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IRREGULAR MOVEMENT



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All of you that have travelled so far already know how dangerous and hard this journey is. Sometimes we are so desperate for the sake of those we love, that we are ready to risk our lives. But in order to make a good decision, we should have all necessary information about our position and options.

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When you travel to a country without valid travel documents and authorization to enter, stay or work in that country, you are an irregular migrant.

It is possible that in some situations people feel they have no choice but to enter another country without permission. This is not legal, but it does not mean you are a criminal.

A group or a person should not be pushed back from the border without a proper examination of the problems of every individual. This is prohibited.

No one has the right to force you to sign a document saying that you wish to return to your country by your will.

Violence against you by border police or any other is unlawful. It is the duty of the state you are in to protect you from violence and to protect your life.

If conducted by a state official, extreme violence can be torture, such as giving electric shocks or letting dogs bite you. You could also be exposed to degrading treatment and violation of your rights, such as insulting or pouring alcohol on you. Experiencing repeated violence can have very harmful effects on mental health.

Living for a long time in a country without any legal status can mean that it will be easier for criminals to exploit, abuse and even blackmail you with threats of various kinds.

It is exploitation if you are forced to work or if you are an unregistered worker without regular or enough pay. This is against the law. You have the right to report.

It is possible that you do not realize that somebody has sold you to another person who might make you work or do degrading things against your will. This could be trafficking and you have the right to report to authorities.

If it happens during your journey that you are treated worse than others because of your skin colour, religion, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc. you have the right to complain because this is discrimination and it violates your rights.

If you survive or witness harmful traditional practices such as blood feud and revenge, honour killing, child marriage, forced marriage, etc, know that they are against the law. They cannot be part of anyone's

culture. If this happens to you on the way, you have the right to report.

If you are a child and an adult wants to have sex with you, it is against the law. You should report this.

People might try to sexually attack you regardless of your age. You should report this.

Every time you travel and go to the “game”, you are taking a big risk for your life and safety. You can be robbed or kidnapped. Horrible accidents can happen.

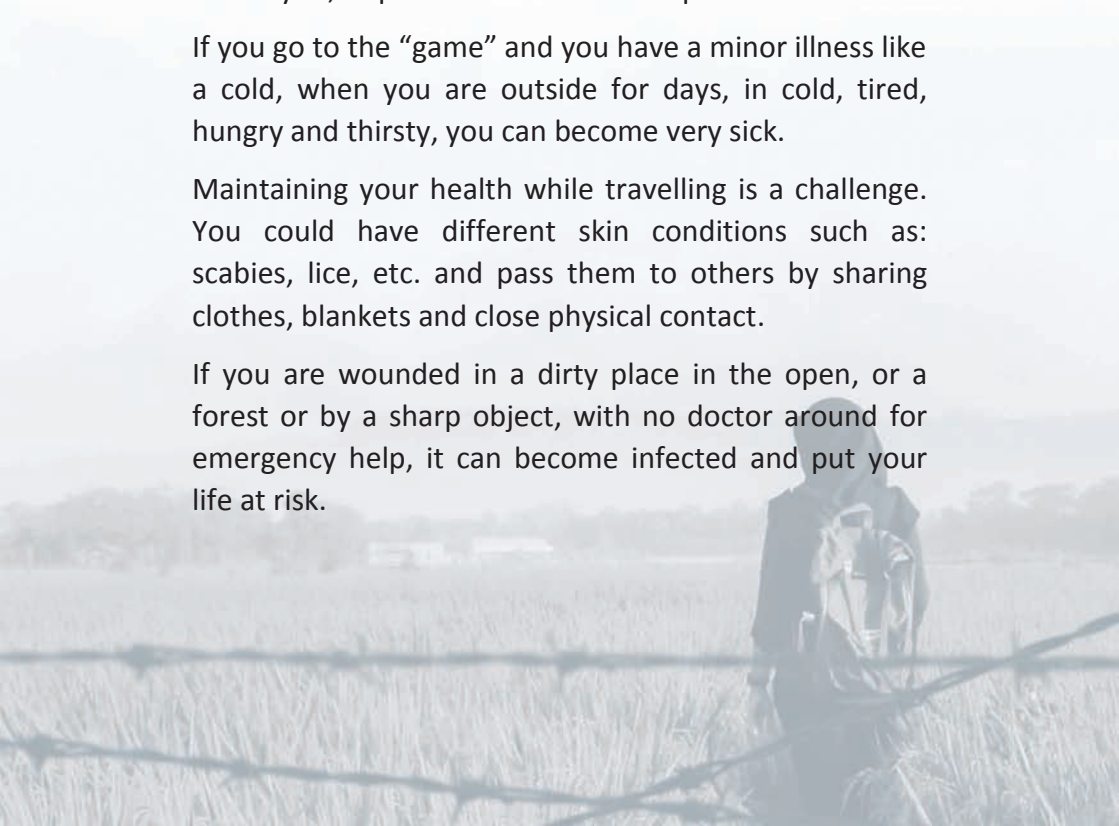
In some regions, there are minefields from earlier wars. Crossing them is very dangerous.

