

Anfragebeantwortung zu Griechenland: Informationen zu Hassverbrechen gegen Geflüchtete (Art der Übergriffe, Informationen zu Täter·innen, staatliche Maßnahmen und Verhalten der Behörden); Informationen zu Hassverbrechen aus homo- bzw. transphoben Gründen (Art der Übergriffe; staatliche Schutzmaßnahmen) [a-11601-2]

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Informationen zu Hassverbrechen gegen Geflüchtete; Art der Übergriffe

Dem USDOS zufolge hätten die griechischen Behörden im Jahr 2020 in Flüchtlingslagern neben genderbasierter Gewalt zahlreiche andere gewaltsame Vorfälle dokumentiert, darunter Zusammenstöße zwischen Bewohner·innen verschiedener Nationalitäten. Diese Vorfälle seien großteils in den Aufnahme- und Registrierungszentren (Reception and Identification Centers, RICs) erfolgt und hätten oftmals zu Verletzungen und Tod geführt. Das USDOS erwähnt zudem 51 vom Racist Violence Recording Network (RVRN) dokumentierte Vorfälle rassistisch motivierter verbaler und körperlicher Gewalt gegen Flüchtlinge und Migrant·innen im Jahr 2019. (USDOS, 30. März 2021, Section 2f)

Das RVRN dokumentierte in seinem Jahresbericht vom April 2021 (Berichtszeitraum 2020) 74 Fälle von Angriffen gegen Asylwerber·innen, Flüchtlinge und Migrant·innen aufgrund ethnischer Herkunft, Religion und/oder Hautfarbe, Angriffe auf zivilgesellschaftliche Einrichtungen, die diesen Gruppen Unterkunft oder andere Dienste bereitstellen, sowie Angriffe auf Menschenrechtsverteidiger·innen, die aufgrund ihrer Unterstützung dieser Gruppen zum Ziel geworden seien (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 12, 20). Insgesamt wurden zwischen Jänner und Dezember 2020 107 Fälle rassistischer Gewalt von der Organisation dokumentiert (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 12).

RVRN schlüsselt die dokumentierten 74 Fälle folgendermaßen auf: Bei 40 Fällen seien Männer zwischen elf und 48 Jahren und bei einem Fall eine 24-jährige Frau Opfer gewesen. Fünf Fälle hätten gemischte Gruppen von Frauen und Männern betroffen. Die Opfer seien unter anderem aus Afghanistan, Syrien, Palästina, Sierra Leone, Ägypten, Kamerun, Elfenbeinküste, Guinea, Irak, Iran, Marokko und Bangladesch gekommen. Sechs Fälle hätten zivilgesellschaftliche Organisationen betroffen, zwei Fälle Eigentum von zivilgesellschaftlichen Organisationen und 20 Fälle Menschenrechtsverteidiger·innen. Bei einigen Fällen, die sich gegen Menschenrechtsverteidiger·innen gerichtet hätten, seien auch Flüchtlinge und/oder Asylwerber·innen betroffen gewesen. Zum rechtlichen Status der Personen, die aufgrund ihrer ethnischen Herkunft, Religion und/oder Hautfarbe zum Ziel geworden seien, erwähnt RVRN, dass es sich bei 28 Fällen um Asylwerber·innen, bei vier um Flüchtlinge, bei sechs um Migrant·innen mit einer Aufenthaltserlaubnis, bei vier Fällen um Personen ohne Aufenthaltserlaubnis und bei drei weiteren Fällen um Personen mit unterschiedlichen rechtlichen Status (Asylwerber·innen, Flüchtlinge, usw.) gehandelt habe. Ein Fall habe eine dänische/n Staatsbürger·in afghanischer Herkunft betroffen. (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 20-21)

Die Agentur der Europäischen Union für Grundrechte (EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, FRA) berichtet im Februar 2021, dass Medienberichten zufolge eine Personengruppe eine Unterkunft für unbegleitete Minderjährige angegriffen habe. Vor der Einrichtung hätten sich zwölf mit Messern, Stöcken und Eisenstangen bewaffnete Personen versammelt, die rassistische Slogans skandiert hätten. Vier Kinder seien Berichten zufolge verletzt worden, während ein 38-jähriger Mann und sein 14-jähriger Sohn als Täter identifiziert worden seien. Der Vorfall habe die Intervention des stellvertretenden Staatsanwaltes des Höchstgerichtes für rassistische Gewalt zur Folge gehabt (FRA, 25. Februar 2021, S. 26). ECRE zufolge sei der Übergriff im

Unterkunftscenter Oreokastro nahe Thessaloniki erfolgt, das von der griechischen Kirche betrieben werde (ECRE, 8. Jänner 2021).

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) berichtet im August 2020, dass Migrant·innen feindselig gegenüberstehende Demonstrant·innen eine von der Organisation betriebene pädiatrische Klinik auf der Insel Lesbos angegriffen und in Brand gesetzt hätten. Der für die Insel zuständige Koordinator von MSF habe angegeben, dass seit einiger Zeit ein Anstieg des aggressiven Verhaltens gegenüber Asylwerber·innen und Flüchtlingen erkennbar sei. (MSF, 21. August 2020)

In einem von einer als Ärztin in einem Flüchtlingslager arbeitenden Autorin verfassten Artikel für The New Humanitarian (TNH) wird angeführt, dass dolmetschende Flüchtlinge gegenüber der Ärztin angegeben hätten, dass sie in den Straßen von Lesbos von Zivilist·innen und Polizist·innen bedroht, schikaniert und manchmal körperlich angegriffen worden seien. Dabei seien oftmals rassistische oder antimuslimische Beleidigungen verwendet worden. (TNH, 1. März 2021)

Daten zu Hassverbrechen aufgrund von Rassismus oder Xenophobie entnehmen Sie bitte auch dem folgenden Link:

- ODIHR - OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights: Greece, ohne Datum
<https://hatecrime.osce.org/greece>

Informationen zu Täter·innen

Dem USDOS zufolge hätten lokale Medien und NGOs im Jahr 2020 über rassistische Angriffe und durch Hass motivierte Angriffe auf Migrant·innen berichtet. Die Angriffe seien mutmaßlich seitens rechtsextremer Einzelpersonen, die allein oder in Gruppen gehandelt hätten, erfolgt. (USDOS, 30. März 2021, Section 6)

