



# WELCOME TO GREECE!

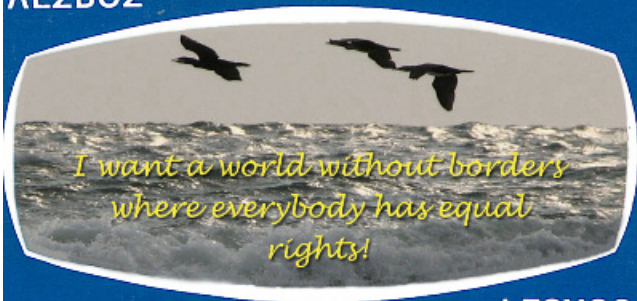
▶ [www.w2eu.info](http://www.w2eu.info)

**AN INFO-GUIDE  
FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS**



Mitilini 1922

ΛΕΣΒΟΣ



*I want a world without borders  
where everybody has equal  
rights!*

LESVOS



Mitilini 2009

# WELCOME TO EUROPE!

We are a group of people of whom some live on Lesbos Island and some others come from and (usually) live in different European countries. We support refugees in the places we live and elsewhere as activists because for us all human beings are equal. We believe in the freedom of movement as everybody's right and a world without borders. In order to support you we would like to give you some useful information about your rights in Greece and the overall situation here.

We don't ask for money, we don't take money and we don't ask for a reward. We just wish you a safe journey to a better place!

If you need any further information not provided in this flyer or if you have more specialised / personalised questions please ask us directly or contact us

 [W2EU\\_INFO@YAHOO.COM](mailto:W2EU_INFO@YAHOO.COM)

[W2EU@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:W2EU@HOTMAIL.COM)

[WWW.W2EU.INFO](http://WWW.W2EU.INFO)

*Last update: July 2014*

### **? WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GREECE?**

You have arrived in Greece – a EU-member state. Greece is currently severely hit by an economic crisis. Therefore, and due to the lack of sufficient reception conditions for asylum seekers and refugees, most of the people who arrive in Greece, don't wish to lodge an asylum application before the Greek authorities, but to continue their trip elsewhere. If this is also your case, you should know that currently, most of the other European countries don't send people back to Greece, even if they were fingerprinted or have asked for asylum here! BUT always seek advice from lawyers, who can update you on the practices followed by other countries and support your individual case.

**ATTENTION:** If you get later fingerprinted in Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy or any other EU-country where you DON'T want to stay, this will be a problem!!! There are Dublin III returns to these countries from Northern Europe;

there is no general halt of deportations as there is for Greece even if the conditions there are bad too.

You have the chance not to be send back even to there IF you immediately take a lawyer and/or contact groups who offer counselling for refugees and are experienced in this Dublin III problem in the country where you want to stay (you may find the contacts here: [🔗 HTTP://W2EU.INFO/CONTACTS.EN.HTML](http://w2eu.info/contacts.en.html) and especially IF you belong to a vulnerable group such as single mothers, pregnant women, unaccompanied minors (under 18 years), victims of torture, physically or mentally sick and elderly people, families with underage children (and you can proof it).

We can not tell you how big or small your chances are, but there have been a number of court cases in the last years won by refugees against their Dublin returns to Hungary, Bulgaria and Italy in Germany for example. **⏪**

## ? WHERE AM I - AND HOW DO I MOVE ON?

Check map on page 16/17.

▶ You are on the **ISLAND OF LESVOS**, which is in the north-eastern Aegean Sea. The capital of the island is Mytilene. If you want to travel to Athens (Pireaus) you will need to take the boat, which takes 9-12 hours (with one stop in Chios Island after three hours) and the ticket costs in summer 42 euro for a simple ticket if you are an adult or child 11-18 years, 21 euro for a child 5-10 year old and it is free for children younger than 5 years. There are ships almost every day. Usually tickets are sold only to persons who have valid documents. When you have a “white paper” from the police (which you receive after registration) you can buy your own ticket in a travel agency and leave the island.

▶ You are in **EVROS**, in the far north-eastern part of Greece at the land border with Turkey. The capital of the prefecture is Ale-

xandroupoli, situated in the southern part of the region. Orestiada, which is in the north of Evros is the second biggest city in the Evros region. If you want to go to Athens you have to either take the train (which is the cheapest solution) or the bus from Alexandroupoli. The train takes around 14 hours to arrive in Athens and you might need to change once in Thessaloniki. The tickets cost between 33 and 55 euro in the second class depending, which train you take. There are two trains a day to Athens. The bus tickets cost 68 euro. There are 5 busses a day going to Athens. The bus station is not far from the railway station. Ask for the KTEL (bus) station.