There can be dangerous animals in forests that can attack you, or poisonous animals and plants.

If you go to the “game” and you have a minor illness like a cold, when you are outside for days, in cold, tired, hungry and thirsty, you can become very sick.

Maintaining your health while travelling is a challenge. You could have different skin conditions such as: scabies, lice, etc. and pass them to others by sharing clothes, blankets and close physical contact.

If you are wounded in a dirty place in the open, or a forest or by a sharp object, with no doctor around for emergency help, it can become infected and put your life at risk.



You should be allowed to receive emergency medical treatment, no matter what is your legal status in any place you are.

Your smuggler or group can abandon you if you are exhausted or sick. Even if you call for help, it will take time to reach you.

Travelling in trucks can be very dangerous. Entering trucks for carrying chemicals or oil and refrigerator trucks can result in death. If the truck driver parks it and goes away, people can die of hunger and thirst if they can't call for help.

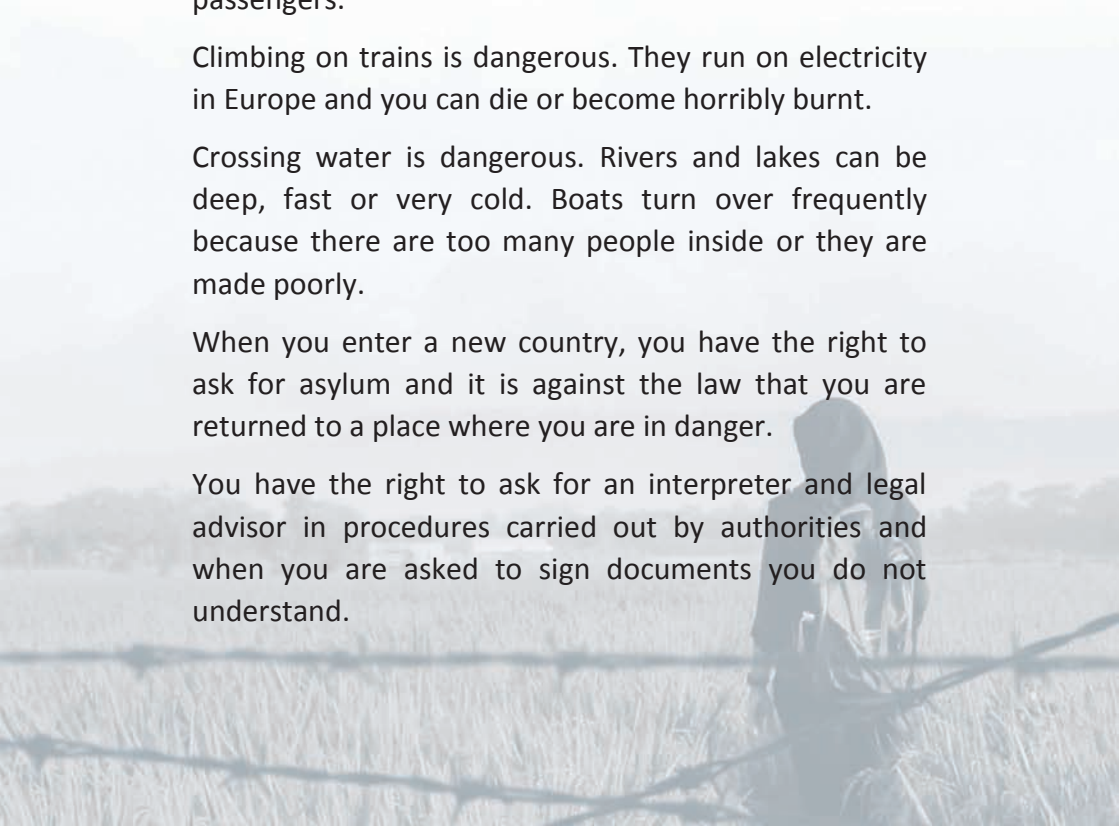
If the smuggler puts too many people in a car, it is more likely that accidents will happen, resulting in death of passengers.