RVRN berichtet, dass es sich bei den von der Organisation dokumentierten Fällen den Angaben der Opfer zufolge bei den Täter·innen großteils um Griech·innen (73 Fälle) gehandelt habe. Bei 57 Fällen seien die Täter·innen Männer gewesen, bei zwei Fällen Frauen, während es sich bei 15 Fällen um Gruppen von Männern und Frauen von Täter·innen gehandelt habe. Bei der großen Mehrheit der Fälle (58 von 74 gegen Migrant·innen, Flüchtlinge, Asylwerber·innen und Unterstützer·innen gerichtete Fälle) habe es mehrere Täter·innen gegeben. Davon seien 43 auf den ägäischen Inseln (Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Kos, Rhodos) und in Evros erfolgt. Bei 21 Fällen hätten die Opfer Einzelpersonen unter den Täter·innen identifiziert, die bereits an Zwischenfällen rassistischer Gewalt teilgenommen hätten. Die im Jahr 2020 gesammelten Daten würden RVRN zufolge darauf hindeuten, dass Flüchtlinge und Migrant·innen, Unterkünfte oder andere Dienste für Asylwerber·innen und unbegleitete Minderjährige und Menschenrechtsverteidiger·innen in einem größeren und intensiveren Ausmaß als zuvor zum Ziel von Angriffen würden. Die Merkmale der Angriffe würden eine periodisch steigende Intensität in Gebieten mit RICs oder Unterkünften für Asylwerber·innen oder unbegleitete Minderjährige aufzeigen, die durch organisierte informelle xenophobe Gruppen hervorgerufen würde. Diese Gruppen würden als Exekutivdienste gegen Flüchtlinge und

Menschenrechtsverteidiger·innen auftreten und ihre Angriffe wiederholen, bis sie ihr Ziel erreicht hätten. Diese Gruppen würden nicht davor zurückschrecken extreme Gewalt, wie unter anderem Brandstiftung, Straßenblockaden, oder die Verhinderung der Ankunft neu ankommender Flüchtlinge anzuwenden. Dabei würden die Gruppen rassistische Kommentare machen, Organisationen, die Dienste für Flüchtlinge anbieten, angreifen und Eigentum und Ausrüstung zerstören, sowie Flüchtlinge und Unterstützer·innen angreifen und körperlichen Schaden zufügen. (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 26-27)

Staatliche Maßnahmen und Verhalten der Behörden

RVRN habe Vorfälle in Verbindung mit Polizeikontrollen zu Ausgangsbeschränkungen dokumentiert, bei denen schikanierendes Verhalten und Gewaltanwendung mit rassistischen Motiven festgestellt worden sei. In einigen Fällen sei es bei den Kontrollen zu gewalttätigem Verhalten, wie verbaler und physischer Gewalt gekommen. Die Ausgangssperren aufgrund des Coronavirus seien sowohl in Unterkünften für Asylwerber·innen als auch in den RICs im Vergleich zu den Maßnahmen gegenüber der allgemeinen Bevölkerung strenger gewesen. (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 22-23)

RVRN habe Fälle mutmaßlicher Polizeigewalt in Verbindung mit Rassismus dokumentiert. Im Jahr 2020 habe die Organisation 25 Fälle dokumentiert, gegenüber 17 Fällen im Jahr 2019 und 22 Fällen im Jahr 2018. Im Jahr 2020 seien die Opfer dieser Angriffe hauptsächlich (17 Fälle) Asylwerber·innen, Flüchtlinge und Migrant·innen, entweder mit einer Aufenthaltsgenehmigung oder ohne rechtliche Dokumente gewesen. (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 39-40)

Dem USDOS zufolge hätten die Behörden Asylwerber·innen, insbesondere jenen in den überfüllten RICs, im Jahr 2020 nicht immer angemessene Sicherheit oder physischen Schutz bereitgestellt (USDOS, 30. März 2021, Section 2f). Auch HRW erwähnt, dass die Behörden Hilfsorganisationen zufolge nach dem Brand im Flüchtlingslager Moria auf Lesbos den Bewohner·innen des neuen vorübergehenden Lagers unter anderem nicht ausreichend Schutz vor sexueller und geschlechtsbasiert Gewalt bereitgestellt hätten (HRW, 13. Jänner 2021).

In einem Artikel vom Jänner 2021 erwähnt HRW, dass ein Gericht am 7. Oktober 2020 entschieden habe, dass die rechtsextreme xenophobe im Parlament vertretene Partei Goldene Morgendämmerung (**„Golden Dawn“**) als kriminelle Organisation tätig sei. Einige Mitglieder der Partei seien zudem verurteilt worden, Migrant·innen, Asylwerber·innen und Aktivist·innen geschlagen und sogar getötet zu haben. Eva Casse, eine Aktivistin, die sich seit einem Jahrzehnt in Griechenland zu diesen Themen engagiere, habe angegeben, dass etwa 20.000 Menschen **vor dem Gericht auf das Urteil gewartet hätten und es „ein großer Moment der Solidarität“** gewesen sei. Dies bedeute jedoch nicht, dass es in Griechenland keinen Rassismus oder Xenophobie mehr gebe. Aber obwohl erneut Angriffe auf Migrant·innen erfolgen würden, gebe es Polizeieinheiten, die gegen Rassismus vorgehen würden, spezialisierte Staatsanwälte, ein starkes rechtliches Rahmenwerk gegen Hassverbrechen und Verurteilungen, die vermitteln würde, dass eine Rechenschaftspflicht für solche Handlungen bestünde. (HRW, 20. Jänner 2021)

Eine Einreichung an die (European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, ECRI) zu Griechenland vom August 2021 enthält auf den Seiten 2 bis 4 detaillierte Informationen zur Gesetzgebung hinsichtlich Hassrede und Hassverbrechen, sowie auf den Seiten 4 bis 9 Informationen zur Umsetzung der Gesetze. Der Bericht listet einige Beispiele zu Gerichtsverfahren, darunter in Verbindung mit rechtsextremen Gruppen auf. Die Autoren des Berichts fordern **ECRI zudem auf, unrechtmäßige Abschiebungen oder „Pushbacks“ als** Hassverbrechen einzustufen oder als zusätzliches Themengebiet aufzunehmen. Auf den Seiten 9 bis 16 des Berichts werden detaillierte Informationen zu diesem Thema angeführt. (GHM / MRG-G / Sokadre, 10. August 2021)

Der Bericht ist unter folgendem Link verfügbar:

- GHM / MRG-G / Sokadre - Greek Helsinki Monitor; Minority Rights Group – Greece; Coordinated Organizations And Communities For Roma Human Rights In Greece (Sokadre): Submission to the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) on Greece, 10. August 2021

<https://racistcrimeswatch.files.wordpress.com/2021/08/submission-to-ecri-august-2021.pdf>

Örtliche und internationale Medien, Menschenrechts-NGOs und internationale Organisationen hätten dem USDOS zufolge berichtet, dass Asylwerber·innen angegeben hätten, dass sie an der türkisch-griechischen Landesgrenze körperlich misshandelt und ihnen ihre persönlichen Gegenstände abgenommen worden seien, darunter Geld und Mobiltelefone, bevor sie in die Türkei zurückgeschickt worden seien. (USDOS, 30. März 2021, Section 2f)

