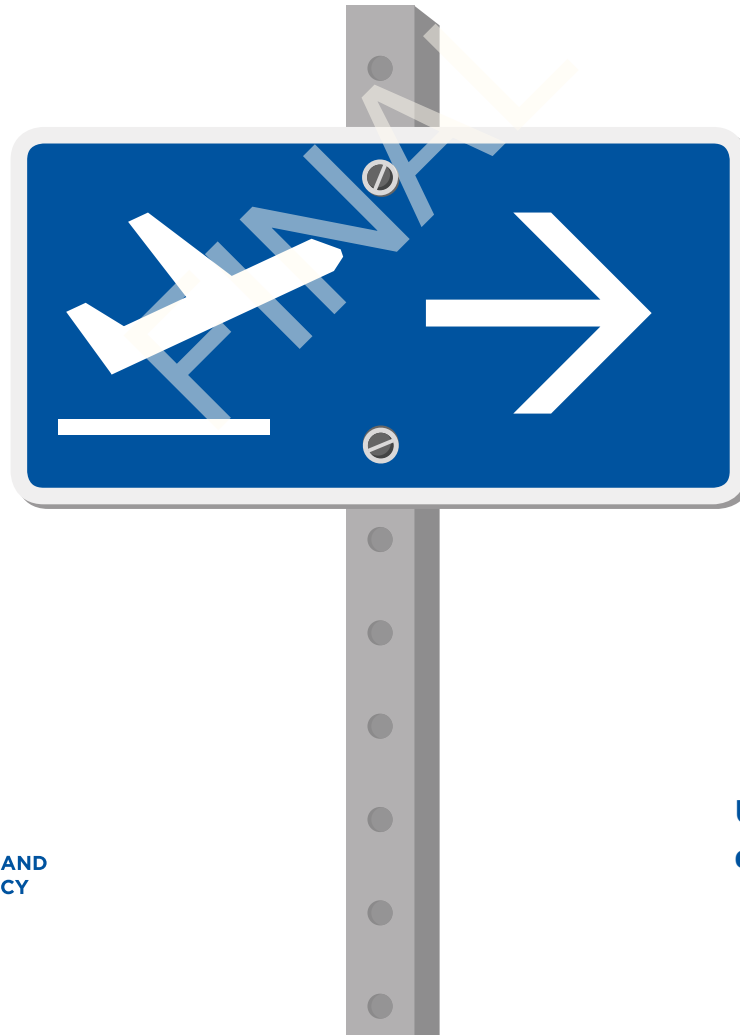


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FINAL

# My guidebook on return



**FRONTX**



EUROPEAN BORDER AND  
COAST GUARD AGENCY

**Unaccompanied  
children version**

This book belongs to:

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**We wrote this book for you, to help you  
understand what happens next**



You will return to your home country\*. This book gives you information on what might happen between now and when you arrive there. The more you know, the more prepared you will be for this big change in your life.

Do you have questions about traveling back to your home country?

Your guardian is there to answer these types of questions and more.

It is possible that some of what we describe in this book does not apply to you, or that these things will happen for you in a different order. As you take this journey you can ask your guardian any questions that are not answered in this book.

The most important thing for you to know is that when you arrive in your home country someone will be there to take care of you. The authorities in the country where you are now staying will make sure that a family member, a guardian, or a staff member from a care facility for children meets you when you arrive. They will take care of you and help you adjust to life in a different country.

\* Your home country can also be another country you chose that accepted you, where you will travel voluntarily.



# Important! Your rights

Just like adults, you have rights. Rights provide you with what you need to survive and develop, protect you from violence and discrimination, and help you participate and to be heard on decisions that affect you. People under the age of 18 have special rights and these are written in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This is an important agreement by countries who have promised to protect the rights of ALL children. All the rights are connected. They are all important, they cannot be taken away from you, and you have these rights everywhere you go.