▶ You are in **THESSALONICA** or nearby and you arrived in GREECE via BULGARIA. IF you aim to apply for asylum in Greece, you should know that your fingerprints from Bulgaria are very likely to be found. If they are found Greece will ask Bulgaria to take you as it was your first country of entry in Europe. Usu-

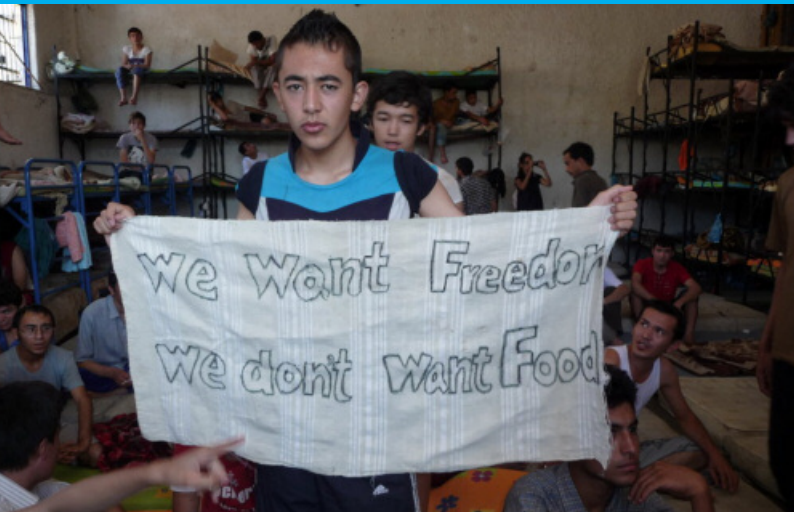
## BACKGROUND INFO ON DETENTION IN GREECE

As of October 2013, there were two First Reception Centers (in Orestiada and Moria/ Mytilene); two screening centers (in Samos and Chios); and six pre-removal detention centers, of which five were established during April-October 2012 while one – in Fylakio - had previously been in operation since 2007 before being re-branded as a “pre-removal” facility.

The total immigration detention capacity in the six pre-removal detention centers reaches reportedly approximately 6,000, including 2,034 in Fylakio, 1,665 Amygdaleza, 1,022 in Corinth, 440 in Xanthi, 427 in Komotini, 320 in Paranesti Dramas.

The country intends to increase the detention capacity of its pre-removal facilities to 10,000 with the help of EU co-financing, including the plan to open a new pre-removal facility in Moria with a capacity of 500. There are also a number of police stations and borderguard stations all over Greece where people are being detained when they are arrested without (valid) papers.

FOR MORE INFO SEE [WWW.GLOBALDETENTIONPROJECT.ORG](http://WWW.GLOBALDETENTIONPROJECT.ORG)



ally Bulgaria accepts these requests and takes the persons back there. If this happens the decision will be handed to you and you will be asked if you want to return to Bulgaria or not. If you don't want to return to Bulgaria you have to clearly express that to the Greek authorities. You have to explain exactly the reason why you don't want to return: explain in detail what happened to you during detention, after detention and if you have been a victim of violence of any form by the authorities in Bulgaria or a victim of racist violence by Bulgarian citizens.

Remember that during all of your asylum procedure no one is allowed to give the information you share to third persons. When the Greek authorities take a decision to return you to Bulgaria you can appeal against it within 15 days. You have to ask an NGO (like GCR or Ecumenical Refugee Council) for support. If your appeal is rejected they will hand you an invitation to present yourself to the responsible authorities in order that they explain to you the procedure of return and in

order to receive your ticket. If you think that your life is in danger in case you return to Bulgaria you can appeal against the rejection of your appeal within 60 days.




## **? WHY AM I IN PRISON/ CLOSED CAMP/"FIRST RECEPTION CENTRE"?**

You are detained for having entered into the country without papers – which, according to the law is illegal. You are detained with the aim to be deported back to your country of origin. BUT most of the nationalities cannot be deported or sent back to Turkey. Iranians, Iraqis and Turks are in danger of being deported back to Turkey directly from the detention centres along the Greek-Turkish border. Some other nationalities, such as Nigerians, Santo Dominicans, Georgians, can be deported back to their countries of origin, from Athens.

The only ones who cannot be deported for sure are the ones who seek asylum. If you are not

released from the first detention centre / first reception centre and you are brought in prison to Athens and if the police transfer you to your country's embassy, you might risk deportation.

**ATTENTION:** Greece does not deport refugees from Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea and Palestine as well as people from other war torn countries. There have been only some very few, reported cases concerning deportations to these countries. 

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## FOR HOW LONG AM I GOING TO BE DETAINED?

**ACCORDING TO THE LAW,** you can be detained from a few hours up to 18 months. Following an opinion expressed by the Legal Council of the State, detention can be extended over the maximum period of 18 months, for an undefined period of time, on the grounds that the detainee does not cooperate with the authorities for his deportation. Currently about 450 persons are detai-

ned more than 18 months in Greece. They can go to court by the help of a lawyer to appeal against the long detention duration.

If you are an asylum seeker, according to the law, you can be detained for three reasons: 1. as long it is necessary for the determination of your nationality, 2. if you are considered a public threat according to the police and 3. for the prompt and effective completion of the asylum procedure. According to the law, an asylum seeker can be detained “normally” up to three months. If an asylum seeker was already detained, before asking for asylum, his detention can vary from 6-12 months depending on the reasons.

The detention period can be prolonged for six more months with a new and specially justified decision of the competent authorities. The prolongation of the detention period should be reviewed and a proper, justified, new decision explaining the reasons should be issued. Practically it means that even persons asking for asylum in detention can stay there for up to 18 months if they do not receive earlier a positive decision on their asylum



claim and if they could not successfully appeal against their detention before the court.

▶ **IN PRACTICE** the detention time varies a lot according to the place you arrive and according to different factors that cannot be described better than mere luck or bad luck. An important factor one cannot influence though is how full the camp you arrive is and how many people arrive after you. If you are from Syria you will be released very soon anyway as you should normally not be detained at all after your registration and identification as Syrian. In camps / prison which are “First Reception” Camps you should not stay longer than 25 days. But anyhow they can transfer you to other detention places if they want.

