



# SAMOS LEGAL CENTRE

Providing free legal assistance for asylum seekers on Samos Island, Greece



AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES  
France

## CONTEXT

Samos is geographically located as the closest Greek island to the Turkish coast, and therefore welcomes a large number of people seeking international protection every year. Although many report surviving multiple pushbacks, **over 7500 asylum seekers arrived in Samos in 2023**. These applicants do not have access to state-provided legal aid before their asylum interview.

Since 2021, asylum seekers reside in a “Closed and Controlled Access Centre”, a detention-like facility that is a first of a long series to be built in Greece and Europe as a deterrent measure for arrivals.

The Samos Legal Centre, opened in 2019 by ASF France, aim to contribute to guaranteeing the right to seek asylum and to protect the fundamental rights of asylum seekers. In order to do so, the team on the ground welcome asylum seekers on a daily basis to provide free legal aid. seekers.

## ACTIVITIES

### Juridical aid with asylum proceedings

- **Provision of general information to asylum seekers and refugees** about the steps in the asylum procedure and their fundamental rights, both in person and through the Centre's hotline.
- **Individual preparation sessions prior to the main asylum interview** and support at the interview regarding the vulnerability of the applicants.
- **Support with cases before Appeal Committees** for applicants who receive a negative decision or wish to appeal a decision of subsidiary protection.
- **Information provision and preparation sessions** for applicants wishing to submit a subsequent asylum request following the discovery of new evidence related to their case.

### Protection and support to vulnerable people

- **Protection of asylum seekers in vulnerable situations** by referring them to the appropriate structures.
- **Submission of requests** before National, European and International protection bodies, and continued work on ongoing cases before the European Court of Human Rights.
- **Information provision workshops** for asylum seekers and volunteers based in Samos.

## CONTACT

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## SAMOS LEGAL CENTRE 2023 FIGURES

## ABOUT US

**Avocats Sans Frontières France** (Lawyers without Borders France) is a **non-profit international solidarity association** regulated by the 1901 law which contributes to promoting respect for human rights. Its mission is to :


- Contribute to the efficient application of internationally recognized human rights
- Participate in establishing and strengthening the Rule of Law, Judiciary institutions and particularly the right to a fair trial and an effective and efficient defense
- Defend the lawyers and human rights defenders

A PERMANENT TEAM OF **6 PEOPLE**

  
Project Manager

  
Legal and Technical Assistant

  
2 lawyers

  
2 case workers

supported by community volunteer interpreters

Fonds  
**Inkermann**  
Sous l'égide de  
la Fondation de  
France

**L'ORÉAL**  
FONDS POUR LES FEMMES



Fondation Yo &  
Anne-Marie  
Hamoud

Fondation  
de  
France

**CHOOSE  
LOVE**

 **SAMOS  
VOLUNTEERS**

 **I HAVE  
RIGHTS.**



 **171**

workshops for non-lawyer  
volunteers on the asylum  
procedure and the  
specificity of Samos'  
context

**3018** 

individual appointments were  
carried out by our team in  
2023 (including preparation  
for interviews)

**620** 

individual preparation for the  
asylum interview that asylum  
seekers must go through  
during the procedure

 **247**

participants in awareness  
workshops on the asylum  
procedure for people  
seeking asylum.