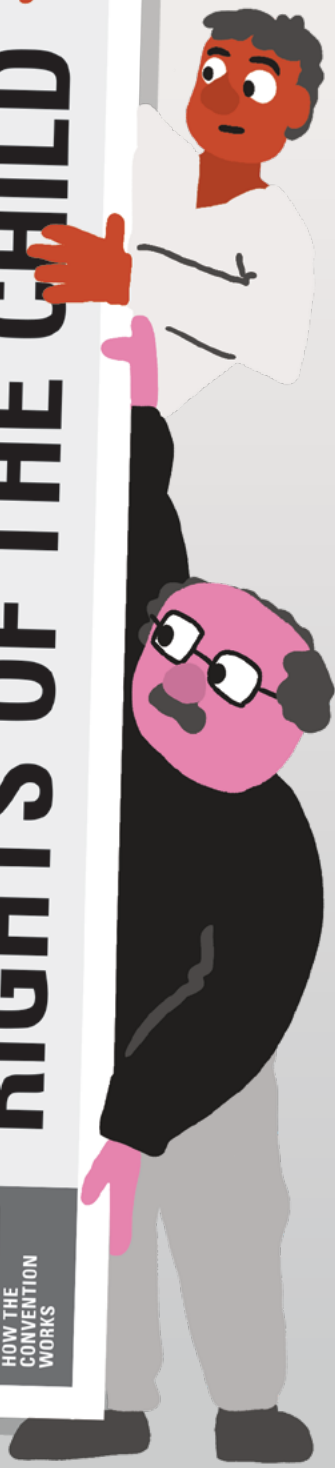
On this page you can find the UNICEF poster with the children rights.

**For more information:**



17	18	19	20	21
ACCESS TO INFORMATION	PROTECTION OF PRIVACY	RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS	CHILDREN WITHOUT FAMILIES	CHILDREN WHO ARE ADOPTED
22	23	24	25	26
REFUGEE CHILDREN	CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES	HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT	REVIEW OF A CHILD'S PLACEMENT	SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HELP
29	30	31	32	33
AIMS OF EDUCATION	MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION	REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS	PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL WORK	PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL DRUGS
36	37	38	39	40
PROTECTION FROM EXPLOITATION	CHILDREN IN DETENTION	PROTECTION IN WAR	RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION	CHILDREN WHO BREAK THE LAW
41	42	43-54		
BEST LAW FOR CHILDREN APPLIES	EVERYONE MUST KNOW CHILDREN'S RIGHTS	HOW THE CONVENTION WORKS		

# CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



# Feelings about moving to your home country

Moving to your home country is a big change.  
Maybe you want to go, maybe you do not.  
You might not remember your home country.  
You might feel sad to leave your friends or school.



**Write about how you are feeling**

**Sometimes it is helpful to share your feelings with someone you trust.  
If you feel comfortable you can show them what you wrote.**



