



## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

### **Only substantial solutions will put an end to the tension in the islands**

Athens, February 6, 2020 - The signatory organizations mentioned bellow, are following with great concern the -much expected - tension that has recently erupted in the islands.

Extreme delays in the examination of asylum, systematic anti-immigration rhetoric, as well as the overcrowding and the unacceptable living conditions in reception centers have led to tensions and violent situations, that do not help refugees or local communities to deal with their real problems.

We call the government, the local actors and the media to avoid the xenophobic rhetoric, that reproduces negative stereotypes and promotes racist reactions, exacerbating the tension that is already present in the islands, due to the unacceptable living conditions the asylum seekers have to deal with, as well its consequences to the local communities.

Furthermore, we call the government to ensure access to a fair asylum process, and to immediately decongest the islands, which will be beneficial for both refugees and local communities. In order for this to be achieved, rationality and co-operation with all bodies involved in refugee management must prevail.

**Organizations:** ARSIS, Medecins du Monde, Danish Refugee Council, Amnesty International - Greek Section, Network for the Rights of the Child, Diotima - Center of Studies and Research for Women, Defence for Children International Greece, Help Refugees UK, International Rescue Committee Hellas , Legal Centre Lesvos, PRAKSIS, Refugee Support Aegean (RSA), Solidarity Now, Terre des Hommes Hellas (TDH Hellas).