HRW berichtet in seinem Jahresbericht, dass griechische Exekutivbeamte, nach der türkischen Ankündigung, Asylwerber·innen und Migrant·innen nicht mehr von einer Ausreise abzuhalten, tausende Personen summarisch nach Griechenland abgeschoben hätten, darunter Personen, die von der Polizei hunderte Kilometer im Landesinneren aufgegriffen worden seien. Im Juni 2020 sei ein Verfahren in Verbindung mit den im März 2020 in Evros erfolgten „Pushbacks“, darunter zum Tod zweier Personen durch mutmaßliche Schüsse von griechischen Sicherheitskräften, eingeleitet worden. (HRW, 13. Jänner 2021)

Informationen zu Hassverbrechen aus homo- bzw. transphoben Gründen (Art der Übergriffe; staatliche Schutzmaßnahmen)

Die griechische Regierung setze dem USDOS zufolge die Antidiskriminierungsgesetze um. Diese würden sexuelle Orientierung und Genderidentität als erschwerende Umstände bei Hassverbrechen beinhalten. Das Mandat von Beamten, die rassistische Verbrechen und Hassverbrechen bekämpfen würden, umfasse Verbrechen gegen LGBTI-Personen, die aufgrund ihrer sexuellen Orientierung oder ihrer Genderidentität begangen würden. Gewalt gegen LGBTI-Personen, darunter LGBTI-Flüchtlinge und -Migrant·innen, seien dem USDOS zufolge im Jahr 2020 weiterhin ein Problem gewesen. Gesellschaftliche Diskriminierung und Schikanierung von LGBTI-Personen seien trotz Fortschritten im rechtlichen Rahmenwerk zum Schutz dieser Personen, weit verbreitet gewesen. LGBTI-Aktivist·innen hätten erklärt, dass die Behörden nicht immer gewillt gewesen seien, in Fällen zur Gewalt gegenüber LGBTI-Personen zu ermitteln. Die

Opfer hätten aufgrund eines Mangels an Vertrauen gezögert derartige Fälle bei den Behörden anzuzeigen. (USDOS, 30. März 2021, Section 6)

Am 20. Jänner 2020 habe ein Gericht („misdemeanors council“) entschieden, dass sechs Personen, darunter zwei Geschäftsinhaber·innen und vier Polizeibeamt·innen, in Verbindung mit dem Tod des LGBTI-Aktivisten Zak Kostopoulos im September 2018 der tödlichen Körperverletzung angeklagt werden sollen. Das Gerichtsverfahren sei für Oktober 2020 angesetzt gewesen, wegen den Covid-19-Maßnahmen jedoch auf unbestimmte Zeit verschoben worden (USDOS, 30. März 2021, Section 6; siehe auch Tagesschau, 30. Oktober 2020).

Im Jahr 2020 habe RVRN 30 Fälle von Angriffen gegen LGBTI-Einzelpersonen dokumentiert. Davon seien zwölf Fälle in Zusammenhang mit Genderidentität, 14 aufgrund der sexuellen Orientierung und vier Fälle aufgrund von Genderidentität und sexueller Orientierung erfolgt. Die Angriffe auf LGBTI-Einzelpersonen würden verbale Angriffe, physische Gewalt und sexuelle Angriffe, in einigen Fällen in Verbindung mit Diebstahl und Hausfriedensbruch, umfassen. Es seien neun Fälle von verbaler Gewalt und drei Fälle physischer Gewalt dokumentiert worden. (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 35-38) In zwei Fällen seien die Opfer aufgrund ihrer Genderidentität seitens Exekutivbeamt·innen zum Ziel geworden. (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 40) Dem USDOS zufolge habe ein Polizeibeamter laut Angaben einer NGO eine Transgender-Frau während einer Routinekontrolle an einem Vergnügungsort schikaniert und verbal misshandelt. Die Frau habe angegeben, der Polizeibeamte habe beleidigende, herabwürdigende und sexistische Sprache verwendet, sie unangemessen berührt und darauf bestanden, sie selbst einer Leibesvisitation zu unterziehen. Das Opfer habe eine Beschwerde gegen den Polizeibeamten eingebbracht. Es sei bislang kein Datum für ein Gerichtsverfahren festgelegt worden. (USDOS, 30. März 2021, Section 6)

Laut einer im Mai 2020 veröffentlichten Bericht zu einer Umfrage der Agentur der Europäischen Union für Grundrechte (EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, FRA) hätten in Griechenland neun Prozent der Befragten angegeben, innerhalb von fünf Jahren vor der Umfrage aufgrund ihrer Zugehörigkeit zur Gruppe der LGBTI-Personen einen physischen oder sexuellen Angriff erfahren zu haben (FRA, 14. Mai 2020, S. 40). 33 Prozent hätten angegeben im Jahr vor der Befragung aufgrund ihrer Zugehörigkeit schikaniert worden zu sein (FRA, 14. Mai 2020, S. 44).

Daten zu Hassverbrechen aufgrund der Genderidentität oder sexuellen Orientierung finden sich auch unter folgenden Link:

- ODIHR - OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights: Greece, ohne Datum
<https://hatecrime.osce.org/greece>

LGBTI-Personen, die um internationalen Schutz ansuchen sowie LGBTI-Personen, die als Flüchtlinge anerkannt wurden, seien von mehrfacher Stigmatisierung betroffen und seien oftmals nicht sichtbar. Dies habe eine von der Organisation Transgender Support Association durchgeföhrte Umfrage ergeben, an der 17 Personen teilgenommen hätten. Laut Angaben der Präsidentin der Organisation, Marina Galanou, werde diese „Unsichtbarkeit“ durch die eingeschränkten Informationen und Daten zu rassistisch motivierten Angriffen auf LGBTI-

Flüchtlinge und -Migrant·innen evident (Kathimerini, 31. Mai 2021; The National Herald, 1. Juni 2021).

Allgemeine Informationen zur Lage von der Gruppe der LGBTI zugehörigen Flüchtlingen finden sich auch in folgendem Artikel:

- Info Migrants: A safe place for LGBTQI+ refugees in Athens, 26. Juni 2019
<https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/17481/a-safe-place-for-lgbtqi-refugees-in-athens>

Ein im Jänner 2018 veröffentlichter Artikel von Balkan Insight enthält ebenfalls Informationen zur Lage von Flüchtlingen, die der Gruppe der LGBTI-Personen angehören:

- Balkan Insight: Unsafe Haven: Life and Death for LGBT Refugees, 23. Jänner 2018
<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/unsafe-haven-life-and-death-for-lgbt-refugees-12-14-2017>
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Quellen: (Zugriff auf alle Quellen am 26. August 2021)

