

Do you recognise human smuggling?



Sarabi wants to go to the UK to build a better life for herself. She pays a lot of money for a false passport and to be taken to the Netherlands by car. Once in the Netherlands, she and twelve others get into a refrigerated container that will soon be taken onto the ferry. It's dark and cold inside, she must be quiet.

Human smuggling is offering help to people who want to travel to or through the Netherlands illegally. They must pay a lot of money for their journey, and the smuggling often endangers their health or their life. Human smuggling also includes offering help with illegal residence or illegal employment in the Netherlands, for own (financial) benefits.

You can help by being alert to possible human smuggling and reporting it. Below you will find signs that might indicate human smuggling.

Signs of possible human smuggling

Illegal entry/transit:

- ▶ A group of people in a parking lot (near the border or a port) trying to climb into the **loading space of a lorry or van**
- ▶ A group of people wearing life jackets standing on or near a **too small rubber boat** or sailing boat
- ▶ A group of people being **dropped off** at a (far) distance from an **application centre or asylum seeker centre**
- ▶ A group of people does not know its own **location or destination**
- ▶ A person or a group of people **avoiding checks** on public transport or on approaching a border
- ▶ One person accompanying a group of people **across the border** and being the only person in possession of money and documents
- ▶ A person **lending his passport** to allow someone else to travel to Europe

Illegal residence/employment:

- ▶ A group of people living in a **small space** under **poor conditions**
- ▶ A house or work location where groups of people are regularly **dropped off and picked up** (by van) at **unusual times**
- ▶ Different groups of people housed in **one place for a short time** (and causing a lot of nuisance)
- ▶ A person or group of people **sleeping in the workspace**
- ▶ A person working **without a work permit, contract and/or undeclared**
- ▶ A group of people does not know its **work location and employer**

What can you do?

Any of these signs, or a combination of them, may point to human smuggling. If you have suspicions, please report them:

- Urgent? Call the police at **112**
- Illegal entry? Call the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee at **0800-1814** (free calls)
- Illegal residence? Call the police at **0900-8844** (ask for AVIM)
- Want to stay anonymous? Call M. (Meld Misdaad Anoniem) at **0800-7000**, or check **www.meldmisdaadanoniem.nl**

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