

SCI HELLAS Workcamp in Lavrio Creativity in refugee camp 14-27 August 2016

Workshop on solidarity with refugees - focus on women

Alexia Tsouni

Member of the editorial team

Feminist collective "The Purple", Greece

<http://tomov.gr/>



A woman wearing a patterned headscarf and a brown jacket sits in a dark, dilapidated room with peeling walls. She has her hand to her face in a gesture of distress. Two young children are with her; one is sitting up in a pink shirt, looking directly at the camera with a somber expression, and the other is lying down in a grey jacket, appearing to be asleep or resting. The overall mood is one of hardship and displacement.

Refugee or Migrant?

Word choice matters.

Who is refugee?



Who is migrant?



Refugees are persons fleeing armed conflict or persecution. There were 21.3 million of them worldwide at the end of 2015. Their situation is often so perilous and intolerable that they cross national borders to seek safety in nearby countries, and thus become internationally recognized as "refugees" with access to assistance from States, UNHCR, and other organizations. They are so recognized precisely because it is too dangerous for them to return home, and they need sanctuary elsewhere. These are people for whom denial of asylum has potentially deadly consequences.

Refugees are defined and protected in international law. The [1951 Refugee Convention](#) and its 1967 Protocol as well as other legal texts, such as the 1969 [Organization of African Unity Refugee Convention](#), remain the cornerstone of modern refugee protection. The legal principles they enshrine have permeated into countless other international, regional, and national laws and practices. The 1951 Convention defines who is a refugee and outlines the basic rights which States should afford to refugees. One of the most fundamental principles laid down in international law is that refugees should not be expelled or returned to situations where their life and freedom would be under threat.

The protection of refugees has many aspects. These include safety from being returned to the dangers they have fled; access to asylum procedures that are fair and efficient; and measures to ensure that their basic human rights are respected to allow them to live in dignity and safety while helping them to find a longer-term solution. States bear the primary responsibility for this protection.

Source: <http://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2016/7/55df0e556/unhcr-viewpoint-refugee-migrant-right.html>

Migrants choose to move not because of a direct threat of persecution or death, but mainly to improve their lives by finding work, or in some cases for education, family reunion, or other reasons. Unlike refugees who cannot safely return home, migrants face no such impediment to return. If they choose to return home, they will continue to receive the protection of their government.

Source: <http://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2016/7/55df0e556/unhcr-viewpoint-refugee-migrant-right.html>

Why word choice matters?

Refugees vs Migrants

For individual governments, this distinction is important. Countries deal with migrants under their own immigration laws and processes. Countries deal with refugees through norms of refugee protection and asylum that are defined in both national legislation and international law. Countries have specific responsibilities towards anyone seeking asylum on their territories or at their borders.

Politics has a way of intervening in such debates. Conflating refugees and migrants can have serious consequences for the lives and safety of refugees. Blurring the two terms takes attention away from the specific legal protections refugees require. It can undermine public support for refugees and the institution of asylum at a time when more refugees need such protection than ever before. We need to treat all human beings with respect and dignity. We need to ensure that the human rights of migrants are respected. At the same time, we also need to provide an appropriate legal response for refugees, because of their particular predicament.

Source: <http://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2016/7/55df0e556/unhcr-viewpoint-refugee-migrant-right.html>

**Which are the current 4 biggest
refugee emergencies in the world?**





SYRIA



IRAQ



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



SOUTH SUDAN

SYRIA

As war continues for the 5th year, hope is fading fast.

8,7 million are displaced inside Syria.

4,8 million refugees have fled Syria since 2011, seeking safety in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and beyond.

- Turkey hosts over 2,7 million Syrians.
- Lebanon hosts more than 1 million Syrians.
- Jordan hosts 0,6 million refugees.
- Egypt hosts more than 100,000 refugees.
- Iraq hosts nearly 25,000 refugees.

Video:

<http://www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html>



Map by www.bbc.com

IRAQ

Millions of Iraqis have been forced to abandon their homes after decades of conflict and violence.

3,4 million are displaced inside Iraq.

0,23 million refugees have fled Iraq.

Video:

<http://www.unhcr.org/iraq-emergency.html>

Source: www.unhcr.org



Map by www.bbc.com

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The CAR is one of the world's poorest countries. It has been troubled by unrest for decades, but when a coup led by Seleka rebels ousted the president in March 2013, an already fragile population was plunged into crisis.