- Balkan Insight: Unsafe Haven: Life and Death for LGBT Refugees, 23. Jänner 2018
<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/unsafe-haven-life-and-death-for-lgbt-refugees-12-14-2017>
- ECRE – European Council on Refugees and Exiles: Greece: Deaths and Push-backs Continue, Racist Attack on Hosting Centre for Unaccompanied Children, Camp Conditions Deteriorating, 8. Jänner 2021
<https://www.ecre.org/greece-deaths-and-push-backs-continue-racist-attack-on-hosting-centre-for-unaccompanied-children-camp-conditions-deteriorating/>
- FRA - EU Agency for Fundamental Rights: Migration: Key fundamental rights concerns - Bulletin 2021, 25. Februar 2021
https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2021-migration-bulletin_en.pdf
- FRA - EU Agency for Fundamental Rights: A long way to go for LGBTI equality, 14. Mai 2020
https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-lgbti-equality-1_en.pdf
- GHM / MRG-G / Sokadre - Greek Helsinki Monitor; Minority Rights Group – Greece; Coordinated Organizations And Communities For Roma Human Rights In Greece (Sokadre): Submission to the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) on Greece, 10. August 2021
<https://racistcrimeswatch.files.wordpress.com/2021/08/submission-to-ecri-august-2021.pdf>
- HRW – Human Rights Watch: World Report 2021 - Greece, 13. Jänner 2021
<https://www.ecoi.net/de/dokument/2043593.html>
- HRW – Human Rights Watch: Interview: Hard-Won Victories for Refugees in Greece How Ten Years of Advocacy and Incremental Changes Add Up, 20. Jänner 2021
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/01/20/interview-hard-won-victories-refugees-greece>
- Info Migrants: A safe place for LGBTQI+ refugees in Athens, 26. Juni 2019
<https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/17481/a-safe-place-for-lgbtqi-refugees-in-athens>

- Kathimerini: LGBTQ refugees in Greece experience insecurity and discrimination, 31. Mai 2021
<https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/1162145/lgbtq-refugees-in-greece-experience-insecurity-and-discrimination/>
- MSF – Médecins Sans Frontières: Greece: MSF condemns attack on its pediatric clinic near Moria refugee camp, 21. August 2020
<https://www.ecoi.net/de/dokument/2036529.html>
- ODIHR - OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights: Greece, ohne Datum
<https://hatecrime.osce.org/greece>
- RVRN - Racist Violence Recording Network: Annual Report 2020, 22. April 2021
https://www.unhcr.org/gr/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2021/05/ENG_ETHSIA_EKTHESH.pdf
- Tagesschau: "Was Zak darstellte, löste Reflexe aus", 30. Oktober 2020
<https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/lgbt-griechenland-101.html>
- The National Herald: Life Rough for LGBTQ Community Among Greece's Asylum Seeker, 1. Juni 2021
https://www.thenationalherald.com/archive_general_news_greece/arthro/life_rough_for_lgbtq_community_among_greece_s_asylum_seekers-2580814/
- TNH - The New Humanitarian: As a doctor in a European refugee camp, I found deep neglect and xenophobia, 1. März 2021
<https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/opinion/first-person/2021/3/1/on-greece-lesvos-refugees-battle-neglect-and-xenophobia>
- USDOS – US Department of State: 2020 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Greece, 30. März 2021
<https://www.ecoi.net/de/dokument/2048407.html>

Anhang: Quellenbeschreibungen und Informationen aus ausgewählten Quellen

Balkan Insight ist eine Online-Publikation des Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN), die analytischen und investigativen Journalismus zu politischen, wirtschaftlichen und sozialen Themen produziert.

- Balkan Insight: Unsafe Haven: Life and Death for LGBT Refugees, 23. Jänner 2018
<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/unsafe-haven-life-and-death-for-lgbt-refugees-12-14-2017>

„Once on Leros, Maher, Hassan, Mahdi and Lara registered at a camp on Lakki Bay comprised of dozens of converted shipping containers on the grounds of a psychiatric hospital. They said the threat of violence was constant, from both camp-dwellers and locals on the island of 8,000. In May, a group of men stabbed Lara as she was wandering across **the island's main street**. ‘I heard somebody shouting behind me in Greek,’ said the 28-year-old transgender woman from Homs in Syria. ‘Before I could turn my head, I felt a sharp pain in my back and fell on my chest. I think that saved my life.’ Asked about alleged attacks on LGBT refugees, some Greek locals said they had it coming. ‘**They’re going to make our sons sissies and faggots**,’ said Yiannis Koumoulis, the owner of a car rental shop.” (Balkan Insight, 23. Jänner 2018)

„Across the Aegean, LGBT refugees find themselves in equally precarious environments. ‘**LGBT refugees need additional protection, since they’re subjected to different forms** of violence and exclusion from access to basic services,’ said Margarita Kontomichali, coordinator of a support programme for LGBT asylum seekers run by an Athens-based charity called SolidarityNow. On the tiny island of Kos, two hours from Leros by ferry, gay asylum seekers sheltering in an abandoned hotel said they were haunted by the fear of **deportation**. “**I tried to kill myself twice in the camp**,” said Bassim, a 31-year-old man who fled Iraq after his extremist brother tried to murder him. ‘I was too much of a coward to **finish myself off**.’ He choked back tears as he showed the scars on his left thigh from the night in 2016 when his brother burst into his room, poured oil on him and set his leg alight. ‘My brother is still looking for me. But here in Greece, I don’t feel safe either.’

LGBT refugees say some local aid workers lack the training and awareness to deal with sensitive cases, while others are downright homophobic. An 18-year-old Syrian gay man who declined to be identified described his frustrations dealing with the asylum procedure. He said he was too flummoxed in his interview with officials to be honest about the dangers he had faced in Syria for being gay. ‘**The translator was a guy who didn’t translate exactly** what I was telling him,’ he said. ‘**I can understand basic English and I’m sure of it**. And nobody told me it was safe to reveal my sexual orientation.’ When his asylum application **was denied after several months, he requested a second interview and this time “came out”** before officials. Every day that he waits for a decision is agony. During the summer, the young man found a job at a beach bar, where he said he was forced to work 12-hour days **for a month without pay while suffering sexual harassment from the owner**. “**I can’t tell anyone because I’m too ashamed**,” he said. In June, Maher, Hassan, Lara and Mahdi received permission to leave Leros and travel to Athens, where they put in a formal request

for asylum to the Netherlands. Their monthly stipend of 90 euros each from UNHCR is not enough to live on, they say. ‘When we arrived in Athens, Hassan and I went to the supermarket,’ said Mahdi, a 32-year-old gay Iraqi who was forced to leave his home in Kuwait after his homophobic brother tried to kill him. ‘On the way, migrants from Georgia, I think, were shouting, ‘Go away, sissies!’ We had to go back to the apartment, but they were still outside, throwing stones at the window.’ The two live in accommodation in the Kypseli district of central Athens provided by the Association for the Social Support of Youth, a non-governmental organisation that helps marginalised youth. Despite the support, all four said they were at breaking point. ‘From the first moment, all I hear are promises,’ Mahdi said. ‘I can’t trust anyone here, not even the [aid] organisations. I don’t know what to expect or how to proceed.’” (Balkan Insight, 23. Jänner 2018)

Der European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) mit Sitz in Brüssel ist die Dachorganisation europäischer NGOs, die sich für den Schutz und die Förderung der Rechte von Flüchtlingen, Asylsuchenden und Vertriebenen einsetzen.

