



Key Figures

2
Number of years of operation

3966
Cases

Over **8400**
people assisted

Over **32400**
voluntary hours contributed

141
Volunteer lawyers

European Lawyers in LESVOS

The European Lawyers in Lesvos ("ELIL") is a charitable, non-profit organisation registered in Germany and Greece.

Our team of Greek asylum lawyers and volunteer European asylum lawyers provide **independent, free legal assistance to asylum seekers** on the Greek island of Lesvos.

ELIL was inspired by belief in the fundamental importance of upholding the rule of law, **protecting human rights** and ensuring meaningful access to legal assistance.

It was founded by the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) and the German Bar Association (DAV) in 2016.

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Providing free legal assistance to Asylum Seekers

There are currently **over 10,000 asylum seekers** on the Greek island of Lesbos, the vast majority of whom have fled **Syria, Afghanistan or Iraq**. They have come to Lesbos in search of safety and protection from war and persecution.

The asylum process they go through is a complex and ever-changing legal procedure that is difficult to navigate. Despite this, there is no state-provided legal aid available for asylum seekers before their asylum interviews (this interview determines whether or not they will be granted asylum) and so **the majority of them attend their interview without having spoken to a lawyer**.

Without access to legal assistance, **asylum seekers do not know their rights or understand the process and the criteria applied** when their asylum applications are assessed.

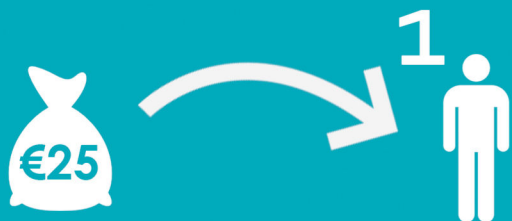
Almost all the asylum seekers on Lesbos live in **Moria Camp** (which has recently been called “the worst refugee camp on Earth”).

We are the largest provider of legal assistance to asylum seekers on Lesbos and the only one that focuses on providing **one-on-one legal consultations** to prepare asylum seekers for their asylum interview.

We are the primary provider of legal assistance to **unaccompanied minors** who have been incorrectly registered as adults, and asylum seekers in detention.

We also help **reunite families** by assisting with family reunification applications under the Dublin Regulation.

How to help? and what we do with the donations



As our organisation is **volunteer-based**, our operational costs are low. A donation of **€25** enables our team of practising and experienced asylum lawyers to provide legal assistance to one person.



Our work has real impact and demonstrates the importance of asylum seekers having access to legal assistance: of those we have assisted who have notified us of the outcome of their asylum application, **74.5% have been granted asylum**, compared to an average of 46.5% in Greece.

Our core values

We believe that every asylum seeker should be able to receive **free legal assistance**, from an **independent lawyer with experience in asylum law**, before their asylum interview.

- **Equality** – we provide legal assistance to all, irrespective of nationality, age, gender, ethnic origin, religion and belief, disability or sexual orientation and at all times all team members shall abide by the European Lawyers in Lesvos Code of Conduct.
- **Quality** – the legal assistance we provide is provided by practising and experienced Greek and European asylum lawyers who have been identified through a rigorous application and selection process. The legal assistance we provide complies with the professional and ethical standards of the legal profession, including those relating to privacy and confidentiality.
- **Independence** – the legal assistance we provide is completely independent, and in the interest of the individual we are assisting.

Our supporters



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