



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.

Rumour #1

“If you reject the country that picked you for relocation, you can hire a lawyer and re-enroll in the relocation program, but you will have to repeat all the steps from the beginning.”

Answer

Relocation candidates cannot choose the country to which they could be relocated. However, they can refuse to be transferred if accepted by a country where they do not wish go. Asylum seekers are taken out of the EU Relocation program and cannot apply again for it if they refuse to be relocated in the country to which they were assigned. If you refuse relocation, or if the destination country refuses the relocation request made by Greek authorities, you will remain in Greece and your asylum claim will be examined in Greece.

For more information:

<http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/W001-7A-Flowchart-Legal-pathways-EN.pdf>

Rumour #2

“Is it true that the EU-Turkey agreement has failed and Turkey opened its maritime borders?”

Answer

The EU-Turkey deal has not failed and is still in force. Turkey never closed its maritime borders. But beginning March 20, Turkey reinforced controls at the coast and on Turkish waters to reduce the flow of refugees from Turkey to Greek islands. People who arrived from Turkey to Greek islands after March 20 can still be returned to Turkey under the EU-Turkey deal. All nationalities are being returned under the EU-Turkey deal.

For more information:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/03/18-eu-turkey-statement/>

Rumour #3

“All Iraqis staying in Greece will be sent back to Iraq.”

Answer

It is against international law to deport people en masse because they are from a particular country. Asylum is granted based on each person's need for international protection and not on their nationality. You may have heard that Iraqis who have entered Greece after 16 June no longer are eligible for relocation to another European country. This does not affect their eligibility to register to apply for asylum in Greece or for family reunification.

For more information:

<http://w2eu.info/greece.en/articles/greece-asylum.en.html>

Rumour #4

“If you are staying in a house provided by an organisation, and later got rejected for relocation and applied for asylum in Greece, they will take the house and send you to camps.”

Answer

If you refuse relocation or if the destination country refuses the request for relocation, you will be able to remain in Greece while your asylum application is examined in Greece, according to the Greek Asylum Service. If you refuse to go to the country offered to you after you have been moved to an apartment or hotel provided by UNHCR, you will have to vacate the accommodation. However, some organisations provide vulnerable people with accommodation – even if not connected to relocation. You should check with the organisation providing your accommodation to know what will happen if your application for relocation is rejected.

For more information:

http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Qandanswers_ENG_Sep1_final.pdf

Rumour #5

“I have heard that if you have family and even relatives in Australia and in the US, they can sponsor you for a family reunification.”

Answer

There are programs in Canada, US, Australia and other countries that allow private citizens to sponsor refugees to come to their country. The eligibility criteria are different in each country, but all require the person sponsoring you to support you financially and sponsors to be citizens or permanent residents of that country. You will be required to go through a process to prove your refugee status. The process also may consider families that have been separated. Family reunification also applies outside of EU countries but the process differs from country to country.

For more information:

<http://www.racs.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Family-Reunion.pdf>

Things can change quickly.

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