



## **ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURNS FOR IRREGULAR MIGRANTS**

**The following programmes may be of interest if you have no permanent right to stay in the United Kingdom and wish to return home.**

### **Assisted voluntary return of irregular migrants (AVRIM)**

AVRIM assists irregular migrants – illegal entrants, trafficked people, smuggled people, those whose leave has expired – of any nationality (apart from UK, European Economic Area or Swiss nationals) to return to their country of origin, subject to eligibility criteria including whether removal arrangements are in place. It is not open to those who have been in the asylum system. If accepted for the programme, up to three months is allowed for the process, unless in detention, during which time enforced removal will not be pursued.

#### **Assistance**

- Help and funds in acquiring travel documentation to return as a normal passenger.
- Support and advice to prepare for return.
- Flight paid to country of origin and onward domestic transport.
- Airport assistance at departure, and if needed in transit and at arrival airports.

### **Assisted voluntary returns for families and children (AVRFC)**

This programme provides specific assistance for returning families, and also to unaccompanied children (under-18). It is open to those who have sought asylum or who are irregular migrants, and provides reintegration assistance for each individual. A family constitutes one or two parents or legal guardians **and** at least one child under-18. Any children over 18 within the family may be considered under another AVR programme if appropriate, or may make a voluntary departure through the UK Border Agency.

#### **Assistance**

As well as the support afforded to AVRIM applicants, each individual family member under AVRFC would qualify for full reintegration assistance. This comprises £500 cash for immediate relocation needs, and £1,500 in-kind, in other words payment for goods and services in the home country. Thus, if accepted for AVR, the total reintegration is worth £2,000 per family member. Reintegration assistance for children will primarily relate to education.

**AVR is administered by the CHOICES service of Refugee Action, an independent charity – you can speak to them in confidence.**

**CHOICES can be contacted on 0808 800 0007**

**Information in many languages can be found in the CHOICES section of the website at [www.choices-avr.org.uk](http://www.choices-avr.org.uk)**