



Funding Appeal: European Lawyers in Lesvos

Please help us continue to provide urgently needed pro bono legal assistance to asylum seekers in Moria Reception and Identification Center, Lesvos, Greece

The European Lawyers in Lesvos gGmbH¹ is a non-profit organisation founded by the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) and the German Bar Association (DAV). We provide pro bono legal assistance to asylum seekers in Moria (the biggest camp on the Greek island of Lesvos), which currently hosts over 6,300 people – more than ever before – with many more continuing to arrive (almost 2,000 in November 2017 alone).

Each of these people – most of whom are from Syria, Iraq or Afghanistan – is going through a legal process to determine whether or not they will be granted international protection or be returned to Turkey. From a legal perspective, the need for assistance is greater than ever – large numbers of people are passing through the asylum process, many of whom have a limited understanding of the process, the criteria applied and their rights. However, as there is no state-provided legal aid at the first instance stage of the asylum process, the only way an asylum seeker can be assisted by a lawyer is through one of the few organisations – like ours – that provides pro bono legal assistance.

We aim to ensure that every person on Lesvos who is seeking asylum is able to receive legal assistance, at no cost, from an independent, volunteer European lawyer specialised in asylum law. Our primary focus is on providing one-on-one legal consultations to help asylum seekers prepare for their first instance asylum interviews. We also help asylum seekers apply to be reunited with family members under the Dublin Regulation.

Since July 2016, we have provided assistance to over 2,390 cases (over 3,600 people in total) and our volunteers – more than 100, from 16 different European countries – have contributed over 19,000 hours of voluntary work. The team also includes a legally-trained project coordinator, two Greek asylum lawyers (one as legal coordinator), two legal assistants and full-time Arabic and Farsi interpreters. All consultations are provided in our office containers in Moria camp, to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

We are urgently seeking additional funds, to enable more volunteer lawyers to come to Lesvos and to ensure our work continues. We also aim to expand to other “hotspots” at the EU outer borders. We are not funded by the EU or the Greek Government. As our organisation is volunteer-based, our costs are low: to provide an asylum seeker with pro bono legal assistance from a practising, experienced European asylum lawyer costs just 80 €.

To donate online: Please visit our website: www.elil.eu/donate, where you can easily donate online.

To donate directly:

Beneficiary	European Lawyers in Lesvos gGmbH
Address	Littenstraße 11, 10179 Berlin, Germany
Bank	Deutsche Bank Germany, 10585 Berlin, Otto-Suhr-Allee 6-16
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SWIFT/BIC	DEUTDE33HAN
Payment	Donation to ELIL gGmbH
Reference	

For more information, please visit our website: www.elil.eu or email us at: info@elil.eu

Thank you for your support!

Philip Worthington, Managing Director
Mytilene (Lesvos), December 2017

¹ Please note that as the organisation is still in the process of incorporation, we have not yet formally been granted charitable status.