Climbing on trains is dangerous. They run on electricity in Europe and you can die or become horribly burnt.

Crossing water is dangerous. Rivers and lakes can be deep, fast or very cold. Boats turn over frequently because there are too many people inside or they are made poorly.

When you enter a new country, you have the right to ask for asylum and it is against the law that you are returned to a place where you are in danger.

You have the right to ask for an interpreter and legal advisor in procedures carried out by authorities and when you are asked to sign documents you do not understand.



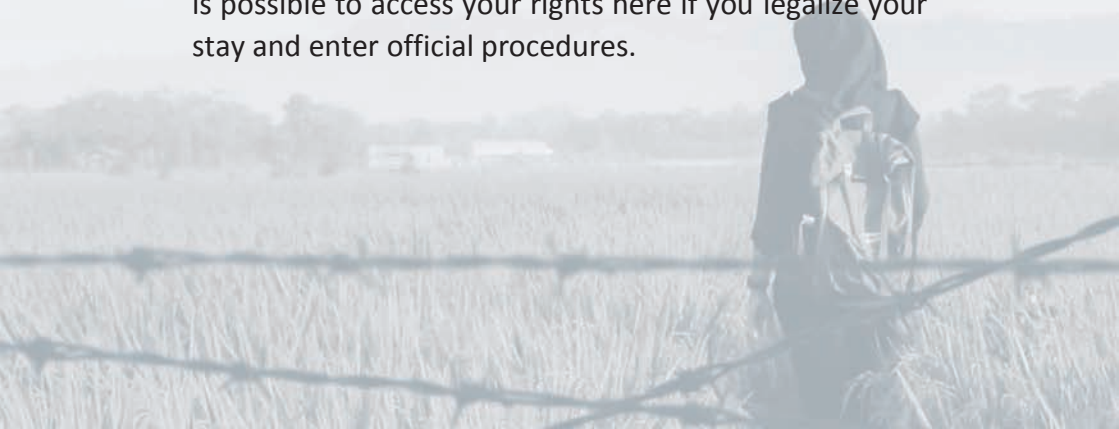
If you are a child travelling alone, you have the right to a legal guardian that will work in your best interest.

The detention of irregular migrants should be used only as a last resort and not for an excessive period of time. If in detention, you have the right to be informed in a language you understand and you should be able to contact anyone of your choice.

If detained, you should be separated from criminals.



Think well before making decisions. Use official sources of information instead of relying only on information provided by your smuggler or your family. Some people might deliberately want to misinform you, and some can be mistaken. Transit countries might seem to be just a step away from your destination, but the dangers are still there. Sometimes risks remain even in destination countries. If you can't stay there legally, you might end up living irregularly. Finally, it's your right to make choices for yourself, but finding legal solutions can help you have more rights and better protection. Even if Serbia or other countries you perceive as transit, might not seem to be the place you wanted to reach, it is possible to access your rights here if you legalize your stay and enter official procedures.



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