



Kavala (**Northern Lights**) 6 December 2021



**Leman, 47, and Nasrin, 20**

L: We are from Mosul, in Iraq. We left in 2018, because our enemy, Da'esh was in our country and they started killing people near where we live. My sister was hurt by them, so we all escaped because we didn't want the same to happen to us. We had to save our lives.

We travelled to Turkey and after 15 days we entered Greece, and were taken to Filakio camp. From there, we came here to Kavala.

N: We have been in Kavala for two years and nine months.

I have two brothers and one sister.

L: My husband is here as well. At home in Mosul, he was an electrical engineer. But here he cannot do that.

N: My brother and sister are twins, and are 15 years old. My other brother is 18.

They go to school here, but I cannot do anything here. I was in school for two months and then I was too old and I couldn't finish because I could not speak Greek.

L: Life here is difficult. We have nothing, and the government has given us a second negative decision for asylum. They didn't explain to us why that is.

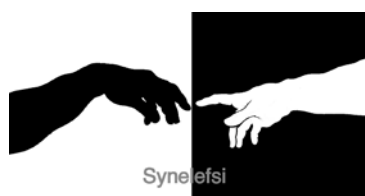
As a result, we have no money. We have no food, nothing, no water, and we can't go to work to get money.

N: My father sometimes works at the castles. He works breaking stones all day, I think they are then used to build new things. He has done it for three months. It's hard work but he is paid just €600 per month, because he isn't in the Greek system for work.

L: It's not enough for his work. It's also not enough for us to live on.

We need so many things for our home. We don't have enough food. Everyone is always hungry. I want to buy things for my children. Not big things, just things like clothes. Northern Lights helps us a little, but we have no money, no card, we can't even get vegetables to eat. We can't get meat.

We can't get good food. Everything is expensive. Too expensive for us, because we cannot get money.





The kids need clothes. They want things like mobile phones. They see other children with them and wonder why they can't have them as well. But we can't buy anything. We want to work and earn money for this but we cannot. They have to go without. A phone is one thing, you want it but maybe you can not have it. But not clothes. People do need clothes, and they are children.

I just want to cry (she cries).

It's so hard for me to be a mother like this.

It's so hard even to think about or talk about.

Now I am old. I don't want anything. All I want is for my children. I just want them to be happy, to have the things they want and need. It's what any mother wants for their children.

N: We don't know what will happen next. We will have to speak to a lawyer.