▶ **ATTENTION:** Please ask the ● people supporting you upon arrival about the detention duration at that actual moment as practices change from day to day. And remember that no one can tell you for sure what will happen the


next day but you can only get an orientation based on the near past.

## ? WHAT IS WRITTEN ON THE WHITE PAPER THAT POLICE GAVE ME?

The “white paper” is an order issued by the Police upon release from detention, according to which you are told to leave from Greece and go back to your country, within a period of a few days up to 30 days. This paper is neither a travel document nor a residence permit. It just protects you from being arrested for the period specifically mentioned on it (on the right bottom side), from the day it was issued (date on the upper right side). Once it expires, you are in risk of being arrested and detained again.


If you are a Syrian refugee, you will be given a “Suspension of the deportation” paper, which is valid for six months (from the day of its issuance).

▶ **ATTENTION:** IF you are from ● Syria this paper is usually is-

sued for 6 months instead of 30 days and can be renewed. Make a copy of your paper as soon as possible and keep it somewhere safe in case you lose the original. 

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### CAN I RENEW THE WHITE PAPER?

No. This order cannot be renewed. BUT if they arrest you after the expiration of that paper and they release you again after an undefined period of time, you will most probably receive the same paper again with a new expiration date. If you are a Syrian refugee, you can renew the six months “Suspension of the Removal” paper. You have to go to the “Aliens Police Directorate” in Athens (Petrou Ralli/ Alloodapon) and ask for its renewal. 

### CAN I APPLY FOR ASYLUM IN ANOTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRY AND NOT IN GREECE?

According to the European law, you have to apply for asylum in the first European country you arrive. In practice, Greece is the first European country where you are being registered and fingerprinted upon arrival. If you manage to reach another European country and apply for political asylum, that country normally has the right to send you back to Greece, as your fingerprints result in a common European database, called “Eurodac” and especially if you are an adult (over 18 years old). This happens because of a European law called “Dublin Regulation.”

 **ATTENTION:** Since Jan. 2011  most European countries have stopped temporarily sending refugees back to Greece, because they understood that the situation here is not good. The Dublin III Regulation is currently not being applied by most European countries concerning the case of Greece, because of the depl-

rable detention and living conditions in Greece. The other European countries, though, might decide at any time, to start sending people back to Greece, so keep yourself updated on the situation to be sure (📞 [HTTP://W2EU.INFO](http://w2eu.info))

**ATTENTION:** If you have family members legally residing in another European country, you have the right to ask for a family reunification, under the Dublin Regulation. You have to ask for help for the procedure and the necessary documentation that must be submitted from a Greek organisation, which can explain to you the procedure, the chances and the time frame.

**ATTENTION:** If you are a Syrian refugee, some European countries have opened a special family reunification procedure, through their embassies. But this can only happen from third countries (such as Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan) and not from Greece! ⏪

## ? WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS WHILE I AM IN PRISON?

- ▶ I can lodge an asylum application
- ▶ I have the right to spend one hour per day outside
- ▶ I have the right to talk to a lawyer
- ▶ I have the right to ask for medical treatment
- ▶ If I am a minor or a woman I should be detained separately and not in mixed detention cells
- ▶ I have the right to be informed about my rights and the asylum procedure in my own language
- ▶ I have the right to make phone calls
- ▶ Unaccompanied minors are usually detained until an available place is found in a reception centre for unaccompanied minors ⏪

### **? HOW DO I APPEAL BEFORE THE COURT TO BE RELEASED SOONER?**

In order to appeal before the court against your detention, asking for your release, you need to have a lawyer. NGO lawyers don't ask and don't take money for this – or for any other procedure. Private lawyers will ask for money, for the court expenses. If you hire a private lawyer, make sure, you get receipts that the lawyer submitted an application.

**ATTENTION!** No lawyer or other third person can apply for asylum in your place. Don't pay money to anyone to do this for you. You personally have to lodge an asylum application before the competent authorities.

Anyone can appeal before the court to be released sooner – persons who apply for asylum and also the ones who don't. If you have a relative or a friend who legally lives in Greece, you will need his address in order to prove that you have a place to stay upon release. Your friend or

relative, has to sign a specific document called “ypεuthini dilosi” (Solemn Declaration) where he states that he's willing to offer you accommodation and submit that to the Court, along with his house contract. The lawyer will have to submit these papers to the court, asking for your release.

If the Court decides to release you, you will then leave the detention camp earlier than the rest of the group you came with.

For this application, it is important to say why you cannot stay longer in prison. Important reasons are, among others: if you are sick, if you are a torture victim, if you have mental or psychological problems, if you have already applied for asylum, if you have a family in another European country. Remember to say these things to your lawyer. In case your detention is prolonged, according to the law, there must be a review of your detention and a justified new decision issued by the authorities. **⏪**

## ? WHO IS A POLITICAL REFUGEE?

A political refugee is a person who has left his country, because he was afraid that his life was in danger for the following reasons:

- ▶ because of his religion or of his ethnic group
- ▶ because of his nationality
- ▶ because of his social group, his gender or sexual orientation identity (homosexual)
- ▶ because of his political views
- ▶ because in his country or in his region, there's a war and/or generalized violence.

