

ESC ESC2018

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Gynaecological Health Care in Immigrants (incl contraception)

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The Guardian



Surge in migration to Greece fuels misery in refugee camps

Reception centres vastly overstretched as more than 200 people arrive every day, 40% of them children

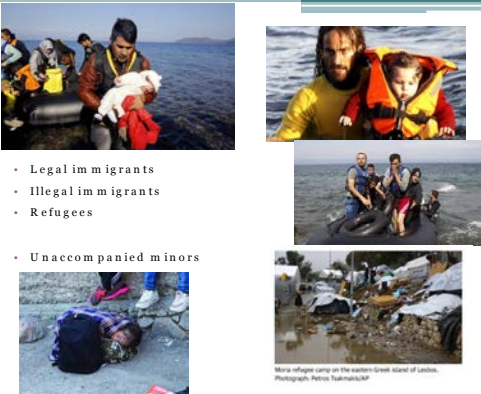
News > World > Europe

Greece 'allowed' hundreds of thousands migrants to illegally cross borders into Europe to reduce labour costs

Kayleigh Lewis | Thursday 10 March 2016 16:07 GMT |




<https://www.independent.co.uk/news>



- Legal immigrants
- Illegal immigrants
- Refugees
- Unaccompanied minors

More refugee camps on the eastern Greek island of Lesbos. Photograph: Petros Takis/AP



“ I felt like they were my own kids, my grandkids... We are from the same planet under the same God.”

Aimilia Karamagi

Women migrating from conservative religio-cultural environments

- Middle East
- Africa
- South Asia



## My origin:Asia Minor



1923  
Greek im migrants  
in Syria



Chair of scientific committee: Professor G.P. Chrousos

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Under the auspices



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ΥΓΕΙΑ ΓΙΑ ΟΛΟΥΣ - HEALTH FOR EVERYBODY



Because people in need are everywhere!

## Refugee Camps



- Koropi
- Thermopyles
- Filippiada
- Katsika



## Thiva Female Prison

- 90% immigrant women
- Mostly from African countries

## Aim 1: Providing information

- Contraception
- Breastfeeding
- Breast self-examination
- Personal hygiene

## Aim 2: Preventive services

- Sexually transmitted infections
- Cancer screening
- Contraception provision

The Quran allows contraception!

## IUD

This is an example

## Immigrant women

- All of the women preferred a female provider (often as part of the Muslim faith)
- Lack of previous health care screening
- Underlying health conditions may be present including infectious diseases endemic to their country

## Immigrant women

- In emergency obstetrics: having safe childbirth more important; therefore they accept intrapartum care from a male provider
- Some women perceived the care from a male provider as profoundly detrimental

## In Greece....

- Access to public hospitals, irrespective of health insurance coverage

## Story 1

- Emergency c-section in a 27-year old Syrian woman who arrived from Turkey
- History of two previous c-sections
- She reported pain in the scar of c-section throughout her trip to Greece
- Ruptured uterus, intact amniotic sac

## Story 2

- A 39 year-old Syrian woman had a pap smear and subsequently a cervical biopsy in July 2017
- a midwife working in the camp received the results of the biopsy reporting cervical cancer in November 2017
- Lack of certified interpreter
- Currently trying to find an interpreter in order to explain the situation and arrange further management

## Providing health services for immigrant women



## Goals

Health care for all women  
Certified Interpreters



## Gender of Provider—Barrier to Immigrant Women's Obstetrical Care: A Narrative Review

Christa Aubrey, BSc, MSc, MD<sup>1</sup>; Radha Chari, MD<sup>1</sup>; B. F. (Peter) Mitchell, MD<sup>2</sup>; Zubia Mumtaz, MBBS, MPH, PhD<sup>1</sup>

*J Obstet Gynaecol Can* 2017;39(7):667–677



## Accommodating Immigrant Women's Preferences for Female Health Care Providers

Christa Aubrey, MD, MS, Zubia Mumtaz, MPH, PhD, Patrick B. Patterson, PhD, Radha Chari, MD, FRCSC, and B. F. (Peter) Mitchell, MD, FRCSC

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OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

危机 = crisis(Wéijī)

• two symbols

Danger      Opportunity

## Need for immigrant women

- Maternal & child health services
- Family planning programs
- Prenatal care
- Access to abortion
- Women in labor
- Preventive services

## Conclusions

- Europe is currently facing its biggest crisis since the Second World War
- The Greek public have treated immigrants with humanity and respect



- Preference for female obstetricians, particularly among immigrant women from conservative religious or cultural backgrounds
- Language barrier – Need for certified interpreters!



*"....he showed with his deeds and the method of his logic that for somebody to be happy one has to be good..."*

*Aristotle, Eulogy to Plato 4cent BCE*



*Thank  
you* 