

GREEK ASYLUM SERVICE

Questionnaire for the special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

Answers

Greece has ratified the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Regarding gender responsiveness and international protection standards, Greece has incorporated specific legal clauses and procedural guidance into the legislation in order to provide the legal framework for establishing public policies that enhance and develop gender responsiveness in granting international protection to asylum applicants comprehending all related aspects to this issue.

More specifically, Greek Asylum Service has been following the gender composition in the asylum statistical data that provides as well as the relevant data for unaccompanied minors. In 2018, 21.749 of the total number of asylum applications (66.967), or 32,48% were women, while from 01/01/2019-30/04/2019, this percentage is up to 30,65% (or 6.484 in 21.155)

Furthermore,

- According to art.39 para. 3 b, L.4375/2016 Gov Gazette A 51/3-4-2016, with the transposition of art. 10 of Directive 2013/32/EC “on common procedures for granting and withdrawing the status of international protection (recast) (L 180/29.6.2013), Greek Asylum Service ensures that the personnel, which examines the applications and decides upon them or makes recommendations for decisions, has knowledge of the national and international legislation and case law on international protection. To this end, it shall organize training and provide for the on-going in-service training of the personnel. It shall also ensure that the personnel have the possibility to seek advice, whenever necessary, from experts on particular issues, such as medical, cultural, religious, linguistic, child-related or gender issues. Furthermore, the Asylum Service shall organize training seminars independently, as well as in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). It may also organize training seminars in cooperation with civil society organizations. It shall communicate to the competent Decision Authorities the guidelines and information sheets on international protection issues made available by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
- According to art. 40 para.10 L.4375/2016 Gov Gazette A 51/3-4-2016, with the transposition of art.11 of Directive 2013/32/EC, If the application is lodged on behalf of the family members of the applicant, who claim the same grounds, the competent decision authority may issue one single decision concerning all family

members, unless to do so would lead to the disclosure of particular circumstances of an applicant which could jeopardise his or her interests, in particular in cases involving gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or age-based persecution. In such cases, a separate decision shall be issued for the person concerned

- According to art.52 L.4375/2016 Gov Gazette A 51/3-4-2016, .

When the interview concerns a female applicant, special attention is taken so that the interview is conducted by a specialised female case handler, in the presence of a woman interpreter, if so requested. In any case, if the applicant has expressed a preference as to the gender of the case handler or the interpreter at a previous stage of the procedure, special attention to this objective shall be given. If this is not possible, the relevant reasons are stated in interview report or minutes. 7. A separate personal interview shall be conducted for every adult family member. When minors are concerned, the personal interview shall be conducted taking into consideration their maturity and psychological consequences of their traumatic experiences.

Each case-handler must be sufficiently qualified to take into account the personal or general circumstances regarding the application, including the applicant's cultural origin. In particular, case- handler shall be trained especially concerning the special needs of women, children and victims of violence and torture.

Greek Asylum Service is continuously developing guidelines and policy tools regarding the case management of vulnerable applicants, recognized trafficking victims and gender responsiveness issues.

Greek Asylum Service examines all individual characteristics and personal circumstances of the applicant, including gender related issues and/or fear of prosecution due to gender related issues.

In addition, Greek Asylum Service by granting refugee status, takes into consideration all elements for evaluating any potential danger of prosecution in order to induce the applicant to special social group based on the gender factor.

Finally, Greek Asylum Service is collaborating with General Secretariat for Gender Equality Issues and organizes national trainings on the above mentioned issues.