



5. Need help? CONTACT US NOW!

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4. Asylum procedure – step by step

Who is a refugee?

You have the right to special protection and help, if you are a refugee or a migrant child, as well as all the rights in the UN CRC.

Refugee children: those whose life is in danger because of various reasons (race, religion, nationality, political opinion, etc.) are forced to abandon their home country.

Migrant children: those who are outside their country of origin for whatever reason – that is, reasons which are unrelated to a fear of persecution cannot be recognized as refugees.

Asylum seekers: those who are in the process of seeking asylum according to the legislation of a specific country so as to be recognized as refugees, meaning that they enjoy a certain status of protection under this legislation for as long as their claim is being processed.

What shall I do first?

You first have to declare your wish to request international protection as a refugee as soon as you enter Greece. It is a basic right to be considered as an asylum seeker. This application has to be submitted to the Asylum Authority. If you have family/relatives located in another EU member-state, it is important that you declare this to the Asylum Authority, immediately.

☎ Main Asylum Service Office, Attica: +30 210 69 88 500, +30 210 99 03 370, +30 210 41 87 090
Telephone line with recorded information in 10 languages: +30 210 69 88 660

@ Email: relocation@asylo.gov.gr
@ Email: aka.peiraia@asylo.gov.gr



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

About us

International Organization for Migration (IOM) is there for your assistance. We can also help you in Italy, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, and Bulgaria! Find us on Facebook and at our websites (<https://greece.iom.int/>)



This project is funded by the European Union

Protecting children in the context of the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe

Hello! Γεια σου! سلام!

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



Specific steps:

- ✓ Attend the nearest Asylum Service. All services are free of charge.
- ✓ The asylum authority will ask you some questions about yourself which you must answer honestly. **There is no reason to be afraid!**
- ✓ You will be given an international protection applicant card that is your legal paper (like your identity) so, don't lose it! Keep it always with you! Always remember your next appointment at the Asylum Service and take your card with you
- ✓ Also, ask about the right to make an application for relocation or family reunification!

What will police and asylum officers do with me?

They will ask you to declare your age and identity. It is in your best interest to tell them the truth!

What type of questions will be asked?

In order to understand your situation better, they will ask simple questions, for example:

- ✓ Where are you from?
- ✓ How old are you?
- ✓ Which countries did you come through?
- ✓ Are you travelling alone?
- ✓ Do you have any family member in Europe?



Please answer all questions as best as you can. If you can't answer, just say it. If you need a break you can always ask for one. What you say will be recorded in writing too. Sign the record if and only if you understand what it is about. If there is a problem or something is missing, let the authorities know about it. You have the right to have a copy of the record.

Why is my age important?

Persons older than 18 years are adults. They are treated differently from younger people below 18 years of age, who are "minors" and have all the rights that are described in this leaflet.

- ✓ In most cases, personal data is registered based on your oral declaration. In case of doubt about your age and/or nationality, you may be assessed via an interview and a doctor will examine you in order to assess your age. It is possible you may be asked to go to a hospital for further medical checks.
- ✓ Based on this assessment, your personal data will be registered with the Reception & Identification Service and will be included in your document.
- ✓ Also, DON'T SIGN ANYTHING if you don't understand.
- ✓ Ask for translation in your language, if needed.



Where will I be taken to?

I am located on the streets on the islands of Lesvos/Chios/Kos/Leros /Samos or at the border in Orestiada (or ANYWHERE else) and I am unaccompanied, under the age of 18. What will happen to me?

You will be taken to the Reception and Identification Centre for identification and registration purposes. Once this process is complete, you may be transferred to a safe zone* in a camp or to a shelter for unaccompanied minors, depending on your vulnerability.

REMEMBER! Once you are located in one of the aforementioned places, you should declare your name, age, nationality and the reasons for which you arrived in Greece by yourself to the people in charge, with honesty.

*Safe zones are safe places which provide free services for minors inside camps.

What's next?

You will be provided with free services to cover your basic needs, including:

- ✓ Primary needs: Your meals, clothing and hygiene items
- ✓ Health services
- ✓ Psychosocial support
- ✓ Legal services

1. Your Rights



Where am I now?

Welcome to Greece, a European Union (EU) member-state! The capital is Athens and the official language is Greek. In order to support you, we would like to give you some useful information about your rights in Greece. Greece, as the founder of democracy and as a promoter of human rights, is here to protect, support and assist you! We do not ask for money, we do not take money and we do not ask for any reward. We would just like to wish you, a safe journey, and welcome you to Europe.

Will I be detained?

Being an unaccompanied and separated child is not a crime. You cannot be detained just because you've asked for asylum. You are here because you crossed the borders illegally, without the necessary papers. You have to present yourself at a Reception and Identification Center at the points of entry to Greece or at a Police Station in order to be identified and registered.

Will I and other young refugee/migrant people be treated differently?

All young people have the same rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are boys or girls.

Can I ask for help from any adult?

All adults should do what is the best for you. You can always ask adults for help and support! Don't forget, you don't have to pay or give anything to an adult for this help in return!

- ✓ Do not trust anybody who may promise to transport you to a European country or find you a job regardless if he/she asks you for money or not, otherwise you may be exploited in various ways.