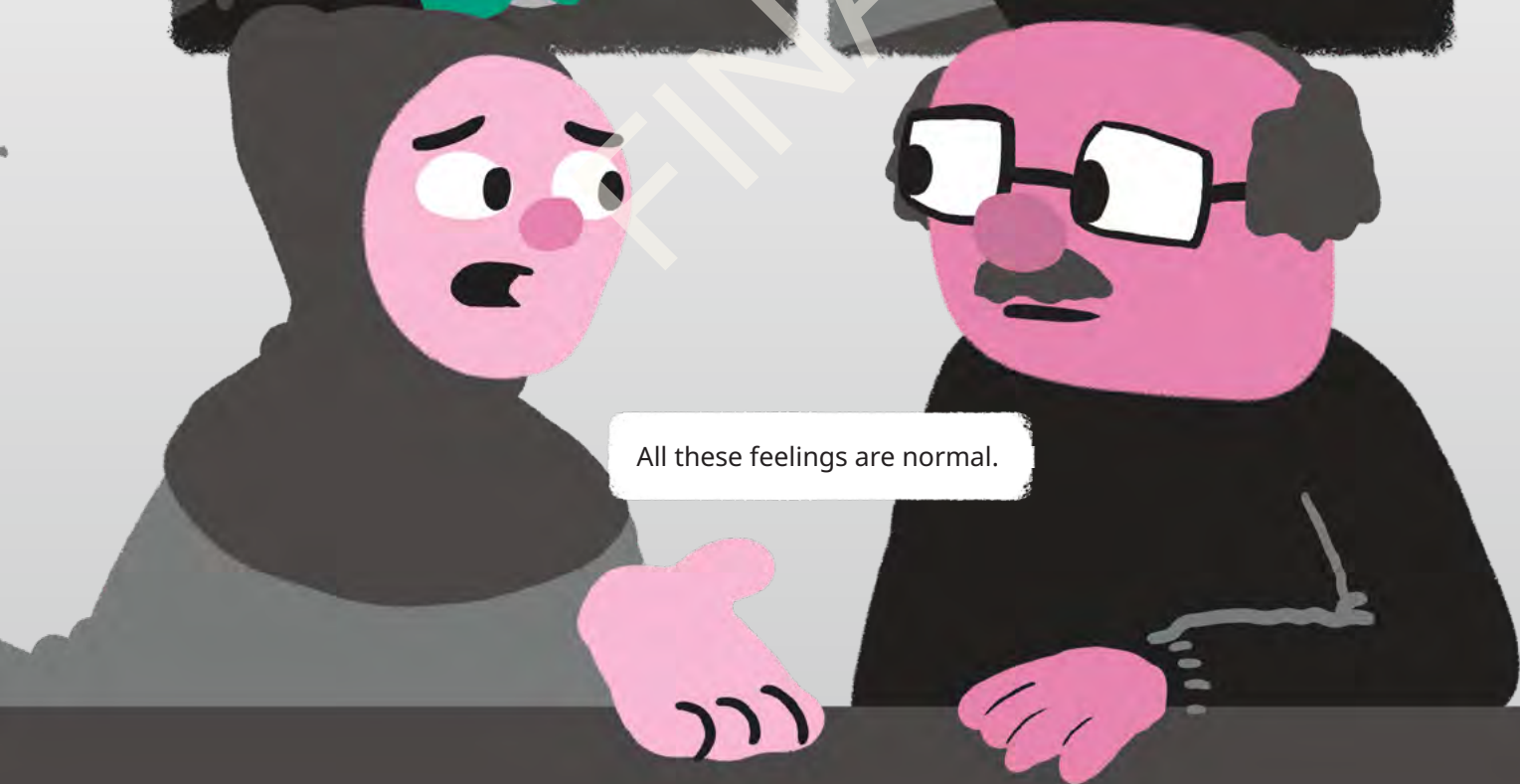
You might be worried about the move and uncertain about what your life afterwards will be like.



Or perhaps you are happy to see friends and family from your home country and excited about this change.



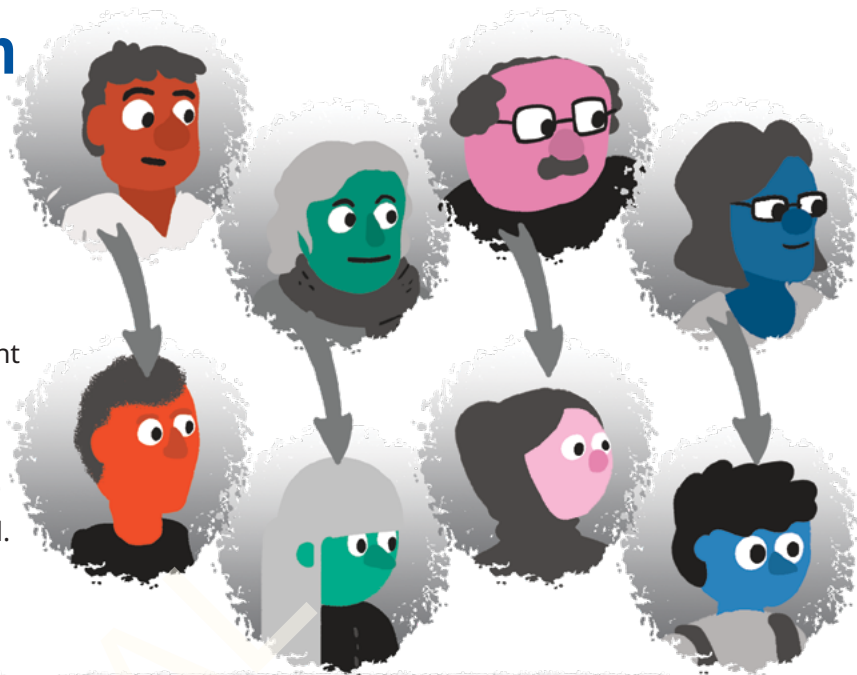
All these feelings are normal.



