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On 3 April 2020, the CPME Executive Committee co-signed the 'SOS Moria appeal from European doctors' (CPME 2020/035).

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**SOS Moria Appeal from European doctors: bring refugees on the Greek islands to safety**

*The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) represents national medical associations across Europe. We are committed to contributing the medical profession's point of view to EU and European policy-making through pro-active cooperation on a wide range of health and healthcare related issues<sup>1</sup>.*

Please find below the 'SOS Moria Appeal from European doctors: bring refugees on the Greek islands to safety' co-signed by CPME. The full list of signatories and all further information can be found at [www.sosmoria.eu](http://www.sosmoria.eu).

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**Appeal from European doctors: bring refugees on the Greek islands to safety.**

As doctors in Europe, we call on the leaders of our governments and of the European Union to take immediate action to ensure the safety of refugees.

In recent years, the refugee camps on the Greek Islands have become increasingly overcrowded. The corona pandemic that threatens to overwhelm the camps will have catastrophic consequences for the refugees, the Greek inhabitants and the rest of our European society.

It is an illusion to think that a COVID-19 outbreak in these camps could be kept under control. 40,000 people are living on a few square kilometres, and there are only a handful of doctors present. Many children and adults are already ravaged by physical and mental traumas.

If Europe looks away now, this situation could escalate to become a medical disaster, which would represent a serious violation of the norms and values of European healthcare.

It is our duty to prevent this from happening, for the refugees, for the Greek people who have been in limbo for years, and for Europe as a whole.

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<sup>1</sup>CPME is registered in the Transparency Register with the ID number 9276943405-41.

More information about CPME's activities can be found under [www.cpme.eu](http://www.cpme.eu)



As doctors, we have sworn an oath promising to provide medical care to all people, irrespective of their personal background. As European doctors, we are obliged to do everything possible to prevent this looming medical catastrophe.

The leaders of the European Union also made a promise four years ago that each country would take in a fixed number of refugees from Greece and Turkey. Not a single EU country has complied with this agreement. Moving refugees to camps on the Greek mainland is not an effective solution; the camps on the Greek mainland are already overcrowded.

We call on all leaders of the EU to comply with the agreement from 2016, and to take refugees into their countries, in order to prevent a medical disaster on European territory.

*Signed and initiated by*

Sanne van der Kooij, gynaecologist (Netherlands) & Steven van de Vijver, GP (Netherlands)

*Endorsed by*

Prof Dr. Gerlach Cerfontaine - President of VvAA, Association of Dutch Medical Professionals.

Marcel Levi - University College London Hospitals

Prof Dr. Louise J. Gunning-Schepers - University Professor at University of Amsterdam, Crown Member of Social and Economic Council of the Netherlands, Chair Schiphol Group

Prof Dr. Hans Romijn, CEO AUMC

Ivan Wolffers, emeritus professor Amsterdam UMC

Prof Dr. Maria vd Muijsenberg, professor Radboud University and Pharos

Emma Bruns, surgeon and writer

Prof Dr. Maurice vd Bosch, CEO OLVG hospital

Prof Dr. Peter van der Voort, professor UMCG and Senator D66

Prof Dr. Henry Ascher - Professor at University of Gothenburg, Sweden