



# One Happy Family News

June 2018

## Situation on Lesbos

More than 9,300 people are currently stuck on the island. These are the numbers from the Hellenic Ministry of Migration, whereas the UNHCR reports a lower number, around 8,000. According to the UNHCR, this significantly lower number is due to a new estimation tool.

### Plan of the government

Tsipras announced during his stay on Lesbos last month that until September 2018, the government wants to reduce the number of the people stuck on the islands (there are around 15,000 people at the moment) to 6,500 – which would then be the normal capacity of the camps on the islands. It is not clear how this plan would be achieved. One focal point is the acceleration of the asylum procedure which has been condemned by several human rights groups. This is implemented by a new migration law that was voted on recently by the Greek parliament. Unfortunately, this law increases the difficulties associated with the asylum procedure, and it maintains the geographical restrictions.

Tsipras also asked the European Countries for help again. It is clear that Greece will not be able to ameliorate the situation on its own. Living conditions for refugees on the mainland are unfortunately not much better than on the islands.

### Moria

With (again) more than 7,000 people residing in Moria, it is clear that medical and psychological services are hardly available. More and more people are stuck in Moria for a very long time, and mental health issues are steadily on the rise. After violent fights on the 26th of May hundreds of people, many injured, women and children, left Moria to look for a place to feel safe. Neither police authority, nor camp management or any other responsible body is able to provide the necessary protection and safety for everyone living in Moria. It's time to open the island and provide human rights!

## Quote

*„In order to repair the world, we need to repair our education“*

J. Korczak, slogan School of Peace

## Picture of the Month



We proudly present OneHappyPlayground! With different kinds of climbing, a wobbly bridge, chalkboards and a sandpit, our young visitors now have a place to enjoy themselves outside. The rebuilding of the outdoor playground was much needed - the safety of children at our space is always one of the main goals.

As it is the spirit of One Happy Family to give people back their dignity by providing them with jobs, building the playground was not only of interest for its future users, but also for its builders.

We are so thankful for all the hands involved – you created a masterpiece!

## News from the Community Center

It's getting warm on the island: Thus we introduced the summer opening hours again: The OHF is now open from 12pm until 7.30pm from Monday until Saturday.

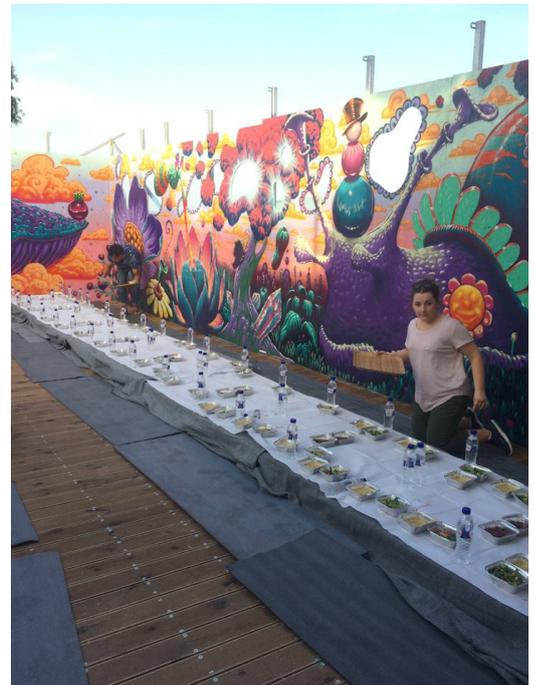
### One Year School of Peace

Soon after our birthday, the School of Peace celebrated its one year celebration. The children had prepared different songs, dances and presentations and they received their certificates of study after completing the May Semester. For this occasion, the Center was closed but fully occupied by proud parents, happy teachers and smiling children.



### Ramadan

We are celebrating Ramadan this year again. Two times a week, Tuesdays and Fridays, we prepare an Eftar dinner for around 550 people from Moria. Each of these days, "entry tickets" for the dinner are distributed in different sections inside Moria. People are transported with chartered public buses from Moria to OHF. It's a beautiful atmosphere to set up all the tables and plates in six dining areas and then – all together – to break the fast. Everyone started with three dates, followed by a three course meal. This would not be possible without the financial and personal help from different partner organizations, namely: Help Refugees, Refugees4Refugees and Help International. Thank you!