- ECRE – European Council on Refugees and Exiles: Greece: Deaths and Push-backs Continue, Racist Attack on Hosting Centre for Unaccompanied Children, Camp Conditions Deteriorating, 8. Jänner 2021
<https://www.ecre.org/greece-deaths-and-push-backs-continue-racist-attack-on-hosting-centre-for-unaccompanied-children-camp-conditions-deteriorating/>

„The Supreme Court deputy prosecutor calls for a thorough investigation into a racist attack targeting children between the age of 12 to 15 living in the Oreokastro accommodation centre near Thessaloniki, run by the Church of Greece. The attack involved 12 people armed with knives, crowbars and wooden sticks, who broke the fence of the structure and entered the building with children reportedly ,running in fear’. Four children were injured during the attack and one of them was taken to hospital with severe respiratory problems after being beaten on the chest.” (ECRE, 8. Jänner 2021)

Die FRA ist eine von der Europäischen Union (EU) geschaffene Expertenkommission, die den Schutz der Grundrechte in Europa überwachen soll.

- FRA - EU Agency for Fundamental Rights: Migration: Key fundamental rights concerns - Bulletin 2021, 25. Februar 2021
https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2021-migration-bulletin_en.pdf

„In Greece, a group of people attacked a shelter for unaccompanied children, according to media reports. Twelve persons gathered outside the facility with knives, sticks and iron bars, chanting racist slogans. Four children were reportedly injured, while a 38-year-old man and his 14-year-old son were identified as perpetrators. The incident prompted the intervention of the Deputy Prosecutor of the Supreme Court for racist violence.” (FRA, 25. Februar 2021, S. 26)

Greek Helsinki Monitor (GHM) monitors, publishes, lobbies, and litigates on human and minority rights and anti-discrimination issues in Greece and, from time to time, in the Balkans.

- GHM / MRG-G / Sokadre - Greek Helsinki Monitor; Minority Rights Group – Greece; Coordinated Organizations And Communities For Roma Human Rights In Greece (Sokadre); Submission to the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) on Greece, 10. August 2021
<https://racistcrimeswatch.files.wordpress.com/2021/08/submission-to-ecri-august-2021.pdf>

„A specific category of racist crimes is the worst ever in Greece systematic practice of torture and other forms of ill-treatment during unlawful deportations or pushbacks of foreigners. ECRI is urged to include them in the hate crimes topic or consider them as an additional new topic. GHM has collected related information and filed several complaints, none of which has led to a referral to trial. The same happened with the complaints filed after Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International published related reports based **mostly on their own fieldwork.**“ (GHM / MRG-G / Sokadre, 10. August 2021)

Human Rights Watch ist eine internationale Nichtregierungsorganisation mit Sitz in New York City, die sich für den weltweiten Schutz der Menschenrechte einsetzt.

- HRW – Human Rights Watch: World Report 2021 - Greece, 13. Jänner 2021
<https://www.ecoi.net/de/dokument/2043593.html>

„Migrants and Asylum Seekers

With limited exceptions, the government maintained its policy of blocking asylum seekers who arrive on the Aegean islands from moving to the mainland. The containment policy trapped thousands in overcrowded and abysmal conditions with limited access to protection, health care, adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene products to limit the spread of Covid-19. At time of writing, 19,929 asylum seekers were on the islands, including more than 16,000 in camps designed to host around 13,000.

Fires destroyed Europe's largest refugee camp, Moria camp, on Lesbos, in September, leaving thousands, including more than 4,000 children, homeless and without food and water until the majority were rehoused in a temporary tent camp.

According to aid groups, authorities failed to provide camp residents in the new camp with adequate and safe access to water, education, sanitation, supplies for menstrual hygiene management, and health care, or sufficient protection from the elements and from sexual and gender-based violence and harassment. Services for survivors and those at risk of violence remained insufficient, and access to pre- and post-natal care and support for people with newborns remained limited. At time of writing, there were 19 confirmed Covid-19 cases in the new camp, with a population of about 9,500. There were concerns about the risk of lead poisoning in the new camp due to its location on a former military shooting **range.**“ (HRW, 13. Jänner 2021)

„Since then, law enforcement officers have summarily returned thousands of people to Turkey, including people picked up by police hundreds of kilometers inside Greece. In June, Greece's Supreme Court Prosecutor opened a criminal investigation into the pushbacks that

occurred in March in Evros, including into the alleged shooting and deaths of two people by Greek security forces. The UN WGAD urged authorities to promptly and fully investigate all allegations of pushbacks, including any acts of violence or ill-treatment, and to ensure that such practices do not occur in the future.

In June, the Greek government began evicting more than 11,000 recognized refugees from government-provided apartments, hotels, and camps, leaving hundreds of people—including families with children, pregnant and single women, as well as people with disabilities—on the streets. The government announced in September a two-month pilot plan to house recognized refugees leaving the islands until they find a more permanent **home.**" (HRW, 13. Jänner 2021)

- HRW – Human Rights Watch: Interview: Hard-Won Victories for Refugees in Greece How Ten Years of Advocacy and Incremental Changes Add Up, 20. Jänner 2021
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/01/20/interview-hard-won-victories-refugees-greece>

„In Greece, a recent high-profile court ruling and policy change mark momentous human rights victories for migrants and children. On October 7, an Athens court ruled that the country’s far-right xenophobic political party, Golden Dawn, whose members had seats in Parliament, was operating as a criminal organization. It also convicted some of its members of beating and even killing migrants, asylum seekers, and activists. Then, on December 10, Greece’s parliament abolished the harmful practice of detaining asylum-seeking and migrant children who arrived in Greece without their parents or a guardian, in place since 2001. Amy Braunschweiger speaks with researcher Eva Cosse, who has tirelessly advocated on these issues for a decade, about this hard-won impact and what happens next. [...]”

Despite Covid, there were maybe 20,000 people waiting outside of the courthouse for the **verdict, Greeks, migrants, from all parts of society. Golden Dawn’s popularity had sunk.** Groups like Golden Dawn Watch did social media campaigns, and a few weeks before the trial, many of my friends on Facebook changed their profile picture to one that said, “**They Are Not Innocent**” – even people I didn’t expect to see there. It was a huge moment of **solidarity towards the victims and against Golden Dawn and their crimes.** That doesn’t mean that racism or xenophobia does not exist in Greek society anymore. Still, I saw an **important change. When we saw the waves of refugees reaching Greece’s shores in 2015, the government that was in power then used words like “refugee” to describe these people, not “illegal migrants.” In turn, you saw the media talking about women and children, publishing stories that humanized them.** In my village, the same people who were talking to me before about illegal immigrants, started talking about refugees. They started asking me questions about who are these people, what are their problems, what do they need? People at this time started volunteering and opening up their houses. This shift has reversed course as a new, anti-immigrant government is in power. And while we are seeing attacks against migrants again, there is a huge difference now. There are anti-racist police units, specialized prosecutors, a strong legal framework against hate crimes, and convictions that **send the message that there is accountability for such acts.**”(HRW, 20. Jänner 2021)

Kathimerini ist eine Tageszeitung, die in Athen veröffentlicht wird.

