



Your Options in Greece (Mainland)

This information is for those who arrived in Greece before 20 March 2016. Your rights if you arrived on or after 20th March are the same but the procedures for you are different.

Anyone can apply for asylum, from any country. All asylum procedures are free of charge. Asylum procedures are similar across Europe.

Special Vulnerability

Everyone has the right to apply for asylum, but if you are especially vulnerable your case should be prioritised and you may receive special assistance.

The following groups are considered vulnerable persons according to Greek law:

If you are...

- under 18 years old and unaccompanied or separated from your parents,
- suffering from a serious illness or disability,
- over 65 years old,
- pregnant or have had a baby over the past 3 months,
- a parent with a child or children under 18 and your partner is not in Greece with you,
- a victim of torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence or exploitation, persons with a post-traumatic disorder, in particularly survivors and relatives of victims of ship-wrecks, injured,
- a victim of human trafficking (Human trafficking and people smuggling are different things, legally. Human trafficking is for the purposes of exploitation, especially in prostitution, slavery or other serious mistreatment, people smuggling is for the purpose of financial profit of the smuggler.)

THEN YOU SHOULD INFORM THE GREEK AUTHORITIES IMMEDIATELY

THESE ARE THE FOUR OPTIONS YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR :

Option 1 - REUNIFICATION

If you want to be admitted by another Member State of the European Union, because a close family member of yours is already legally in that State **then you should submit an asylum application in Greece** and Greece will request from the receiving EU State to accept you. The final decision belongs to the other , receiving State.

If you fulfil one of the following conditions, it may be possible that you can live with your family members in another European country:

Condition a)

You may be able to live with your family members in another European State if you are a child (under 18 years old) and you are travelling without your parents or a legal guardian, you can ask to be brought to your mother/father, sister/brother, aunt/uncle, or grandmother/grandfather.

Condition b)

If you are an adult (over 18 years old), you can ask to live with your spouse or your child who is not yet an adult if they are living legally in a European country.

You will have to show documents that can help to verify what you are saying is true. In some **very rare cases** a European country can approve family reunification even if you do not fulfil the conditions above. This may be the case for people who have very serious health problems or who have other specific needs. This is decided on a case-by-case basis.

If your request for family reunification is denied, the Greek state will decide if you can get asylum in Greece.

Option 2 – RELOCATION

If you want to be accepted by another Member State of the European Union (you do not have a choice which state accepts you), and you can join the relocation program on grounds of specific nationality you may be able to ask for relocation.

You must meet all four of the following conditions:

- 1. You must have asked for asylum in Greece.**
- 2. You must be registered and fingerprinted in Greece.**
- 3. If you are from Syria, Eritrea, Burundi, Mozambique, Bahrain, Bhutan, Qatar and Yemen. or a stateless person previously residing in one of these countries, you may be able to take part in the European relocation program. In that case, you should tell the pre-registration clerk if you are interested in living in another European country while your asylum application is examined by that country. However, there is no guarantee that you will be transferred and you cannot choose a country.**

4. You entered Greece **after 20th March 2015 and before 20th March 2016.**

Option 3 - ASYLUM

If you are not eligible for any of the other options, and you want to request international protection because you are afraid to return to your country, **then you should apply for asylum in Greece.** The Asylum Service should inform you on the procedure, your rights and obligations and will examine whether you are entitled to international protection.

If you get international protection in Greece then you can remain in Greece for at least five (5) years but you cannot settle in another country of the European Union during that period.

Option 4 - ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN TO TURKEY OR REPATRIATION TO YOUR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

If you do not need international protection and you want to return to your home country, then the Greek authorities and the **International Organization for Migration** www.iom.gr can help you return to your home country.

If you leave Greece to go to another country in Europe without legal permission then you may be returned to Greece.

REMEMBER: Greece cannot ...

- oblige other countries to accept you.
- allow you to depart illegally. The illegal journey.... is dangerous for you and your family. You may fall victims of exploitation and violence.