# Important information about your guardian

If you are under the age of 18 and arrive in Europe without your parent(s), you have the right to special protection!

This includes being appointed a guardian by the authorities as soon as possible after your arrival.

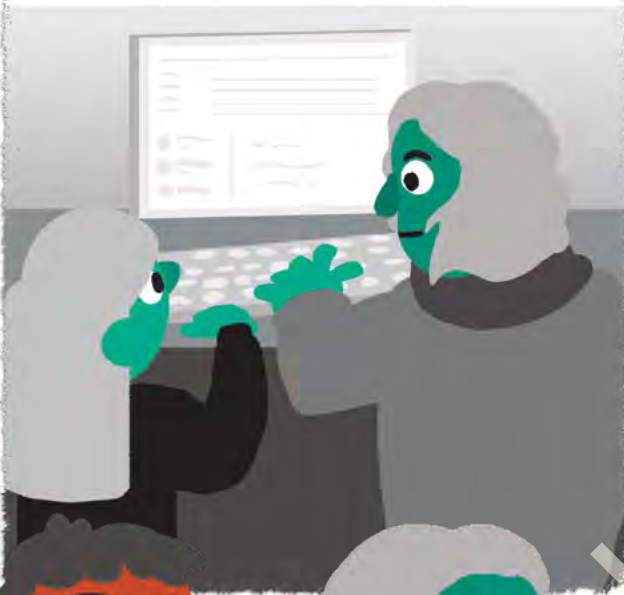


A guardian is a person who helps young people like you who are living away from their parents.



A guardian may help you enroll in school, get medical help if you don't feel well, decide where to stay, or travel home.

Your guardian may also help you contact your parent(s) or relatives.



A guardian's job is to help you with your needs and rights.



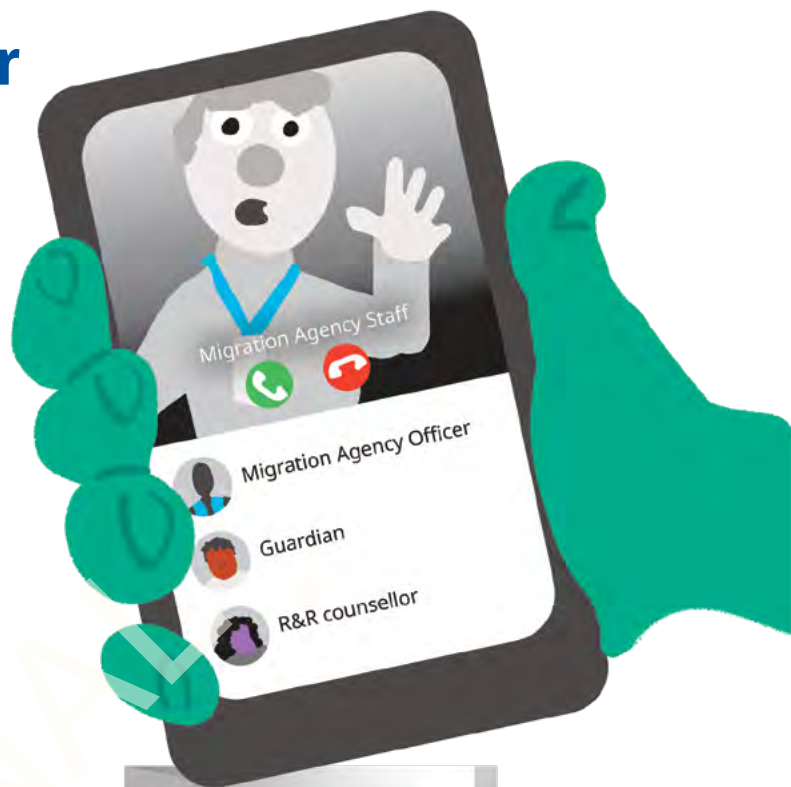
A guardian makes sure you receive important information, answers your questions, and explains things you do not understand. A guardian makes sure you have the chance to express your opinion, and that you are heard when important decisions are being made about your life.