415.000 are displaced inside CAR.

473.000 refugees have fled CAR.

Video:

<http://www.unhcr.org/car-emergency.html>

Source: www.unhcr.org



Map by www.bbc.com

SOUTH SUDAN

Since December 2013, brutal conflict in South Sudan has claimed thousands of lives and driven well over a million of people from their homes. While many remain displaced inside the country, hundreds of thousands have fled to neighbouring countries in a desperate bid to reach safety.

865.811 refugees and asylum-seekers from South Sudan.

Video:

<http://www.unhcr.org/south-sudan-emergency.html>

Source: www.unhcr.org



Map by www.bbc.com

SOLIDARITY





Solidarity in the Greek islands, borders with Turkey









Solidarity
in
cities
in
central
Greece





Metropolitan
Community
Clinic at
Helliniko

<http://www.mkiellinikou.org>



Idomeni
unofficial
camp,
Greek-
Macedonian
borders





Since March 2015
more than 38.000
persons were
treated by 260
MSF staff members
in Idomeni.

Photo © Amir
Kamiri / MSF



Evacuation of
Idomeni
camp with
lack of
information
and
restrictions on
access to
humanitarian
aid.

Photo © MSF



Piraeus
port
unofficial
camp



Greece: Refugee “Hotspots” Unsafe, Unsanitary Women, Children Fearful, Unprotected; Lack Basic Shelter May 19, 2016

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/05/19/greece-refugee-hotspots-unsafe-unsanitary>

Police are failing to protect people during frequent incidents of violence in closed centers on the Greek islands known as “hotspots”. The centers were established for the reception, identification, and processing of asylum seekers and migrants.

In Europe's version of refugee camps, women and children who fled war face daily violence and live in fear. None of the three centers Human Rights Watch visited on Samos, Lesbos, and Chios in mid-May 2016, separate single women from unrelated adult men. Women reported frequent sexual harassment in all three hotspots.

Lack of police protection, overcrowding, and unsanitary conditions create an atmosphere of chaos and insecurity in Greece's razor wire-fenced island camps. All three facilities are severely overcrowded, with significant shortages of basic shelter and filthy, unhygienic conditions. Long lines for poor quality food, mismanagement, and lack of information contribute to the chaotic and volatile atmosphere.



A dorm in the Vathi hotspot, on Samos island, Greece. At the time of Human Rights Watch's visit, the facility was severely overcrowded, with significant shortages of basic shelter and filthy, unhygienic conditions.

© 2016 Private /
Human Rights
Watch



A 58-year-old Syrian woman living in makeshift conditions at the VIAL hotspot, on Chios island, Greece. About 200 people are living on the floor of the old factory building at the center of the camp rather than in the containers around it, hanging a few blankets to mark their space and provide minimal privacy.

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Human Rights
Watch



Men are regularly present near the women's latrine at the Moria hotspot, on Lesbos island, Greece. Women described routine sexual harassment, particularly when going to and from or using the camp's bathrooms.

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Hunger strike of refugees in the hotspot of Chios island on 17/05/2016. 27 refugees mostly from Syria and one family from Iraq.

“Lathra” Solidarity Committee to Refugees, Chios island
<http://www.lathra.gr/>

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Petition to the Greek authorities to stop the deportation of a Syrian refugee to Turkey under the EU-Turkey Agreement, an illegal and reckless deal. The Syrian refugee (known as M.F.) is at risk of forced return to Turkey, where his safety is not guaranteed. He is currently in police custody on the Greek island of Lesbos. His asylum claim was rejected by Greece, meaning he will be deported to Turkey under the EU-Turkey Agreement.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/06/syrian-faces-deportation-from-eu/>



Through their eyes: refugees' own accounts of abuses in Libya, 15/08/2016

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS FACE ABDUCTIONS, TORTURE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AT ALL STAGES OF THE SMUGGLING ROUTE IN LIBYA.



© MAHMUD TURKIA/AFP/Getty Images

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL 

"Sexual abuse is so endemic for refugees travelling through Libya that women told us they take contraceptives before travelling, because they expect to be raped and want to avoid becoming pregnant as a result of it.

Women are constantly at risk of sexual violence at the hands of smugglers, traffickers, armed groups or in immigration detention centres and all the women Amnesty International spoke to had experienced it themselves or knew other women who had."

