

# Your Journey Your Future:


*Choose Safe Migration*





# THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFE MIGRATION

## *Why Safe Migration Matters*



Migrating for work, education, or a better life can be rewarding, but only if done safely. Choosing legal migration channels protects your rights, ensures access to essential services, and helps you achieve long-term success. Unsafe migration, on the other hand, can lead to life-threatening risks and exploitation.

## *Understanding Migration*

Migration refers to moving from one place to another for work, education, or improved living conditions. The two types are:

**Regular Migration:** Moving legally with proper documentation such as a visa or work permit.

**Irregular Migration:** Traveling without legal authorization, often involving high risks and unsafe conditions.



# DANGERS OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION

## *Who is an Irregular Migrant?*

An irregular migrant is a person who enters, resides in, or works in a country without complying with the legal requirements (immigration and emigration rules and regulations) set by that country. This includes situations such as:



- Entering a country using fraudulent documents or avoiding official border crossing points.
- Staying in a country after the expiry of a valid visa or work permit.

Irregular migrants often face significant risks. They are more vulnerable to human trafficking, forced labour, slavery, and labour exploitation. They are also at high risk of physical and psychological abuse.

Irregular migrants can face consequences if they violate the immigration laws of the destination countries and may also sometimes result in deportation.

## Why You Should Avoid Irregular Migration?

**Exploitation by smugglers and traffickers:** Migrants without legal protection are vulnerable to forced labour and abuse.

**Dangerous Journeys:** Crossing deserts, seas, or conflict zones can be life-threatening.

**Legal Consequences:** Traveling without proper documentation may lead to arrest, detention, or deportation.

**Limited Access to Basic Services:** Irregular migrants often struggle to get healthcare, education, and safe employment.



# THINK TWICE BEFORE TAKING RISKS

Many young people have faced severe hardships due to irregular migration. Some have been deceived by smugglers, while others have died attempting dangerous journeys. Learning about these risks helps you make informed decisions.



The story below tells a tale of irregular migration, revealing the hidden dangers behind false promises:

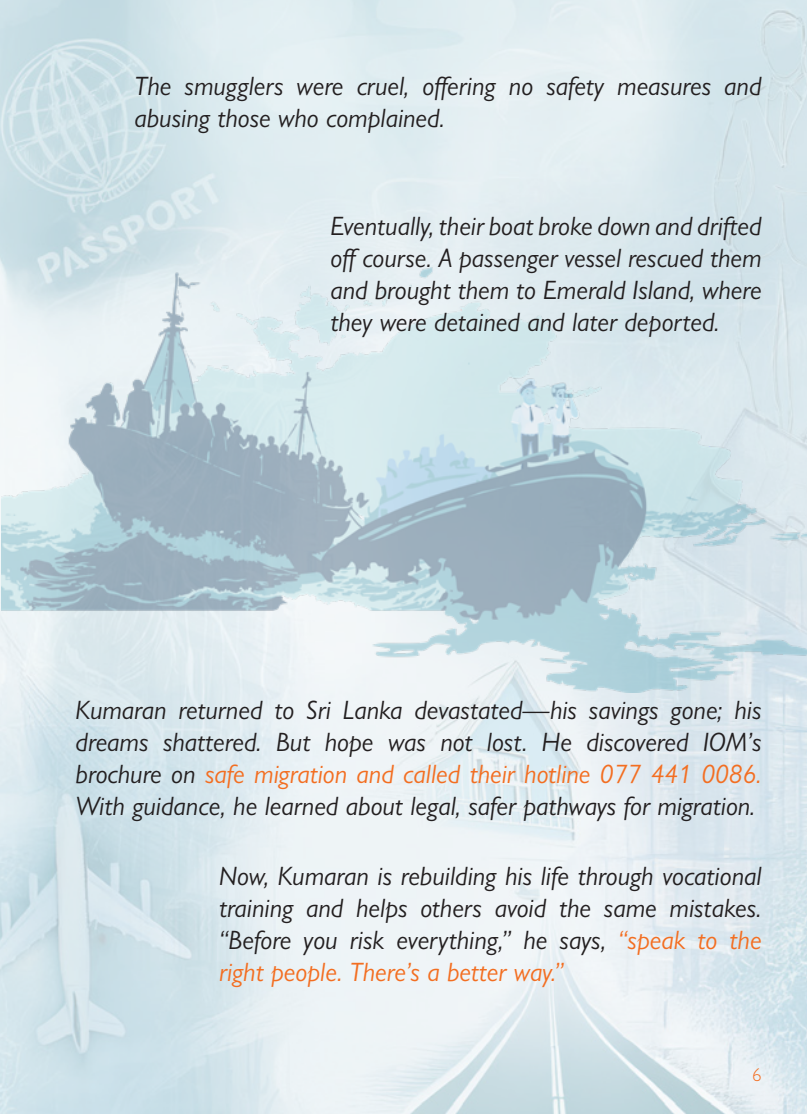
*Vinoth sat on the beach, listening as his friend Kumaran shared the painful story of his failed attempt to reach Europe.*