**Please make sure to  
write down the contact details  
of your guardian!**

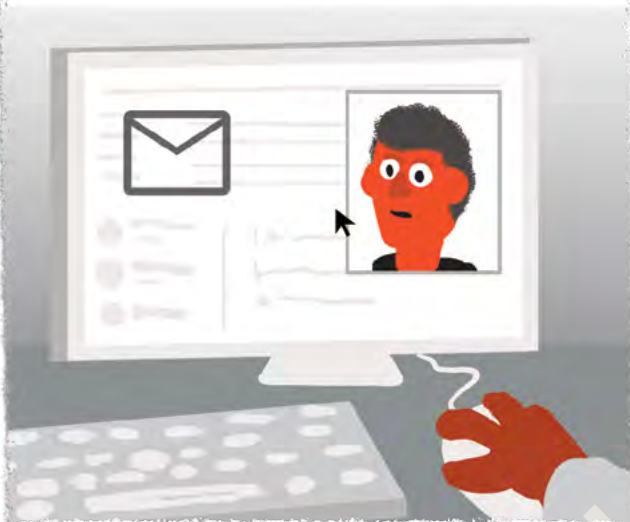
*Handwritten note:* Please make sure to write down the contact details of your guardian!

# Preparing to move to your home country

1. Before you leave, there will be several meetings. These meetings are to make decisions about your return, to give you important information, and to help you prepare. These meetings may be with your guardian, the migration agency's staff, police officers, case workers or a return and reintegration counsellor.



2. Your parent(s), relatives, guardian, or a care facility in your home country will be contacted so they can prepare for your arrival.



4. If you are receiving medical treatment, your guardian can help you to find out if you can continue the treatment in your home country. You or your guardian should ask for a copy of your medical records. Ask if these should be translated.



3. You or your guardian should ask your school for a copy of your school records or diploma. Ask if it needs to be translated or legalized. This will make things easier for you after you've returned to your home country.



- ☐ Contact parents, relatives, guardian, or care facility
- ☐ Translate and / or legalize school records or diploma
- ☐ Translate copy of your medical records
- ☐

# How a return and reintegration counsellor can help you

You might have many thoughts and questions about leaving for your home country. Maybe you are not sure what to expect or what to do to make the best of this situation. Maybe you have questions about the next steps.



You can tell your guardian that you want to talk with a return and reintegration counsellor. These counsellors can inform and advise you about the options you have. Return and reintegration counsellors are people who know what happens during returns and help young people and families to make reintegration plans. Reintegration means learning to live again in your home country and becoming part of the community. These counsellors can tell you if there are any support programmes and assistance available to help you reintegrate.





During your meeting with the return and reintegration counsellor, there will usually be an interpreter present, who speaks your language and can help you communicate your wishes. The return and reintegration counsellor may also be able to contact an organisation, that helps migrants and children return to their home country. If so, you will meet

people from this organisation after you have returned.

If you are interested to talk to a return and reintegration counsellor, ask your guardian or a social worker how you can get in touch with one. They may give you the contact details and arrange a meeting for you.