**! ATTENTION!** If you have left your country in order to find a job or a better life, you cannot be classified as a refugee, according to international law. ⏪

## ? WHEN CAN I APPLY FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM?

There's not a deadline for presenting an asylum application. Nevertheless, according to the Greek law, if you haven't applied for asylum shortly after your arrival or your release, it can be considered as not really wanting to do so. It is known though, also to the Greek authorities, that access to the asylum procedure is not always easy and sometimes you have to wait for days or for months until you manage to have access to the Asylum Office. ⏪

## ? WHERE CAN I MAKE THIS APPLICATION?

You have to personally lodge an asylum application before the competent authority, which is the Asylum Office (in Athens, Lesbos island, Rhodes island, South and North Evros Region, in Amygdaleza detention camp, in Thessaloniki and in Patras). If you are detained or in a First Reception

Center, the detention authorities or the First Reception authorities will register your will to seek international protection and refer you to the competent examination authority.

### **? WHICH IS THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM?**

Once you manage to have access to the Asylum Office, an employee, will register your personal data and ask you some questions about your origins, the journey you undertook, the reasons for which you left your country etc. A white card, which is called “International protection seeker’s card” will be issued, with your personal details, the day of its issuance and of its expiration. (One year ago it used to be a Pink Card). On that card, also the day of your interview before the competent committee, which will interview you is written. The “white card” according to the Greek law, is valid for 6 months, until the completion of your asylum procedure (if the procedure takes longer it will be renewed).

**! ATTENTION:** Be aware that if you don’t present yourself on the day fixed for your interview, the asylum procedure is concluded. You have to have valid reasons for not presenting yourself (example: a paper from a public hospital that you were sick or if the police stopped you in order to check on the validity of the document and you couldn’t be on time at the fixed appointment with the authorities)

**! ATTENTION:** When you are given the “white card” and you know the day of your interview, you should go to one of the Greek NGOs working with asylum seekers (see below) where you can be properly and on time prepared for your interview.

**! ATTENTION:** For those coming from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Georgia, Egypt the decision is issued within 45 days. For the other nationalities, it is issued within four months, according to a decision published by the Head of the Asylum Office.

**ATTENTION:** If your asylum claim is rejected, in first instance, you have the right to appeal against the rejection. Make sure you refer promptly to an NGO in order to get help. According to the law, if your asylum claim is examined with the normal procedure, you have 30 DAYS to appeal against the rejection. If it is examined with the accelerated procedure (which means that your asylum is considered unfounded), you have 15 DAYS to appeal against the rejection. If you're in prison or detained in a detention center, you have 10 DAYS to appeal against the rejection. While if you are in a First Reception Center, the deadline is 3 DAYS.

**ATTENTION:** If your appeal is also rejected (second instance rejection) you can only appeal before the Appeal Administrative Court, which is a long and expensive procedure. Most probably you'll have to hire a private lawyer, as Greek NGOs have not the money or just a few money to cover court expenses.

**ATTENTION:** The application before the Appeal Administrative Court does not automatically stop the removal decision, issued with the second instance rejection. In order to do so, your lawyer or the NGO, has to ask for the suspension of your removal, pending the examination of your case by the court.

**ATTENTION:** Be aware, that in case you change your address or your mobile phone, after you have asked for asylum, you have to immediately inform the authorities and give them your new address and/or mobile phone number, so that they can trace you.

## WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS IF I APPLY FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM?

Unfortunately the “white paper” doesn't really correspond to any right. It means that while you are in the asylum procedure, you cannot be deported, until the completion of the administrative procedure and until you get a ne-









gative answer. You have the right to have access to medical care and treatment at the Greek public hospitals.

The Prefecture does not easily issue a working permit among others because the asylum procedure has to be completed within a certain period of time thus your residence permit is temporary. In case you have found a job, make sure you seek help from an NGO, for the issuance of a work permit. Keep in mind, that working without a proper work permit, is illegal according to the Greek law. Also, during the asylum procedure, you have the right to be supported by a lawyer or a social worker.

In case you are a torture victim or you have suffered from other forms of violence, you have to tell this to the authorities or the NGO, so that you are timely referred to “Metadrasis” a specialized NGO, which can confirm you’ve been a torture victim by issuing a certificate, which is important for your asylum. 

### **IF I MAKE AN APPLICATION IS IT CERTAIN THAT I WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS A REFUGEE?**

No, it’s not. During the asylum procedure, the committee has to examine your personal situation and the reasons you left your country of origin, as well as the general situation in your own country.

Be careful on what you say, try to be as clear and as precise as you can. Everyone understands that when you arrive in a country, you need to find a job in order to survive. But during your asylum examination, the priority is to explain why your life was in danger at home and why you had to escape. 

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### **WHEN DO I HAVE THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING RECOGNIZED AS A REFUGEE?**

You have the possibility to be granted with international protection, if your fear of persecution (because of your political views, your religion, your race, your nationality etc) can be proven and if in your country (or

in the region you come from) there's a generalized situation of instability due to conflicts. ◀◀

## ? IS THERE A SAFE WAY TO LEGALLY LEAVE GREECE AND GO TO ANOTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRY?

As an asylum seeker, awaiting your interview or for the decision, you cannot travel, as you don't have a travel document. If you are recognized as a political refugee, you can apply for a TDV, a travel document and travel in all countries except from your country of origin. You can stay abroad for a maximum period up to 3 months.

**ATTENTION:** Currently some European countries, ask for a visa, even for those who are recognized as political refugees in another country.

