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## **refugee law clinics abroad - Update August 2017**

### **Our work: rlca on Chios**

Since the start of our legal information project in Chios in May 2017, we have given legal information to more than 300 asylum-seekers. Although the majority of our work consists of “asylum interview preparation”, our volunteers have also initiated and assisted in over fifty family reunification procedures. Most asylum-seekers approach us with case-specific questions. Non legal matters also discussed and referred to the competent bodies. Given the lengthy nature of the asylum process and the fact that many asylum-seekers

leave the island before recognition or rejection of their cases, the impact of our work is not easy to assess. However, we do perceive that our daily assistance is highly appreciated by asylum-seekers as well as other NGOs and in some instances even authorities.

For more information see our [Flyer on WHO WE ARE](#)

### **New “Pre-Departure” Detention Centre**

In February 2017, the Greek Minister of Migration Policy announced the construction of a new pre-removal detention centre on Chios. This is in accordance with the “[Joint Action Plan](#)” elaborated by the competent EU Coordinator together with Greek authorities in December 2016 which stipulates: “Greek authorities, with EU support, in line with the European Commission’s suggestion, to create sufficient detention capacity on the islands as soon as possible, in cooperation with local authorities whenever possible .” The facility on Chios will have a capacity of 150-200 people, and is designed as a “special detention facility for third countries nationals at the expense of whom a court order for deportation or return to the country of origin has been issued, until the procedure for deportation or removal is complete”, as defined in Art. 8 (para 2 C) L 4375. Greek law. There have been no recent updates regarding the detention facilities, as complaints were filed about the proposed location.

### **Joint Letter against restriction of Family Reunification**

Rlca co-signed an open letter with several other Greek and German NGOs to the EU institutions. We challenge the [Greek-German agreement](#) on slowing down the family reunifications under the Dublin III Regulation. This agreement, leading to a de facto cap of family reunifications per month, is in [clear violation of the Dublin III Regulation](#). The signing organisations therefore call on the institutions, especially the EU Commission, to take all necessary measures to stop this unlawful practice.

[See the open letter](#)

[See our statement regarding the agreement](#)

### **Joint Press Statement with Diakonie (only in German)**

Zusammen mit der Diakonie haben wir in einer Pressemitteilung die unwürdigen Zustände in den griechischen Hotspots angemahnt.

[Hier der Link zur Pressemitteilung](#)

### **Call for Legal Volunteers and Translators**

We are looking forward to receiving applications for legal volunteers starting work in Chios from December 2017 onwards.

Additionally, we are always looking for translators.

[See our call for Translators](#)



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