# Identification and travel documents

You need a passport or a similar official document to travel. If you don't have such a document, the government of your home country will make you one.

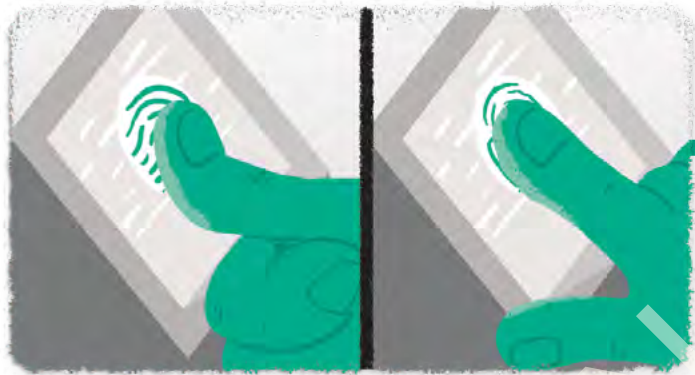


A person from the government of your home country may meet with you to check that the information for your travel document is correct. This person may ask you your name, where you were born and the places you have lived. They might speak to you in the language of your

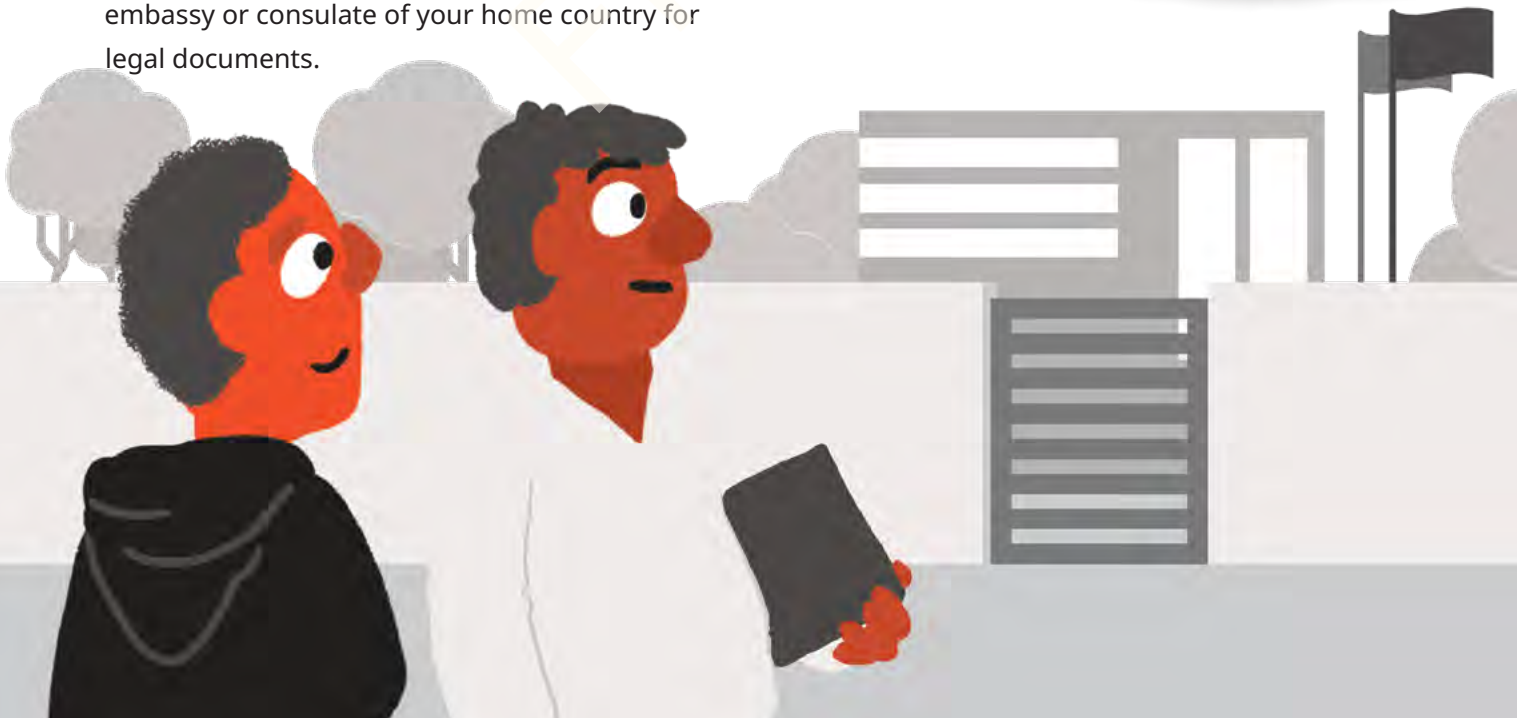
home country. An interpreter may be present to translate if you cannot understand the language, so you understand what is asked or said.

