

Dear State Secretary Mario Gattiker,
Dear Federal Councillor Karin Keller-Sutter

In Corona times, the Federal Council appeals to the solidarity of the population. This solidarity is needed by people in distress. Especially refugees, who often had to escape life-threatening dangers several times. We therefore call on you to take two very urgent steps:

1. Because of the Corona pandemic, the State Secretariat for Migration SEM should no longer make asylum decisions.
2. The Federal Council should offer effective protection to refugees affected by the serious general danger at the Greek-Turkish border. It should grant them an S permit for persons in need of protection to enter Switzerland directly in accordance with the Asylum Law.

On point 1:

The corona virus is currently causing serious worldwide consequences. In Switzerland, everyday life has been restricted due to solidarity. Everyone is potentially affected - including those in the asylum system. All persons seeking asylum, all employees of the SEM, the cantonal authorities, the legal protection services in the federal asylum centres, the other (legal) advice and support centres and the staff in the asylum camps. At present, the guarantee of legal recourse is no longer guaranteed because counselling centres have had to suspend their counselling services and legal protection in the federal asylum centres is severely restricted for the same reasons. Employees are absent or fall ill during an ongoing mandate. As a result, asylum seekers are not able to defend themselves legally well enough against negative asylum decisions, which is why we demand an immediate moratorium on decisions.

On point 2:

Precisely for situations of general violence, such as the one on the Greek-Turkish border, Article 4 of the Asylum Law provides for protection to be granted to those in need of protection "for the duration of a serious general danger". The Federal Council should immediately grant all persons concerned in the Greek-Turkish border area an S permit (persons in need of protection) so that they can receive immediate protection and enter Switzerland directly.

We ask you to act quickly and in solidarity. Refugees are a high-risk group and need protection.

Best regards