



To the attention of:
Mr Michel, President of the European Council
Mr Sassoli, President of the European Parliament
Ms von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Concerning:
**Public Statement from European Cities
on Vulnerable Children in the refugee situation in Greece**

22 April, 2020

Dear Ms von der Leyen,
Dear Mr Michel,
Dear Mr Sassoli,

On a daily basis we see the evidence of totally deplorable conditions under which refugees are living on the Greek islands or along the border with Turkey.

The humanitarian crisis is worsening rapidly, and Europe should act and help.

We agree with Mr Sassoli's statement during your joint visit to the area earlier in March, that: "We need to make a commitment to the thousands of unaccompanied minors who have arrived at Europe's shores. We urgently need a strategy to protect them and their future. European governments have to show much greater generosity and solidarity with children in desperate need."

As mayors of major European cities, we are writing to let you know that we stand ready to do this.

We understand the geopolitical complexity of the situation and know that no easy answers are ready, especially for the longer term. But for the most vulnerable groups of refugees in the current situation, we need to help, and we are here to offer that help. Europe needs to step up to provide shelter, comfort and safety.

The latest figures available to us suggest that this group of unaccompanied minors numbers around 5,500 individuals.

We can provide these children with what they now so urgently need: to get out of there, to have a home, to be safe, to have access to medical care and to be looked after by dedicated people.

We are ready to receive them! Each of our cities pledges to accommodate a fair share and abide by the principles of solidarity and responsibility as expressed through the EURO CITIES [Solidarity Cities](#)

[Initiative](#). We are ready to work with the national and European authorities, to find the necessary relocation arrangements and realise accommodation solutions.

We hope our commitment will enable you to help us help them.

Statement approved by the cities of:

Amersfoort

Amsterdam

Arnhem

Barcelona

Ghent

Groningen

Leipzig

Nuremberg

Tilburg

Utrecht