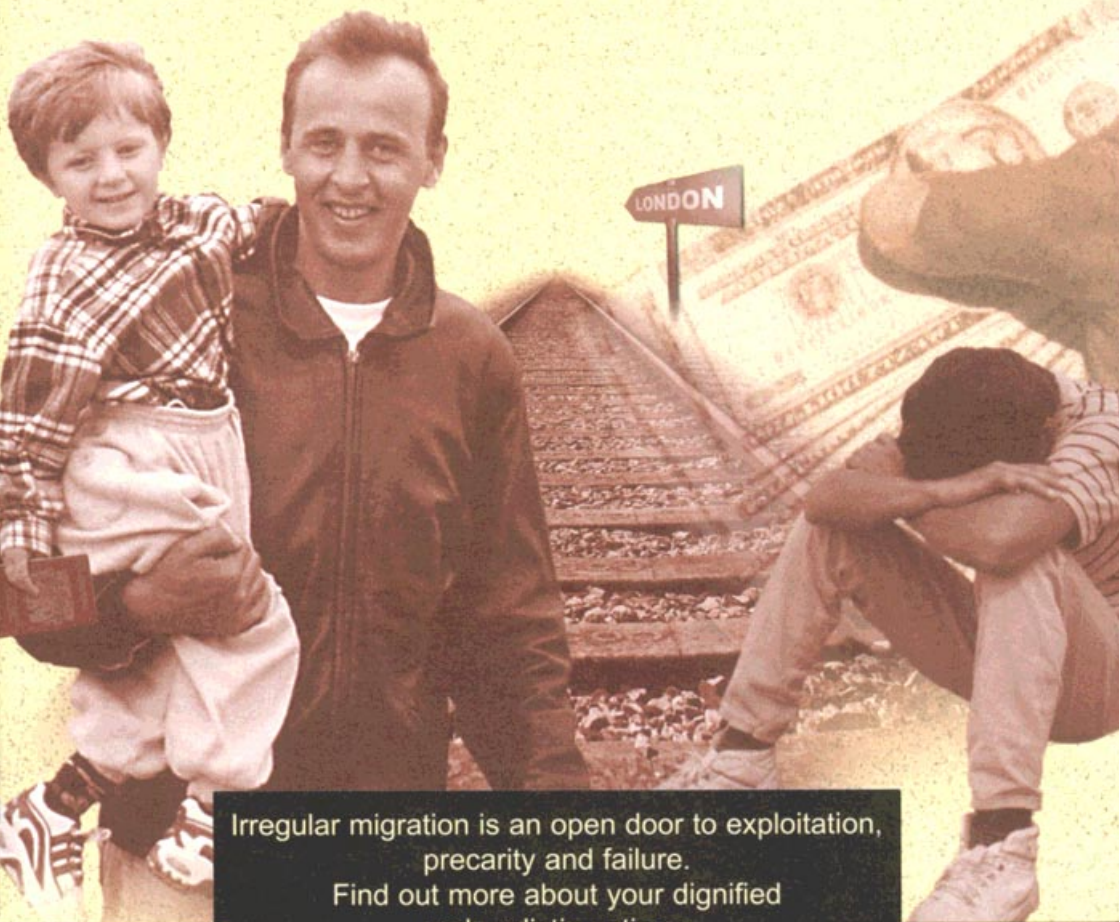


DIGNITY OR EXPLOITATION, the choice is in your hands



Irregular migration is an open door to exploitation,
precarity and failure.
Find out more about your dignified
and realistic options.
Talk to the IOM representatives
at the reception centre in Sangatte.

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It is likely that you had a long, difficult and expensive voyage to Sangatte. But before you decide on your next step, you should think carefully.



Please consider the following.

1) YOUR CURRENT SITUATION IN FRANCE

You are currently a resident of the Sangatte reception centre which is managed by the French Red Cross. This centre was set up by the French Government in order to provide short-term humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants like yourself. However, this situation is and can only be a temporary and precarious one.



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2) TRAVELLING ILLEGALLY TO THE UNITED KINGDOM (UK) IS DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS

Tight security

- The Eurotunnel area is protected by two barbed wire fences.
- Thousands of lorry checks are made at the tunnel and at Calais harbor.
- There are many police and soldiers patrolling the area.



As a result, during 2001 around 5,000 illegal migrants have been stopped each month at the Eurotunnel site and Calais harbor.