Source: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2016/08/Through-their-eyes-refugees-own-accounts-of-abuses-in-Libya/>

AMAL, 21 years old woman, Eritrea

Amal escaped Eritrea and travelled through Sudan after her mother was imprisoned. She wanted to get away from indefinite military service that had prevented her from going to university and from seeing her family for one and a half years. But en route to hope of a new and safe life in Europe, she was forced into sexual slavery after being abducted near Benghazi by the armed group calling itself Islamic State (IS), in Libya.

“IS caught us at the end of July 2015. They separated us into Christians and Muslims and then they separated the men and women. They put us in two cars to take us towards Tripoli and put us in a big palace-like place. They kept us underground – we didn’t see the sun for nine months. Then they told us they would release us, but only if we converted [to Islam], so we did. After we converted, they said they would make us into their own slaves and maids. We were beaten for three months, sometimes they used their hands or a hose or sticks. Sometimes they would frighten us with their guns or threaten to slaughter us with their knives. They considered us their wives and forced themselves on us. We spent four months in that situation. It was a very big place and there were many men. Every day some of them would abuse us. In February [2016] they divided us and gave each one of us to a man. I stayed with the man [...] who only show[ed] up at night without food. [After a week] I managed to find a key when he was out and left. I found out I was in fact in Sirte. I got here on 5 May, in Taranto. They asked me why I came to Italy and then they said they can help me”.



Elliniko
official
camp

Home / Press room / News / Labour Integration of refugees in Greece: a Cooperative...

Labour Integration of refugees in Greece: a Cooperative Hostel to Spread Solidarity

21 MARCH 2016

[français]

“Welcommon” stands for “Welcome in common”. This is the name that four well-established organisations, the social cooperative Wind of Renewal, the Greek Forum of Refugees, the Greek Forum of Migrants and ANASA Cultural Centre, have chosen for a project seeking to offer much more than emergency accommodation. Social inclusion, empowerment and refugee integration are key aims of the initiative.

Maria Ruiz Nieves



Refugees Welcome Ελλάδα

Why shouldn't refugees in Greece be able to live in shared flats (or other normal housing situations) instead of mass accommodation? We asked ourselves the same question, and now found a way to make it possible..

How it works



1
You sign up with your (shared) flat. We simply need some information on your housing situation.

[REGISTER AN APARTMENT](#)



2
Through a refugee organisation, we will put you in touch with a person who fled to your city..

[ARE YOU A REFUGEE?](#)



3
We can help you find ways to finance the rent. You don't have to pay the rent yourself.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Your new flatmate will move in! Of course we will continue to support you.



Occupation of the abandoned 5th high school of Athens for hosting refugees.

www.facebook.com/5olikeio/



Visit to Acropolis
archeological
museum.





Visit to Acropolis
archeological
museum.





Visit to Acropolis
archeological
museum.





Raising awareness events and brochures in 4 languages focused on women about the right to asylum and the protection from gender-based violence.





Networking with other NGOs and solidarity groups, and cooperation with UNHCR for women refugees.



ΠΑΝΕΛΛΑΔΙΚΗ ΗΜΕΡΑ ΔΡΑΣΗΣ

ΕΝΑΝΤΙΑ ΣΤΑ ΚΕΝΤΡΑ ΚΡΑΤΗΣΗΣ
& ΣΤΑ ΣΤΡΑΤΟΠΕΔΑ ΣΥΓΚΕΝΤΡΩΣΗΣ

Για την ελευθερία μετακίνησης
και το δικαίωμα στη παραμονή

Σάββατο 5 Μάρτη 2016

12.00 Συγκέντρωση στο Μετρό Ελληνικού και Πορεία στο Κέντρο Κράτησης

13:30 Μοτοπορεία από το Ελληνικό σε χώρους κράτησης μεταναστών-ριών

Πανελλαδική Δικτύωση Αντιρατσιστικών και Μεταναστευτικών Οργανώσεων

Protests at Elliniko women's detention center against the detention of refugees and migrants.