**ATTENTION:** If you are granted with **SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION**, according to the law,

the Greek state can issue you a travel document, only if you are not in the position to get a passport from your country. Nowadays, travelling in other European countries as a holder of subsidiary protection is not guaranteed. Nevertheless, it should be allowed according to European law and thus there is hope that the situation will change.


**ATTENTION:** In some very exceptional cases, when you have a very serious health problem which cannot be treated in Greece, you can apply for a travel document. Keep in mind though, that this is extremely difficult.

**ATTENTION:** Keep in mind that if you try to leave from Greece with a forged or false passport and you are arrested, you might be brought at the Court, sentenced and detained.

If you have close family members in another European country, you can apply for a family reunification under Dublin Regulation. You'll need the help of an NGO,

in order to find out, whether you can take advantage of this regulation, documents that prove your relation to the person that legally resides in another European country and probably a DNA test will be also needed.


**ATTENTION:** Keep in mind that before applying for asylum in Greece you need to know, if your parents/ underage brothers/sisters are in another European country and mention this to the competent authorities.

**ATTENTION:** Unfortunately, due to the numerous family reunification applications, lodged before the Greek authorities, the procedure takes many months and you need to be patient. 

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### IF I HAVE LEFT MY COUNTRY SO AS TO FIND A JOB, CAN I OBTAIN A “GREEN CARD” WHEN I AM RELEASED?

It's very difficult to obtain a residence permit as a migrant. For furt-

her information, please go to the “Group of Lawyers for the Rights of Migrants and Refugees” or ask at “Diktyo” (see below). 

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### WHAT HAPPENS IF I GIVE FALSE INFORMATION TO THE POLICE?

In the past, it was very common that such kind of mistakes were made, by the police officers due to the massive influx of refugees and the deficiencies of the Greek system. Nowadays, before applying for asylum, there's a “screening procedure” and there are few chances that mistakes such as wrong nationality occur. In case there have been mistakes, you can ask the authorities to correct them, if you have valid documents/certificates that can prove who you are. 

## ? WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE ARE FAULTS ABOUT MY AGE, NAME OR NATIONALITY ON MY DEPORTATION ORDER?

Make sure that you declare them correctly (spelling mistakes or others) during the registration of your asylum claim before the “Asylum Office”. The “white paper” (removal order) is not a proper identity document, so if you apply for asylum, you can carefully examine it and clearly state to the person registering your claim, what the correct data is.


## ? I AM YOUNGER THAN 18, WHAT HAPPENS TO ME?

Minors who are not accompanied have to be taken care of by the Greek authorities. A minor is a child from 0-17 years. Upon arrival you will be registered first by the coast guard usually and you have to declare your name and age. If the authorities doubt your age, according to the law, they can use medical methods to de-

termine if you are younger than 18 or older. In such case, you are informed in a language you understand about the possibility to assess the age with a medical examination, the method that will be used, the possible consequences of the result or of your refusal to undertake a medical examination. If from the medical examination it doesn't result with certainty that someone is an adult, he/she has to be treated as a minor.

If you are an unaccompanied minor, you might be detained until a place is found in a reception center for unaccompanied minors where you will be referred. This means practically that you might stay longer in the First Reception Centre than your adult friends, BUT it is worth the pain. Single adults are always in danger to be detained 18 months and even if they are released sooner they get a paper for 30 days, while minor's papers have no time limit other than the day they turn 18. So with the paper of a minor you have more than 30 days to be legal in Greece and you do not face

he danger of repeated detention under normal conditions.


**ATTENTION:** The reception center for unaccompanied minors where you will be transferred is not a detention center!!! You will be free there. 

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### **WHAT IF I HAVE ALREADY FINGERPRINTS IN A EUROPEAN COUNTRY WHEN I ARRIVE IN GREECE?**

If you have prior to arriving in Greece now already fingerprints in another European country and other than Bulgaria (see for the Bulgaria case in the beginning), and if your fingerprints are found than Greece will make a request to this other EU-country to see if they take you back or not. You should think prior about if you want to be send to that country or not. IF not, and IF Greek authorities inform you that they will request you to go back, you should ask advice of a lawyer to help you stay. (See: Bulgaria case) If you want to be send back, because you have your old

«first» fingerprints in – for example – the UK or some other better country, you can inform the authorities yourself about your fingerprints there and provide them with proofs. Yet it depends on the way you left the country (deported, why deported, voluntary return...) and on other factors if they will take you back or not. Ask a lawyer about your individual case to be sure.

In general if you have left Greece/or another European country (by deportation or voluntarily) and if your fingerprints are found you will most probably have to explain additionally to your old reason of escape your home new reasons of persecution that occurred after your return to your home country. You are allowed to make a new claim for asylum if there are new grounds for it as your old claim closes after a certain period of time when you don't appear to be in the country. 

## ? WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ATHENS BEFORE ARRIVING THERE?

From Piraeus port you can take the train to Athens center (Omonia or Victoria). The ticket costs 1,40. Usually newcomers ask from people they know for information and instructions.

**! ATTENTION:** If you don't have a ticket and they control you, you'll have to pay a fine, up to 60 times the price of the ticket. Make sure the staff that fines you really belongs to the public transport company. As there have been incidents in the past, with fake fines. If you get a fine, always tell this to an NGO immediately, so they explain to you what you have to do. If you don't pay the fine within the period prescribed, the amount of money you have to pay is then multiplied.

There have been a lot of registered incidents of racist attacks against migrants and refugees. Beware that there are some parts

of the city of Athens where you should avoid hanging around.