Real dangers

- The barbed wire is razor wire. It contains thousands of metal blades. These can cause you deep injuries.
- The railway is electrified. It carries 25,000 volts. If you get too close, you risk electrocution.
- Hiding under a lorry, you can be crushed or choked to death.
- Jumping onto a moving train, you can be maimed or killed.
- The Wind-speeds in the tunnel reach 200-mph. You can be blown off the train.



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By June 2001, at least four migrants had died and dozens more had been seriously injured while attempting to cross the Channel illegally. Last year, 58 Chinese nationals were found dead in a lorry at Dover.

3) ASYLUM PROCEDURES IN THE UK

There are many rumours about the asylum system in the UK. These are the facts :

High refusal rates

Of all asylum decisions taken in the UK in the first 4 months of 2001, less than one in four was a grant of asylum or exceptional leave.

Faster decisions

The UK authorities are now taking asylum decisions much faster. If your claim can be decided quickly, you may be sent to Oakington Reception Centre for a decision in about seven days.

Limited support

The UK government does not automatically provide asylum seekers with a house and money.

If you obtain support, you have no right to choose where you live. Most authorised accommodation is hundreds of miles from London.

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The authorities meet your essential living costs mainly with vouchers - not money. The vouchers can only be used in certain places. The value of the vouchers is modest compared to the cost of living in the UK and is just sufficient to cover day-to-day needs.

For single asylum seekers, accommodation and voucher support is taken away when a decision has been made on their application and any appeal determined.

Illegal working

Some people think that asylum seekers have an automatic right to work in the UK. That is not true. Employers face prosecution if they are caught employing illegal workers. If you work illegally you open yourself to exploitation.

Many enforced returns

There are plans to enforce the return of up 30,000 failed asylum seekers and their families from the UK this year. The authorities have also introduced faster procedures for returning other people who have no right to stay.

Detention

It is becoming more difficult to disappear if your asylum claim fails. The authorities are detaining large numbers of failed asylum seekers for their enforced return.



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4) POOR LONG-TERM PROSPECTS FOR THOSE MAKING UNFOUNDED ASYLUM CLAIMS

The long-term prospects for remaining illegally in the UK are not good.

Poor prospects for regularising your stay

If you live in the UK illegally for many years, this does not automatically entitle you to regular residence. And with the Immigration Service recruiting many more enforcement officers and creating more arrest teams, the chances of remaining undetected are getting slimmer.

Poor prospects for reuniting with your family

Family reunification in the UK is only considered for the relatives of people whose stay has been regularised.

Danger of being exploited

If you stay in the UK illegally, you run the risk of being exploited. This could take the form of low wages for illegal working, high costs for rent and services, forced prostitution, forced labour, debt bondage, domestic slavery and begging.



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People who exploit you have a simple and powerful weapon against you: they can tell the authorities that you are in the UK illegally.

The people who exploit you are often the ones who arrange your travel. These traffickers are organised criminals with profit as their only motivation. They are prepared to use threats and violence - against you or your family.

There is a better choice.

5) IF YOU WISH TO GO HOME, IOM CAN ASSIST YOU IN COOPERATION WITH FRENCH OMI

If you wish to go home, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) can help you through its Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) Programme. This is an IOM service available to asylum seekers, denied asylum seekers and other migrants living or stranded in transit or host countries, who are willing to go back voluntarily to their country of origin.

What are its advantages?

- There will be no stigma; you will not be barred from applying to travel to the UK in the future as a regular migrant under immigration rules;
- You will benefit from professional counseling on further options;
- You will be provided with some small financial assistance;
- You will return under dignified conditions;
- You will have a free, guaranteed safe return to your home country.

What exactly can IOM do for you?

- Help you make an application (check for completeness; collect and fill in missing information);
- Help with the travel documents you need;
- Make travel arrangements and book the flights;
- Arrange for transportation from Sangatte to departure airport;
- Assist with airport clearance and general care of you prior to flight;
- Give you a modest amount of money on departure against signed receipt through the French Office des Migrations Internationales.

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If you would like to discuss going back to your country of origin, you can contact the IOM representatives in the Red Cross Shelter at Sangatte. They will provide you with details on the benefits of voluntary return as well as an application form and procedures to be followed.

The International Organization for Migrations is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

As a 50-year-old intergovernmental body, independent and neutral, IOM has helped more than 12 million migrants in more than 100 countries.



Think well
Choose wisely
The decision is in your hands