forced to cook, do all the chores and everything else asked by the adults. Sexual and economical exploitation becomes an everyday

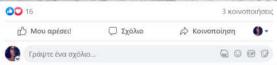
Since the beginning of the outbreak, DCI Greece has been in contact with vulnerable

children, either directly through our Helpdesk, or through our online group into sessions. We have been conducting risk identification and doing all the necessary steps so these children can be transferred to a safe shelter.

As a result, over than 30 children were finally led to safety, after our Helpdesk actions, since the beginning of the outbreak.

#dont leavethekidealone







Today, at the EU Anti- trafficking day, joint call to end child trafficking!

The spread of the COVID-19 virus has disproportionately affected marginalised groups including migrants, not only resulting in a rise in child trafficking and exploitation but also further highlighting the risks and vulnerabilities faced by these children.

Together with Child10 and the other 2020 Awarded Members, we have opened a much-needed dialogue on joint cross-border challenges and solutions to address trafficking of children along the migration routes towards Europe.

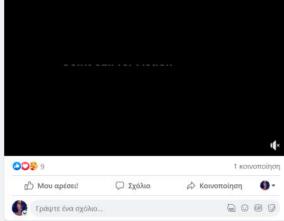
Although there are many gaps in the official child protection systems, we have identified two specific areas where we continue to see the consequences of inadequate protective mechanisms for children: the identification of trafficking victims and their access to assistance and protection.

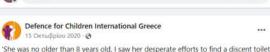
In our joint call for action, we are asking policy makers to focus on implementing concrete recommendations, as the need for action is now more important than ever.

Read full statement: child10.org/jointcall/

Dedalus cooperativa sociale
The HOME Project
Defence for Children International Greece
Greek Forum of Refugees
Fundación Raíces
RefugePoint
ECPAT Türkiye
Action PRO

Family Counsellors Association Turkey ADEPE Guinea





to enter. She was opening the one door of the few chemical toilets in the camp, after another. The dignity she has reserved for herself didn't allow her to enter any of them in the end. She run back to her tent almost crying.

Moria2 is well in place with the stamp of EU and International Actors. The phenomenon of "Moria" was apparently never meant to stop. It has just been transferred some kilometres closer to the water. Together with this, the childhood of

phenomenon of "Moria" was apparently never meant to stop. It has just been transferred some kilometres closer to the water. Together with this, the childhood of these children has been postponed to infinite time', said our Director Nantina Tsekeri during her mission to Moria2 today.

The argument proposed, that this situation is temporary, does not suffice to justify the continous HARM caused to these children every single day by EU States' actions

and omissions.

We are deeply concerned for the life of the population trapped in Moria2. Relocation to other EU countries must happen yesterday.

At the moment, there are thousands of children living in shocking absolutely inhumane conditions.

These are the memories for these children. Watch the video!

EU #dont_leavethekidsalone.

#relocationnow





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#dont_leavethekidsalone

Γράψτε ένα σχόλιο...



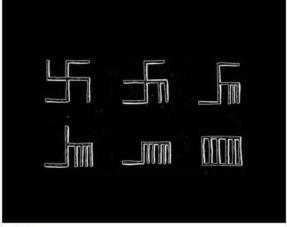


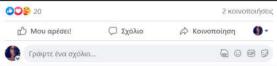
"Until justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream" M.L.King

This happened yesterday. Greek Court of Appeals ruled neo-Nazi party Golden Down Criminal Organisation.

Today, we feel a step closer to a better world, where none of the children we defend feels afraid to death for who they trully are.

#justice







During the last few weeks, there is an increasing number of refugee children reaching the mainland, adding to the thousands that are already struggling to survive. The majority of them are homeless, unregistered.

These children are the 'ghost'children of our society. They live invisible, out of the radar of any State protection available, while trying to survive and face the encountered dangers at a daily basis.

Our helpdesk is constantly trying to help these children, in the best way possible. On Friday, little T. will finally be registered and little A. finally received his positive asylum decision. 15 year old B. will soon be transferred to a safe shelter.

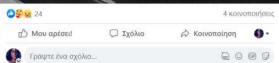
This is where we get the power to keep going. Even in the hardest times, we witness lives changing, before our own eyes.

And that is the best reward possible.

#dont_leavethekidsalone

Photo: Salinia Stroux







SAVE DIGNITY, SAVE PIKPA AND KARA TEPEL

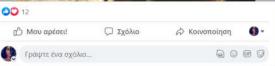
More than 160 Greek and international organizations, academics and other actors from all over Europe, among them DCI Greece, urge the Greek authorities to revoke decision to close dignified alternatives in accommodating refugees on Lesvos.

Read the full statement here: https://790023b4-e73d-4390-ab95f768d5355d24.filesusr.com...

#dont_leavethekidsalone





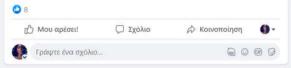




Σήμερα μαζί με άλλες 160 Οργανώσεις ζητάμε από την ελληνική κυβέρνηση να άρει άμεσα την απόφαση για το κλείσιμο του ΠΙΚΠΑ και ΚΑΡΑ ΤΕΠΕ στην Λέσβο ως ένδειξη σεβασμού και διαφύλαξης της αξιοπρέπειας των τόσο ευάλωτων ανθρώπων που έχουν βρει ασφαλές καταφύγιο στις εν λόγω δομές. Λιγότερες νέες "Μόρια" ζητάμε και όχι κλείσιμο των υπαρχουσών δομών τελευταίων δειγμάτων ανθρωπιάς,



[Ελλάδα] ΣΩΣΤΕ ΤΗΝ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΙΑ, ΣΩΣΤΕ ΤΟ ΠΙΚΠΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΟ ΚΑΡΑ





Yesterday, Ylva Johansson presented the proposal for a new migration pact for EU Member States. The proposal will not help to resolve the situation in Greece, and it will, if adopted, still be up to each country to voluntarily stand up for human rights. Now, more than ever, all governments need to show their cards on which way they want to go.

Today in Sweden's largest newspaper the three Greek Child10 Awardees from Greek Forum of Refugees, The HOME Project and Defence for Children International Greece together with us are calling out the Swedish government to hide behind false and poorly constructed excuses to not take part in the relocation of children from Greece.

"There is a great risk of exploitation by ruthless traffickers and we now urgently need to provide these children with a safer environment and a legally secure process of asylum or family reunification. At the same time, the Swedish Government wrongly claims that they cannot help. It is serious that the Swedish Government is hiding behind completely false excuses in order to avoid the humanitarian consequences of the decision.

So let us now ask the question: does the government want to help resolve the urgent humanitarian crisis that is going on here in Greece and help children out of this horrendous situation or does the government simply not want to help? There is no other question to answer. If it is the Swedish Government's policy to turn a blind eye to the suffering of these children, then they should at least be honest with it."

#dont_leavethekidsalone #nochildalone #child10 #relocate

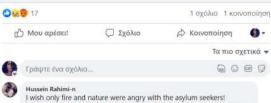






DEBATT: Säg som det är – ni vill inte ta emot barnen

dsgrupper: Att Sveriges regering skyller på lagen håller inte



Anyway, the anger of the fire is temporary and controllable, but what should we asylum seekers and displaced people do with the anger of the Greek people?

It has been a year since I was transferred to the mainland with my two children.

My daughter grew up in Camp Moriah,

After moving to the mainland, he was happy to continue his education, but unfortunately, they said: because you are old, you can no longer enroll in school. He was very upset. It was difficult for him to make a

Fifteen days later, social workers informed the organization that he had left home and went to Athens from the island of Crete, and the organization unfortunately cut off 150 euros without any consideration.

And social workers say: Your daughter is no longer covered by UN and has no right to return to you.

My daughter was undecided and left alone in Athens, and with the onset of coronation and quarantine, she became unemployed. For some reason, it was not time for entry.

During this period. Andy has been suffering from a crisis and mental problems. He is unemployed and desperate in Athens. I knocked on every door and no one answered.

My 10-year-old son and I were accepted after a year, and as soon as I received a positive response from social workers, I was warned that I had to leave home.

It means acceptance in Greece, homogeneity, homelessness and homelessness !!

Desperate and helpless, I joined several Facebook groups related to

real estate and rental advertising.

I wrote there: "I need a small apartment with my two children. We can pay a rent of 200 Euros a month."

After a while, I received insulting messages and ugly words from some members of the group, etc.

Some wrote:

"We do not allow foreigners to leave our country."

Some wished you were all drowned in the sea! There are some writing skills that are not worth mentioning.

People do not give home to "foreign nationals" on the island of Crete! And this anger and hatred of the people is much more worrying than the anger of the fire and the roaring waves of the Aegean Sea and its dangers!

Because the only hope and strength of the heart of the displaced is the love, compassion and kindness of the people of European countries. We asylum seekers do not hope for the false words of the world's ruling politicians, nor for the support of international human rights organizations, because they have all lost their color and glaze for us and their expiration date has expired!

But if the civilized people, with the culture of ancient Greece and Europe, find a negative and hateful attitude towards the asylum seekers and narrow the field for them, the situation of the asylum seekers will become very bad and worrying.

I personally believe that the EU agreement with Turkey and Greece to restrain asylum seekers from receiving money in this "current way" is a shameful and inhumane agreement, and I consider the dire consequences to be very dangerous. I believe that high-ranking Greek officials have made a big mistake.

I imagine this "current way" of asylum seekers for both Greece and for asylum seekers accepted in Greece in the not too distant and very distant future!

I declare danger for Greece, despite this large number of helpless and unemployed asylum seekers with mental health problems. Man, who faces poverty and economic problems, etc., become mes a dangerous

I do not know whether the EU money has taken the understanding from the Greek authorities or they have neglected themselves that they do not understand this danger ?!

It seems that in the not too distant future, Greece will face many crises and problems by these hungry and unemployed asylum seekers. I warn the Greek authorities to open their eyes and ears as soon as possible, to give a basic thought to their country.

Otherwise, in the very near future, they will witness all kinds of social anomalies such as theft, violence and conflict, the phenomenon of begging, sleeping cartons, numerous fires in forests and other places,

I also told the European Union in 2015 that when you saw the body of

a Syrian child, you were very emotional, you opened the doors of Europe to asylum seekers, but in the not too distant future, you will regret it.

And then with the death of no child or human, your feelings will not be aroused. And that day came less than two years later, and now, five years later, it has reached its peak.

What happened that the compassionate, kind and emotional leaders of the European Union, after a short time, became the leaders of the heart, unkind and unfeeling?!

Why other corpses of children drowned in the Aegean Sea and the dismembered corpses of children in Camp Moriah and undecided asylum seekers in Turkey and Greece, children deprived of education

And their other inalienable rights do not arouse your feelings ?! Where was that kindness and humanity of your 2015 ?!

Why do you call the asylum seekers hostile enemies and say: the European Union does not leave Greece alone to prevent the entry of these "invaders" ?!

What happened when Yahoo gave asylum seekers the title of attackers

Damn the systematic politics that parents do not have III

Μου αρέσει! Απάντηση 2 χρ.

Defence for Children International Greece 22 Σεπτεμβρίου 2020 · 🚱

Yesterday, together with Defence for Children International in Geneva, we intervened in the UN Human Rights Council to request the Greek government to:

-release all migrant children from immigration detention and place them in appropriate alternative care

-abolish placement in detention-like massive reception camps, the so called Hotspots.

We also called the Greek State not to use Covid-19 as the excuse for further violations of the right of children to freedom and a dignified life. Their childhood should not be kept behind locked gates and barbed wires.

See full statement here:

https://defenceforchildren.org/.../Detention-Statement...







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Relocate the children now!

Despite the big number of unaccompanied minors that were immediately transferred from Lesvos to the mainland, after the catastrophic fire in Moria camp, there are still thousands of children that were left behind in Lesvos. Children with their parents, with single parents, with grandparents, or children missing their parents after the fire. They remain trapped in the new camp, living in terrible conditions, still deprived of their basic rights. It is paramount that they are relocated in order to be safe and regain their lost childhood.

We will keep supporting and fight for the rights of both the unaccompanied minors transferred, and the children left behind in Lesvos.

EU, can you hear me?

#relocation

#dont_leavethekidsalone

If you wish to support our actions to help them, you can donate here 📳

Paypal account: paypal.me/defenceforchildrengr

IBAN: GR1902603670000310200518604

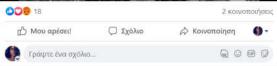
DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL-ELLINIKO TMIMA

Swift: ERBKGRAA Bank: Eurobank

Credits: @danilocampailla









They give

We would like to thank all of you for your kind messages and donations! They give us the resources and the strength to continue our work with the children from Moria!

The Moria children that have been transferred to the mainland are panicked and under a lot of stress. We have been working with all the competent actors in order to locate them to the different places in the mainland and offer our immediate services.

However, there are many who are left behind in Moria deprived of any official protection due to bureaucratic different reasons. We need to make sure that these ones won't be forgoten. Our suppport will reach them too.

The hard work for us starts now! Our main goal is to make sure this fire won't jeopardise their future. We want to make sure that every single one of them will have the chance to regain their lost childhood. Individually tailored support is the key in the search of durable solutions for them.

