



The AWB Refugee Support Project



In 2015-16, millions of refugees from the Middle East and Africa migrated from conflict zones to potential safe haven in Europe. Many have started new lives while

many are still displaced, facing significant challenges. Most are dealing with deep trauma from war, dangerous migration, displacement and loss.

Treatments for Refugees in Greece

In May 2016, AWB began offering trauma healing ear acupuncture to residents in Greek refugee camps. Greece is a unique place for refugees: While many people made it to other parts of Europe in early 2016, tens of thousands were not so fortunate. The

Greek border closed in March 2016, stranding over 60,000 migrating people who had made it across the Aegean Sea in dangerous boats, but could not continue to other European countries before the border closure. Trauma levels are extremely high,

particularly among the thousands of children still living in camps or temporary housing, as well as women suffering increased levels of sexual and domestic violence.

AWB is the *first organization that we know of* that has brought trauma reduction acupuncture to refugee camps in Greece. Nine teams of AWB volunteers have done thousands of treatments in the EKO Station, Piraeus Port, Ritsona and Oinyfyta refugee camps since May 2016.

Training Greek Acupuncturists

AWB's mission is to create as much local "capacity" as possible. We have trained a core group of 10 Greek acupuncturists who provide weekly treatments at the Melissa Network (a social service support center for refugee women and children in Athens), and at the Plaza Hotel in Athens where 750 refugees live temporarily as they await asylum processing. Our Greek colleagues also work with AWB volunteers from the US and Europe on bi-monthly team trips to the Ritsona refugee camp.

Click on this link to see a video about AWB's trauma healing work in Greek refugee camps:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=Fjp7coAbp6w&app=desktop>



Trauma treatments for children at Oinyfyta camp ("ear seeds" have been taped onto acupuncture points in their ears, creating an acupressure effect)



AWB Team and Greek acupuncturists at Oinyfyta camp

AWB's Work in 2018...

In 2018 AWB will focus on coordinating trauma reduction projects in "transitional" venues as refugees move into local communities outside the camps. This includes training and supporting Greek acupuncturists to provide trauma healing treatments on an ongoing basis. AWB hopes to raise enough funds to provide small stipends for Greek practitioners, as well as supplies and transportation funds which are currently provided.