### Volunteer stories

'More than 9000 refugees are stuck on Lesbos. I know their suffering. It would be easier for me to forget what I've been through. But I don't want to banish my past from my thoughts. It gives me the power to help others that are in the same situation I was.'

Sam Salih's and other volunteer stories can now be found on our blog: <https://ohf-lesvos.org/en/blog/>.



## We need you!

This year: 67479

Last year: 49279

The numbers above show the number of visitors from June – December 2017 and the numbers from January until the 20th of May in 2018.

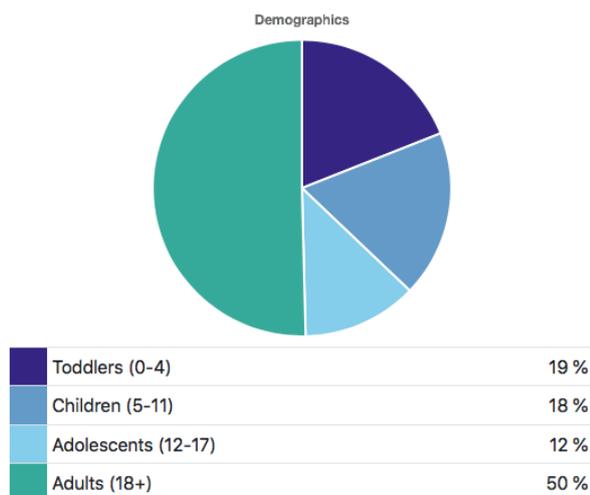
This means OHF has in 2018 an average of around 660 visitors a day. We get this number from the amount of people that register at the bank each day. This does not include volunteers, international visitors, tradesmen, or the children's school.

We are so incredibly proud that OHF is so welcomed by the community and that many people use the space.

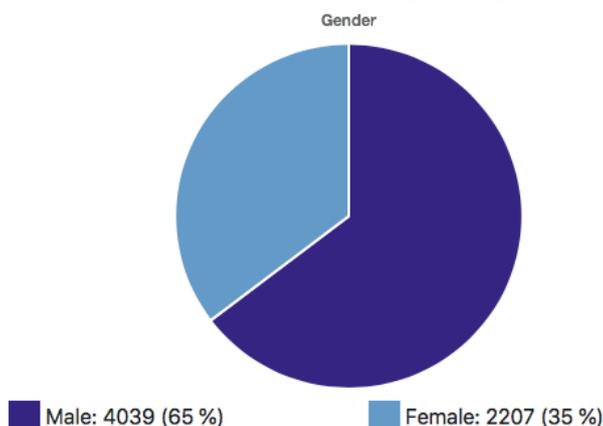
Running a space for an average of 660 people per day includes many costs. We want to be transparent and have to share that the donations have stagnated. We're struggling to be able to plan past July, as we just don't have enough money.

Please consider donating, every – even small - amount makes a difference!

Some more insights in our statistics:



Half of our visitors are under the age of eighteen.



Around 65 % of our visitors are male, whereas 35 % are female.

## One Happy Family: Mira



“You say:  
Listen, you are a strange family!  
Who's your mother?  
Who's your father?  
Why do you have to go outside to meet the family?  
Are those your children?  
(You are not even married.)  
And, honestly, it doesn't seem like any of you is  
Actually  
Here  
At home.  
Well, here is the answer, my friend:  
We are  
One minutes young and decades old,  
One multi-coloured, multi-language, multi-religious,  
One fled, tortured, lonely, traumatized,  
One hopeful, singing, dancing, silly,  
One listening, caring, protecting, loving,  
We are  
One Happy Family.  
<3”

by Mira

The path for some goes on, as well for Mira. We want to thank her for all that she did for the family, all the volunteers – especially the long term volunteers, and for the smiles and hugs for each and everyone. We're going to miss you like crazy – because we are sometimes as well one CRAZY family. <3

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