#dont_leavethekidsalone

If you wish to donate:

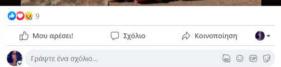
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DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL-ELLINIKO TMIMA

Swift; ERBKGRAA Bank; Eurobank







Defence for Children International Greece

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14 Σεπτεμβρίου 2020 ·
 Our director Nantina Tsekeri gave an interview yesterday at Skai radio live for the pext day of the Moria fire.

next day of the Moria fire.

Amongst other things she called the EU to show in practice its solidarity towards the refugee children who are still trapped in Greece 'It's a unique momentum in european history to rebuild our societies based on solidarity and humanity. Europe decided to solve the refugee matter on the mountains of a tiny village in Lesvos, called Moria. Who would tell the citizens of this village 6 years ago that EU was planning to build 'concentration camps'next their door? Refugees living in that hell,

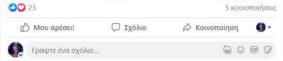
locals and NGO professionals have one and common claim. To make Moria past and relocate these people asap! We have been fighting for the transfer to the mainland of the alone children of Moria for years. We are astonished by how fast this can finally happen, in just a few hours after the fire. This makes us think that what it has been seen as impossible, it is actually very possible to happen.

4000 children are left behind Moria. We need to make sure that they won't be locked in again in a Moria No2. If someone ever entered Moria, will never forget the smell, the despair, the fear in the eyes of these children."

Relocate the people of Moria now!
We are in need of a better world, not of a new Moria.

Help us support the people in need and spread their voice.







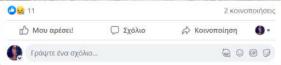
Opening the Human Rights Council #HRC45, High Commissioner Bachelet shares concerns about the tragedy of 12000 migrants of the Moria camp in Greece, reminding that "migrant lives should be protected independently of their administrative status". Relocating 400 unaccompagnied is not good enough while 4000 Children are at risk among the 12000 migmants in the Moria.

#dont leavethekidsalor

Read the full statement here: https://bit.ly/3hjGVVi

Salome Wiedmer







by Urgent Call to Action from Civil Society Organisations across Europe! MORIA FIRES: European Governments must urgently relocate displaced individuals

Over the past days devastating fires burnt down the Moria Registration and Identification Center and surrounding areas, the EU Hotspot on the Greek island Lesvos. The fires have left thousands of vulnerable individuals homeless and traumatised, among them unaccompanied children.

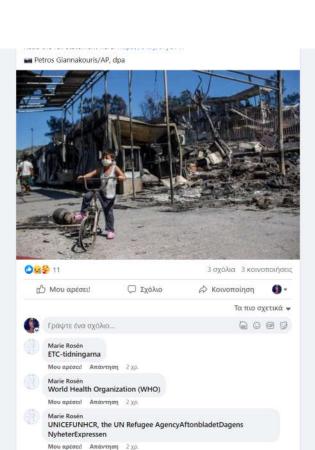
While we are shocked and saddened at these developments, they come as no surprise. Lesvos and the other EU Hotspots on the Aegean islands have reached breaking point long ago. Moria camp was hosting roughly 12-13,000 displaced individuals, with an official capacity of only 2,800.

The Moria model had to be evacuated long time ago and be seen as the ultimate failure of EU to apply its values of humanity and dignity.

The situation in the other Greek Hotspots is similarly untenable and repeated warnings have remained unanswered for over four years. EU needs to act immediately!

#dont leavethekidsalone

Read the full statement here: https://bit.lv/3hiGVVi





Γράψτε ένα σχόλιο...

11 Σεπτεμβρίου 2020 - 3

Defence for Children International Greece

We are overwhelmed by the messages we have received from all of you. We would like to thank you for your donations and the support that you have provided us in

These first hours, after the horrific fires in Moria camp, are crucial. We are acting quickly and effectively, so durable solutions can be granted for the children of Moria.

It is more important than ever to stand by their side, before their future turns into ashes, too.

#dont_leavethekidsalone

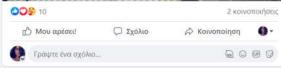
Make a donation 🔠

Paypal account: paypal.me/defenceforchildrengr

IBAN: GR1902603670000310200518604 Holder account number: DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL-ELLINIKO

Bank: Eurobank SWIFT: ERBKGRAA







Defence for Children International Greece

Most of the unaccompanied children of Moria have reached the mainland safely! We are already in contact with all the competent actors, and have started planning the legal support and case management. The needs are tremendous.

There are children with pending family reunification applications, children with

support with their asylum procedure, children whose papers got burned in the fire

Our hard work starts now,

We will make sure to be by their side, supporting them, during these challenging times.

#dont_leavethekidsalone

Make a donation 📳

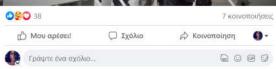
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Bank: Eurobank







We would like to thank everyone that has already donated! Every donation counts! Help us stay by the side of the children of Moria! #dont_leavethekidsalone

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP



Pofence for Children International Greece 9 Σεπτεμβρίου 2020 · Θ

₩ URGENT CALL FOR ACTION

Moria is on fire. Thousands of people, amongst them unaccompanied children, are now forced to face even worse conditions than before.

We need your support, in order to be ready to stand by the side of the 400 unaccompanied children who will be transfered to the mainland. Now, before their future will be put on fire too.

We have been already working on the family reunification claims of many of them and we need to make sure that we can expand and continue our support to more! There are more than 5000 alone children in Greece that need legal support.

Our Children's Rights Helpdesk is based on the mainland, so we are ready to make the necessary adjustments ASAP to cover the massive needs that have occurred, due to the new reality.

 \mbox{Help} us stand by the side of every child in need and keep fighting for their rights, by making a donation. #dont_leavethekidsalon

Paypal account: paypal.me/defenceforchildrengr

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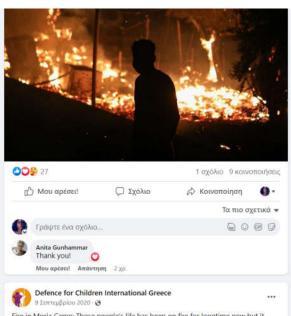


rejections of family reunification claims that we could bring to Commission's

It we asked the kind contribution of the Commissioner in calling the Greek State on its responsibility to transfer the Moria unaccompanied children to appropriate for their age shelters and provide them with direct access to information and legal assistance. Protective custody could not be seen as a suggested alternative. Finally, we underlined that we find it crucial that any decision taken as a response to the emergency situation should not normalize further compromises to what is ought

attention upon request.

to them from an ethical and legal perspective.



Fire in Moria Camp: Those people's life has been on fire for longtime now but it seems like Europe needs to smell the smoke of their burnt lives to grasp it.

These first hours are very crucial. 13.000 of people homeless out in the streets and amongst them hundrends of unaccompanied children. Many of them are alone children who have families in Europe and despite receiving a positive decision to join them, they have been trapped into this hell for months.

Many others get their family reunification requests denied for unlawful reasons.

We are now waiting for the government's and Europe's action imminent plan on this tragedy.

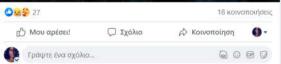
Any action taken needs to put first these children's protection and dignity.

DCI Greece will be keeping you updated on the situation while working towards their imminent transfer to their familes.

#dont_leavethekidsalone

■ Giorgos Moutafis, Moria, 9/9/2020







'I really miss school. I wish I could go again'-A., unaccompanied girl, Athens

In a few days, the first bell of the school year will ring. Children from all across Greece will start the school year. However, this is not the case for the thousands of unaccompanied refugee children who live rough on the streets, in Camps or remain detained under 'protective custody'. For these children that bell won't ring..instead they will keep struggling to find safety and ways to survive.

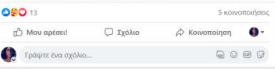
It is crucial that we keep fighting for the rights of all unaccompanied children, until every last one of them can regain their childhood and their fundamental rights.

#dont_leavethekidsalone

Photo captured from our last field trip in Moria refugee camp









'Hi, I don't have much time to speak to you. They might come back. I stay in a house with 7 adult men strangers to me. I need your help. I am afraid.', his first words when called us at our Helpdesk first time one month ago.

M is one of the thousands of unaccompanied unregistered children on the move, that Covid-19 lockdown forced them to seek for a place to sleep in overcrowded apartments, shared with older men, in Athens.

An individually tailored emergency plan of support was instantly activated from our Helpdesk Team for him including legal actions, risk identification, empowerment support and communication with the competent Authorities. Little M had to become safe and visible to the Greek State.

Today, M is being transfered to a safe shelter. Tonight M will sleep protected.

However, his story reflects a broken child protection system. Even after receiving the positive news of finding shelter, M was again left alone. There was no one there to guide him and help him navigate, in a language foreign to him, through a series of medical tests and administrative processes in order to be 'admitted' at his new place.

Our Helpdesk had to cover this gap too.

Gurdianship is an absolute right of all children. More delays with the implementation of the relevant Law and the due hand over to the Greek State might cause the loss of many childhoods.

#dont_leavethekidsalone





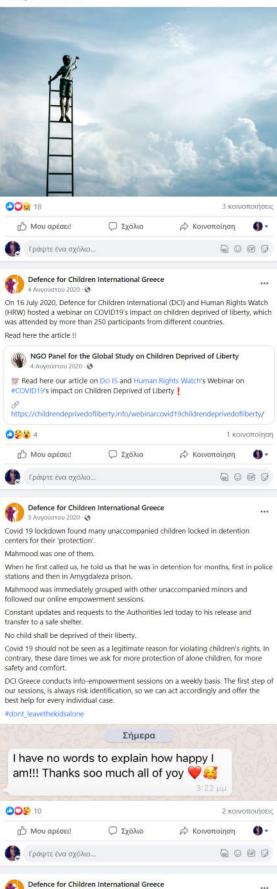
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'I don't believe the time will come that I will leave this place. I will stay here forever, I know it'. These are the words of H., a 16 year old boy in Moria camp. His family reunification request is positive and he should have already been transferred to another EU country, in the safe arms of his relative.

However, H., as well as the majority of these children who have received a positive answer, are still stuck in the toxic environment of Moria, exposed to countless risks, instead of being safe and happy with their family members in other EU countries.

Right now, due to COVID 19, we fight against extreme delays of the issue of their airtickets. Such long delays are contrary to children's best interest and interfere with their right to family life and unity, while clearly deteriorate further their mental health, as they pose them on a standby mode for a long time.

For these children, leaving Moria Camp is a survival issue. It is more crucial than ever that Europe hears their voice and provides them with the ticket out of the hell of Moria.





Our Themida legal team, working on the family reunification applications of children

living inside and outside Moria Refugee Camp, in collaboration with @betterdays, has received 2 more positive decisions the last weeks. 24 in total!

However, the majority of these children that received a positive answer are still stuck in the toxic environment of Moria, exposed to countless risks, instead of being in the safe arms of their families in other EU countries.

Right now, due to COVID 19, there are extreme delays to the issue of the tickets. At the same time, 44 more cases are still pending and waiting to be reviewed by the authorities of the Member States.

Such long delays are contrary to children's best interest and interfere with their right to family life and unity, while clearly deteriorate further their mental health, as they pose them on a standby mode for a long time.

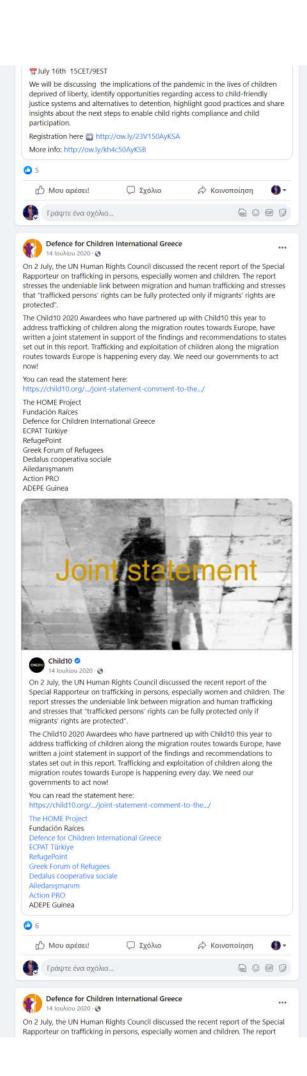
Children residing inside or outside Moria Refugee Camp experience an additional wave of persecutory harm, defined by serious breaches of their right to psychological and emotional development, right to health, right to special protection from all forms of violence. For this reason, it is important Member States to take immediate action and speed up the whole procedure of family reunification and especially children's transfer, where the reunification has been judged to be in the best interest of the child and the family link between the child and the relative has been established.

* Photo captured during the online sessions we had last week with the children residing inside or outside Moria Refugee Camp.









stresses the undeniable link between migration and human trafficking and stresses that "trafficked persons' rights can be fully protected only if migrants' rights are protected".

The Child10 2020 Awardees who have partnered up with Child10 this year to address trafficking of children along the migration routes towards Europe, have written a joint statement in support of the findings and recommendations to states set out in this report. Trafficking and exploitation of children along the migration routes towards Europe is happening every day. We need our governments to act now!

