## **FPCT Secretary**

From: International Christian Consulate <office@internationalchristianconsulate.com>

**Sent:** 07 April 2020 09:07

**To:** Roger Mills

**Subject:** ICC NEWS - MARCH 2020



## **Greece in Lockdown**

Greece watched as Italy rapidly fell victim to the Covid-19 virus and quickly began bringing in preventative measures.

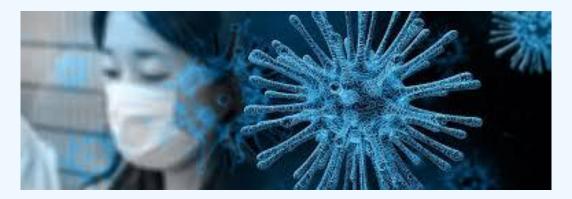
A few weeks ago, all day centres were ordered to close and so we had no choice but to temporarily close the House of Faith. Thankfully, we had been preparing for this for several weeks, and had already held several info-sessions to ensure our beneficiaries were as prepared as possible. Lockdown in Greece was inevitable. The Greek government have done very well to ensure the limitation of the spread of the virus, but has only done so through very strict measures. Violations of the measures result in heavy fines and risk prison sentences of between 3 years and life. Needless to say, we have had to take this very seriously and implement our own measures in accordance with government requirements.

Thankfully, all ICC beneficiaries are safe and well in their safe houses. As a community we are in daily contact through our WhatsApp group. Our daily prayer meetings are continuing, although remotely, and the whole ICC community is pulling together and standing strong in their faith.

These are challenging times. Resources are becoming very limited, and access to resources are extremely restricted. Currently Greece will remain in full lockdown until

April 27th, but there is talk that this will be extended until mid-May. We will continue to monitor the situation and follow government requirements.

Please keep us all in your prayers during this time. The virus has already entered the refugee population with two camps now in total quarantine. Please pray for the believers trapped in there. Please pray for ICC's resources and for the health and safety of all of our beneficiaries.



## Single mum gang-raped on Lesvos

Last month, just before the Covid-19 lockdown measures were implemented, we were able to extract a single mum with her two children from Lesvos. This beautiful Afghan family are strong believers but only two weeks before had suffered a horrific attack. As the family walked on the beach to escape the camp, a group of Afghan men surrounded them with big knives. They dragged Maliheh (not her real name) to a sheltered area of the beach and gang raped her. Her ten year old daughter and five year old son were forced to watch, with knives held to their throats.

"they said if I didn't stop crying, they would do the same thing to my daughter...

Afterwards, my children kept asking me 'Mum, why did they take your pants, what were they doing to you?'...

I know Jesus is with us, he will heal us"

When they arrived in Athens, we were able to safe house them, her son slept peacefully and her daughter sang songs to Jesus as we drove to their new place of safety.

Maliheh began to open up and pour out the details of that awful day, with streams of tears and much deep pain. Please pray for this dear little family. Pray for healing and restoration. Thank God also that we were able to get them out just in time. It was only days later that Greece went into lockdown.



This is particularly difficult time but thank you to each and every one of you who have continued to support our work. Without you, Christian refugees like Maliheh in dire situations, would have no way out.

**Make a Donation** 

## **Healing Retreat Project Update**

In spite of the virus lockdown, work has begun on the healing retreat facility. Diggers have been on site to dig the pit needed for the biological sewage system, and foundations for the toilet and shower block have been dug and steel reinforcements are being placed. Once signed off by the building inspector the concrete will be poured and the foundations completed...in preparation for the next phase of construction. We are hoping the sewage system will be installed in the next few weeks.

We do not have the funds yet to construct the building, but it exciting to see some progress being made, little by little. The foundations are a very important first step!

If you would like to contribute towards this project so that we can get the facility built, please make a donation or get in touch. Please pray for God's provision. This is an important project, but requires funding to become a reality.



Thank you for continuing to help us by supporting the work of ICC

Please keep us all in your prayers!

Apologies for the lack of new pictures in this newsletter - we are battling with very poor internet connections and uploading new photos is proving impossible!





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