

Overview of services available to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse in Greece

Victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel can access services through the sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) referral pathways to State service providers, and assistance and support available through national and international non-governmental organizations. The Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate (OVRA) was not made aware of dedicated services to support victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, nor any assessment of the need for such services. United Nations entities informed the OVRA that refugees and asylum seekers in Greece, especially children, are likely to be at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. High demand for services, including from victims of sexual and gender-based violence, is a barrier to the delivery of adequate and sustainable SGBV assistance, support and care.



Scene from the Kara Tepe refugee camp. 18 June 2016, Lesbos, Greece. UN Photo/Rick Bajornas

Findings and recommendations on United Nations assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse

- Few allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse have been reported by individuals assisted in the reception and identification centres and informal camps for migrants. However, there is a **risk that incidents are unreported** given the lack of safe and adequate accommodation, absence of facilities segregated by age and gender and limited secure reporting mechanisms. **Unaccompanied and separated children** are at **particular risk** of sexual exploitation and abuse due to limited accommodation options and their **dependency on aid and assistance**.
- There are **gaps** in case-management and provision of **medical care** and **psychosocial support** due to limited staff, particularly doctors, psychologists, social workers and psychiatrists.
- United Nations entities work on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) through a PSEA Working Group that meets regularly, including with implementing partners and other actors.
- The **OVRA recommends reinforcing victims' assistance**, including through **follow-up**, informed by **victims' feedback**.
- The **creation of a PSEA Task Force/Network** supported by a **dedicated and trained PSEA Coordinator** should **be considered** in order to guarantee that victims receive appropriate assistance.
- The designation of a Victims' Rights Focal Point/s to engage with victims directly and keep them abreast of their cases should be considered in order to entrench a victim-centred approach, including by facilitating victims' immediate and basic needs through programming and rapid mobilization of resources.
- The **establishment of a system-wide pooled fund for support and assistance services for victims** should be **considered**. Opportunities for joint fundraising with United Nations Country Team members from United Nations funding facilities and mechanisms should be explored.



- The **adoption of a system-wide tracking and monitoring mechanism for victims' assistance** that is consistently used and updated **should be considered**. Such a mechanism should include details on referrals for assistance, assistance received and information on service providers.