You can read the statement here:

https://child10.org/.../joint-statement-comment-to-the.../

The HOME Project Fundación Raíces

Defence for Children International Greece

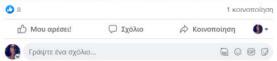
ECPAT Türkiye

RefugePoint Greek Forum of Refugees

Dedalus cooperativa sociale

Ailedanismanim Action PRO ADEPE Guinea







"The key word is integration," says Mr Iraklis Moskoff, National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, adding: "This can be done through educational practices. It is important that children are informed. Let's not just deal with the roof and the food but also with what dangers are hidden for these vulnerable people. It is necessary for children to be suspicious of what kind of people may approach them.

These children are not only victims, they are also survivors. They have experienced a lot in life, they have survived harsh conditions. This makes them potentially successful citizens. "If you empower them, they can achieve a lot in the future."

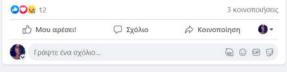
Information is crucial for childrens' empowerment. Refugee children, not being aware of their rights, they can easily fall victims in all kinds of exploitation.

DCI Greeece conducts info-empowerment sessions, on a weekly basis, aiming to create a safe nest for every child in need.

~Read More: https://parallaximag.gr/.../paidiki-ekmetallefsi-stin.



Η παιδική εκμετάλλευση στην Ελλάδα: Εξαθλίωση και αδιαφορία -Parallaxi Magazine





'I cant believe I am safe now! I have asylum! All this time I was living with the fear of deportation back in Afghanistan.'

Our 17 year old A. , we have been working with for more than a year, granted today his asylum. Greece recognized him as a refugee and provided him with

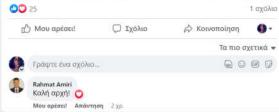
international protection.

A. was tortured in his home country and was deprived of any sense of dignity safety and security. His journey to Greece was difficult and dangerous considering the risks he was exposed to. When A. came to our office one year ago, he was feeling lost and hopeless. He was scared, homeless, living on the streets and was totally unaware about his rights and asylum procedures. He was even detained for some weeks under the scheme of protective custody and due to the lack of shelters.

One year later and A. is living in a shelter, he is going to school while in the coming months will receive the coveted passport. However, due to the lack of opportunities for integration of recognized refugees, this protection may remain only in paper. Recognized refugees are expected to leave assistance only 1 month after receiving their asylum or become 18, the moment Greece has not managed yet to create a successful programme for their smooth integration into society. As a result, they can be exposed in serious risks, like homelessness, unemployment and exploitation.

Our Children's Rights Helpdesk is supporting children, in all the stages of the asylum procedure. Send us a message!





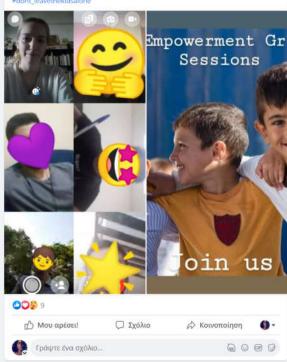


'I don't remember when was the last time I had a conversation like that. From the moment I came in Greece I only speak about my problems as a refugee.

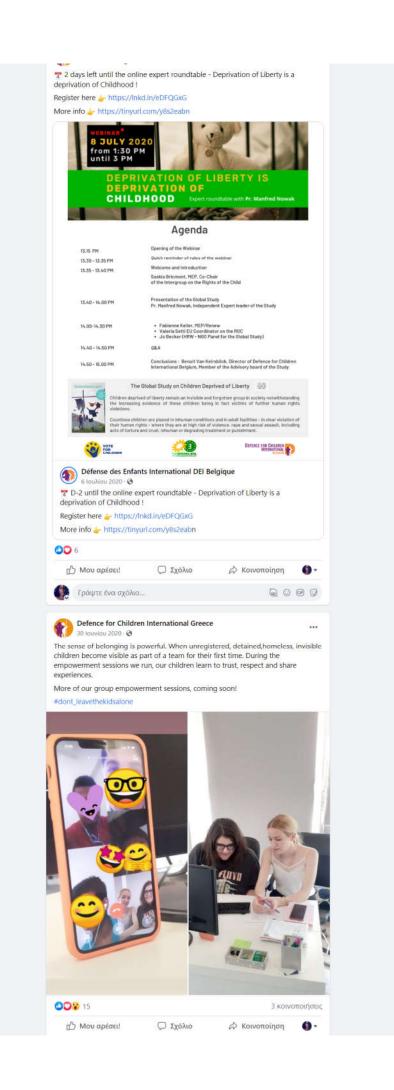
This was one of our deepest sessions yet. Except for our empowerment activities we had a very meaningful open discussion with our children, that made us feel more connected than ever!

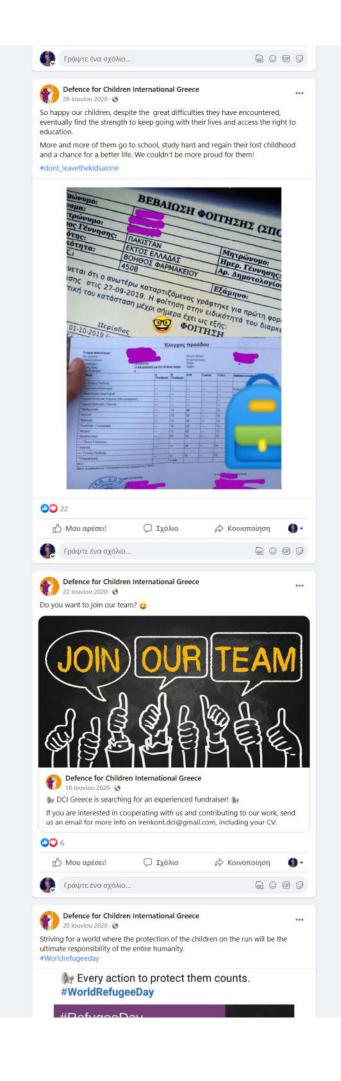
During these challenging times, we keep connecting online with our children, providing them a sense of belonging and stability.

More info sessions coming soon! Register by sending us an inbox!















Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden's Foundation will support our Organisation's protection and healing services to children on the move in risk of sexual exploitation.

We feel honored and grateful for her trust and interest in our work! We are inspired by her Majesty's yearly fight against trafficking of children on the run.

"Children on the run are in terrible danger, including in refugee camps and along the migration routes. Children are at great risk of disappearing and being subjected

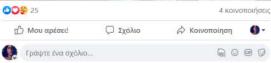
to numan transcring and exploitation, it is crucial that organizations that protect and provide support to children have better conditions for running their business, and that is why I am very pleased that my foundation is working with Child10 in their important work" says H.M. Queen Silvia

We would also like to express our deepest gratitude towards Child10 for its commitment to support our work and create important channels for strengthening our efforts on the ground.

Read the Press Release here:

m-queen-silvia-of-swedens.../..







"Look, I have a bed! The sheets smell so good! It is the greatest place on earth!".

These are the words 16 year old P. told us during a Skype call, after he was transferred to a safe shelter. The boy spent months in detention, under 'protective custudy', because he was homeless. A shelter is more than a survival necessity for children on the move. It gives them a sense of belonging, a sense that they have a base, after months,or even years of travelling. It gives them the strength and power to follow their dreams. And also, most importantly, gives them back their lost childhood.

The story: The boy called our Helpdesk in despair, informing us that he was in prison for months. He was transferred from police station to police station, without even understanding what he did wrong. We explained the procedures and took all necessary legal steps required for his release informing at the same time the competent authorities. Finally, a safe and age appropriate shelter was granted for him.

Despite the great efforts from the official authorities of accommodation, there are thousands of unaccompanied, homeless children that get arrested and placed under protective custody, due to the lack of shelters.





Ο χρήστης Defence for Children International Greece ενημέρωσε την ••• εικόνα του προφίλ του. 4 louviou 2020 - 3

There is no life that counts more than another life.

All human beings regardless race and ethnicity deserve to walk through this land with dignity and freedom. However, millions of people still face discriminations due to their race and skin colour.

Even when it comes to the migration context, we have witnessed very often children of certain ethnicities to be treated by the states as of a second category of children with less rights.

Racism cultures can manifest in many different ways in our societies.

All together we can stand for the right of all these people.

Today, we stand with #blacklivesmatter movement and the hastag of this campaign

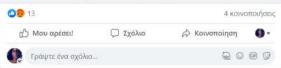




Happening today, on the International Day for Protection of Children (June 1st). Thousands of recognised refugees, including families with children are forced to leave their shelters within a month from the day they receive their asylum decision, a time-frame that used to be up to 6 months. They will face homelessness, which can expose them to countless risks, the moment Greece has not managed yet to create a successful programme for their smooth integration into society. Recognised refugees are expected to leave assistance, but they do not have effective access to social benefits and support. As a result, there are countless barriers they need to overcome, to ensure a dignified life for themselves and their families.



Thousands face homelessness in Greek refugee relocation push Greek officials say housing must be secured for other vulnerable asylum seekers...





pepriving children of their liberty is never in their best interest!

In Greece, and despite the great efforts made from the official authorities of accommodation, there are countless children in detention under 'protective custody'. Unfortunately, this practise has been more and more common, due to the covid-19 crisis.

Despite the fact that the European Court of Human Rights has condemned Greece for detaining refugee children, hundreds of them are still detained in police stations or prisons due to the lack of shelters.

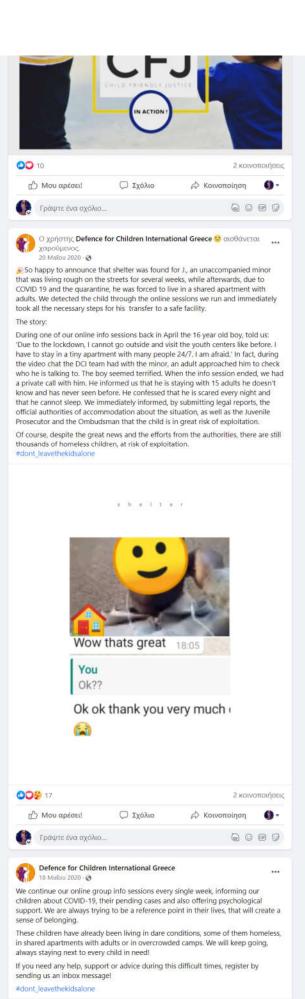
Greece, such as every other State, must adopt the various alternatives to detention that exist, which includes non-custodial measures and remove procedural barriers that impede children from being released.

https://bit.ly/2TNPajl

#nochildindetention #endchilddetention #dont leavethekidsalone

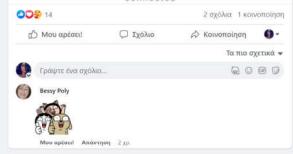








connected





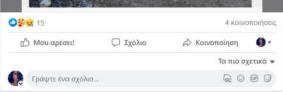
THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Unaccompanied child, currently living outside Moria Refugee Camp, suffers all his life from severe psoriasis. The child does not have access to medical support, while the current living environment deteriorates further his health condition. DCI Greece met the child during the last mission to Moria Camp, and took all the necessary legal actions and involved every authority, so as the child to be transferred as soon as possible in a safe facility. A positive result was achieved after some day and a shelter in the mainland was granted. However, due to COVID 19 the transfer is still pending. DCI Greece is currently putting pressure to the authorities so as to guarantee the transfer of the child.

There are currently hundrends of unaccompanied vulnerable children in Moria Camp. Even though some of them have the chance to escape this hell, covid-19 has delayed every single progress that could be made to improve the life of the children.

Greece #dont_leavethekidsalone







Breaking Update!! #nochildindetention. Another positive outcome on a detention case, in less than a week!. Our efforts on this case finally paid off and the unaccompanied 16 year old minor from Syria that was detained since February in a police cell, facing the danger of deportation, is now released and in a safe shelter!

However, despite the great news and the efforts from the official authorities of accommodation, there are still hundreds of children that due to the shortage of available shelters are detained under the scheme of 'protective custody'.

#endchilddetention, #dont_leavethekidsalone





Homeless, undocumented child ended up a week ago in a police cell under the scheme of protective custody, without being provided with legal information and support. The boy called us today in despair, asking for help, since he now faces the danger of deportation!

Our lawyer visited him at the Police station, informed him about his Rights and the Procedures and took all the legal steps required for his asylum application and his release!

Despite the fact that the European Court of Human Rights has condemned Greece for detaining refugee children, hundreds of them are still detained in police stations or prisons due to the lack of shelters.

#nochildindetention #endchilddetention #dont_leavethekidsalone





In This is Ahmad and Ali, 16 years old from Afghanistan. When they learned that their family reunification applications have been accepted they gave us their warmest smile. They will soon travel to Sweden and Finland so as to live with their relatives and they will try to leave behind whatever made them sad during their stay in Moria Camp.

Our lovely boys we wish you the best of luck in this new beginning, hoping that life from now on will always smile back at you!

