

MINUTES OF ATHENS CWC MEETING – THURSDAY JANUARY 7, 2015

Present: CARITAS, CRS, GCR, SAVE THE CHILDREN, UNHCR.

Introductory remarks: There was a smaller number of attendees today due to the clash of two other meetings which had been re-scheduled for our (CWC) Thursday timeslot. We will make sure for the next meeting that there are no scheduling clashes.

Piraeus port: Caritas reported that the volunteers previously working at Piraeus had been removed and then detained for several hours by the police. Caritas had received verbal permission from the police for the volunteers to be at the port but the police told them they did not have written permission, and no written permission would be forthcoming. The volunteer outreach therefore has now been discontinued while Caritas continues discussions with the police and the Port Authority.

STC reported that they had encountered opposition to putting up an information booth/kiosk at the port.

It was pointed out that the Jehovah's Witnesses are still present in force at the port and have not been moved on. This is because their unit is mobile (with wheels) and therefore they are able to move their operations.

Audio / ferries: A working group of all the NGOs interested has been formed. A report back from the group indicated that audio messaging is being developed and UNHCR will approach the Ministry and ferry companies when a close-to-final message has been developed.

IFRC's program Walkie Talkie Program (UNHCR has partnership in) is also going to be included in the approach to this Ministry.

The issue continues to be the content of the messages and how to direct people in what to do in Athens.

Elliniko: UNHCR did a major poster blast this week – signs and information were put up all through the camp with the permission of the Greek government management.

Save the Children have just started the Child Friendly Space at Elliniko and despite teething problems it looks promising. (UNHCR provided signs for the centre – CWC coordination win!).

It was reported the Elliniko camp management do not want any information posted about the skype schedules for asylum applicants. Discussions continue.

Elliniko is open until at least March (2016).

Refugeesinfo.eu – IRC are keen on making sure the site is in a state of constant verification and updated. They have created an Endomeni page that UNHCR has contributed information to (and also Leros page). Anyone interest in providing updated information to the IRC about their operation and its use to refugees, please contact Barbara.Magid@rescue.org.

Sexual violence and human trafficking – There is a real issue with lack of signs and information about sexual violence and human trafficking in Athens locations (and throughout Greece). Efforts have been made to find out what contact information can be put on a poster. Need a multi-lingual

contact that can be reached, and current inquiries indicate there isn't one. UNHCR will continue to investigate what contacts / information can be provided. Any assistance from other actors greatly appreciated.

Logo free signs – 100% logo free signs have been placed in Dropbox. Please access and use any and all that you need.