- Kathimerini: LGBTQ refugees in Greece experience insecurity and discrimination, 31. Mai 2021
<https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/1162145/lgbtq-refugees-in-greece-experience-insecurity-and-discrimination/>

„The survey was conducted by the Transgender Support Association and was presented digitally on Monday by the president of the Association, Marina Galanou. The survey, which polled LGBTQ asylum seekers and refugees but also the professional social workers who work with them, is the first completed survey on LGBTQ individuals applying for international protection as well as recognized refugees. **“Multiple stigmas and often invisible”, said Galanou when describing this group of people. This invisibility is evident in** the limited information available and records on racially motivated attacks on LGBTQ refugees and migrants. This was confirmed by the assistant co-ordinator of the Network for Recording Cases of Racist Violence, Garyfalia Anastasopoulou, who stated that from 2014, when the Network recorded the first instance of violence against an LGBTQ refugee, until 2020, recorded violence against this group accounts for less than 8% of the total **recorded incidents of racially motivated violence.”** (Kathimerini, 31. Mai 2021)

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF, Ärzte ohne Grenzen) ist eine internationale humanitäre Organisation mit dem Ziel, notleidenden Menschen weltweit medizinische und anderweitige Hilfe anzubieten.

- MSF – Médecins Sans Frontières: Greece: MSF condemns attack on its pediatric clinic near Moria refugee camp, 21. August 2020
<https://www.ecoi.net/de/dokument/2036529.html>

„On August 20, anti-migrant protestors attacked and set fire to a pediatric clinic run by the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) outside Moria refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos. [...] Marco Sandrone, MSF field coordinator on Lesbos, said the following of the attack: [...] ,For some time now, we have been witnessing a rise in aggressive behavior towards asylum seekers and refugees, as well as humanitarian organizations and volunteers who have repeatedly been targeted and harassed for simply trying to provide assistance to vulnerable groups on Lesbos. This incident highlights a malignant symptom that needs to be addressed now.“ (MSF, 21. August 2020)

Das Racist Violence Recording Network beobachtet und dokumentiert hauptsächlich rassistische Angriffe auf Flüchtlinge und Migrant·innen in Griechenland.

- RVRN - Racist Violence Recording Network: Annual Report 2020, 22. April 2021
https://www.unhcr.org/gr/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2021/05/ENG_ETHSIA_EKTHESH.pdf

„During January-December 2020, RVRN recorded, through interviews with victims, 107 cases of racist violence. In 74 incidents the targets were migrants, refugees or asylum-seekers due to their ethnic origin, religion or colour, human rights defenders due to their

association with refugees and migrants, as well as shelters or other services for unaccompanied children or asylum-seekers." (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 12)

„In the recordings of attacks against asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants due to ethnic origin, religion and / or colour, civil society facilities providing accommodation or other services to the targeted groups, as well as on human rights defenders targeted for their support to these groups, we observe the following elements: [...]”

Victims: 40 cases against men (11-48 years old), 1 against a woman (24 years old), 5 against mixed groups of men and women (age range 9-60 years). The victims were from Afghanistan(10), Syria (9), Palestine (6), Sierra Leone (3), Egypt (2), Cameroon (2), Ivory Coast (1), Guinea (1), Iraq (1), Iran (1), Morocco (1), Bangladesh (2), Pakistan (1), Syria / Palestine (1), three (3) of mixed nationalities, one (1) victim had Danish citizenship and was of Afghan ethnic origin, and one (1) victim was of Kurdish ethnic origin. Also, 6 incidents against civil society facilities that provide accommodation or other services to the said group, were recorded. Most of the attacks took place while employees and asylum-seekers or unaccompanied minors were in the facilities. In addition, there were 2 incidents against **civil society organisations' property (e.g. cars) and 20 incidents against human rights** defenders, i.e. persons who were targeted because they support or supposedly supported refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants, were recorded. In some of these incidents, based on the testimonies of human rights defenders who were victims to the attacks, refugees / asylum-seekers were also victimized. Legal status of the victims targeted because of their ethnic origin, religion and / or colour: 28 cases against asylum seekers, 4 against refugees, 6 against migrants holding a residence permit, 4 cases against persons without a residence permit, as well as 3 cases with victims under different types of legal status (refugees, asylum-seekers, etc.). In one incident the victim was a European citizen (Danish nationality, **Afghan origin).**" (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 20-21)

„Perpetrators: According to victims, the perpetrators were mainly Greeks (73 incidents). In one incident, a citizen of another EU country was identified among the perpetrators, while in another incident, the perpetrator was an Egyptian who targeted his compatriot. Also, the perpetrators were, in their vast majority, men (57 incidents). In 2 incidents the perpetrators were women, while in 15 incidents the group of perpetrators had both men and women. It should be noted that three (3) incidents involved minors, while the age of the perpetrators was up to 75 years old. In the vast majority of incidents (58 out of 74 against migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and supporters), more than one perpetrator reportedly took part in the attacks, 43 of which took place on Aegean islands (Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Kos, Rhodes) and Evros, where there are formal or informal reception sites. As mentioned above, in 21 incidents, the victims identify individuals among the perpetrators who had participated again in incidents of racist violence, when in 2019 there only 7 such incidents. Out of those, 17 took place mainly in Aegean islands, where there are Reception and Identification Centres but also in the mainland where there are accommodation sites for asylum-seekers. The victims identify the perpetrators both for their general action on the far right at the local level and for their involvement in other incidents of racist violence.” (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 21)

„In particular, the Network recorded incidents in the context of police checks on movement restriction measures, in which, harassing behaviours and expression of violence with a racist motive were identified. [...]”

In the course of the aforementioned controls, there are in some cases violent behaviours of **different intensity, such as verbal and physical violence.**[...]

It should be stipulated, that the movement restriction measures due to coronavirus both in the accommodation sites for asylum-seekers and in the Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) are stricter than the respective measures for the general population. [...]