Since December DCI Greece undertook 69 cases of family reunification which are still running despite COVID 19. Legal support is more crucial than ever . A great number of refugee children have family members in other EU countries and have the right to apply for family reunification, under the Dublin III Regulation. However, without proper legal support, the minors never get informed or get any help, regarding the requirements of this complicated procedure. As a result, hundreds of them are left alone in Greece with no parent or caretaker, even though they have family members in another EU state.

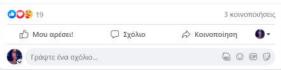
EU these hard times #dont_leavethekidsalone

The 'Themida Legal Intervention' program was designed and launched on the 13th of December 2019 in collaboration with Together for Better Days!

нарру









DCI GREECE and 19 other NGOs and Lawyers call for voting against provisions that jeopardize fundamental rights of applicants for international protection

[scroll down for Greek]

Athens, 7 May 2020 - Following a joint memorandum sent to the Minister of Immigration and Asylum and Parliament on 5 May, twenty NiGOs and lawyers highlight that provisions of the new asylum bill further jeopardize the rights of applicants of international protection and also the guarantees of the asylum procedure as a whole.

They note that the constant changes in the law in a short period of time - without even taking into consideration the multiple issues arising from the implementation of the existing asylum legislation - are creating further delays, while there are provisions that do not reflect the reality in the field, which may lead to violations of national and EU law.

Among others, the new measures:

- * maintain the examination of asylum applications of unaccompanied children with the fast-track procedures (Law 4636/2019), which is not in their best interest, a provision that needs to be amended,
- * abolish the priority of examining asylum claims of vulnerable asylum seekers (unaccompanied children, victims of torture, violence, etc.), risking their exclusion from the more favorable treatment provided by EU law for their protection,
- * further reduce deadlines, particularly for appeals,
- * abolish the possibility of the Independent Appeals Committees to refer cases to the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum for the issuance of residence permits for humanitarian reasons, endangering the fundamental rights of people who, although not entitled of international protection, have the right to reside in Greece, such as unaccompanied children and people with serious health problems,
- * further generalize the use of administrative detention, making this method the norm, against the provision of EU law, where it is an exception.

Steps such as the establishment of the new Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Children can work positively, as long as the guardianship institution is launched and steps are taken to end the detention/"protective custody" of unaccompanied children. The timely staffing of the new Secretariat with properly trained staff and coordination with the other competent authorities, in particular the National Centre of Social Solidarity, should be ensured.

Many of the provisions of the bill will have severe consequences for the lives of thousands of people, depriving them of access to fundamental rights, again undermining the European acquis in the field of asylum, and in fact will ensure neither the improvement nor the faster completion of the asylum procedures.

For these reasons, the organizations call on Members of Parliament not to proceed with the voting on the contested provisions of the draft law.

Signatory Organizations: ActionAid Hellas, ΑΙΤΗΜΑ, ΑΡΣΙΣ – Κοινωνική Οργάνωση Υποστήριξης Νέων, ASB, Médecins du Monde Greece – Γιατροί του Κόσμου, Δίκτυο για τα Δικαιώματα του Παιδιού- Network for Children's Rights, DRC Greece (Δανικό Συμβούλιο για τους Πρόσφυγες), Defence for Children International Greece (DCI Greece), Διοτίμα – Κέντρο Γυναικείων Μέλετών και Ερευνών / CRWI Diotima, Equal Rights Beyond Borders, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Ελληνικό Συμβούλιο για τους Πρόσφυγες – Greek Council for Refugees (ΕΣΠ), Greek Forum of Refugees (Ελληνικό Φόρουμ Προσφύγων), HIAS Greece, HumanRights360, Legal Center Lesvos, Μητρώο Δικηγόρων Νομικής Συνδρομής Υπηρεσίας Ασύλου, @Υποστήριξη Προσφύγων στο Αιγαίο (RSA), SolidarityNow, Terre des hommes Hellas - Γη των ανθρώπων, The HOME Project.

ΔΕΛΤΙΟ ΤΥΠΟΥ/PRESS RELEASE: 20 Οργανώσεις και νομικοί ζητούν να καταψηφιστούν διατάξεις που θέτουν σε κίνδυνο βασικά δικαιώματα των αιτούντων διεθνή προστασία

Αθήνα, 7 Μαΐου 2020- Είκοσι οργανώσεις της κοινωνίας των πολιτών και νομικοί τονίζουν, σε συνέχεια κοινού υπομνήματος που έστειλαν στον Υπουργό Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου και στη Βουλή στις 5 Μαΐου, ότι διατάξεις του νέου νομοσχεδίου για το άσυλο θέτουν σε περαιτέρω κίνδυνο τα δικαιώματα των αιτούντων διεθνή προστασία και τις εγγυήσεις της διαδικασίας ασύλου.

Σημειώνουν ότι οι συνεχείς αλλαγές στους νόμους μέσα σε σύντομα χρονικά διαστήματα - και μάλιστα χωρίς να έχουν ληφθεί υπόψιν τα πολλαπλά ζητήματα που προκύπτουν από την εφαρμογή της υφιστάμενης νομοθεσίας στον τομέα του αλομβάνουν δημιουργούν περαιτέρω καθυστερήσεις, ενώ υπάρχουν διατάξεις που δε λαμβάνουν υπόψιν την πραγματικότητα στο πεδίο, οι οποίες μπορεί να οδηγήσουν σε παραβιάσεις του εθνικού και ενωσιακού διακίου.

Μεταξύ άλλων, τα νέα μέτρα:

* διατηρούν την εξέταση των αιτήσεων ασύλου των ασυνόδευτων παιδιών με ταχύρρυθμες διαδικασίες (νόμος 4636/2019), οι οποίες δε συνάδουν με το

βελτιστο συμφερον τους, προβλεψη που πρεπει να τροποποιηθει,

- * καταργούν την προτεραιοποίηση εξέτασης των αιτημάτων ασύλου των ευάλωτων αιτούντων άσυλο (ασυνόδευτα παιδιά, θύματα βασανιστηρίων, βίας κ.λπ), με διακύβευμα τον αποκλεισμό τους από την ευνοϊκότερη μεταχείριση που το ενωσιακό δίκαιο προβλέπει για την προστασία τους,
- * συρρικνώνουν περαιτέρω τις προθεσμίες, ιδίως της προσφυγής
- * καταργούν τη δυνατότητα των Ανεξάρτητων Επιτροπών Προσφυγών να παραπέμπουν στο Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου για την έκδοση άδειας διαμονής για ανθρωπιστικούς λόγους, θέτοντας σε κίνδυνο αποκλεισμού από θεμελιώδη δικαιώματά τους ανθρώπους που, αν και μη δικαιούχοι διεθνούς προστασίας, έχουν το δικαίωμα παραμονής στην ελληνική επικράτεια, όπως ενδεικτικά οι ασυνόδευτοι ανήλικοι και οι πάσχοντες από σοβαρά προβλήματα υνείας.
- γενικεύουν περαιτέρω την επιβολή της διοικητικής κράτησης, καθιστώντας το εν λόγω μέτρο τον κανόνα, έναντι της εξαίρεσης που προβλέπει το ενωσιακό δίκαιο.

Βήματα όπως η σύσταση της νέας Ειδικής Γραμματείας Προστασίας Ασυνόδευτων Παιδιών μπορεί να λειτουργήσουν θετικά, εφόσον παραλληλα δρομολογηθεί ο θεσμός της επιτροπείας και γίνουν όλες οι απαραίτητες ενέργειες για τον τερματισμό της κράτησης/«προστατευτικής φύλαξης» των ασυνόδευτων παιδιών. Θα πρέπει ωστόσο να διασφαλιστεί η έγκαιρη στελέχωση της νέας Γραμματείας με κατάλληλα εκπαιδευμένο προσωπικό και ο συντονισμός με τις υπόλοιπες αρμόδιες αρχές, όπως ιδίως το Εθνικό Κέντρο Κοινωνικής Αλληλεγγύης.

Πολλές από τις διατάξεις του νομοσχεδίου θα έχουν σοβαρές συνέπειες στις ζωές χιλιάδων ανθρώπων, στερώντας τους την πρόσβαση σε θεμελιώδη δικαιώματα, θίγοντας εκ νέου το ευρωπαϊκό κεκτημένο στον τομέα του ασύλου, ενώ στην πραγματικότητα δε διασφαλίζουν ούτε τη βελτίωση, αλλά ούτε καν την επιτάχυνση των διαδικασιών ασύλου.

Για τους λόγους αυτούς οι οργανώσεις καλούν τους Βουλευτές να μην προχωρήσουν στην ψήφιση των επίμαχων διατάξεων του σχεδίου νόμου

Signatory Organizations: ActionAid Hellas, ΑΙΤΗΜΑ, ΑΡΣΙΣ – Κοινωνική Οργάνωση Υποστήριξης Νέων, ΑSΒ, Μέdecins du Monde Greece – Γιατροί του Κόσμου, Δίκτυο για τα Δικαιώματα του Παιδιού- Network for Children's Rights, DRC Greece (Δανικό Συμβούλιο για τους Πρόσφυγες), Defence for Children International Greece (DCI Greece), Διοτίμα - Κέντρο Γυναικείων Μελετών και Ερευνών / CRWI Diotima, Equal Rights Beyond Borders, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Ελληνικό Συμβαύλιο για τους Πρόσφυγες - Greeke Council for Refugees (ΕΣΠ), Greek Forum of Refugees (Ελληνικό Φόρουμ Προσφύγων), HIAS Greece, HumanRights360, Legal Center Lesvos, Μητρώο Δικηγόρων Νομικής Συνδρομής Υπηρεσίας Ασύλου, @Υποστήριξη Προσφύγων στο Αιγαίο (RSA), SolidarityNow, Terre des hommes Hellas - Γη των ανθρώπων,The HOME Project.



EFSYN.GR

Σήμα κινδύνου εκπέμπουν οργανώσεις για το νέο ν/σ για το άσυλο

11 1 κοινοποίηση

Δ΄ Μου αρέσει! □ Σχόλιο ☆ Κοινοποίηση

Γράψτε ένα σχόλιο... □ ② ❷ ③



Happening Now!! 'I am happy today! !!' he texted us earlier this morning 'After so many months I am finally getting out of prison. From the moment I arrived in Greece I changed so many different police stations and cells, without having committed any crime. They were telling me they do that for my protection.'

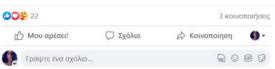
After several months the 16 year old unaccompanied boy that was detained in Amygdaleza prison today was finally released and transferred in a safe and appropriate for his needs place!! 3

The story:

The boy called our Helpdesk during March in order to be released from prison. He was more than five months detained as he told us, being transferred from police station to police station and then to the pre removal center of Amygdaleza. His overall emotional state was very crucial. We immediately involved the competent authorities asking for his immediate transfer to a proper shelter. This was followed by concrete legal actions from our side. Shelter was then found in Ritsona Camp but due to COVID - 19 the transfer could not be made. DCI Greece kept up the communications with the Authorities, submitted additional legal reports. On April the efforts led again to another positive result and a decision was made that the unaccompanied boy will be released and transferred in a safe shelter in Attica. Covid 19 once again acted as an obstacle and in combination with the deficiencies of the Greek asylum system the boy was not transferred immediately. After countless communications and strategic plans, the boy today was finally transferred to the facility!

The European Court of Human Rights has condemned Greece for detaining refugee children, however hundreds of them are still detained in police stations or prisons







Defence for Children International Greece

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Together for Better Days and DCI Greece launched in December 2019 the 'Themida Legal Intervention' program, in order to help unaccompanied minors in Moria camp with their family reunification cases.

Since then, we administered a total of 69 family reunification cases, from which 8 have received a positive answer. Despite all the difficulties regarding COVID-19, the other cases are still running and we are working on them actively, until we get the best results for our children!

Thank you @togetherforbetterdays for the great cooperation!

#dont_leavethekidsalone





6 Majou 2020 - 24

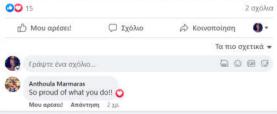
"It is hard to explain this to a family member...they ask almost every day for an update but there is little more we can do. We remind the Dublin authorities of the importance of fulfilling their obligation towards these children and completing the process of reunification with the family by finalizing the traveling arrangements. Of course, receiving a positive answer is a great victory for us and the children. However time passes, and knowing the experiences of these poor kids in the camp, it breaks your heart to see them stuck there instead of with their loved ones" says Romane Bernet, BD's Legal Program Officer.



Relocate children for their safety!











COVID-19 has changed everything. However, people's needs never stop existing. Today, much needed good news reached our Helpdesk! A 2 year old child with severe health issues and her widowed mother, will soon be transferred to a safe shelter! Our efforts on this case finally paid off and, with the great cooperation of the official authorities of accommodation, an apartment in Athens is granted, so the little girl will be able to continue her treatment with her doctors. It is more crucial than ever, during these challenging times, not to let down any child in need! DCI Greece will keep fighting for every single one of them!

