

Is Greece eating its children? Greek student weighs in.

More than two weeks have gone by since the fatal train crash that shocked the Greek nation. Greek people's rage has been brewing as they are holding the government responsible for the deaths of 57 people, most of them students going back to university after the carnival celebrations.

The prime minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, has defined the incident as a 'tragic accident', while the station manager faces court on charges of official neglect. However, the people of Greece are not putting the blame on one person, but rather on the fact that the government had not taken the appropriate measures to prevent this accident.

'I am never getting on a Greek train again. I'm not surprised this had not happened sooner, knowing that nothing works as it should in that country', says Vasiliki Tsekoura, a 21 year old Greek student at De Montfort University. 'That is one of the many reasons I never want to move back to Greece. The country eats its children, as many say'.

Although the whole nation is currently filled with grief and anger, Greeks have grown adjusted to this kind of tragedies. The country suffers terrible fires every summer, usually experiencing multiple casualties. Back in July 2018, the death toll of the Mati fires came up to 103 victims, with the youngest being 6 months old. The prime minister at the time, Alexis Tsipras, claimed that the reason so many people failed to escape the fires was the poor city planning in that area. Once again, the government denied responsibility, although they are the ones responsible for the city's infrastructure.

'So many young people like myself leave the country for this reason. They are giving us no choice. Those who stayed in Greece to study, got on the train and died. The rest went to protest, and they got beat up by the police', Vasiliki says.

Looking around Athens, one would see a city full of tired people, disappointed with their government and their country. According to [macro-trends.net](https://www.macro-trends.net), around 50,000 Greeks leave their country annually. In the UK alone, it is estimated that there are 300,000 permanent Greek residents. Young people are looking for a place to live that will provide them with safety, job opportunities and a living wage, something that Greece has repeatedly failed to provide.