



April 30, 2020

**"There will be generations that will remember that decision that you make today"**

*Conversation with Fabiola Velasquez, physical therapist and founder of the project "[The Earth Medicine - Physical Rehabilitation](#)" for refugees on Lesbos.*

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***"There are not enough doctors, there is not enough medication, there are not enough specialists"***



The current situation here is very delicate, and it changed dramatically. It changed for the worse, not for the better. Because we have one common enemy, let's say, which is this virus, and this brought a lot of insecurity, a lot of fear, a lot of bad feelings. It creates a very unhealthy environment for everybody. The people who are working, the ones who are on the line, working everyday, we experience a lot of frustration, a lot of incapacity. There are people inside the camps that need a special health attention, medical attention. Urgently, and we cannot provide that because of

the current situation. There are not enough doctors, there is not enough medication, there are not enough specialists. There is a minuscule, tiny little hospital - on an island that has more than 20,000 people concentrated in one camp. So you can imagine the fear, the insecurity that all this brings. In this camp there are children, there are women, there are men, there are young teenagers who are in horrible condition - suffering everyday, because we cannot provide what they need. Very basic things. And we are also very very tired. I've been working here for five years.

***"Europe has a long history of violence - you don't want that anymore in your history"***

What is really necessary to do is to depopulate the camp, to take people out - but when I say taking out people out of Moria that doesn't mean putting them into another camp on the mainland. It doesn't mean that this will solve the problem. This will create a huge problem. It will increase the problem, because these people are already exhausted on a psychological, an emotional, on a physical level. So if somebody is thinking about taking them out of here, and lock them in on the mainland, you will kill them all. If I was the prime minister of any European country for a second, I wouldn't have that responsibility on my shoulders.

Believe me. This is will not have consequences in short time only. You will regret it for the rest of your live. There are going to be generations that will remember this decision that you make today. So don't do that. Europe has already a long history of violence. You don't want that anymore in your history. Believe me! (...) But what you are doing right now - you are not teaching the rest of the world compassion and love for the others that suffer. You want to kill them and lock them in places. This isn't human. We cannot do that. I don't want to be part of that!

***If you ask me who is vulnerable here, I would tell you: everyone"***

Let's also understand that, when we speak about vulnerability: who is vulnerable? Because this is also a very tricky word. If you ask me who is vulnerable here, I would tell you: everyone. Everybody! Even me. Let's not classify and name things in a very simplistic way. Because this is dangerous. Of what I have seen at this moment is that all these actions, the very little actions, are going towards children and women. But



what about the rest? What about the elders? What about the teenagers? What about the younger, the single young men? Men that are here without family? Half of my patients are single boys, between 20-25 years old. So tell me if this people cannot be considered as vulnerable? Of course they are.

*The interview was conducted by Janna Heiß.*

### **More information**

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