#dont_leavethekidsalone



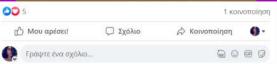


unaccompanied children in Lesvos do not have a safe place to stay in. These children remain trapped in Moria Camp and the over expanded Jungle without even having safe access to clean water so as to wash their hands and take a bath.











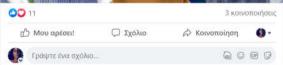
🦖 Scroll down for Farsi..We would like to inform our children that DCI Greece is still working, and we are still here to provide our help to any child in need! As in the past weeks we will keep replying to your messages and questions despite the Coronavirus!! You can contact us via inbox on our Facebook page or instagram! Furthermore, due to the fact that we are unable to do our information sessions in the conventional way, we will soon start \P_0 ONLINE INFORMATION SESSIONS! From Thursday also and every day we will have Q&A time on our Instagram! Stay updated, follow us on instagram also @defenceforchildrengr and spread the message to your friends! You are not alone! #####

سلام ! ما میخواهیم به اطفال خود اطلاع دهیم که (DCI) یا (دفتر بین المللی حمایه اطفال) در یونان هنوز کار میکند .ما هنوز ایجا هستیم تا کمک های خودرا به هر کودک نیازمند ارائه کنیم مانند هفته های قبلی . بنا بخاطر ویروس کرونا ما میخواهیم جلسات اطلاعاتی خود را انلین شروع کنیم . و به پیام ها و پرسش های شما پاسخ ارائه کنیم !!و شما میتوانید از طریق صندوق ورودی صفحه فیسبوک و یا انستاگرام با ما تماس بگیرید ! البته این که ما نمیتوانیم جلسات اطلاعاتی خودرا مانند قبل بخاطر ویروس گرونا ادامه دهیم برودی سر از روز پنجشنیه هروز در صفحه انستاگرام خود وقت سوال و جواب خواهیم داشت تا در باره کیس های خود در یونان با خبر باشید .بنا صفحه انستاگرام ما را دنبال کنید

@defenceforchildrengr

و لطف نموده صفحه ما را با دوستان خود نیز شریک سازید .ممنون



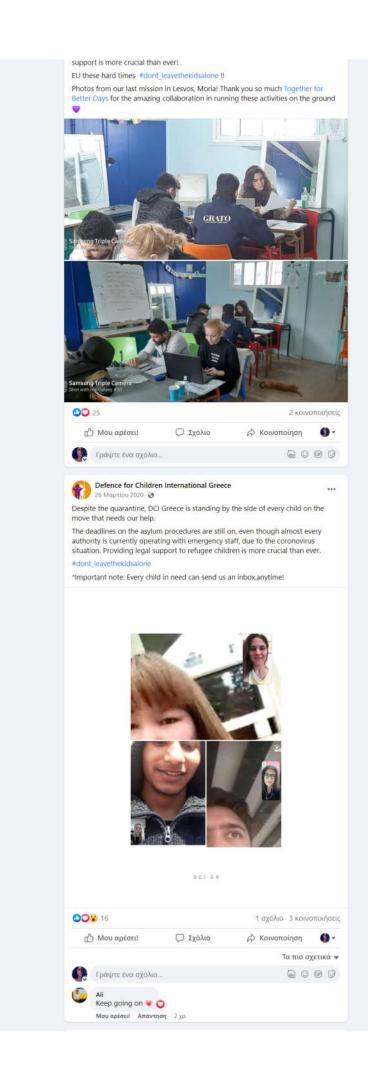




X A much needed positive outcome reached our Helpdesk today from Finland this time, regarding one of the family reunification cases we undertook in our latest mission in Moria Camp some weeks ago!!

Our lovely H. soon you will be with your uncle! 🙏

During our last mission in late February we undertook more than 35 cases of family reunification which are still running despite the situation with COVID 19. Legal



MEW OPEN LETTER!

Thank you efsyn.gr for publishing our open letter regarding the asylum procedures and public health (read article in greek here: https://www.efsyn.gr/node/236577) FOR ENGUSH, SCROLL DOWN •

Protect the most vulnerable to ensure protection for everyone!

'Restore legality to protect refugees and the society at large amidst the pandemic'

Open letter signed by 121 Organizations

To

The President of Greece, Katerina Sakellaropoulou

The President of the Hellenic Parliament, Constantine An. Tassoulas

The Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis

The President of the European Parliament, David Sassoli

The President of the European Council, Charles Michel

The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet

The Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Dunja Mijatović The Director General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom

Athens, 25 March 2020 – Recalling the letter issued on 6 March 2020, signed by more than 250 organizations throughout Europe, the undersigned organizations reiterate the dangers stemming from persisting in current arrangements on the management of the reception of asylum seekers and the respect for their right to seek asylum in Greece. Apart from violating national, EU and international laws, amid the pandemic, these arrangements also pose a major public health danger, arising from overcrowding in Greece's Reception and Identification Centers (RICs) and in the country's detention centers.

Asylum seekers, amongst them many children, who entered Greece with the aim of seeking protection are being detained for the purposes of return, as a result of the Emergency Legislative Decree (E.L.D) issued on 1 March 2020. The E.L.D. has suspended the registration of asylum applications allowing for the immediate deportation of those entering the Greek territory to their countries of origin or Turkey. A large number of refugees and migrants are now being held in prisons and in formal and informal detention centers that keep springing up throughout Greece. This is happening without ensuring minimum standards of hygiene or protection, even during this public health emergency. They are deprived of the right to apply for asylum and are detained under the threat of deportation. In a breach of all international Conventions that protect the right to seek asylum, Greek Courts have imposed severe penalties on them.

We stress that the suspension of the right to seek asylum and the violation of the principle of non-refoulement is an unprecedented abrogation of international obligations in post-war Europe. At the same time, following the Greek Asylum Service's suspension of operations, in the context of social distancing to curb the spread of the coronavirus, the backlog of asylum applications and the uncertainty of asylum seekers who arrived in Greece before the 1st of March are growing daily, as no interim procedures have been defined.

More importantly, the coronavirus pandemic is threatening to affect refugee accommodation sites and camps. The camps, especially on the Aegean islands, suffer from severe overcrowding and lack of adequate sanitary facilities, making it impossible to ensure social distancing and hygiene conditions for both residents and employees. This poses a major threat to public health for both asylum seekers and for society as large. Similarly, the significant increase in the number of third-country nationals placed in administrative detention, in the weeks preceding and especially those following the ELD., notwithstanding issues of legality, puts the health of detainees and employees alike at grave risk.

We address all competent Greek authorities, requesting:

- To immediately protect public health with steps designed to protect those residing in camps, camp employees and society at large. The first step should be to urgently decongest the islands, by prioritizing the transfer of those asylum seekers who are most at risk to the Greek mainland or to other EU Member States, in a manner that will protect the health of all involved, as well as public health.
- To rescind the E.L.D, which is due to expire on 2 April 2020; to clarify that refugees who have entered Greece after 1 March 2020 will be granted protection and to suspend deportation decisions that, especially during the pandemic, jeopardize the lives, health, freedom and basic rights of returnees. Reinstating access to asylum, and in particular respecting the principle of non-refoulement, will restore the state of legality.
- To implement alternatives to detention for all administrative detainees throughout Greece, and to prevent ongoing arrests by the police authorities on account of the lack of legal documents for the duration of the pandemic.
- To take all necessary measures to ensure that, even under these emergency conditions, everyone wishing to apply for asylum will be able to do so before the Greek Asylum Service, in a way that safeguards the health of asylum seekers and employees alike.

We once more address the Institutions of the European Union and all member states, requesting:

- To safeguard the right to seek asylum, one of the core rights underlying the fabric
 of post-war Europe, by exercising their responsibility to ensure all EU member states
 comply with their international obligations.
- To establish timely and fair relocation mechanisms that will, at minimum, take the
 most vulnerable, such as children and people with disabilities, away from the Greek
 islands and into appropriate accommodation within the reach of health services. As
 this is a health emergency, relocation should be facilitated, keeping only necessary
 checks to avoid spread of Covid-19.
- To support the Greek Government in its effort to safeguard public health, which
 can only be achieved through the extensive decongestion of the RICs, the adoption
 of protective measures that include the population of refugees and migrants, and
 particularly through avoiding "ghettoization" or generalized detention.
 We address the bodies of the Council of Europe and the United Nations, requesting:
- We address the bodies of the Council of Europe and the United Nations, requesting • To provide Greece with all possible assistance to avoid the public health crisis that could result, particularly, from the situation in the camps.
- To strengthen the monitoring procedures and oversight for the European Union's and its member states' compliance with International Conventions and International Human Rights Standards.

In closing, we call on everyone to restore legality and be mindful of not neglecting refugees and other vulnerable groups in times of crisis. Prevailing conditions in the cames counted with the inadvantant effects of currenting access to acquire not.

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only undermine our laws, but can undermine public health in its entirety. These
considerations only act to amplify our original plea to restore legality and safeguard
our common European system of values

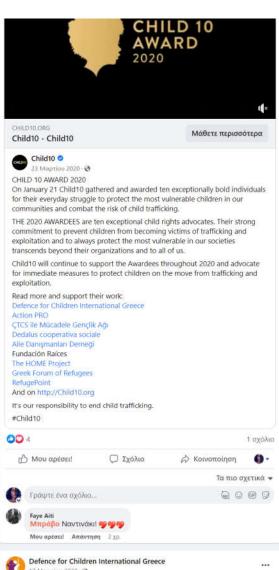
∠ LIST OF SIGNATORIES

A DROP IN THE OCEAN (Norway/ Greece)
ACTION FOR EDUCATION (GREECE)
ACTIONAID DENMARK
ACTIONAID HELLAS
ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL
ACTIONAID ITALIA
AEDH (EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS) (Belgium)
ANASA CULTURAL CENTER (Greece)
ANDALUCIA ACOGE (Spain)
AOI - INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY (Italy)
ARSIS – ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIAL SUPPORT OF YOUTH
ASKV / STEUNPUNT VLUCHTELINGEN (Netherlands)
ASSOCIATION POUR LA PROMOTION DES DROITS HUMAINS (APDH) (Switzerland)
ASSOCIAZIONE RICREATIVA CULTURALE ITALIANA (ARCI) (Italy)
ASTI (Λουξεμβούργο)
ASYLOS (UK)
ATTIKA HUMAN SUPPORT (Greece)
AVOCATS SANS FRONTIÈRES FRANCE
BABEL DAY CETNRE (Greece)
BRIGHTON MIGRANT SOLIDARITY (UK)
CARITAS HELLAS
CENTER FOR LEGAL AID - VOICE IN BULGARIA
CENTRE DIOTIMA (Greece)
CHEER INTERNATIONAL GROUP (CHEERING) (Greece)
CHURCHES' COMMISSION FOR MIGRANTS IN EUROPE (CCME)
COLLECTIVE AID (France/ Serbia/ Bosnia and Herzegovina)
DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL GREECE
DIRTY GIRLS (Greece)
DUTCH COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES
ECHO100PLUS (Greece)
END FGM EUROPEAN NETWORK
EQUAL SOCIETY (Greece)
EUROMED RIGHTS / EUROMED DROITS
EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON REFUGEES AND EXILES (ECRE)
FENIX HUMANITARIAN LEGAL AID (G
FONDAZIONE FINANZA ETICA (Italy)
FOODKIND (Switzerland/ Greece)
FORUM RÉFUGIÉS-COSI (France)
FORWARD UK
FREE MOVEMENT SKATEBOARDING (UK)
FUNDACION CEPAIM (Spain)
GENERATION 2.0 RED (Greece)
CHURCHES' COMMISSION FOR MIGRANTS IN EUROPE (CCME)
GAMS (Belgium)
GCAP GREECE
GREATER MANCHESTER IMMIGRATION AID UNIT (GMIAU) (UK)
GREEK COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES (GCR)
GREEK FORUM OF MIGRANTS
GREEK FORUM OF REFUGEES
HELLENIC LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (HLHR)
HELLENIC PLATFORM FOR DEVELOPMENT
HELP REFUGEES / CHOOSE LOVE (UK)
HIAS GREECE
HUBB - HUMANS BEFORE BORDERS (Portugal)
HUMANRIGHTS360 (Greece)
HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH (HRW)
I AM YOU HUMANITARIAN AID (Greece)
INDIGO VOLUNTEERS (UK)
INITIATIVE FOR THE DETAINEES' RIGHTS (Greece)
INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (UK)
INTACT (Belgium)
INTEREUROPEAN HUMAN AID ASSOCIATION GERMANY E.V. (Greece)
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ERITREAN REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS (ICERAS)
INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMMITTEE (IRC)
INTERSOS HELLAS
INTERSOS ORGANIZZAZIONE UMANITARIA ONLUS (Italy)
ITALIAN COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES
JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE GREECE (JRS GREECE)
JRS - PORTUGAL
KHORA COMMUNITY CENTRE ATHENS (Greece)
KITRINOS HEALTHCARE (Greece)
LAW CENTRES NETWORK (UK)
LEEDS NO BORDERS (UK)
LEGAL CENTRE LESVOS (Greece)
MEDECINS DU MONDE – GREECE (MDM - GREECE)
MELISSA NETWORK (Greece)
MIGRANT VOICE (UK)
MOBILE INFO TEAM (Greece)
MOSAICO-AZIONI PER I RIFUGIATI (Italy)
MOVIMENTO DI COOPERAZIONE EDUCATIVA (MCE) (Italy)
NETWORK FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS (Greece)
NORWEGIAN CENTRE AGAINST RACISM
NORWEGIAN ORGANISATION FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS (NOAS)
ODYSSEA (Greece)
OMANIAE VZW (Belgium)
ONE HAPPY FAMILY (Greece)
ORGANIZATION EARTH (Greece)
PAMPIRAIKI SUPPORT INITIATIVE FOR REFUGEES & MIGRANTS (Greece)
PAR - PLATAFORMA DE APOIO AOS REFUGIADOS (Portugal)
PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ON UNDOCUMENTED
MIGRANTS (PICUM)
PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (Finland)
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PROJECT ARMONIA (Greece)

QUAKER ASYLUM AND REFUGEE NETWORK (QARN) (UK)







Thank you so much Child 10 for the support!

