

The unlawful suspension of access to asylum in Greece must be immediately withdrawn

Athens, 16 July 2025: We, the undersigned civil society organisations, condemn the unlawful and impermissible legislative provision adopted by the Hellenic Parliament on Friday 11 July 2025 (Article 79 of Law 5218/2025) which imposes a three-month suspension on the making of asylum applications for people arriving in Greece from North Africa and orders their immediate deportation without registration.

The right to seek asylum and protection from *refoulement* are fundamental principles that may never be restricted. Both are enshrined in international and EU law instruments that supersede any domestic legislative provision, as already highlighted by reputable institutions at Greek and international level, including the [Greek Ombudsman](#), the [Greek National Commission for Human Rights](#), the [Union of Greek Administrative Judges](#), the [Plenary of Greek Bar Associations](#), the [Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights](#) and [UNHCR](#).

We call on the Greek government to immediately withdraw this unlawful legislative provision and on the European Commission to take urgent measures to enforce EU law and to immediately put an end to its infringement, in line with its responsibilities under the Treaties.

The undersigned organisations

1. Action for Women
2. aditus foundation
3. Albanian Migrants Association "Mother Teresa"
4. Amnesty International
5. Associazione Ricreativa e Culturale Italiana (ARCI)
6. Association for Legal Studies on Immigration (ASGI)
7. Avocats Sans Frontières France
8. Boat Refugee Foundation
9. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
10. Changemakers Lab
11. Collective Aid
12. Cyprus Refugee Council (CyRC)
13. Defence for Children International Greece
14. Diotima Centre
15. Doctors Without Borders – Greek Section
16. Dynamo International Social Street Workers Network
17. ECHO100PLUS
18. Emantes – International LGBTQIA+ Solidarity
19. EmpowerVan
20. Equal Legal Aid (ELA)
21. Equal Rights Beyond Borders
22. EuroMed Rights
23. European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)
24. European Lawyers in Lesbos (ELIL)
25. Faros
26. Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid
27. Fondation pour la Promotion des Droits en Algérie
28. Greek Council for Refugees (GCR)
29. Greek Forum of Migrants
30. Greek Forum of Refugees

31. Greek Housing Network
32. Hellenic League for Human Rights (HLHR)
33. HIAS Greece
34. Human Rights Association (IHD)
35. Human Rights Watch (HRW)
36. The HOME Project
37. Human Rights Legal Project
38. I Have Rights
39. InterEuropean Human Aid Association
40. International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
41. International Rescue Committee (IRC) Hellas
42. INTERSOS HELLAS
43. Irida Women's Centre
44. Iridia Association - Centre for the Defence of Humans Rights
45. Ithaca Laundry
46. Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Europe
47. Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Greece
48. Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Portugal
49. KISA Action for Equality, Support, Antiracism
50. Legal Centre Lesvos
51. Lighthouse Relief
52. Médecins du Monde International
53. Migrant Voice
54. Mobile Info Team
55. Network for Children's Rights
56. Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)
57. Pope John XXIII Community
58. PRAKSIS
59. PRO ASYL
60. Project Armonia
61. Refugee Support Aegean (RSA)
62. Refugees International
63. Refugees Welcome, Denmark
64. Safe Passage International Greece
65. Samos Volunteers
66. Save the Children
67. Second Tree
68. Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes España
69. Symbiosis-Council of Europe School of Political Studies
70. Terre des hommes Hellas
71. Velos Youth Centre
72. Vouliwatch

The statement will remain open for additional signatures until **Friday 18 July 2025 at 11.00 CET**.