

REFUGEE RIGHTS EUROPE

TOP FIVE FACTS HUMAN RIGHTS FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE IN EUROPE

What is the current state of displaced people's human rights in Europe?

This 'Top 5 Facts' sheet draws on our independent research findings from the frontlines of Europe's humanitarian crisis, and presents an overall picture of the human rights situation faced by refugees and displaced people across various European locations.

FACT #1 : POLICE AND CITIZEN VIOLENCE

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person". Our field research indicates that lack of safety and security is a chronic issue, with police and citizen violence being endemic across most of the research locations:

- In Calais, April 2017, 89.2% of respondents had experienced police violence. This was also found in Calais camp in February 2016 where 75.9% of respondents had experienced police violence including tear gas, rubber bullets, beatings and the use of dogs and verbal abuse.

IN CALAIS
89.2%
**HAD EXPERIENCED
POLICE VIOLENCE**

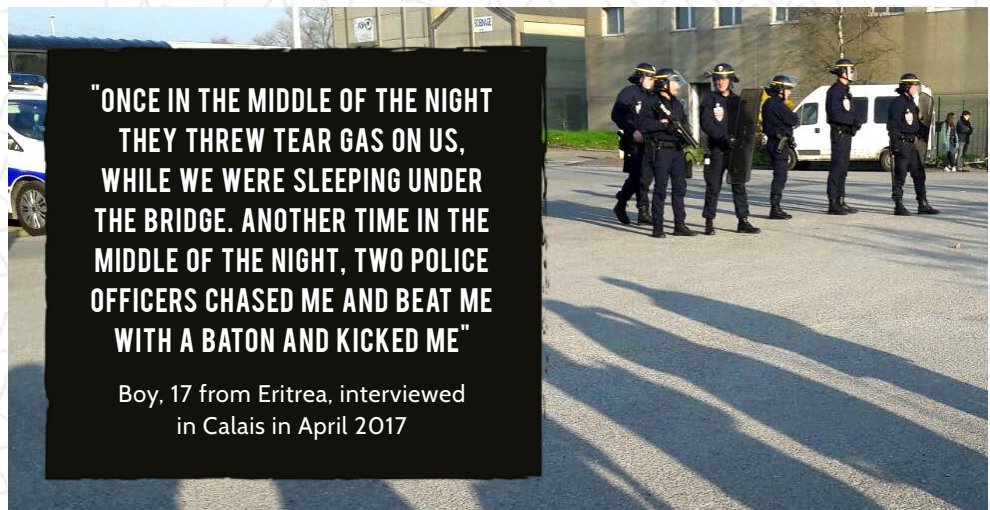
IN CHIOS
85.3%
SAID THEY DID NOT FEEL SAFE

- In mainland Greece in November 2016, 46% 'never felt safe' or 'didn't feel safe.'
- In Chios, May 2017, 85.3% said they did not feel safe.
- In Paris, 42.9% had experienced tear gas. 59.6% had been requested to move by police

whilst sleeping, 53.9% described this event to us as 'violent' and 52.5% said they felt scared when it happened. A large number recounted being kicked or hit with police batons.

- In Calais, April 2017, 58.7% told us they had experienced citizen violence including physical and verbal abuse.

IN PARIS
42.9%
HAD EXPERIENCED TEAR GAS



**"ONCE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
THEY THREW TEAR GAS ON US,
WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING UNDER
THE BRIDGE. ANOTHER TIME IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, TWO POLICE
OFFICERS CHASED ME AND BEAT ME
WITH A BATON AND KICKED ME"**

Boy, 17 from Eritrea, interviewed
in Calais in April 2017

FACT #2 : HEALTH PROBLEMS AND ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Article 25 (Part 1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights decrees that *“everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being and himself and of his family, including clothing, housing and medical care”*. Our research found that living conditions were highly inadequate in many of the camps studied, with respondents telling us their shelter leaked when it rained and that they were forced to stay warm using extra clothes and blankets in the absence of a heater during the winter months. We furthermore found:

IN MAINLAND GREECE
73%
HAD EXPERIENCED HEALTH PROBLEMS IN THE CAMP

- In Greece, 73% had experienced health problems in the camp, due to the spread of contagious diseases, unhygienic conditions inside the camps and lack of effective treatment for chronic diseases. 20.1% described the health issue as a mental health problem. Of those who had sought medical help, 26.3% described it as ‘bad’ or ‘very bad’.
- In Germany, December 2016/January 2017, 40.1% had experienced health problems in the camp. 17.9% described the medical treatment as ‘bad’ or ‘very bad’.

- In Sweden in May 2017, 53.8% had experienced health issues during their time in the camp.
- In Chios, Greece in May 2017, a staggering 71.3% had experienced health problems since arriving in Chios. Less than a third (28.5%) of these respondents had been able to access medical care. About a third (31%) of respondents told us they were experiencing mental health problems.
- In the former Calais camp, 76.7% had experienced health problems, 40% due to the unhealthy environment.