'I'm afraid I will be raped while walking through the jungle of Moria to find some water. Can you hear me?' - Mahmood 14 years old

EUROPE #dont_leavethekidsalone and RELOCATE them NOW!

Each day missed, one more unaccompanied child on the move will be abused. dehydrated and left in despair in Greece.

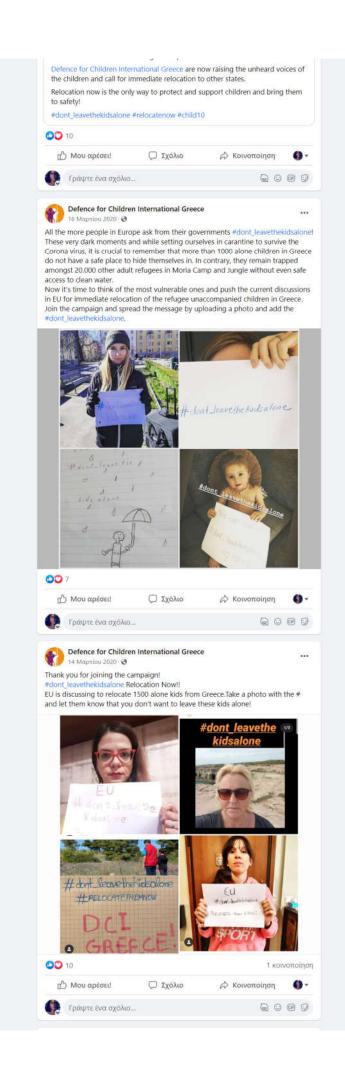
Three months ago many of us send a strong message to EU by answering 'I CAN HEAR YOU' to the children trapped in Lesvos island.

Today, we invite you all again to join forces and let your Government know that you don't want to leave these kids alone.

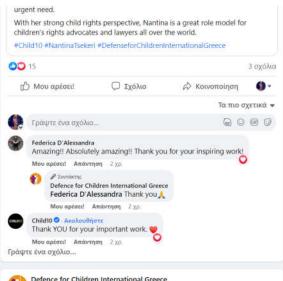
Upload your own photo using the hashtag (#dont_leavethekidsalone) and ask for their immediate relocation. Five EU countries already committed to. Together we can



of children from the Greek refugee camps.









"Protect our laws and humanity!"

Open Letter by 85 Organizations

Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, Kyriakos Mitsotakis President of the European Parliament, David Sassol President of the European Council, Charles Michel

President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen

Athens, 6 March 2020 – The undersigned organisations are deeply concerned about recent developments at the Evros border and the Aegean islands where people are stranded at the borders of Europe, instrumentalized for political purposes, and subject to violations of their rights. We are also deeply concerned about the way the authorities of Greece and the European Union are handling new arrivals. Equally alarming are the extreme actions by security forces against refugees and by civilians against staff of human rights and humanitarian organizations. We would also like to point out that the climate of panic and rhetoric of 'asymmetric threat' –also promoted by the authorities– does not reflect reality and seriously affects not only vulnerable refugees- but also our society and the rule of law as a whole.

We firmly express our opposition to the recent decisions of the Greek Governmental Council on Foreign Affairs and Defense (KYSEA), and in particular the adoption of the Emergency Legislative Decree, which stipulates the suspension of the right to seek asylum for all people entering the country and their return without registration, to their countries of origin or transit. Applying such a regulatory provision is inhumane and illegal as it violates the fundamental principle of non-refoulement, incurs international responsibilities for Greece and endangers human lives. It is beyond dispute that Greece has the sovereign competence to control its borders and to manage any crossings there. Nevertheless, the right to seek asylum is a fundamental human right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

We also denounce the attacks on organizations that defend human rights and humanitarian organizations, noting that without the support of these organizations, the refugee management system in Greece would collapse. In addition, solidarity has been stigmatized and become the target of suspicion, which has been also exacerbated by members of the Government, fomenting violence and lawlessness in society in general. We denounce any statements, actions or policies that foment or tolerate bigotry.

We call upon the Greek Government to:

- · Withdraw the illegal and unconstitutional Emergency Legislative Decree and to respect the obligations of the Greek State concerning the protection of human life and rescue at sea and at the land borders.
- Immediately stop returning people to states where their lives and freedom are at risk, or where they are at risk of being subjected to torture or other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- Immediately alleviate overcrowding on the islands by relocating asylum seekers to the mainland, protecting their well-being and health. Priority should be given to the most vulnerable, unaccompanied minors and families with children.
- · Take the necessary measures to protect every person from acts of violence, victimization and racism.

We recall that the EU should assume substantial responsibilities for the protection of people on the move in a manner that demonstrates respect for human dignity and

lawfulness and as a matter of shared responsibility among EU member states in the context of managing what is, first and foremost, a European issue. The right to asylum and the respect for the principle of non-refoulement are fundamental elements of international and EU law and therefore the authorities of the European Union must take the necessary measures for their protection.

Therefore

- · The European Commission, as the guardian of the Treaties, should protect the right to asylum as enshrined in EU law. Therefore, it should reverse the "aspida (shield)" rhetoric used by Greece and urge it to assume its legal obligations.
- EU Member States should re-establish immediately the mechanisms for the relocation of refugees and asylum seekers from Greece to other Member States, in a fair and rational manner, with priority given to unaccompanied children. EU Member States should increase resettlement of refugees directly from Turkey
- EU Member States and institutions should revise the EU-Turkey Statement, which in addition to legal lacunae—has now proven to be an unpredictable and unsustainable political tool for border management.

In closing, we call on all sides to respect the law and safeguard European democratic values. Any further backsliding will have major consequences on European societies, European democracy and the rule of law.

List of Signatories

ACTIONAID HELLAS

ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL

ACTIONAID ITALIA

ADDART (Greece) AITIMA (Greece)

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

ANTIGONE (Greece)

ARSIS - ASSOCIATION FOR THE SUPPORT OF YOUTH (Greece)

ASSOCIATION FOR INTEGRATION AND MIGRATION (Czech Republic) ASSOCIATION FOR LEGAL INTERVENTION (Poland)

ASOCIACIÓN POR TI MUJER (Spain) BABEL DAY CENTER (Greece)

CARITAS HELLAS

CENTRE DIOTIMA (Greece)

CHANGE MAKERS LAB (Greece)

CHILD AND YOUTH CARE ASSOCIATION (SMAN) (Greece)
DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL (DRC)

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL GREECE

DUTCH COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES (DCR)

ECOLOGICAL MOVEMENT OF THESSALONIKI (Greece)

ECHO100PLUS (Greece)

EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION (Greece)

FLIX (Greece)

END FGM EUROPEAN NETWORK

EPAPSY (Greece)
EQUAL RIGHTS BEYOND BORDERS (Greece)

EUROPEAN ANTIPOVERTY NETWORK (EAPN)
EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON REFUGEES AND EXILES (ECRE)

FIX IN ART (Greece)

FORENSIC ARCHITECTURE (Greece)

FUNDACION CEPAIM (Spain)

GENERATION 2.0 RED (Greece) GREEK COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES (GCR)

GREEK FORUM OF MIGRANTS GREEK FORUM OF REFUGEES

GREEK NETWORK FOR THE RIGHT TO SHELTER AND HOUSING HELLENIC ANTIPOVERTY NETWORK

HELLENIC LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (HLHR)

HELP REFUGEES / CHOOSE LOVE

HIAS GREECE

HUMANRIGHTS360 (Greece)

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

IMMIGRANT COUNCIL OF IRELAND INITIATIVE FOR THE DETAINEES' RIGHTS (Greece)

INTER ALIA (Greece)

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMMITTEE (IRC)

INTERSOS HELLAS

IRISH ANTIPOVERTY NETWORK LEGAL CENTRE LESVOS (Greece)

LEROS SOLIDARITY NETWORK (Greece)

LESVOS SOLIDARITY (Greece)

MED.IN MEDICAL INTERVENTION (Greece) MEDECINS DU MONDE - GREECE (MDM - GREECE)

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES – GREECE (MSF – GREECE)

MELISSA NETWORK (Greece)

METADRASI (Greece)

NETWORK FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS (Greece) OMNES (Greece)

ORGANIZATION EARTH (Greece)

OXFAM

PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL (Belgium)

PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ON UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS (PICUM)

PRAKSIS (Greece) RED ACOGE (Spain)

REFUGEE LEGAL SUPPORT (RLS) (Greece)

REFUGEE RIGHTS EUROPE (RRE)

REFUGEE SUPPORT AEGEAN (RSA)

REFUGEE TRAUMA INITIATIVE (Greece) SAFE PASSAGE INTERNATIONAL

SCHEDIA STIN POLI-ARTISTIC PEDAGOGIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION (Greece)

SEA OF SOLIDARITY (Greece)

SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL-HELLAS

SOLIDARITYNOW (Greece)

SOS RACISMO (Spain)

STATE OF CONCEPT (Greece) STIL-UTRECHT (Netherlands)

SYMBIOSIS-SCHOOL OF POLITICAL STUDIES (Greece)

SYNDICAT INTERPROFESSIONNEL DE TRAVAILLEUSES ET TRAVAILLEURS (SIT)

(Switzerland) TERRE DES HOMMES HELLAS

THE HOME PROJECT (Greece)
THESSALONIKI PRIDE (Greece)

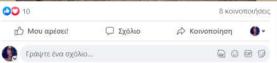
THESS DICTIO - VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS' NETWORK OF THESSALONIKI

TRANSGENDER SUPPORT ASSOCIATION (Greece)

VICTORIA SQUARE PROJECT (Greece)
WORLD WITHOUT WARS AND VIOLENCE (Greece)

m photo copyright: Dapne Tolis







MyJOINT CALL FOR ACTION!!!!!

Urgent call to relocate 1800 unaccompanied children that are currently struggling to survive in the EU hotspots – Reception and Identification Centers - on the Greek islands.

In this chaotic context, children are deprived of access to their most basic rights such as shelter, water, food, medical and psychosocial care, legal assistance, as well as education.

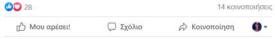
We call on EU Member States to relocate these children that are being exposed to multiple dangers.

If each state would commit to relocate just 70 unaccompanied children, these children would no longer be homeless and living in inhumane conditions.

Europe #dont_leavethekidsalone

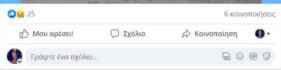
Read more here J-https://defenceforchildren.org/.../Press-Release-Joint...













∠ In an open letter to Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, DCI Greece and 19 other organisations raise concern over the protection

of thousands of unaccompanied children in the country.

FOR GREEK, SCROLL DOWN

Read more J- https://www.defenceforchildrengreece.org/press-releases

Dear Prime Minister.

The organizations signing this letter have been engaged for many years in the field of human rights and humanitarian aid and are looking to you in the hope that you will intercede to resolve a very serious issue. This pertains to the protection of thousands of unaccompanied children, who, due to a lack of suitable and sufficient shelters, as well as a comprehensive guardianship scheme and a system of child protection, remain in unsuitable accommodation and/or detention centers for extended periods of time. It is a common secret that the situation which has taken shape in the last 5 years is not in the best interest of the child. Nor does it befit our country.

The present letter is sent because of your crucial initiative on November 24, 2019, to prioritize and to bring all the relevant competences under the Prime Minister's office, which we, first and foremost, welcome. We must, however, bring your attention to a set of issues, which have also been underscored by the European Committee of Social Rights and which continue to put at risk the rights and the physical and mental health of unaccompanied children, who arrive in Greece.

Specifically, based on the latest available information provided by the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA) the number of unaccompanied children was 5,463 on January 31, 2020. The prevailing impression is that this figure is obviously an underestimate, given that our organizations continue to identify both cases of non-registration as well as phenomena of incorrect age assessment of refugees and migrants, who have recently arrived. This lack of clarity about the real number constitutes a material impediment for the protection of children in Greece.