Your guardian will be with you for any questions you may have.

Also, someone will take your photo for your travel document. Your fingerprints could also be taken, depending on your age. You will be asked to put your fingers one by one on a glass plate and a picture will be taken as part of the biometric data stored in a chip on your passport. This is so no one else can use your passport.



You and your guardian might also have to visit an embassy or consulate of your home country for legal documents.



## Where you stay before travelling

You may stay in a building with other migrants who will return to their home country. You will get food to eat and medical care if you need it. You will stay there until you travel. Trained social workers and other staff will be there to help if you need help or if you want to talk with someone about how you are feeling. A social worker is someone who helps people improve their lives and solve problems. You may or may not be allowed to leave the building or have people living outside visit you.





There are different rules in different countries. In some countries you will not have to move to a special building and can stay in the place where you have been living until it is time to travel.

# Travelling to the airport

When it is time to travel, you will drive together with your guardian or a social worker to the airport.



If your home country is close by you may drive there instead of taking a plane.



## At the airport

At the airport you must show your travel document at the check-in desk. You leave your big luggage here. It will travel in the bottom of the plane. You may take a small bag with you on the plane.

After the check-in you will go through the security screening. They will check everybody's luggage, also the bag that you want to bring on the plane. You may have to show your travel document to an official. You will wait together with your guardian at the airport.



When the plane is ready to leave, you will get on the plane.



If you are an older teenager, you may travel on the plane by yourself. If you are a younger teenager an adult will travel with you all the way to your home country.



**Hand  
luggage  
rules**



**Liquid  
rules**



**Clear plastic bag**

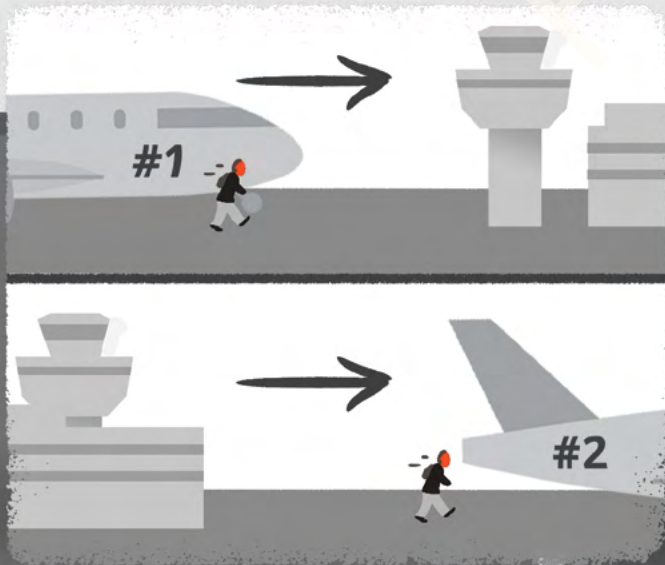


**Max. 1 litre total  
at the moment**

## In the plane

On the plane, you will sit together with other people also travelling to the same destination. If someone travels with you, this person will sit together with you. You may be served a meal and drinks and you may be able to watch a video on the screens. There is a toilet on the plane. Flight attendants will help you if you need anything and give instructions about what to do to be safe, like fasten your seatbelt. It is a good idea to have a book, or games in your hand luggage so you can use them during the flight.