71.3%
HAD EXPERIENCED HEALTH PROBLEMS SINCE ARRIVING IN CHIOS

“I SAW ONE PERSON SETTING HIMSELF IN FIRE, AND MAYBE I’LL BE THE NEXT ONE. I FEEL SO BAD AND DEPRESSED”

Man interviewed on the island of Chios, Greece in May 2017



FACT #3 : ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

According to Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights “everyone has the right to education”. Our reports shine a light on the alarming absence of educational opportunities, as well as a lack of information available for people in displacement, many of whom do not know how they can change their situation:

IN SWEDEN
64.1%
LACKED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Many respondents lacked educational opportunities: 77.3% of former Calais camp residents, 33.3% of respondents in Germany,

“ WE ALWAYS THOUGHT OUR KIDS WOULD BE DOCTORS OR SOMETHING RESPECTABLE WHEN WE WERE IN SYRIA. NOW THEY HAVE NO EDUCATION AND NO CHANCE FOR A FUTURE ”

Man interviewed on mainland Greece in November 2016

69.6% of respondents in mainland Greece and 64.1% of respondents in Sweden.

- We also found a striking absence of information and advice about rights opportunities to change one’s situation: 54.7% of respondents in Germany lacked this information, 79.3% of former Calais camp residents, 75.4% of respondents in mainland

Greece, 64.1% in Sweden and 86% of respondents in Chios, Greece.

IN GERMANY
54.7%
REPORTED ABSENCE OF INFORMATION AND ADVICE ABOUT RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

IN MAINLAND GREECE
68%
REPORTED AN ABSENCE OF INFORMATION REGARDING EUROPEAN ASYLUM LAWS AND IMMIGRATION RULES

- There was a similar absence in information regarding European asylum laws and immigration rules: 55.9% of respondents in Germany, 74.3% of former Calais residents, 68% of respondents in mainland Greece, 59% in Sweden and 78.3% of respondents in Chios, Greece.

FACT #4 : CHILD REFUGEES IN EUROPE

Alongside the Universal Declaration on Human Rights which calls for “*special care and assistance*” for childhood, 196 states have also committed to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child whereby states are legally bound to ensure that every child, “*without exception*”, is entitled to protection without discrimination on account of their national or social origin, race, colour, sex, language or religion. Shockingly, our reports found that:

- 30.8% of children in Paris had experienced tear gas, 25% verbal abuse by the police, and 21% physical violence other than tear gas.

- In Chios, Greece in May 2017, 50% of the children interviewed were unaccompanied. 73.3% of children said they ‘never feel safe’ or ‘don’t feel very safe’. Alarming, 28.6% had witnessed someone dying in Chios. Only 20% of the children interviewed had received any help from any organisation in Chios.

IN CHIOS
28.6%
OF CHILDREN HAD WITNESSED SOMEONE DYING

- Access to information and education is severely lacking for many of the vulnerable children. In Chios, Greece, more than half the children (56.7%) did not have access to any form of education. Only 16.7% had access to advice about their rights and possibilities to change their situation and only 20% had access to information about European asylum law and immigration rules.

“ THE NATIONAL POLICE RAN AFTER ME AND FOUGHT ME, BEAT ME BY STICK AND SPRAYED ME WITH TEAR GAS ON MY FACE. I DIDN’T EXPECT THAT TO HAPPEN IN A COUNTRY LIKE FRANCE ”

Boy, 14, Ethiopia in Calais, April 2017

IN CALAIS
37.2%
OF CHILDREN TOLD US THEY HAD FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE UK

- In Calais, April 2017, 42.9% of children told us they have family members in Europe, with 37.2% telling us they had family members in the UK. 77.8% of the children we interviewed had not applied for the Dublin process to join their family.

FACT #5 : WOMEN IN DISPLACEMENT

Our research findings indicate an alarming failure to respond to the refugee situation in a gender-sensitive manner. Camp management decisions, camp design, and service provision appear to be wholly inadequate to cater to the specific needs of women:

- In mainland Greece, 69% of women did not have a secure lock on their shelter, 46.4% did not feel safe.

IN MAINLAND GREECE
46.4%
OF WOMEN DID NOT FEEL SAFE

- 65.5% of women interviewed in Greece knew of other women suffering from gender-based violence during displacement.
- 88% of women in Greece told us they do not know where they could access contraceptives.

IN MAINLAND GREECE

88%
OF WOMEN DID NOT KNOW
WHERE THEY COULD ACCESS
CONTRACEPTIVES

- In the former Calais camp, 41.7% of women told us they had experienced violence inside the camp, while 60% did not know where they could go for healthcare if pregnant.



"WE DON'T GET CONTRACEPTION IN [OUR CAMP], ALTHOUGH WE HAVE ASKED FOR IT. WE NEED THIS. IT IS TOO HARD FOR A WOMAN TO GO THROUGH PREGNANCY IN THIS PLACE"

Woman interviewed on mainland Greece in November 2016

Photo credit: Claire Veale

For further information, download our full reports here: www.refugeerights.org.uk/reports