At the same time, long-term accommodation places for children continue to be far fewer than those required, in spite of the fact that there was an increase of 182 places in 2019, bringing the total number of places to 1,286 at the end of January 2020. Moreover, an estimated number of 187 children are under detention, which under no circumstances can be considered to be in the best interests of the child, as the practice of "protective custody" has already been ruled by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) as being in breach of the European Convention of Human Rights. In the last year alone, the ECtHR condemned Greece for the protective custody of minors in successive judgments delivered by the Court. Finally, 1,077 unaccompanied children continue to live under precarious conditions or are homeless, with all the risks that this entails for their safety and welfare.

In this context, we would like to underscore that the critical gap, which exists in children's access to safe accommodation is the main, but certainly not the only problem that undermines their protection. Many children continue to be deprived access to basic means of survival, including health services, medical care as well as services of psychosocial and legal support. Moreover, there are unfortunately cases in which children face exclusion from the public education system, in violation, amongst other things, of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, which has been part of Greek law since 1992.

Finally, we would like to bring to your attention the lack of continuity that short-circuits the Guardianship programme for unaccompanied minors. This programme was carried out until the end of 2019 by non-governmental organisations. Now it has come to an end without ensuring the continued operation of a similar programme. This has created a very serious gap. The new regulatory framework on the guardianship of minors is expected to enter into force on March 1, 2020, in accordance with the relevant provisions of L. 4554/2018 which, after repeated postponements, has been significantly delayed. Today, five days prior to the introduction of the framework, we have not been informed either about the commencement of its operation or the manner in which it will function, causing disquiet and reasonable concerns. In this context, care should be taken to ensure that the institution shall enter into effect immediately, together with other important institutions, such as foster care for minors and we are in a position to put forward specific positions and proposals for their better operation.

Prime Minister,

The Greek State has a moral and legal obligation to actively protect the fundamental rights of unaccompanied minors in Greece according to international and national legislation.

Therefore, we would like to request that you ensure:

The institution and operation of a single system for children's protection, which shall support and protect all children, irrespective of their legal status and origins, until they enter adulthood at least.

The immediate transfer of unaccompanied children from the Reception and Identification Centres on the Islands to mainland Greece with a simultaneous increase of the number of places in shelters with special care given to the creation of spaces that are not of a temporary nature and which promote the implementation of alternative housing schemes, such as Semi-Autonomous

supported Living schemes.

The implementation of Law 4554/2018 on the guardianship of unaccompanied children as soon as possible, with an immediate provision covering the transitional period until the full implementation of the legal framework, so that children do not remain without a Guardian.

Putting an end to the "protective custody" of children in detention centres, police stations and other facilities throughout Greece, which constitutes a blatant violation of the fundamental rights and has resulted in our country's conviction by the European Court of Human Rights. Moreover, their immediate transfer to appropriate structures.

The obligation to examine requests for international protection of all unaccompanied children, irrespective of age, with the regular rather than the fast track procedure. Taking into account the principle of best interest of children, we are requesting the amendment of the provision of article 75(7) of Law 4636/2019, to include unaccompanied children in the regular procedure.

In hope that your decisive mediation shall bring about a solution,

Sincerely,

The signatory organizations

AITIMA

ARSIS - Association for the Social Support of Youth

Caritas Hellas

Danish Refugee Council (DRC)

Defence for Children International Greece

Equal Rights Beyond Borders

ELIX

Greek Council for Refugees (GCR)

Hellenic League for Human Rights

Help Refugees / Choose Love

HIAS Greece

Human Rights Watch

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Médecins du Monde (MdM- Greek delegation)

Medical Intervention

Network for Children's Rights

PRAKSIS

Refugee Support Aegean (RSA)

Solidarity Now

Terre des Hommes Hellas

«Αξιότιμε κύριε Πρωθυπουργέ,

Οι κάτωθι υπογράφουσες οργανώσεις, με πολυετή εμπειρία στους τομείς των ανθρωπίσων δικαιωμάτων και της ανθρωπιστικής προσφοράς, απευθυνόμαστε σε εσάς, με την ελτίδα της παρέμβασής σας για την επίλυση ενός πολύ σοβαρού ζητήματος. Αφορά στην προστασία χιλιάδων ασυνόδευτων παιδιών, που ελλείψει κατάληλων και επαρκών δομών φιλοξενίας, αλλά και ενός ολιστικού σχήματος επιτροπείας και συστήματος παιδικής προστασίας, παραμένουν για παρατεταμένα χρονικά διαστήματα σε ακατάληλους χώρους διαμονής ή/και κράτησης. Είναι κοινό μυστικό ότι η κατάσταση που έχει διαμορφωθεί τα τελευταία 5 χρόνια δεν συνάδει με το βέλτιστο συμφέρον του παιδιού, ούτε ταιριάζει στη χώρα μας.

Συγκεκριμένα, βάσει των τελευταίων διαθέσιμων στοιχείων του Εθνικού Κέντρου Κοινωνικής Αλληλεγγύης (Ε.Κ.Κ.Α.), ο αριθμός των ασυνόδευτων παιδιών ανερχόταν σε 5.463, την 31/01/2020. Η κρατούσα εντύπωση είναι ότι ο αριθμός αυτός σαφώς υπολείπεται του πραγματικού, δεδομένου ότι οι οργανώσεις μας συνεχίζουν να εντοπίζουν τόσο περιπτώσεις μη καταγραφής όσο και φαινόμενα εσφαλμένης διαπίστωσης της ηλικίας των νεοεισερχόμενων προσφύμων και αιτούντων άσυλο. Αυτή η ασάφεια περί τον πραγματικό αριθμό αποτελεί ουσιαστικό εμπόδιο για την προστασία των παιδιών στην Ελλάδα.

Την ίδια στιγμή, οι θέσεις μακροχρόνιας φιλοξενίας σε κατάλληλες δομές για ανηλίκους συνεχίζουν να υπολείπονται κατά πολύ των αναγκών, παρά το γεγονός ότι έχει καταγραφεί ἀνοδος κατά 182 θέσεις από το Νοέμβριο του 2019 και αθροίζουν σε 1,286 συνολικές θέσεις στα τέλη Ιανουαρίου 2020. Επιπλέον, ένας εκτιμώμενος αριθμός 187 παιδιών βρίσκονται σε καθεστώς κράτησης, γεγονός που επ' ουδενί μπορεί να θεωρηθεί σύμφωνο με το βέλτιστο συμφέρον του παιδιού, καθώς η πρακτική της «προστατευτικής φύλαξης» ήδη έχει κριθεί από το Ευρωπαϊκό Δικαστήριο Δικαιωμάτων του Ανθρώπου (ΕΔΑΑ) ως αντίθετη στην Ευρωπαϊκή Σύμβαση Δικαιωμάτων του Ανθρώπου. Κατά το τελευταίο έτος μόνο, το ΕΔΑΑ έχει καταδικάσει την Ελλάδα για την «προστατευτική φύλαξη» ασυνόδευταν παιδιών με διαδοχικές αποφάσεις του. Τέλος, 1,077 ασυνόδευτα παιδιά συνεχίζουν να διαβιούν σε συνόγκες επισφάλειας ή/και αστεγίας, μια κατάσταση που συνεπλέγεται κινδύνους για την ασφάλεια και ενημερία τους.

Σε αυτό το πλαίσιο, θα θέλαμε να επισημάνουμε πως το κρίσιμο κενό της πρόσβασης των ασυνόδευτων παιδιών σε ασφαλή στέγαση, παραμένει το βασικότερο, ίσως, αλλά όχι το μοναδικό πρόβλημα που υπονομεύει την προστασία τους. Πολλά από τα παιδιά εξακολουθούν να στερούνται την πρόσβαση σε βασικά αγαθά επιβίωσης, όπως είναι οι υπηρεσίες υγείας και η ιστροφαρμακευτική περίθαλψη, καθώς και σε υπηρεσίες ψυχοκοινωνικής και νομικής υποστήριξης. Επιπλέον, υπάρχουν δυστυχώς περιπτώσεις που τα παιδιά αντιμετωπίζουν αποκλεισμό από το δημόσιο εκπαιδευτικό σύστημα, κατά παράβαση, μεταξύ άλλων, της Διεθνούς Σύμβασης για τα Δικαιώματα του Παιδιού, η οποία αποτελεί νόμο του ελληνικού κράτους από το 1992.

Τέλος, επιθυμούμε να επιστήσουμε την προσοχή σας στην ασυνέχεια που βραχικυκλώνει το πρόγραμμα Επιτροπείας ασυνόδευτων παιδιών. Το πρόγραμμα αυτό, μέχρι το τέλος του 2019 το υλοποιούσαν Μη Κυβερνητικές. Οργανώσεις, Τώρα πλέον ολοκληρώθηκε, δίχως να ληφθεί μέρμινα για τη συνέχεια λειτουργίας ενός αντίστοιχου προγράμματος. Έτσι δημιουργήθηκε ένα πολύ σοβαρό κενό. Την 1η Μαρτίου 2020 προβλέπεται η έναρξη εφαρμογής του νέου ρυθμιστικού πλαισίου για την επιτροπεία ασυνόδευτων παιδιών σύμφωνα με τις σχετικές διατάξεις του ν. 4554/2018 που ήδη έχει καθυστερήσει σημαντικά, έπειτα από αλλεπάλληλες αναβολές, Σήμερα, 5 ημέρες πριν την έναρξη του

πλαισίου, δεν έχουμε λάβει περαιτέρω ενημέρωση ούτε για την έναρξη, ούτε και για τον τρόπο λειτουργίας του, γεγονός που δημιουργεί ανησυχίες και εύλογους προβληματισμούς. Στο πλαίσιο αυτό, απαιτείται να υπάρξει η μέριμνα προκειμένου ο θεσμός αυτός να τεθεί σε εφορμογή άμεσα, παράλληλα με άλλους σημαντικούς θεσμούς, όπως η αναδοχή ανηλίκων, για την καλύτερη λειτουργία των οποίων είμαστε σε θέση να διατυπώσουμε συγκεκριμένες θέσεις και προτάσεις».

Οι 19 οργανώσεις ζητούν ακόμη από τον πρωθυπουργό να μεριμνήσει για:

- Τη θεσμοθέτηση και λειτουργία ενιαίου συστήματος παιδικής προστασίας, το οποίο θα υποστηρίζει και προστατεύει όλα τα παιδιά, ανεξαρτήτως του νομικού καθεστώτος και της καταγωγής τους έως τουλάχιστον την ενηλικίωσή τους.
- Την άμεση μεταφορά όλων των ασυνόδευτων παιδιών από τα Κέντρα Υποδοχής και Ταυτοποίησης των νησιών στην ενδοχώρα και την παράλληλη αύξηση των θέσεων στέγασης σε δομές φιλοξενίας, με ιδιαίτερη μέριμνα για τη δημιουργία χώρων μη προσωρινού χαρακτήρα και την προώθηση της εφαρμογής των σχημάτων εναλλακτικής στέγασης, όπως της Υποστηριζόμενης Ημι-Αυτόνομης Διαβίωσης και της αναδοχής.
- Την εφαρμογή του Νόμου 4554/2018 για την επιτροπεία ασυνόδευτων παιδιών το συντομότερο δυνατό, με άμεση πρόβλεψη για την κάλυψη της μεταβατικής περιόδου μέχρι την πλήρη εφαρμογή του νομικού πλαισίου, ώστε τα παιδιά να μην μένουν χωρίς Επίτροπο.
- Τον τερματισμό της "προστατευτικής φύλαξης" των παιδιών σε κέντρα κράτησης, αστυνομικά τμήματα και άλλες εγκαταστάσεις σε όλη την Ελλάδα, οι οποίες συνιστούν κατάφωρη παραβίαση θεμελιωδών δικαιωμάτων και έχουν οδηγήσει τη χώρα μας σε καταδίκες από το Ευρωπαϊκό Δικαστήριο Δικαιωμάτων του Ανθρώπου. Επίσης, την άμεση μεταφορά τους σε κατάλληλες δομές φιλοξενίας, χωρίς προσωρινό χαρακτήρα.
- Την υποχρέωση εξέτασης των αιτημάτων διεθνούς προστασίας όλων των ασυνόδευτων παιδιών, ανεξαρτήτως ηλικίας, με την κανονική και όχι την ταχύρρυθμη διαδικασία. Λαμβάνοντας υπόψη την αρχή του βέλτιστου συμφέροντος των παιδιών, ζητάμε την τροποποίηση της διάταξης της παραγράφου 7 του άρθρου 75 του Νόμου 4636/2019, ώστε να συμπεριληφθούν όλα τα ασυνόδευτα παιδιά στην κανονική διαδικασία.

