

**PS, 14.5 years old**

The 14.5 year old minor PS went to the hostel of Arsis in Makrinitza, Greece, after a referral from the Greek National Centre for Social Solidarity.

Right away, the carers noted that PS had no appetite, did not demonstrate the same energy levels as his peers and that his face was very pale. In agreement with the caregivers, the medical team decided to initiate preventive medical checks immediately to verify if medical treatment would be urgently needed or if tailored psychological support would need to be organised.

In the nearest public hospital, it was discovered that PS suffered from anaemia, due to parasitic hookworm infection. As the infection was already in an advanced stage, his blood iron levels were dangerously low. Previous medical check-ups had, however, not looked into the amount of red blood cells present in his blood and therefore the condition had not been mentioned in his medical history. With the infection being in such an advanced stage the life of the minor was actually at risk. Parasitic hookworm infections are contagious and therefore, the risk for the other inhabitants had to be minimised during the treatment process.

After the diagnosis was made, the minor was immediately rushed to intensive care, where he received several blood transfusions to improve his health. Upon discharge from the hospital additional medication was prescribed. However, Ramadan coincided with the recovery period and PS refused to take his medication as he was afraid this would be a violation of his fasting. Other minors of the same religion residing in the hostel imposed a strict observance of Ramadan to young people on the pain of mockery and physical attacks. Pressurised by them, PS stubbornly refused to follow the treatment he needed to recover.

Fearing that the patient's condition would worsen again, the team researched the rules Ramadan fasting. They discovered that patients are excepted; they informed the group of minors of PS' condition and asked everyone to do a good deed and let PS get well as soon as possible. Moreover they told the minors, that according to the Koran, PS could make up the days of fasting he missed during Ramadan in a later period, when it was completely healthy for him to do so.

The intervention of the team resolved the problem and PS continued his medical treatment.