**! ATTENTION:** In case you are a victim of a racist attack, you have to immediately refer this to the Greek NGOs and in case you're injured, you have to go to the hospital.

## ? GEOGRAPHY OF ATHENS: PLACES PEOPLE USUALLY GO TO IN THE FIRST DAY OF ARRIVAL IN ATHENS IN ORDER TO MEET OTHER PEOPLE FROM THEIR COUNTRIES

▶ **Victoria Square** (the train arrives there directly from the port of Piraeus where your ship will stop if you come from the island). Mostly Afghans hang around here but also people from other countries. It is just 1 minute from Aharnon Street. It's a relaxed place usually, but as everywhere else too there are also on this square frequent controls by the police who look for people wit-

hout papers or with invalid papers. If your 30-days paper is still valid they can only bring you to the police station for a control. They will not keep you in prison.

▶ **Aharnon Street** (get of the green metro line in Omonia, Victoria, Aghios Nikolaos or Kato Patisia). It is a long street with shops and coffee bars owned by migrants of different nationalities. There are informal hotels around. Ask people from your countries about more infos. There is also the meeting place of Somali people at Aharnon 42. Attention: Avoid sitting at Aghios Panteleimonas Church Square as it used to be a hang out for fascists.

▶ **Omonia Square** (get of at Omonia Square by the metro). This is one of the most central squares in Athens. Around you will find many cheap shops (often Chinese), call-centres, hotels, the big bazaar and some unofficial mosqs and churches... but it is not a nice place to live or to sit or go in the night as there is also drug dealing and a lot of police. It is 5 minutes walking

distance from the beginning of Aharnon Street.

▶ **Patission Street / Amerikis Square / Kolitasou Square** (get off the metro in Victoria and ask your way to Patission Street. It's one-minute distance. From there walk another 10-15 minutes to Amerikis square (in the opposite direction of Omonia) and another 10 minutes from Amerikis to Koliatsou.)

Around Amerikis and Koliatsou square are all Sudanese, Eritrean, Ethiopian meeting places and not only. Many African people live in the area. But also people from many other countries live around. Find Sabah Café in Patission Street between Amerikis and Koliatsou Squares if you are from Sudan, Eritrea or Ethiopia. There are also many shared flats around these places.

▶ **Alexander Park (Real name: Paidion tou Areos)** is 5 minutes walking distance from Victoria Square (metro station green line). It is a huge park where many migrants (and Greeks) hang around during day.



**ATTENTION:** It's usually exactly around these areas where many migrants live or own shops that fascists sometimes attack people. Don't get scared just be careful, especially when it gets dark.

### Some Travel Agencies in Mytilene where You can buy a ticket for the ship

#### ▶ Samiotis

📍 Kounturioti str. 43,  
Prokymaia, Mytilinis

📞 22510-42.574-5-6

#### ▶ Zoumboulis

📍 Kounturioti str. 69,  
Prokymaia, Mytilinis

📞 22510-37.755

**THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS ARE IN ATHENS AND OFFER SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE! DO NOT BE AFRAID TO GO THERE AND ASK FOR INFORMATION EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE A RESIDENCE PERMIT.**

### Legal Services

#### 1. Greek Council for Refugees

GCR is a Greek Non Governmental Organization that supports asylum seekers and refugees in Greece. GCR offers free of charge legal counselling and social assistance.

🕒 every morning from Monday to Friday before 9a.m for an appointment




📍 Solomou 25, Exarheia  
(near Omonia)

📞 210-38.00.990

🌐 [www.gcr.gr/en](http://www.gcr.gr/en)

### 2. Ecumenical Refugee Programme





Provides legal assistance to refugees and asylum seekers.

-  Iridanou 20, first floor (close to train station: Megaro Mousikis or Evangelismos)
-  210-72.95.926
-  Mondays 11-16; Wednesdays-Fridays 10-14

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### 3. Aitimia

Legal and social support to asylum seekers and refugees.

-  Tripou 4-6, corner to Gennaiou Kolokotroni, Koukaki area (near Singrou Fix metro station, or take yellow bus 5 or 15 until Paidiki Chara)
-  10-13 o'clock on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
-  210-92.41.677
-  [aitima@freemail.gr](mailto:aitima@freemail.gr)  
[www.aitima.gr/en](http://www.aitima.gr/en)

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### 4. Arsis

Legal aid and social counselling for young people.

-  Derigni 28-30
-  210-82.59.880  
[info@arsis.gr](mailto:info@arsis.gr)

### 5. Group of Lawyers for the rights of Migrants and refugees




Legal counselling for migrants and refugees in matters relating to their legal status. For people who have or don't have papers.

-  Ioulianou 11 & Rethymnou str, Exarheia
-  Mon. & Wed. 17 -19 h
-  [www.omadadikigorwn.english.blogspot.com](http://www.omadadikigorwn.english.blogspot.com)

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### Medical service, even if You are undocumented in Greece

### 6. Doctors of the World

-  Sappous Str. 12 (near Omonia)
-  210-32.13.485
-  [info@mdmgreece.gr](mailto:info@mdmgreece.gr)  
[www.mdmgreece.gr/en](http://www.mdmgreece.gr/en)





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### 7. Praksis

-  Peoniou Street 5 & Aharnon Str. (near by Victoria Square)
-  210-82.13.704 /  
210-88.22.066
-  Monday-Friday 9-17
-  [info@praksis.gr](mailto:info@praksis.gr)  
[www.praksis.gr](http://www.praksis.gr)




**8. Babel Day Care Center**

For psychological and psychiatric support for migrants and refugees with interpreters speaking your language.