Οι οργανώσεις που υπογράφουν την επιστολή είναι οι εξής:

AITHMA

ΑΡΣΙΣ – Κοινωνική Οργάνωση Υποστήριξης Νέων

Γιατροί Του Κόσμου - Ελληνική αντιπροσωπεία

Caritas Hellas

Δανικό Συμβούλιο για τους Πρόσφυγες (DRC Greece)

Defence for Children International Ελλάδος

Δίκτυο για τα Δικαιώματα του Παιδιού

Equal Rights Beyond Borders

Ελληνική Ένωση για τα Δικαιώματα του Ανθρώπου

Ελληνικό Συμβούλιο για τους Πρόσφυγες (ΕΣΠ)

ENE

Help Refugees / Choose Love

ΗΙΑЅ Ελλάδος

Human Rights Watch

Ιατρική Παρέμβαση

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

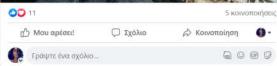
PRAKSIS

Solidarity Now

Terre des Hommes Hellas

Υποστήριξη Προσφύγων στο Αιγαίο (RSA)





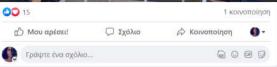


Today, DCI Greece was, once again, at Velos Youth Center, informing unaccompanied homeless children about their rights, the asylum legal procedures and any durable legal option available to them. Children, on most occasions, are not aware of their rights, such as their right to legal support, their right to education, their right to have a safe shelter and their right to family reunification. As a result ,they run the risk to stay invisible and exposed to different forms of exploitation!

Defence for Children International -Greece promotes the due implementation of Children's Right to Information (Article 17 of the CRC) by providing information sessions to refugee children.

We are always next to every child on the move ,every child that lives on the street,every child in need.







☆ Another positive decision from the Dublin Authorities, regarding one of the family reunification cases we undertook in our latest mission in Moria Camp!

15 year old M. will soon travel so as to be reunited and live with his brother in Norway!! For more than six months the child was living in a tent in Moria and was exposed to countless risks!

As he told us when we met him: 'I am only dreaming the moment I will meet my brother again. I feel so alone and afraid here'

Thank you Together for Better Days for the great cooperation!!

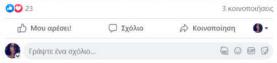
* More than 1000 unaccompanied children live in the over-expanded jungle out of the official Moria Camp on Lesvos island. They sleep out in the forest without safe access to water and food. They remain invisible, traumatized and unprotected while the majority of them have family members in other EU countries.

EU #dont_leavethekidsalone #familiesbelongtogether #familyreunification

You can support our work by donating here: https://www.defenceforchildrengreece.org/donation

m photo copyright: Iris Pappa for DCI Greece







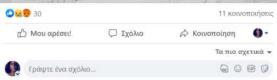
★ Homeless, undocumented child ended up a week ago in a police cell under the scheme of protective custody, without being provided with legal information and support. The boy called us today in despair, asking for help, since he now faces the danger of deportation!

Our lawyer visited him at the Police station, informed him about his Rights and the Procedures and took all the legal steps required for his asylum application and his release!

Despite the fact that the European Court of Human Rights has condemned Greece for detaining refugee children, hundreds of them are still detained in police stations or prisons due to the lack of shelters.

#nochildindetention #endchilddetention #dont_leavethekidsalone







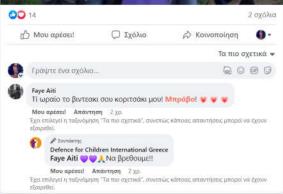
Our team is outreaching on a weekly basis, in order to identify the homeless, undocumented children and provide them with legal information about the asylum procedures and their rights.

According to the latest data, due to the lack of shelters, thousands of children are homeless, or living in insecure housing conditions, exposed to all kind of dangers and exploitation.

DCI GREECE focuses its activities on offering legal support, mentorship and other protection services, particularly to homeless, unregistered, unaccompanied children and youth on the move.

*photo captured from the video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_10AJjDuEfl.







1000

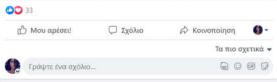
Our Helpdesk is always supporting our children, in all the stages of the asylum procedure.

This is crucial, especially now that a new law is implemented, where unaccompanied minors are practically blocked from the protection system, to have the legal assistance they need, in every step of the way.

#dont_leavethekidsalone @defenceforchildrengr









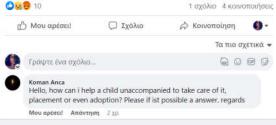
Κοινή ανακοίνωση Τύπου για την κατάσταση στα νησιά/ Joint Press Release on the recent incidents in the islands

For English, scroll down 👇

- Οι παρακάτω υπογράφουσες οργανώσεις παρακολουθούμε με εντονότατη ανησυχία το – αναμενόμενο- κύμα έντασης που έχει ξεσπάσει το τελευταίο διάστημα στα νησιά.
- Οι μεγάλες καθυστερήσεις στην εξέταση ασύλου, η συστηματική αντιμεταναστευτική ρητορική, καθώς και ο υπερουνωστισμός και οι απαράδεκτες συνθήκες διαβίωσης στα κέντρα υποδοχής, έχουν οδηγήσει σε εντάσεις και καταστάσεις βίας που δεν βοηθούν ούτε τους πρόσφυγες, ούτε τις τοπικές κοινωνίες στην αντιμετώπιση των πραγματικών προβλημάτων.
- Απευθύνουμε έκκληση στην κυβέρνηση, τους τοπικούς παράγοντες αλλά και τα μέσα ενημέρωσης, για την αποφυγή της ξενοφοβικής ρητορικής που αναπαράγει αρνητικά στερεότυπα και προωθεί ρατοιστικές αντιδράσεις, οξύνοντας την ένταση που ήδη υπάρχει στα νησιά εξαιτίας των απαράδεκτων συνθηκών διαβίωσης των αιτούντων άσυλο και τις συνέπειές τους στις τοπικές κοινότητες.
- ▶Επίσης, καλούμε την κυβέρνηση να εξασφαλίσει πρόσβαση σε μια δίκαιη διαδικασία ασύλου, και να αποσυμφορήσει άμεσα τα νησιά, ανακουφίζοντας έτσι τους πρόσφυγες αλλά και τις τοπικές κοινωνίες. Προκειμένου να επιτευχθεί αυτό, θα πρέπει να επικρατήσει η λογική και η συνεργασία με όλους τους φορείς που εμπλέκονται στη διαχείριση του προσφυγικού.
- ∠ Athens, February 6, 2020 The signatory organizations mentioned bellow, are following with great concern the -much expected tension that has recently erupted in the islands.
- Extreme delays in the examination of asylum, systematic anti-immigration rhetoric, as well as the overcrowding and the unacceptable living conditions in reception centers have led to tensions and violent situations, that do not help refugees or local communities to deal with their real problems.
- " We call the government, the local actors and the media to avoid the xenophobic rhetoric, that reproduces negative stereotypes and promotes racist reactions, exacerbating the tension that is already present in the islands, due to the unacceptable living conditions the asylum seekers have to deal with, as well its consequences to the local communities.
- "Furthermore, we call the government to ensure access to a fair asylum process, and to immediately decongest the islands, which will be beneficial for both refugees and local communities. In order for this to be achieved, rationality and co-operation with all bodies involved in refugee management must prevail.

Organizations: ARSIS, Medecins du Monde, Danish Refugee Council, Amnesty International -Greek Section, Network for the Rights of the Child, Diotima - Center of Studies and Research for Women, Defence for Children International Greece, Help Refugees UK, International Rescue Committee Hellas , Legal Centre Lesvos; PRAKSIS, Refugee Support Aegean (RSA), Solidarity Now, Terre des Hommes Hellas (TDH







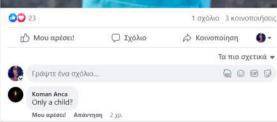
New are very happy to announce that shelter was found for A., an unaccompanied minor who was living rough on the streets, exposed in the cold and other countless dangers, for more than three months.

After several reports to the official authorities of accommodation, we finally have a positive reply!

A. will soon be transferred to a safe shelter, that will be the start of his new life!

However, despite the good news and the great efforts from the official authorities of accommodation, there is still a huge problem, regarding the shortage of available shelters and the lack of an efficient protection system for unaccompanied minors. We always have to think about the thousands of children that are still on the streets alone, invisible and unprotected.







5 Φεβρουσρίου 2020 - 😵

We just received a positive decision from the Dublin Office, regarding one of the family reunification cases we undertook in our latest mission on Moria Camp!

Little N. will soon be in Sweden, in the arms of his brother.

N. was living for 7 months in the jungle of Moria, inside a tent, with no easy access to basic needs, such as food and water, exposed to countless risks. When we met him, he told us " the thought of me get reunited with my brother is the only thing that keeps me going".

We can't wait for all our children to be safe and happy again

Thank you Together for Better Days for the great cooperation!

* More than 1000 unaccompanied children live in the over-expanded jungle out of the official Moria Camp on Lesvos island.

You can support us here; https://www.defenceforchildrengreece.org/donation 2HelpingHands







Children even younger than Mahmood, sleep out in the forest without safe access to water and food.

They remain invisible, traumatized and unprotected while the majority of them have

family members in other EU countries.

During our latest mission, in December 2019, on the island, we spoke and supported

They all asked for a safe place to sleep away from the danger of being stabbed or

attacked. They made sure we understood that moving inside the Moria Camp would not be a safe option either. In the weeks that followed our meeting with them, many incidents of minors been

stabbed or harassed during the night came as a confirmation to their worry.

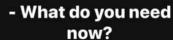
The trapped children inside and outside Moria Camp can foresee the next deaths to

follow.

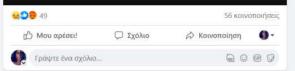
All they ask is 'Europe CAN YOU HEAR US?'

#dont_leavethekidsalone

Join the campaign by sharing the posts and adding the #dont_leavethekidsalone



I mostly need water.
 I am afraid I will be
 raped or stubbed while
 walking through the
 'jungle' of Moria to find
 some water
 Mahmoud,15

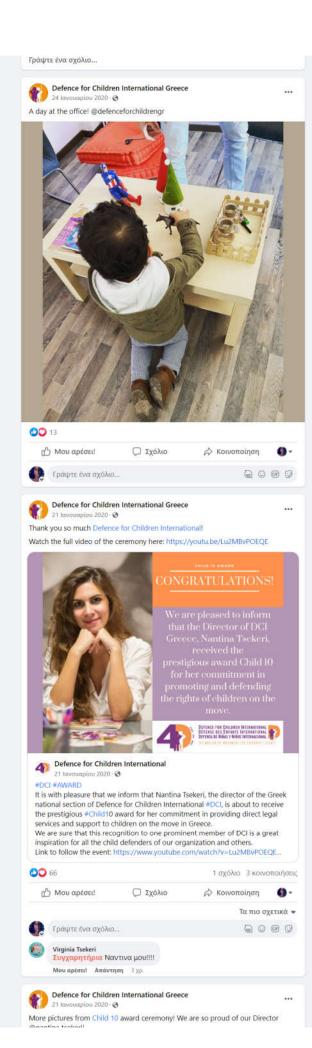




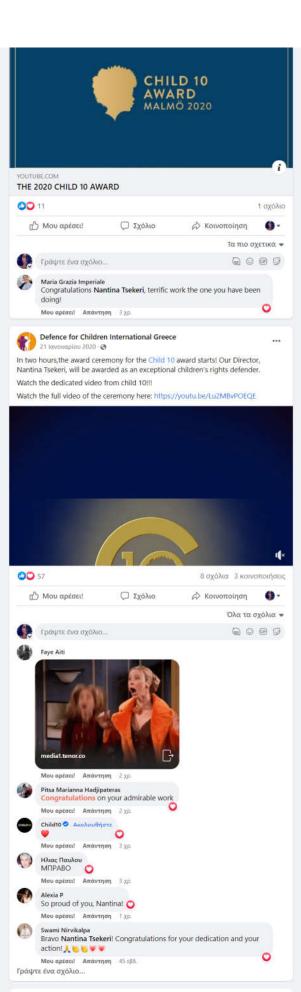
Thousands of unaccompanied children are still trapped in the Moria jungle, exposed to countless dangers. Today was, once again, a day that we dealt with the family reunification cases we undertook in our latest mission in Moria camp. We communicated with their family members and also the authorities, in order to ensure that we keep up with all the updates and meet the special requirements every case needs. That is what we do and will keep doing. Until all the invisible children become visible again. #dont_leavethekldsalone #defenceforchildrengr



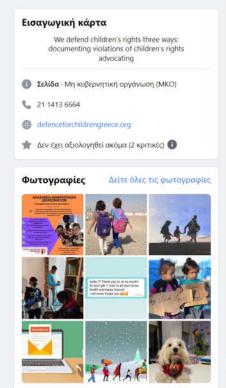












Πληροφορίες για τα στατιστικά στοιχεία Σελίδων - Απόρρητο - Όρο χρήσης - Διαφημίσεις - Επιλογές διαφήμισης (Φ - Cookies - Περισσότε Meta © 2023

In Sweden, for the Child 10 award. Thank you so much for this wonderful

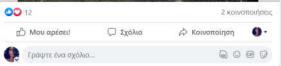


LAST DAY FOR OUR CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN

Help us stand by the side of the most vulnerable children on the move. With your genuine support we could make sure that we will keep providing them the space to be seen, heard and protected from violence.

Μ... Δείτε περισσότερα















Only 6 days left for our crowdfunding campaign!!!

Right now, there are thousands of unaccompanied children in Greece, alone, unprotected. They sleep rough on the streets or inside a tent in a camp, vulnerable to any dangers, unable to defend themselves.

