

HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH

What is happening to refugees with disabilities in Greece



January 2017



Who we are

HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH

We are called Human Rights Watch.



We work to make sure everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their rights.

What is this information about?



This information is about some people with disabilities who have come to Greece from other countries.



Most people have come from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq.

They are countries in the Middle East and Asia.



Most people have been forced to leave their countries because of war or violence.



It is too dangerous for them to go back.

They need a safe place to go.

But other countries in Europe say they cannot come there so they have to stay in Greece.



People who come to other countries like this are called refugees or asylum seekers.

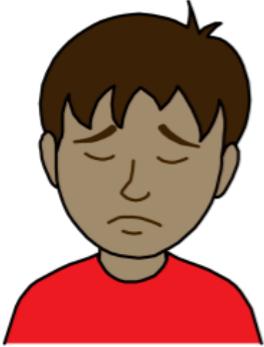
Some of these people in Greece have a disability.



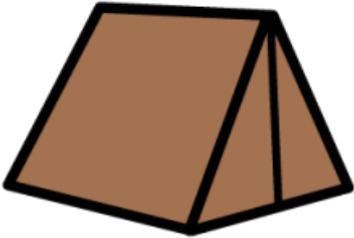
We looked at how these people with disabilities in Greece are being treated.

We talked to adults and children with disabilities, their families and other people working in Greece to find this out.

What we found out



We found out that refugees with disabilities are not getting the help they need in Greece.



There are places for them to stay.

For example, refugee camps and places for people who arrive in Greece from other countries.



But people with disabilities in these places are not getting the basic things they need.



Now it is winter and many people are not safe from the freezing cold.

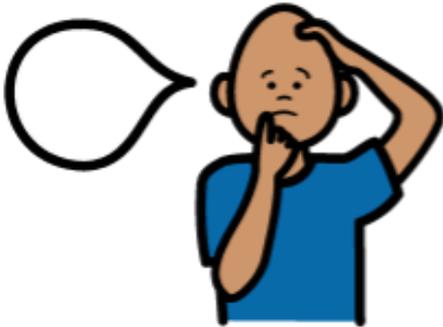
Finding out who has a disability



When people first come to Greece they have to speak to staff to say who they are and where they are from.



Staff should find out what support they need and help them get it.

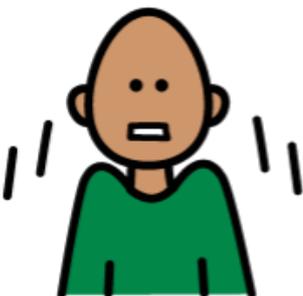


But staff do not always find out if someone has a disability.

They may not see that someone has a disability. For example, it can be hard to tell that someone has a mental health condition.



They may not have the right information or training to help them know who has a disability.

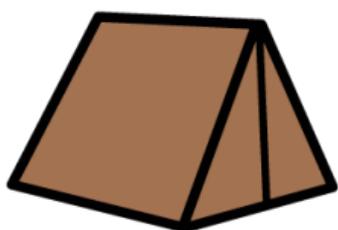


This makes it hard for people with disabilities to get what they need.

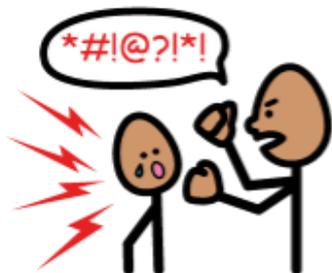
Healthcare and mental health care in refugee camps



Many bad things have happened to people in their countries and on the way to Greece.



Life in refugee camps is also very hard.

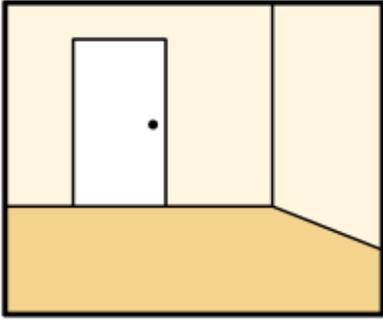


The camps are often dirty and unsafe and there can be violence.

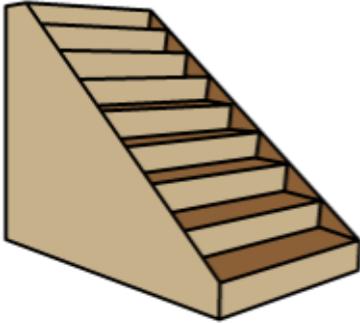


Many people need help with their mental health because they are upset or scared.

But many people cannot get the help they need.

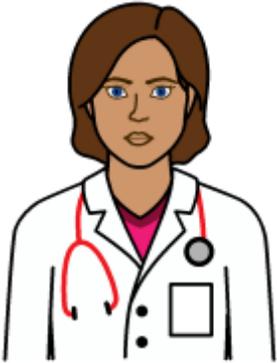


Some refugee camps have rooms where people can talk in private.

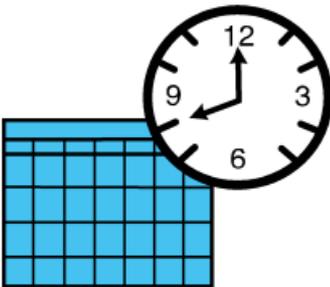


But they can be hard for people with disabilities to get into.

For example, there may be stairs but no ramp.

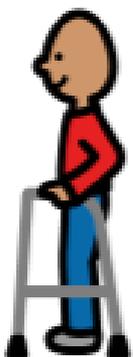


Many people with disabilities also do not get the medical care they need.

