

**THE JOURNEY OF HOPE CAN TAKE
A DEVASTATING TURN FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
PLEASE THINK TWICE**

By undertaking **irregular/unsafe routes** to reach your destination you are **exposing** yourself and your family to the life threatening risks. Undertaking such journeys makes **you and your family** vulnerable **to ill-treatment, violence, human rights violations including legal penalties.**

Violence: During the journey, you and your family may face situation where you are more vulnerable to violence. So, you may be victims of physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence manifested in the form of:

Physical assault: When undertaking unsafe journey, you may be physically attacked, injured or murdered by the members of unlawful groups, if you are unable to pay them or refuse to handover your belongings. You may be harmed by host communities due to xenophobia.





Sexual assault: During your journeys, migrants/refugees especially women and unaccompanied minors may be exposed to many risks including of being raped, sexually assaulted and sexually humiliated. Please be aware of it. Moreover, in the worst-case scenario you might end up being enslaved by human traffickers, who may possibly use you in a sex trade industry.

Left in middle of nowhere: During the journey, the smugglers will leave you in the forest or nowhere stating that you reached final agreed destination or any other excuse.

Verbal abuse: Many refugees /migrants may be threatened, insulted or humiliated by members of the unlawful groups, host community or even security forces through verbal abuse.





Extortion of property/forced labour: During the journey, your money and other valuable items may be extorted by organized unlawful groups such as smugglers and human traffickers or host communities. In other cases, if you are unable to pay the organized unlawful groups for their smuggling services, the smuggler may become a trafficker by imposing a similar practice to slavery.

Life-threatening conditions

Depending on the way you choose to undertake the journey and the means of transport, remember that all illegal routes bear its life-threatening risks such as:

Extreme temperature:

In the winter, when travelling through forest, you and your family may suffer hypothermia, which in most cases, results in death of migrants during the road. Same applies if you are traveling with refrigerated trucks, or in case the boat you are traveling will sink.





Starvation and dehydration:

During the journey, you may be lost in the middle of nowhere, and in absence of food and water, you may pass away. Same applies if you are traveling with trucks or other means of transport where you are not allowed by smugglers to carry sufficient food and water.



Suffocation: During the journey, you may be put in a lorry or other means of transport which may be overcrowded with other refugees/migrants and depending on the length of the journey, you may fall victim of suffocation.





Poor health and sanitation: During the journey, you will be faced with poor sanitations which leads to a life threatening infectious diseases, such as: Covid-19, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis etc.



Land mines: When traveling in the mountains/forests/woods, you may walk through areas littered with active land mines and step on them.

Wild animals: If you intend to cross states through woods/forests, you may be attacked by wild animals.



LEGAL CONSEQUENCES

When undertaking unsafe/illegal journeys, you and your family may be subject to:

- Arbitrary/unlawful arrest or detention,
- Entry denial / pushed-back and
- In certain circumstances, you might be charged for criminal offence/activities.

LEGAL AID

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*CRP/K is a local non-governmental organization,
partner of UNHCR.*



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



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