

Contemporary Social Realities

Beginning around 2013, many refugees arrived on the island of Lesbos in small, self-inflating boats travelling from Turkey across the twelve-mile stretch of sea. Many lives were lost during those years.

By 2017, the situation had become more established, with camps operating on the island and thousands of people remaining there for months, often with little possibility of moving elsewhere.

I came to Lesbos, the island where my family originates, with the idea of developing a project that would bring refugees into contact with local people, particularly owners of olive groves and other small productive enterprises.

The project did not progress. By that time, tensions on the island had grown considerably. Local people were exhausted by the situation surrounding the camps, while the refugees themselves were living in conditions of uncertainty and often without access to basic necessities.

In the end, when everything else seemed impossible, we simply talked.

<https://youtu.be/T4nkHGmLy3o>

In 2026, I heard that legislation had recently been introduced allowing refugees and asylum seekers to work legally.