

# THE SAMOS LEGAL CENTRE NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the Samos Legal Centre's first monthly newsletter! We are delighted to be able to share with you more in-depth information about the actions taken by the team for the asylum seekers and the news about the situation in Samos. This newsletter will also be a great opportunity for you to learn more about the Samos Legal Centre Team and the legal procedures that come with refugee status applications.



## Opening of the Zervou camp



On Saturday 18th September, the new camp on Samos, a so-called 'closed-controlled access centre' was officially opened, and on Monday and Tuesday, the residents of Vathy RIC (Reception and Identification Centre) were transferred.

The new camp, located remotely, around 7km from Samos town, is equipped with double barbed-wire fences, surveillance cameras and magnetic doors, and has a capacity for around 3000 people.

ASF France is concerned that the isolated location of the new camp, and the current lack of transportation available, will curtail the autonomy and independence of its residents, as well as limit access to essential services and integration supports, which are so vital to physical and mental well-being.

We are especially preoccupied about the impact it could have on our work as questions are raised about how the individuals will be able to come to the Legal Centre and/or our team will be able to enter Zervou camp.

Our team on the ground is working to find solutions to continuing to provide meaningful access to independent legal support for the population of Zervou camp for as long as that need remains and to ensure the fundamental rights of asylum seekers on the island are defended.

## Meet the team !



Forutan Farsi,  
Interpreter  
*"your purpose is  
not just to be an  
interpreter  
but a cultural  
mediator"*

→ [Read the full  
interview here](#)



Blaithin Quigley  
Project Manager  
*"I am constantly  
impressed by the  
passion, commitment  
and work ethic of my  
colleagues"*

→ [Read the full  
interview here](#)

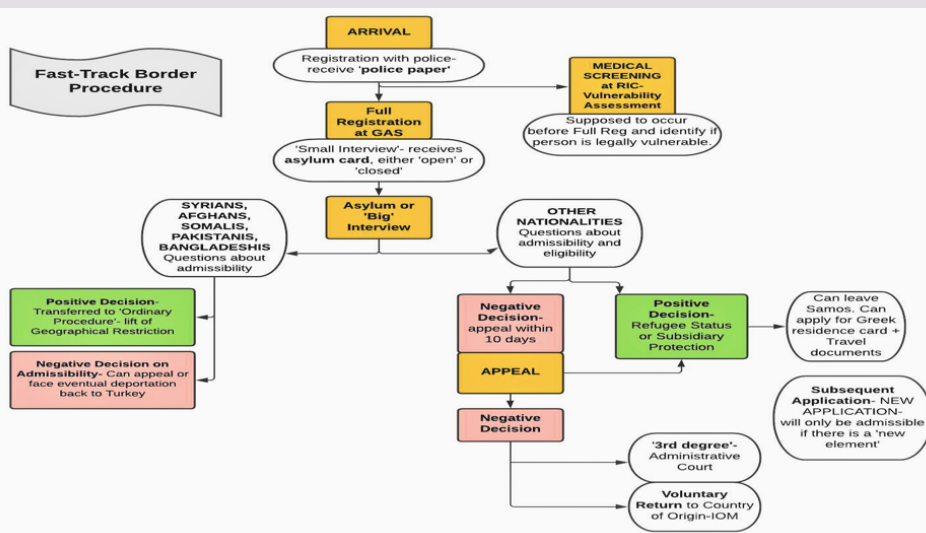
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## The Number of the Month

In August ASF France team had 18 first consultations from mainly new arrivals in Samos. These first consultations are an opportunity for us to meet asylum seekers who are new to the Legal Centre. Our caseworkers explain the steps in the asylum procedure on Samos (the deadlines and length of time they can expect to wait for a decision), inform the person of their rights during the process and sign-posts other services they may benefit from, such as psycho-social support. The ASF France team believes that the better informed the person is, the more empowered they will feel throughout the asylum procedure.



## An overview of the fast-track asylum procedure on Samos



In Samos, a 'fast track' asylum procedure applies. This diagram shows the main steps in the procedure, which can be different depending on the nationality of the person. Our team support applicants at almost every stage, from the moment they arrive, to the registration, the interview, and the appeal. As the procedure is complex and fast, our team helps inform and empower people to navigate each step.