In 2020, there are also cases which show that the pandemic and protection measures are an opportunity for the expression of stereotypical xenophobic behaviours that reach racist **violence.**" (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 22-25)

„Based on the Network’s data in 2020, there is a wider and more intense targeting of refugees and migrants, accommodation sites or other services for asylum-seekers and unaccompanied children, as well as people who were targeted as human rights defenders¹¹. In its 2019 report, the Network had already expressed its serious concern about the tension manifested against these groups. The incidents in 2020 as well as last year’s events and mainly the developments in the Aegean islands and Evros, especially in the first quarter of 2020, show the increase in the frequency of organized attacks against these groups.” (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 26)

„The qualitative and quantitative characteristics of the attacks, as described above, highlight a periodically increasing intensity in areas where there are Reception and Identification Centres or accommodation sites for asylum-seekers as well as unaccompanied minors, caused by organised, informal (or not) xenophobic groups, acting as law enforcement services against refugees and human rights defenders, with repeated attacks until their goal is achieved. During the incidents, these groups state that they are imbued by xenophobic ideologies, adopt the respective vocabulary and practices, in some cases carry weapons, mostly improvised, and behave as if they are on a mission. They do not hesitate to resort to extreme violence such as arson of facilities, obstruction of movement (roadblocks) or prevention of disembarkation of newly arrived refugees, while making racist comments, attacking and damaging property and equipment of organizations providing services to refugees, bullying but also physically harming refugees and supporters. Within this framework of action, a supportive framework is being developed by some of the local communities where the incidents take place. This support is expressed either by participating in the above organized actions, or by reproducing xenophobic behaviours and racist violence in other aspects of their daily lives, or through social media posts. Essentially, due to the tensions created in the respective local communities on the management of refugee and migration flows, there seems to be an increase in the attraction of members from the local communities by extremist groups, and in harassing behaviours, verbal and physical attacks, as well as occupations of public spaces to identify, intimidate and attack refugees and human rights defenders. The above-mentioned manifestations of violence with a racist motive are predominant in the public

space of local communities, with strong elements of structured organizations, in any circumstance that allows the resurgence of such action (eg announcement of installation of reception or accommodation sites). However, they do not disappear when the effect of each incident fades out. On the contrary, they continue, usually at a lower intensity and spread, thus giving strong indications of a universal trend with different levels of intensity and scope. The increase in incidents of racist violence recorded by the Network, compared to previous years, is an indication of the above-mentioned circumstances. From 2015 to 2019 the attacks on the Aegean islands with the most refugee flows (Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Kos, Rhodes) range from eight percent to 20 percent of the total recorded incidents, while in 2020 they exceeded 40 percent. From February to March 2020, especially in these areas, those practises seem to become generalized, aiming at the intimidation of refugees and **human rights defenders.**" (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 26-27)

„In 2020, RVRN documented 30 cases of attacks on LGBTQI+ individuals (12 due to gender identity, 14 due to sexual orientation and 4 cases due to sexual orientation / gender identity). Recorded attacks on LGBTQI+ individuals include verbal assaults, physical violence, and sexual assaults, in some cases in combination with theft and disturbance of domestic peace. A common trait in the vast majority of cases is the combination of different **types of violence and criminal acts with every possible intensity.**" (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 35)

„In 14 out of the 30 cases against LGBTQI+ individuals, the victims were targeted due to their sexual orientation. Victims: 12 incidents against men, 1 against a woman, and 1 against a non-binary individual." (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 36)

„In 2020, 12 incidents of attacks due to gender identity were recorded. Victims: In 7 incidents the victims were women 18-60 years old and in 5 incidents the victims were men 21-40 years old. In 2020, 9 incidents of verbal violence were recorded, as well as 3 incidents of physical violence, in combination with insults and / or threats, disturbance of domestic peace and other **types of harassment.**" (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 38)

„In 2020, a trend of behaviours was recorded, which involve problematic and highly harassing behaviour against transgender individuals by family, employers and colleagues, public servants, but also citizens, challenging the self-determination of the individual. A case in point is the testimony of a trans man who suffered intense physical violence multiple times, from members of his family, while he was kept locked up in his house against his will and he was **finally thrown out from it, by his own family.**" (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 38)

„At the same time, RVRN finds that in a significant number of cases of attacks due to gender identity, the victims experience racist violence in their workplace. Cases in point are the incidents involving trans women, sex workers, who are constantly subjected to extreme **verbal and physical violence during work, usually by unknown perpetrators.**" (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 39)

„RVRN has documented cases in which alleged police violence is linked to racist violence, namely where there are specific qualitative characteristics (insults, threats, circumstances

e.tc.) showing racist motives during violent cases, where the perpetrators were law enforcement officials. In 2020, 25 incidents involving law enforcement officials were recorded, when the corresponding number of recordings in 2019 was 17 incidents and in **2018 was 22 incidents.** [...]

According to the 2020 recordings, the victims of these attacks were mainly asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants, either with a residence permit or without legal documents (17 incidents) but also human rights defenders targeted for their action in supporting refugees and asylumseekers (four cases), as well as Greek citizens, who suffered violence due to **ethnic origin (two cases) and gender identity (two cases).**" (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 39-40)

„In two incidents, the victims were targeted by law enforcement officials because of their gender identity. A case in point is that of a trans person, who was going to a police station in the centre of Athens to declare loss of ID card. She ended up being chased out by the police officers (three men and a woman), shouting:

,F**t *, f**tr**y, don't you dare coming here ever again'.** This incident shows the lack of tolerance and acceptance towards diversity, the refusal to serve as well as the harassing and violent behaviour of police officers. Also, in eight (8) incidents the victims were minors and were targeted due to their ethnic origin." (RVRN, 22. April 2021, S. 40-41)

The National Herald ist eine Zeitung, die in New York herausgegeben wird und griechische Amerikaner als Zielpublikum hat.

- The National Herald: Life Rough for LGBTQ Community Among Greece's Asylum Seeker, 1. Juni 2021
https://www.thenationalherald.com/archive_general_news_greece/arthro/life_rough_for_lgbtq_community_among_greece_s_asylum_seekers-2580814/

„Besides dealing with the trauma of being uprooted from their homelands and living in refugee and migrants detention centers and camps while hoping for asylum in Greece, those who are LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning) say they face a range of other problems, including attacks from other refugees. That was found in a first-ever survey of their life, conducted by the Transgender Support Association that was presented digitally by the group's President, Marina Galanou, said Kathimerini. They said they are subject to vague directions during the asylum application and examination process, precarious housing situations, and discrimination in the workplace or public services. 'Multiple stigmas and often invisible,' said Galanou when describing what they feel, noting that there had been little to no information on their lives among other groups of refugees seeking sanctuary in Greece after the European Union closed its borders to them. The Assistant Co-ordinator of the Network for Recording Cases of Racist Violence, Garyfalia Anastasopoulou, told the paper that from 2014-20, recorded violence against this group was less than 8 percent of recorded incidents of racially motivated violence. There were 17 asylum applicants and recognized refugees participating in the survey, who had applied for asylum for reasons of sexual orientation or gender identity (10 for sexual orientation and seven for gender identity)." (The National Herald, 1. Juni 2021)

The New Humanitarian (TNH), ehemals Teil des Büros der Vereinten Nationen zur Koordinierung der humanitären Hilfe (UNOCHA) und unter der Bezeichnung „Integrated Regional Information Networks“ (IRIN) bekannt, ist eine institutionell unabhängige Nachrichtenagentur, die schwerpunktmäßig über Krisen berichtet und sich für eine Verbesserung humanitärer Hilfsmaßnahmen einsetzt.

