

Greece: Transfer Refugees and Asylum Seekers to Safety on Mainland

Respect for Human Rights Should Prevail Over Use of Force

Following yesterday's fire in Moria, on Lesbos, which destroyed the Reception and Identification Centre, 31 civil society organizations call on the [Greek](#) government to immediately provide assistance to people who lost their shelter. Those affected, among them many children and at-risk groups, should be carefully transferred to safety on the mainland.

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

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

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

List of signatories:

ActionAid Hellas

Amnesty International

Boat Refugee Foundation

CRWI Diotima

ECHO100PLUS

ELIX

Equal Rights Beyond Borders

Fenix – Humanitarian Legal Aid

Greek Council for Refugees (GCR)

Hellenic League for Human Rights

Hellenic Platform for Development (Ελληνική Πλατφόρμα για την Ανάπτυξη)

Help Refugees

Hias Greece

HumanRights360

Humanitarian Legal Aid

Human Rights Watch

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

INTERSOS Hellas

Legal Centre Lesbos

Médecins Sans Frontières

Melissa

Network for Children's Rights

Omnes

Refugee Legal Support (RLS)

Refugee Rights Europe (RRE)

Refugee Support Aegean (RSA)

Refugee Trauma Initiative

Solidarity Now

Symbiosis-School of Political Studies in Greece

Terre des hommes Hellas

The HOME Project