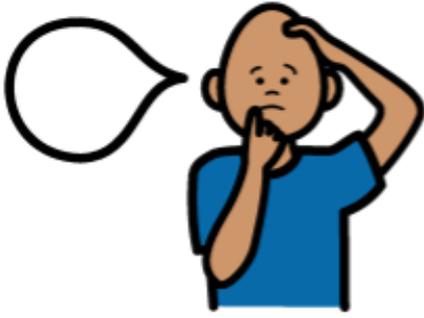


For example:

- it can take a long time to see a doctor and the doctor may be too far away



- people often cannot get the medicine or other things they need for their disability

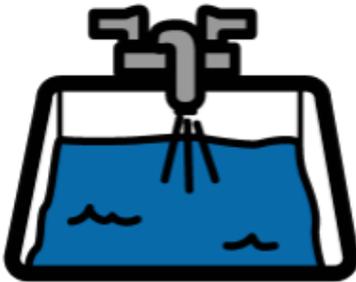


- people may not know how to get help



- it can cost too much money to get to hospital

Water, toilets and places to wash



Wash places and toilets in refugee camps are often hard for people with disabilities to get to and use.

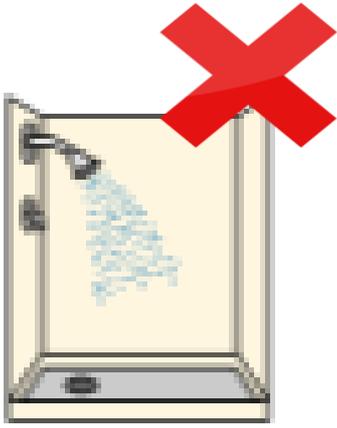


For example:

- there may be no ramps to help people get into the showers or toilets



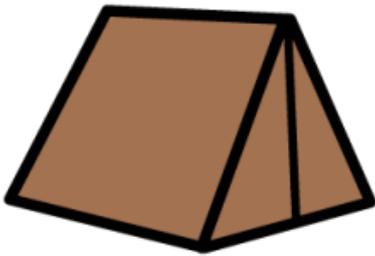
- the ground may have lot of rocks and may be unsafe for wheelchairs



People with disabilities may not be able to use the toilets or showers on their own.

So they have to ask other people for help.

This is not how it should be.



A warm and safe home for winter

Many people with disabilities live in tents in refugee camps.



The tents are not strong enough or warm enough for winter.



People should be moved straight away to homes that are warm and have hot water.

In the future, they should be given homes in the community.

What should happen?



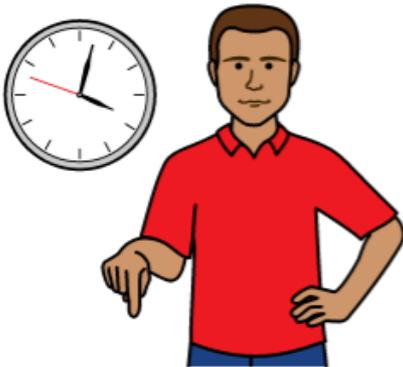
People with disabilities have the same rights as everyone else.

This means refugees with disabilities too.

They should be treated fairly and get what they need to be safe and well.



There are laws in Europe and in the world about this.



The government in Greece and groups that work with refugees should make sure they think about people with disabilities as well.



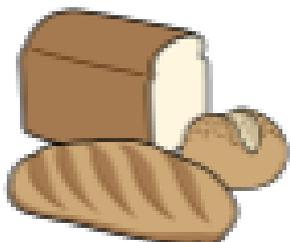
They should make sure that people with disabilities get everything they need.

For example:

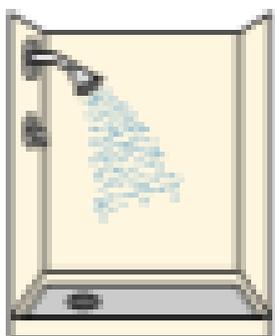


- information about what will happen to them

- a warm and safe place to live



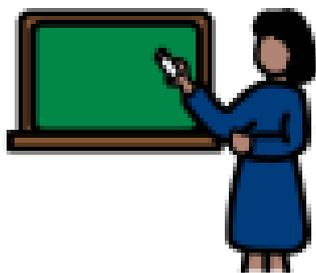
- food places that are easy to get to



- toilets and wash places that are easy to get to and use



- good healthcare, which means mental health care as well

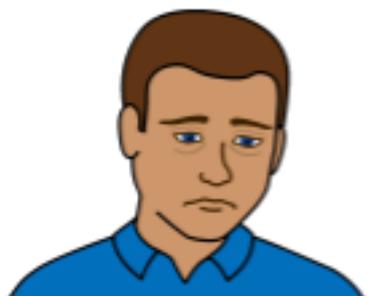


- a good education



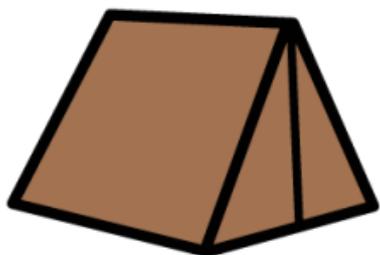
Staff should have the right information and training to help them find out who has a disability and what they need.

Hadad's story



Hadad is 16 years old.

He is from Afghanistan.



He lives with his mother in a refugee camp.

Life in the camp is very hard and there are many problems.



Hadad sometimes gets very upset.

Sometimes he hurts himself.

He needs help to feel better.



But he only has some medicine that makes him sleep a lot.



His mother is very worried.

She does not know what will happen next.