Can I go to school?

In Greece, for children under 15, education is compulsory in public schools. The case for YOU, that is, whether you may have access to education (either formal or nonformal) depends on the following conditions:

- ✓ status (accompanied, unaccompanied/separated)
- ✓ age (under 15, above 15)
- ✓ the permission needed (guardianship consent/ parental consent)



Can I work?

The Greek State will offer you protection, security and will cover your basic needs (food, shelter, and clothes) so, that you don't have to work. However, if you wish to work, ask your child protector or legal guardian to guide you regarding vocational opportunities.

Do I have to speak Greek?

One of the basic human rights is to practice your own culture, language and religion... so, you don't have to. In fact, interpreters are available to help you with all procedures during your stay in Greece. You are encouraged to attend school or other type of education where you will be able to learn also Greek, which makes your everyday life easier.



- ✓ It is better to be safe and follow the legal steps to start a new life, than go down illegal paths and be sorry!
- ✓ Always be sure with whom you talk, check for whom she/he works, and write down the names. If you seek advice from a lawyer, always ask for a business card or hard-written contact details.
- ✓ Try to be well-informed and updated by seeking advice from organizations and other child protection actors who are here to help you.
- ✓ Don't trust people only because they come from the same country as you. Everyone is in a difficult situation and not all people turn out to be nice and trustworthy. Keep trying!



Can I get in touch with my family?

If you are not accompanied by your parents or other relatives, you have the right to be with them. This means that if your parents are in another EU country, you have the right to contact them and apply for a family reunification.

REMEMBER!

- ✓ It is your basic right to seek legal assistance and representation.
- ✓ If you turn 18 soon and want to apply for family reunification, you must hurry up and register properly your claim before your birthday.
- ✓ If you are unaccompanied and under 15, you will be appointed with a legal representative to submit the asylum application on your behalf!
- ✓ RIC/Public prosecutor/guardian will take over your case because you are unaccompanied minor

Who have children's rights?

"Rights" apply to every child INCLUDING YOU. You are a child if you are under 18 years old and you are accompanied by your parents or relatives, or you are unaccompanied or separated from them. All children have the same rights in Europe, which are equally important.

2. What rules should I follow? - Your responsibilities

The UN CRC also refers to some rules what you have to follow, in particular to respect the rights of others.

- ! Since you, regardless of your sex, ethnic origin, language, age, nationality or religion have these rights, then you also have a responsibility to respect others in a humane way.
- ! Since you have a right to be protected from cruelty, exploitation and neglect, then you also have a responsibility not to harm others.
- ! Since you have a right to a clean environment, then you also have a responsibility to look after your environment.
- ! Since you have a right to be educated, then you have the responsibility to respect the rules of the Greek educational system.

Also, you should respect the laws of this country. For example in Greece, alcohol and tobacco are illegal for people under 18 years of age. Also, actions such as stealing, prostituting, drugs or illegal work are also not permitted to ANYONE. **You do not have to find irregular pathways to raise money so as to reach your destination country.** You will be in danger if you do that. The Greek state can help you so that you can meet your needs and desires without getting into any kind of trouble!

REMEMBER! You can always share with us any kind of information that you may feel is sensitive, embarrassing, and illegal or may put you at risk! We are here to ensure that this information will be treated with confidentiality, but most importantly, to assist and to protect you! We are here to preserve your best interest, including applying for international protection.

What are my rights?

In Greece and in all of Europe, all children and young people have the same human rights, listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC). Here you find the most important rights:

- 1. Non-discrimination:** All children have their rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.
- 2. The best interests of the child:** All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.
- 3. Survival, development and protection:** The authorities in each country must protect you and all children and help ensure your full development — physically, spiritually, morally and socially.

4. Participation: You and all children have a right to have your say in decisions that affect you and to have your opinions taken into account in every context.

REMEMBER! All of the above rights supporting what is best for you, apply in Greece. Also, NO decision affecting YOU in ANY WAY can be taken WITHOUT your knowledge and consent!

Can I have my say?

You have the right to give your opinion, and adults have to listen and take it seriously. You have the right to interpretation to your native language.

Will anyone hurt me or treat me badly?

You have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind. Always tell a trustful adult, if it happens.

Can I visit a doctor if I am sick?

You have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you be well.



3. Services available

Do I have to take care of all procedures alone?

Since you are under 18 years old and unaccompanied or separated, a legal representative, will be appointed by the Greek state to help you subject to the consent of the public prosecutor of minors. You can ask for legal advice about your appointment and your interview. **BE PATIENT, IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME!**

What if I need a lawyer supporting my case?

1. You have the right to have access to a lawyer who will support you throughout your stay in Greece.
2. You can speak in your own language, as an interpreter will help you.

What if I would like to talk to someone who I really trust?

You can speak to a child protection actor near the place you stay who can help you and direct you accordingly. In case of emergency you may also contact

- ☎ The National line for child protection. Tel: 1107
- ☎ National SOS line for children. Tel: 1056
- ☎ The support line for children and adolescents. Tel: 116 111
- ☎ The Hellenic Red Cross. Tel: 210 5240440
- ☎ The Greek Ombudsman/ The Ombudsman for Children (line for children). Tel: 800 11 32 000