-  daily from 9am to 5pm – on Tuesdays and Thursdays it remains open until 8pm.
-  Ioannou Drosopoulou 72 (near Platia Amerikis) – Athens
-  210 – 86.16.280 or 210–86.16.102 or 210-86.16.266
-  [babel@syneirmos.gr](mailto:babel@syneirmos.gr)  
[www.babel.actorsnet.gr](http://www.babel.actorsnet.gr)

**Free Greek language courses****9. DIKTIO – Network of Social Support to Immigrants and Refugees**



It provides information on legal/ social needs (Mo-Fri from 17-20), free courses of Greek language (Mo-Fr 18-20) and computer. For people who have or don't have papers.

-  Tsamadou 13, Exarheia
-  210-38.13.928
-  <http://migrant.diktio.org/>

**10. Metadrasí**

-  Thesprotias 8, close to the railway station Larisis
-  210.52.01.792  
or 210.52.01.794  
or 210.51.26.456

**11. PYXIDA / Multicultural Centre for the Integration of Refugees**

-  Solomou 25, Exarheia (near Omonia)
-  210-38.00.990

**12. Kyriakatiko Sxoleio Metanason**

-  Argous Street 145, Kolonos (central Athens)
-  Sundays and Saturdays:  
210 5130373  
Mondays-Fridays:  
210-8842151, 210-3306286  
& 6945237837
-  [kyriakatiko@yahoo.gr](mailto:kyriakatiko@yahoo.gr)

**Food, Clothes, Information****13. Red Cross, Sect. of Social Care**

-  Lykavittou 1, Athens
-  210-36.39.538
-  [swd@redcross.gr](mailto:swd@redcross.gr)

### 14. Caritas

- ☰ Kapodistriou 52, Athens, near Vathis Square
- 📞 210-52.47.879
- ✉ caritashellas@caritas.gr  
<http://www.caritas.gr>

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### If you lost family members and want to trace them

### 15. RED CROSS

Sector of Tracing People

- ☰ 3rd September Street 21, Athens
- 📞 210-52.42.194  
or 210-52.30.043
- ✉ tracingstaff@redcross.gr

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### If you are a victim of torture

### 16. Metadrasi

- ☰ Thesprotias 8, close to the railway station Larisis
- 📞 210.52.01.792  
or 210.52.01.794  
or 210.51.26.456

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### If you look for people from your community

### 17. Afghans United Association

- ☰ Arahovis 45-47, Exarhia, Athens
- 📞 0030-21.11.83.08.10  
6947.39.78.64 or 6944.61.47.20  
or
- ✉ afg.u.gr@gmail.com

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### 18. Afghan Community in Greece

- ☰ Chalkokondyli Str. 16, Athens
- ✉ afghansingreece@gmail.com
- 📞 210-88.14.900 or 6948.40.89.28
- ✉ myonous@gmail.com or  
gionas1973@yahoo.com  
[www.afghangr.com](http://www.afghangr.com)

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### 19. Workers Union of Bangladeshi Immigrants in Greece

Representative: Elias Ahmed

- ☰ Agias Filotheis 5B, Athens
- 📞 210-33.18.812  
or 210-82-22-509  
mobile: 6938.67.65.23
- ✉ sramikjote@yahoo.com &  
eliaselisa@yahoo.com

**20. Egyptian-Greek Union**

📞 Midou 6995.17.25.13

**21. Ethiopian Community**

📧 Imbrou 16

📞 6944.71.17.81

**22. Union of Palestinian Workers in Greece/Athens**

📧 3rd of September Street 48B,

📞 210-82.21.124,  
mobile: 6937.53.74.61  
or 6932.47.14.39

📧 palwoun@yahoo.gr

**23. Greek-Pakistani Association**

Representative: Anwar Iqbal

📧 Kosma Aitolou 2, Athens

📞 6944.95.18.03

📧 annou1970@yahoo.co.uk

**24. Somali Community**

Representative: Elias Ali Hassan

📧 Kaningos 27, Athens

📞 6994.31.67.08; 210-52.40.060,  
Abdalla Yousef 6999.48.84.41

📧 scomgr@gmail.com

**24. Sudanese Refugee Association**

Secretary: Adams Saleh

📧 Xouthou 9, Omonia, Athens

📞 6946.39.98.21

📧 sar\_firenship@yahoo.com

**25. Kurdish Syrian Educational Association**

📧 Promitheos 71/ Aharnon,  
Athens

📞 210-22.83.746,

**26. United African Women Organisation in Greece**

Representatives:

Lauretta Macauley; Hawa Sankoh

📧 Kosma Aitolou 2, Athens

📞 210-36.17.065 or 210-  
88.30.381

📧 africanwomen@yahoo.com

<http://www.africanwomen.gr>

ΚΑΛΗΜΕΡΑ

KALIMERA

→ Good morning

ΚΑΛΗΣΠΕΡΑ

KALISPERA

→ Good evening

ΚΑΛΗΝΥΧΤΑ

KALINIKTA

→ Good night

ΜΕ ΛΕΝΕ

ME LENE

→ My name is ...

ΠΩΣ ΣΑΣ ΛΕΝΕ?

