The Greek Council for Refugees was founded in 1989 with the goal of protecting the rights of refugees in Greece.

\*In accordance with the United Nations Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951, a refugee is a person that "…owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country…"

Our mission is to defend the rights of people who are entitled to protection in our country, and to promote their smooth integration into local society. Refugees and beneficiaries of international protection in general - particularly vulnerable cases such as unaccompanied minors, victims of trafficking, victims of torture, etc. - are the target group of GCR.

The issue of protection (provision of asylum) in Greece is extremely problematic. Our country is the first stop in the journey of a large and difficult to manage number of refugees and migrants in general, who are hoping to enter the EU by crossing the land borders of Greece - Turkey or crossing the Mediterranean by boat. Many of these persons do not succeed, losing every day their lives in this perilous journey.

Gcr intervenes on a variety of practices and levels to assist asylum seekers legally and socially.

The issue of asylum procedure in Greece, as well as the poor detention conditions at the detention centers or at the first reception centers for asylum seekers constitutes the main ground for the condemnation of our country by the European Court of Human Rights, as it is there that a systematic violation of fundamental human rights by the Greek authorities is observed

Furthermore GCR is active against xenophobia and against incidents of racist violence against refugees and migrants., GCR is aiming to raise awareness on this issue amongst the public (seminars, visits to schools etc) but also by taking charge of the registration and report of complaints of incidents of racist violence as well as the legal representation of the victims.