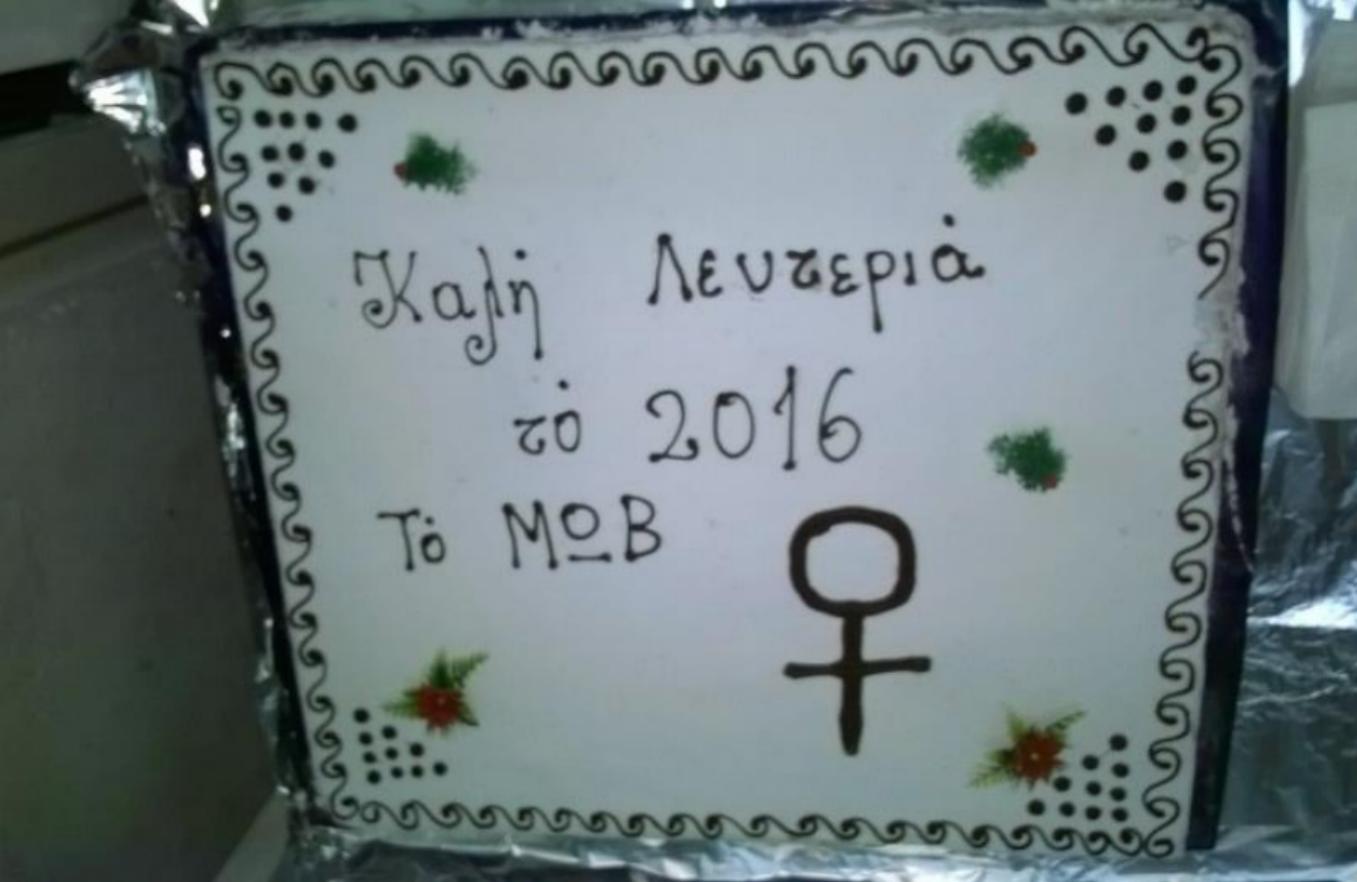




ΗΛΕΚΤΡΟΝΙΚΗ ΕΦΗΜΕΡΙΔΑ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΕΙΩΝ ΔΙΚΑΙΩΜΑΤΩΝ
ΩΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΕΙΩΝ ΘΕΜΑΤΩΝ ΠΟΙΚΙΛΗΣ ΥΛΗΣ

tomov.gr
feminist website
info@tomov.gr





FREEDOM in 2016

New year solidarity event inside Elliniko women's detention center.





Visits to
Elliniko
women's
detention
center to
provide
information
and
support to
detained
refugee
and
migrant
women.





Visit to Elliniko women's detention center to provide information (brochure in 4 languages) and support to detained refugee and migrant women.



