

All of the rumours are collected among refugees passing through Europe. By identifying misinformation and hearsay and responding to it with relevant, factual information NewsThatMoves aims to keep the refugee population at the forefront of our communication response.

## #1 RUMOUR: "If you know how to speak English that is a positive thing for your asylum claim."

ANSWER

Everyone has the right to claim asylum in Greece. You have to register to apply for asylum first and then at a later stage you will be called to attend an interview with the Greek Asylum Service when you will be asked different questions. You are entitled to have an interpreter during the interview. Knowing how to speak English will not be taken into consideration in the examination of your asylum application in Greece. However, knowledge of Greek language and culture will be taken into account when it is decided whether you will be granted asylum in Greece.

For more information:  
<http://refugees.gr/en1/>

## #4 RUMOUR: "The Wifi in the camp is really weak and that is on purpose, because they do not want people to be in contact with outside world (including smugglers)."

ANSWER

There are many organisations working to improve wifi in camps. The authorities do not control or limit your wifi access in sites. There are strict licensing laws in Greece that regulate the construction of the infrastructure needed to strengthen wifi networks and connections. This can sometimes slow down improvements of the internet connections in the camps.

For more information:  
<http://disastertechlab.org/2016/06/06/june-2016-refugee-crisis-response-update/>

## #2 RUMOUR: "There was this man who said to the authority that he wants to be deported back (referring to voluntary return) and he is now waiting for two months."

ANSWER

The process of voluntary return to your country can be lengthy and it may not be considered 'safe' for you to return. You may be eligible if you don't have appropriate documentation to stay in Greece or are unwilling to stay, or you withdrew your claim for protection or your application was rejected. Since the beginning of the year, 4,400 people registered through the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Program (AVRR). Of that total, 3,302 have been returned, up to July 8, 2016. The program runs through to December 2019.

For more information:  
<http://greece.iom.int/node/25>  
<https://goo.gl/4CR7Mo>

## #5 RUMOUR: "Some people say they give you a one year white card because the borders might be opened after a year."

ANSWER

The white card you receive at pre-registration will replace your 'kharti' and is valid for one year. This card guarantees you the legal right to stay in Greece while your asylum application is being processed. It is only valid in Greece and not in any other European country. There has not been any official statement saying that the borders will open again.

For more information:  
<http://goo.gl/vPN08k>

## #3 RUMOUR: "If I went with a smuggler to France, and showed them my protection card and my Syrian ID, they will consider me regular and not a terrorist."

ANSWER

The protection card that asylum seekers receive in Greece after they register and lodge their asylum application is only valid in Greece. This card is not valid or recognised in other EU countries. If you are relocated to another EU country or granted asylum in Greece, then the card is no longer needed. If you go to France with a smuggler you will be considered an 'irregular' migrant. Questions and interviews by authorities in some countries may try to determine whether there are security threats associated with someone but this is unrelated to whether you arrive by 'regular' or 'irregular' pathways.

For more information:  
<http://goo.gl/s6Jpbq>



Things can change quickly.

Check [newsthatmoves.org](http://newsthatmoves.org) for news about your journey.



Got a question?

Ask us on [newsthatmoves.org](http://newsthatmoves.org).  
Also on [Facebook.com/newsthatmoves](https://www.facebook.com/newsthatmoves)