By supporting **ELA**, you defend the right to asylum for displaced persons in Greece, in Europe.



« During the procedure, you have the right to ask for assistance by a lawyer. »\*

### **CONTACT**

For any enquiries and access to the funding proposal please contact:

Juliette MALFAISAN Executive Director of FLA

Domitille NICOLET Project Coordinator

WWW.EQUALLEGALAID.ORG



+33[0]684.587.523

+30.69.86.95.07.08

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contact@equallegalaid.org



PROVIDING LEGAL AID
TO DISPLACED
PERSONS

DEFENDING
THE RIGHT TO ASYLUM

### **KEY FIGURES**

Greece is the first point of entry into the EU for displaced persons fleeing persecutions and violence. As of September 2020 there are 84,330 asylum requests pending before the Greek Asylum Service.

There are currently more than **30,000** asylum seekers living in and around Thessaloniki, with 10,700 residing in formal camps. They have been transferred from the Greek islands or they crossed the land border with Turkey.

The region is facing a structural shortage of legal assistance, with too few legal actors providing pro bono legal support.



## WHAT IS THE RIGHT TO ASYLUM?

Any individual persecuted or threatened of persecutions in their country for reasons of race, religious beliefs, nationality, political opinions or belonging to a specific social group, is guaranteed protection within the European Union and therefore is rightful to seek asylum. The right to asylum is a **fundamental** right.

**AIMS** 

# In 2021 Equal Legal Aid will continue the efforts started during its pilot project implemented from September to December 2020\*.

The main goal of the action is the promotion of access to law and justice for migrants and asylum seekers in precarious and excluded situations.

With the support of legal experts, international and national, licenced lawyers and trainee-lawyers, trained in legal issues encountered in mainland Greece, ELA will be implementing a comprehensive program of remote and in-person services, combining outreach activities and legal service provision.

#### **ELA WANTS TO:**

- 1. Improve access to information and legal aid to displaced persons in the North of Greece.
- **2.** Enhance networking and strengthen partnerships with other relevant stakeholders in Greece and abroad.
- **3.** Promote a vision of a united Europe committed to respect for human rights.

## ELA NEEDS SUPPORT TO:

- Keep providing pro-bono individual legal aid to vulnerable and excluded asylum seekers.
- Ensure the continuity of its intervention and the work of its legal staff.
- Establish and develop partnerships with local, national and international actors.
- Denounce and document human rights violations

\*To learn more about us & our past achievements : www.equallegalaid.org

