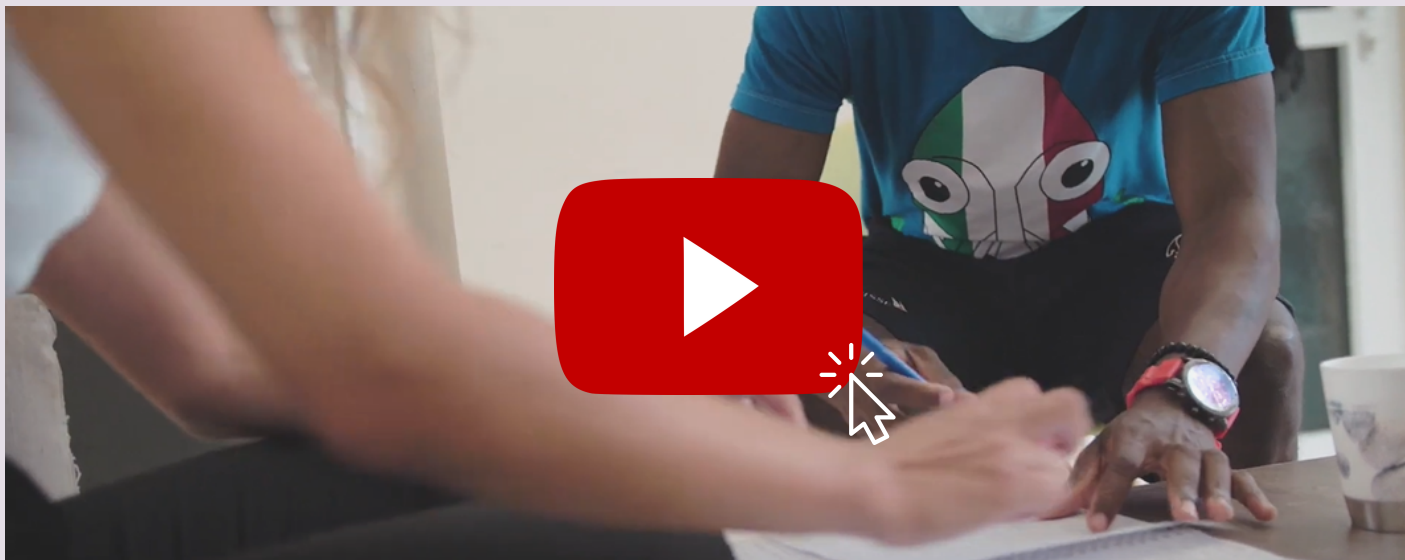


OCTOBER 2021

THE SAMOS LEGAL CENTRE NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the 2nd edition of the Samos Legal Centre's newsletter! This month we are delighted to share with you a video showcasing the work of the team in Samos, filmed last August by the talented [Isacco Chiaf](#). This video introduces the team on the ground and highlights the important work being done to support asylum seekers and refugees with their legal procedures on the island.



We moved!



Following the transfer of the camp residents in Samos to the new 'Closed-Controlled Facility' in a remote part of the island, the need for increased cooperation amongst NGOs, especially legal actors and their partners, became even greater. With the incredibly generous support of *Samos Volunteers*, the ASF France team relocated with *Refugee Law Clinic Berlin* and *I Have Rights* to the new Legal Centre.

Located beside the well-known 'Alpha Centre' in Samos and the 'Drop Shop' of *Dråpen i Havet*, this new location offers better visibility and accessibility to asylum seekers and refugees in Samos, as the only Legal Centre on the island providing free, independent support to asylum seekers. .

With a welcoming reception area, 3 counselling rooms and 2 spacious coworking areas for the legal teams, the ASF France team can continue its work providing specialized legal support to asylum seekers and refugees in Samos.

Meet the team!



Dimitra Dokanari
Lawyer
"We give our beneficiaries the tools to fight for their lives and advocate for themselves."

→ [Read the full interview here](#)



Alexia Preti
Caseworker
"By providing them with clear information in a language they understand, we trust that they can make their own choices"

→ [Read the full interview here](#)

45 The number of the month

In September, 45 interview preparation consultations took place, where 25 asylum seekers were prepared for their interviews with the Greek Asylum Service.

In Samos, where the fast-track border procedure operates, asylum seekers are sometimes given less than 24 hours notice that their interview will take place the next day. The ASF France team works quickly, schedules at least one appointment with the applicant, and ensures that they are properly informed about their rights, prepared for what questions they can expect, and ready to present their cases.

Each appointment lasts approximately two hours and our caseworkers often carry out research that applicants can bring with them to their interview, to inform about specific events in their country and the persecution they face. For particularly vulnerable clients, an ASF France lawyer attends the interview to ensure their rights are protected.



An overview of the ASF France 'Hotline'



When asylum seekers arrive on Samos, they often have many questions about the legal process they are going through and the services available to them.

The ASF France 'Hotline' provides an accessible way that asylum seekers and refugees can receive quick, clear and comprehensive answers to their questions, in a language they can understand.

From the hotline, we identify cases needing consultations, interview preparations, appeals and referral to other supporting services.