

Greek Refugees Double Entry Journal

<p>Greece says migration crisis over; refugees beg to differ</p>	<p>“new arrivals to the Greek islands are down by 78 percent compared to last year.”</p> <p>“Courts in at least two EU countries – Germany and the Netherlands – have blocked people re-applying for asylum from being deported back to Greece because of the “serious risk of inhumane and degrading treatment”, according to one court decision. “</p> <p>““Everything is bad,” he said of conditions in the camp on Kos. “There is no water, and the electricity was cut off most of the time; the food is worse than what pigs eat.””</p>	<p>Although the number of refugees coming from the Middle East to Greece has fallen dramatically since the refugee crisis’ peak in 2015/16, problems still remain. Island refugee camps are overcrowded, have little access to food and what, have poor living conditions, and are unsafe, as evidenced by the Moria camp burning to the ground. Because of these unlivable conditions, refugees who have applied for asylum in Greece are now seeking to leave and re-apply in different, Northern EU countries such as Germany and the Netherlands.</p> <p>Note: Greece won’t grant asylum to refugees who have been to Turkey, as they consider that a “safe place,” and as such do not recognize the need for further protection. Without refugee status, people cannot get social benefits, healthcare, become legal homeowners, etc.</p>
<p>The Refugee Crisis in Greece: Lessons for the United States</p>	<p>““Everything is bad,” he said of conditions in the camp on Kos. “There is no water, and the electricity was cut off most of the time; the</p>	<p>This article gives an overview of the refugee crisis in Greece, and describes a few of the major instigators and affects. Turmoil in</p>

	<p>food is worse than what pigs eat.””</p> <p>“The lack of adequate international support for displaced populations is directly linked to the rise of nationalism and neo-Nazi sentiments around the globe”</p> <p>“The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) has reported that in 2010, Greece accounted for 90% of all detections of illegal border crossings to the EU.”</p>	<p>Middle Eastern countries, especially Syria, has led to people trying to enter the EU via Turkey and Greece. The amount of refugees arriving on Greek shores after undertaking the perilous journey often overseen by smugglers increased 100 fold from 2015 to 2016. Since then, various EU agreements have attempted to aid Greece in managing this influx of displaced humans. However, they have been largely ineffective in getting refugees out of Greece and further into Europe. This raises a couple of big concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The human rights violations for refugees, who not only undergo illegal, bribed, and perilous journeys to get to Greece, but live in miserable conditions once there -The impact on Greece and private Greek citizens. Greece has had to bare most of the EU’s refugee burden, and private citizens/aid organizations are doing most of this.
<p>Greek Coastguard Filmed Stopping Migrants Coming Ashore</p>	<p>“These people have been encouraged to make this journey by the Turkish government.”</p> <p>“Its more than controversial, it’s illegal.”</p>	<p>This news report shows a flimsy rubber boat filled with migrants coming from Turkey as they are beaten, shot at, and “pushed back.” by Greek coast guard in the Aegean sea. Greece claims it is so</p>

		<p>overwhelmed to the influx of people that is has no option. Yet despite these events, the Turkish government still encourages and even aids migrants in crossing the borders into the EU countries of Bulgaria and Greece, apparently in an effort to put pressure on the Union.</p>
<p>Seeking Asylum in Greece: Women and Unaccompanied Children Struggle to Survive</p>	<p>“The Greek government’s “containment” policy, instituted as part of the EU-Turkey deal, requires them to remain on the island where they arrived (3) until their asylum claims are decided”</p> <p>“Turkey also agreed to permit Greece to return asylum seekers to Turkey without first reviewing their requests for international protection or after rejecting their asylum claims.”</p>	<p>This research report draws attention to the unsafe living condition for Women and children in Greek refugee camps. It says that, in part due to a lack of law enforcement in the refugee camps, criminal acts are common. These include gender based violants, sexual exploitation, and abuse. In addition, it shows that there are a very large number of unaccompanied children in refugee camps, whose parents either didn’t make the trip, died during it, or are at a different camp/city.</p> <p>An overview of the situation is also given, focusing on the EU-Turkey agreement, which allows Greece to deport immigrants back to Turkey (which is unsafe for them), and urges Turkey to stop immigration from their borders. In addition, the “containment policy” adopted by Greece is examined, in particular</p>

		how it leads to overcrowded camps, poor living conditions, and further humans rights violation.

So far, I have learned quite a bit about the “news” part of the Greek refugee crisis. Why it is happening, the reasons for its continuation, the groups working to solve it. I have researched about the life-threatening journeys people from countries such as Syria, Afghanistan, and Iran take, fleeing oppression, poverty, a lack of justice, and political persecution. These often illegal, always shady, and dishearteningly frequent in failure, are in hopes of settling in EU countries with benefit programs for refugees such as Germany. However, more often than not, this goal isn’t realized. The refugees arrive in Greece. They spend weeks, months, even years waiting to be processed by the Greek government hit hard by economic crisis. They are kept in crowded camps, sometimes shunned by the locals, and usually have difficulty integrating into Greek life and living normally. Even if they are able to be processed, crossing the Greek border north is still not a given; passports, visas, money, and invitation letters are difficult if not impossible to come by. As such, most get stuck in Greece; unable to move forward, unwilling to return to whence they came.

I now want to get to know more about what these refugees, who have perhaps accepted they are to remain in Greece, or at least know they will be there for the foreseeable future, go through on a daily basis. How do children make friends, play sports, go to school? How do adults find employment, learn English or Greek, or buy homes? Where do they stay, where do they go, who do they meet? This is what I want to find out.