POS SAS LENE

→ What is your  
name?

ΧΑΙΡΩ ΠΟΛΥ

HERO POLI

→ Nice to meet you

ΤΙ ΚΑΝΕΤΕ

TI KANETE?

→ How are you?

ΕΙΜΑΙ ΚΑΛΑ

IME KALA → I am fine

ΠΛΟΙΟ ΠΛΙΟ → Ship

ΕΓΩ ΕΙΜΑΙ

EGO IME → I am

ΕΣΥ ΕΙΣΑΙ

ESI ISE → You are

ΑΥΤΟΣ / ΑΥΤΗ /  
ΑΥΤΟ ΕΙΝΑΙ

AFTOS / AFTI /

AFTO INE

→ He / She / It is

ΕΜΕΙΣ ΕΙΜΑΣΤΕ

EMISIMASTE → We are

ΕΣΕΙΣ ΕΙΣΑΣΤΕ

ESIS ISASTE

→ You are

ΑΥΤΟΙ / ΑΥΤΕΣ /  
ΑΥΤΑ ΕΙΝΑΙ

AFTI / AFTES /

AFTA INE

→ They are

ΕΓΩ ΘΕΛΩ

EGO THELO

→ I'm sick

ΕΙΣΙΤΗΡΙΟ

ISITIRIO → Ticket

ΤΡΑΙΝΟ

TRENO → Train

ΛΕΩΦΟΡΕΙΟ

LEOFORIO – Bus

ΣΤΑΣΗ

STASI – Station

ΠΟΣΟ ΚΑΝΕΙ?

POSO KANI?

→ How much  
does it cost?

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ

EFHARISTO

→ Thank you

ΠΑΡΑΚΑΛΩ

PARAKALO → Please

ΝΕΡΟ ΝΕΡΟ

→ Water

ΦΑΓΗΤΟ

FAGITO → Food

ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΙΟ

FARMAKIO

→ Pharmacy

ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟ

NOSOKOMIO

→ Hospital

ΓΙΑΤΡΟΣ

GIATROS → Doctor

ΑΣΤΥΝΟΜΙΑ  
ASTINOMIA

→ Police

ΘΕΛΩ ΕΙΣΙΤΗΡΙΟ  
THELO ISITIRIO

→ I want a ticket

ΘΕΛΩ ΦΑΓΗΤΟ  
THELO FAGITO

→ I want food

ΘΕΛΩ ΝΕΡΟ  
THELO NERO

→ I want water

ΘΕΛΩ ΓΙΑΤΡΟ  
THELO YIATRO

→ I want a doctor

ΘΕΛΩ ΒΟΗΘΕΙΑ  
THELO VOITHIA

→ I want help

ΘΕΛΩ ΔΟΥΛΕΙΑ  
THELO DOULIA

→ I need job

ΘΕΛΩ ΝΑ ΠΑΩ  
ΣΤΟ - THELO NA

ΠΑΟ ΣΤΟ

→ I want to go to ...

ΕΝΤΑΞΕΙ

ENTAKSI → O.K

ΔΕΝ ΚΑΤΑΛΑ-  
ΒΑΙΝΩ -  
DEN KATALAVENO

→ I don't under-  
stand

ΔΕΝ ΜΙΛΩ  
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ  
DEN MILO ELINIKΑ

→ I don't speak  
Greek

ΝΑΙ / ΟΧΙ  
ΝΕ / ΟΗ  
→ Yes / No

ΠΟΥ ΕΙΝΑΙ?  
ΠΟΥ ΕΙΝΑΙ?  
→ Where is....?

ΣΗΜΕΡΑ / ΑΥΡΙΟ  
SIMERA / AVRIO  
→ Today /  
Tomorrow

ΜΗΤΕΡΑ /  
ΠΑΤΕΡΑΣ  
MITERA/PATERAS  
→ Mother / Father

ΑΔΕΛΦΟΣ /  
ΑΔΕΛΦΗ  
ADELFI / ADELFOΣ  
→ Brother / Sister

ΓΥΝΑΙΚΑ /  
ΑΝΔΡΑΣ  
GINEKA / ANDRAS  
→ Woman / Man

ΟΙΚΟΓΕΝΕΙΑ  
IKOGENIA  
→ Family

ΠΡΟΣΦΥΓΑΣ  
PROSFIGAS  
→ Refugee

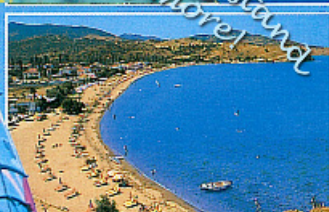
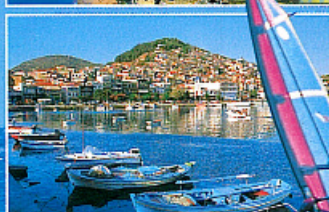
ΑΛΛΟΔΑΠΟΣ  
ALODAPOS  
→ Foreigner

ΑΙΤΗΣΗ  
ETISI  
→ Application

ΠΡΟΣΦΥΓΗ  
PROSFIGI  
→ Appeal

ΕΙΜΑΙ ΑΡΡΩΣΤΟΣ  
IMEAROSTOS  
I am sick

ΤΟ ΕΙΣΙΤΗΡΙΟ  
ΣΟΥ  
TO ISITIRIO SOU  
Your ticket



*When I arrived at the shores  
of Mitilini I came to understand  
that I am no child anymore!*

*Lesvos*