*Desperate for a better life, he had paid a smuggler million, selling his family's land, cattle, and jewellery. The smuggler, a well-dressed man named Matthew, promised an "easy" boat ride to Europe via Emerald Island. But it was all a lie.*

*The journey was terrifying. The boat was overcrowded, food and water were scarce, and fear hung heavy in the air. "Every time the boat tilted, I thought we would die," Kumaran recalled.*





The smugglers were cruel, offering no safety measures and abusing those who complained.

Eventually, their boat broke down and drifted off course. A passenger vessel rescued them and brought them to Emerald Island, where they were detained and later deported.

Kumaran returned to Sri Lanka devastated—his savings gone; his dreams shattered. But hope was not lost. He discovered IOM's brochure on *safe migration* and called their hotline 077 441 0086. With guidance, he learned about legal, safer pathways for migration.

Now, Kumaran is rebuilding his life through vocational training and helps others avoid the same mistakes. "Before you risk everything," he says, "*speak to the right people. There's a better way.*"



# **FOLLOW THE SAFE AND REGULAR MIGRATION PATHWAY!**

*What are some of the main documents/  
requirements related to migration for  
employment?*

1. Valid Sri Lankan passport
2. Valid visa and/or work permit (if required)
3. National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) certificate level 3 or above or any other recognized qualification certificates
4. Police report
5. Health assessments and health report
6. Employment agreement/contract
7. Family background report (FBR) if you are female migrant worker (below 45 years) or have children below 2 years. (Based on the guidelines issued by the government authorities)





8. Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment registration prior to leaving Sri Lanka
9. Age requirements: Check the government stipulated age limits for employment in certain countries
10. Inform a Trusted Person: Share your travel plans with a reliable/trusted family member or a friend.
11. Know Your Rights: Understand labour laws, worker protections, and where to seek help if needed.

# **WHAT MEASURES**

*should I take before I leave Sri Lanka for employment?*

Carry copies of all important documents (passport, visa, ticket) with you. This will help you in an emergency if you lose your travel documents in transit or on arrival/stay in the destination country.

Leave a copy of the same important documents with a responsible family member.

Take the contact number of the Sri Lankan Embassy/ High Commission in the destination country.

Take contact numbers of your family and friends in Sri Lanka who can assist you during an emergency.



# CHOOSE SAFE MIGRATION!

- If you are planning to migrate, seek guidance from relevant government entities. Refer to reliable information available on the websites of respective embassies and high commissions to ensure a safe and legal journey. Avoid the risks of irregular migration and secure a better future through the right channels.
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) plays a crucial role in promoting safe, orderly, and dignified migration worldwide.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

IOM Safe Migration Information Hotline : 0774 410 086

Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) : 1989  
011 288 0500

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

### **Colombo Office**

011 532 5362

Level 09, Institute of Bankers of Sri Lanka Building  
No. 80A, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 8, Sri Lanka.

### **Jaffna Sub Office**

021 222 8620

No. 139, Temple Road, Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

### **Kilinochchi Sub Office**

021 228 5386

No. 240, Kanagambigai Kulam, Service Road, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka.

### **Batticaloa Sub Office**

011 211 2600

No. 28, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cross Street, Gnanasooriyam Square, Batticaloa,  
Sri Lanka.