You may only have to take one plane, or you might have to stop at another airport and change planes to get to your home country.





# Arrival

When you arrive in your home country, you will leave the plane. There will be a person waiting for you at the airport. That could be a family member, another guardian, or a representative from a care facility for children. They will take care of you and help you adjust to life in your home country.



If applicable in your case, it is possible to get help and assistance from organisations that help returning migrants and children. In the next chapter we will explain more about different options for reintegration services.



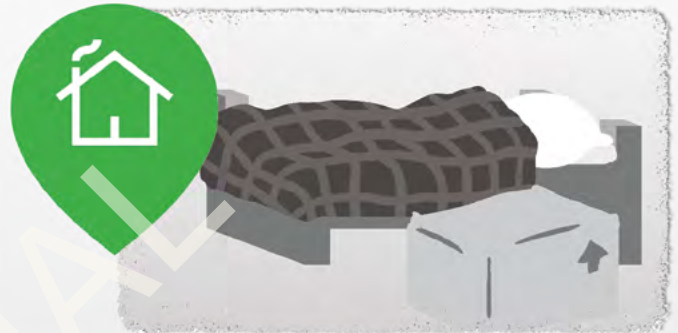
# Reintegration Assistance and JRS (Joint Reintegration Services)

There are different reintegration programmes depending on the country you are returning to. It could also be that there is no programme in that country available. You can check this, before your departure, with a return and reintegration counsellor or your guardian.





Possible help through these programmes can be in the form of school supplies and support for your education, like school tuition, or even furniture or a desk, where you can do your homework. Also costs for medical treatment, medicine or rent can be part of these programmes. It all depends on what is available in your home country.



The best thing to do is to ask for this kind of help before you leave. You can tell the return and reintegration counsellor, together with your guardian, that you want to make use of this return and reintegration assistance. The return and reintegration counsellor knows exactly if and which reintegration support is available in your home country. They can help you apply for this support. The return and reintegration counsellor will inform the reintegration partner (the organisation in your home country) about the date of your arrival and the type of help you need.



It could be that there is no return and reintegration counselling available near the place you currently live. In that case, you can ask your guardian to search for possible return and reintegration programmes that are offered by your host country.



# Joint Reintegration Services

One of the reintegration programmes that is available in many countries is the **Joint Reintegration Services** (JRS) from Frontex.

You can ask your guardian or the return and reintegration counsellor if it is also available in your home country.

If so, there are two support packages available after your return.



## Post arrival package



The **post-arrival package** is for needs you might have for a short period, immediately after you arrive in your home country. It can be a temporary place to live, airport pick-up, or onward transportation. It can be given to you in the first 3 days after your arrival and **the return counsellor must request this for you at least 19 days before your departure.**



## Post return package



The **post-return package** is for needs you have for a longer period (up to 12 months after your arrival). It can be medical care, costs for your school, furniture for the place where you will live or other things you might need.

To receive the post-return package your guardian or your family members need to contact the partner organization in your home country that helps you after your return.

The return and reintegration counsellor will give you the contact information of the organisation in your home country.

# The future

What are your wishes for the future after you return?


Everyone has dreams and wishes in life and you shouldn't stop dreaming and wishing for good things to happen if you move to your home country. How do you imagine your future in a few years from now on? What would you like to see

happen, what would make you happy? Where will you be? Where will you live and who are you with and how will it make you feel?

If you have clear dreams, wishes and goals it can help you to take the right steps to make them happen.

**You can write down your thoughts here if you want:**

FINAL



**"No-one knows the future for sure,  
there is one thing certain though:  
You are the chief designer of your own future."**

# Room for notes

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 25 horizontal dotted lines.

FINAL

For feedback on the books,  
please contact us at:  
[frontex@frontex.europa.eu](mailto:frontex@frontex.europa.eu)



**FRONT**EX



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