- TNH - The New Humanitarian: As a doctor in a European refugee camp, I found deep neglect and xenophobia, 1. März 2021

<https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/opinion/first-person/2021/3/1/on-greece-lesvos-refugees-battle-neglect-and-xenophobia>

„My refugee translators say they have been threatened, harassed, and sometimes physically assaulted in Lesvos' streets by civilians and Greek police, who often use racist and anti-Muslim slurs – troubling evidence of a rising 'social pandemic' of anti-Muslim hatred in Europe during COVID, which presents a real and present danger to many of my patients.“ (TNH, 1. März 2021)

Das USDOS ist das US-Außenministerium.

- USDOS – US Department of State: 2020 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Greece, 30. März 2021

<https://www.ecoi.net/de/dokument/2048407.html>

„Authorities recorded numerous other violent incidents, including clashes among residents of various nationalities occurring mostly in the RICs, often resulting in injuries and deaths. The RVRN recorded 51 incidents involving racially motivated verbal and physical violence against refugees and migrants in 2019 (see section 6, National/Racial/Ethnic Minorities).“ (USDOS, 30. März 2021, Section 2f)

„Abuse of Migrants, Refugees, and Stateless Persons: Authorities did not always provide adequate security or physical protection to asylum seekers, particularly those residing in the overcrowded RICs.

Local and international media, human rights NGOs, and international organizations reported that asylum seekers personally testified that at the Greece-Turkey land border they were physically abused and deprived of their personal belongings, including their money and cell phones, prior to being returned to Turkey.

On March 4, a man was shot and killed while trying to cross the border from Turkey to Greece amid violent clashes at the Evros border (see section 2.f., Refoulement). Some NGOs reported he was shot by Greek security forces, likely by accident. On May 12, more than 100 members of the European Parliament addressed a letter to the head of the European Commission, calling for a formal investigation into the death. A government spokesman on March 10 'explicitly denied' that Greek security forces were involved in the incident.[...]

NGOs, including Diotima, stated the COVID-19 lockdown and restriction measures employed at the RICs for most of the year resulted in more gender-based violence but with fewer of these incidents being reported. Refugee and migrant women who are victims of

gender-based violence are legally eligible for temporary shelter in government-run homes and for legal and psychosocial assistance, but few reported abuse, according to aid organizations. Some NGO representatives reiterated findings from previous years that even after reporting rapes to the authorities, some victims continued residing in the same camp as the perpetrators." (USDOS, 30. März 2021, Section 2f)

„Local media and NGOs reported race- and hate-motivated attacks on migrants, allegedly by far-right individuals acting alone or in groups. In its annual report for 2019, the RVRN reported that, despite a decrease in incidents of organized violence since 2013, a significant number of the attacks showed signs of a structured organization or organized group.' More than 50 percent of the incidents recorded by the RVRN in 2019 (51 of 100) targeted migrants, refugees, or asylum seekers on grounds of ethnic origin, religion, or skin color. The RVRN also noted ,aggression against refugees in other aspects of daily life' as well as 'a wider targeting of people of African origin, compared to previous years.'" (USDOS, 30. März 2021, Section 6)

„Acts of Violence, Criminalization, and Other Abuses Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The law prohibits discrimination against LGBTI persons in housing, employment, and government services such as education and health care. The government enforced antidiscrimination laws, which include sexual orientation and gender identity as aggravating circumstances in hate crimes. Offices combatting race crimes and hate crimes include in their mandates crimes targeting LGBTI individuals because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Violence against LGBTI individuals, including LGBTI refugees and migrants, remained a problem. Societal discrimination and harassment of LGBTI persons were widespread despite advances in the legal framework protecting such individuals. LGBTI activists alleged that authorities were not always motivated to investigate incidents of violence against LGBTI individuals and that victims were hesitant to report such incidents to the authorities due to a lack of trust. A male police officer harassed and verbally abused a transgender woman during a routine inspection at an entertainment venue, the NGO Greek Transgender Support Association (SYD) reported on January 7. The woman said the police officer used insulting, derogatory, and sexist language, touched her inappropriately, and insisted on bodily searching her himself. The victim filed a complaint against the police officer. No trial date has been set.

In 2019 the RVRN recorded 16 attacks based on sexual orientation and 25 based on gender identity. The sexual orientation attacks included verbal and physical assaults. In three cases, the victims were minors. The gender identity attacks included two cases of rape, one of which involved a minor, two incidents of sexual abuse and sexual assault, two incidents of physical violence, and 17 cases of verbal insults or threats. The RVRN noted the recorded incidents showed that 'transgender people suffer verbal abuse, almost daily, which escalates as their transition progresses and becomes more visible.' According to information communicated to the RVRN for 2019, police recorded 282 incidents potentially

involving racist motives, 32 of which were related to sexual orientation (20) and gender identity (12).

On May 14, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights 2019 survey on LGBTI persons in the EU reported that in the country: 74 percent of respondents stated that they often or always avoided holding hands with their same-sex partner, 32 percent felt discriminated against at work, and 33 percent alleged they were harassed in the year before the survey. In addition, 51 percent of respondents felt discriminated against in at least one area of life in the year before the survey and 43 percent of LGBTI students aged 15 to 17 admitted hiding being LGBTI at school. Finally, 57 percent reported that LGBTI prejudice and intolerance has dropped during the past five years.

Activists in the LGBTI community said they faced particular hardships during the COVID-19 pandemic because they were forced to spend long periods at home with families who were not always accepting of their lifestyle, with an increase in domestic violence. Transgender individuals working in the sex industry also reported a loss of income during the pandemic.

On January 3, a joint ministerial decree outlined 12 countries of origin of asylum seekers the government considered ‘safe.’ The decree raised concerns among human rights activists and the LGBTI community that the vast majority of these countries either persecuted individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity or presented serious threats to the lives of LGBTI individuals and human rights and LGBTI activists in the country (see section 2.f., Protection of Refugees).

On July 7, the NGO Diotima reported on a Moroccan transgender person whose application for asylum was rejected. Diotima argued that if she returned to Morocco, the **woman’s life would** be at risk due to her gender identity, a claim accepted by the court on October 14. The court annulled the deportation decision on the grounds the woman would face arrest, imprisonment, and abuse if sent back to her country (see section 2.f., Protection of Refugees).

Unmarried transgender individuals older than 15 may update documents to reflect their gender identity without undergoing sex reassignment surgery, according to Greek law. A **judge must validate the change based on the individual’s external** appearance. According to the Greek Transgender Support Association, the hearing process does not always have the necessary privacy and dignity for the applicant.

In his annual 2019 report, the ombudsman highlighted administrative obstacles faced by LGBTI individuals when they officially register a civil partnership. The ombudsman noted that corrections and changes to gender identity registrations, as part of administrative processes or notarial acts, did not always have the necessary safeguards of secrecy and respect for those impacted.

On January 20, a misdemeanors council ruled that six persons, including two store owners and four police officers, should be charged with fatal bodily harm in connection with the death of LGBTI activist Zak Kostopoulos in September 2018 in central Athens. The date of

the trial was initially set for October 21 but due to restrictive COVID-19 measures, it was **postponed indefinitely.**" (USDOS, 30. März 2021, Section 6)