Stop Disinformation

Some posts are created to trick people using lies, other posts contain wrong information by accident.

Misinformation is false information spread without bad intentions, often because the person re-posting does not know the information is wrong. An example of misinformation would be sharing incorrect information about how to apply for a visa, because you think it is correct, but it is not. Even nice people you know might be sharing misinformation.

Disinformation is false information that is spread on purpose, in order to cause harm, confuse, or manipulate people. An example of disinformation is posting incorrect data about how many visas are approved each year.

Malinformation is based on reality, but used to inflict harm. An example would be sharing a photo of a wealthy area of a town in Germany to get someone to work with a smuggler. The photo could be real, but the associated text and promises are not.

Using Social Media Responsibly

Social media can be a good way to find information about migration options, but it is also a source of much misinformation. Be careful about trusting what you see there. A lot has been heavily edited.

Here are some tips on how to be a responsible social media users:

BE CLEAR
Post easy to understand messages.

BE ACCURATE
Always check your facts.

BE HONEST
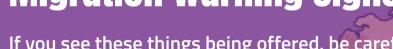Don't spread rumors, disinformation, or misinformation.

NAME THE SOURCE
If you are sharing information, make sure you name the source. And be sure you are only sharing information that is true and verified.

Identify disinformation

A checklist to identify disinformation:
> What "facts" does it list? What is the intention? Try to verify everything by searching for more information online.
> Look at images to see if they are what they claim to be.
> Are you being told what to think? Do you feel manipulated? You should be suspicious if information seems too extreme: too good to be true, too much money offered, too easy to get to Europe.

Truth & Lies

Which of these rumors do you think are true and which are false?

Lie: In Germany, they are currently too busy with the coronavirus. It's a good time to go there.
Truth: No! Don't trust anyone who tells you this! Yes, the global health crisis is affecting Germany. But during the pandemic, it is actually harder to enter Germany.

Lie: The journey through Libya is easy and will only take you one week.
Truth: The journey through Libya is dangerous, can take years, and some people end up dead.

Lie: You can work on a cruise ship, earn good money, and be dropped off in Europe.
Truth: These jobs are fake. And you always need a visa to enter the EU.

Lie: You can get papers within one week of arriving in Germany.
Truth: The asylum process is long, most cases take many months. And you need a valid reason for seeking asylum, like proof of persecution.

Lie: You can easily find someone, get married, and get a German passport in one month.
Truth: There are cultural differences and people don't marry that quickly. Even if you do marry, the citizenship process takes a long time, with many requirements and paperwork needed.

Migration warning signs

If you see these things being offered, be careful. These are traps and not true.

> Offering to take you to Europe for a fixed sum of money.
> Promises of work in Libya or elsewhere that will pay you $500 - $1000 a month.
> Scholarships that don't ask for your academic qualifications.
> Travel agency offers that change based on what fee you can pay.
> Anything that sounds too good to be true.

Human Trafficking + Social Media

Warning! Human traffickers and smugglers provide false information about migration in order to make money for themselves. They do not care about the people they are smuggling. Working with traffickers and smugglers is very dangerous. Traffickers and smugglers often target unemployed youth. They advertise their business in schools, religious centers, and neighbourhoods.

Things to know:
> Smugglers use social media and chat groups to spread disinformation.
> Human traffickers are criminal groups and are very dangerous.
> They lie about promising to escort migrants during the journey, having connections via the smuggler's established networks along the route, and being able to get fake travel documents (passports, I.D. cards, visas, and stamps).
> They share fake photos and videos that pretend to show migrants happily living in Europe. These are not real.

#SMARTMIGRATION

If you are thinking about migrating, take time to think about it carefully. Here are some questions to help you.

Who: Who is involved? Just you? You and your family? Are other people offering help? Can you trust them? Do you have other options?

What: What do you need to be successful? What resources (like time, money, health, legal papers, etc) do you need? What are the pros and cons of migrating and not migrating? Think through both the good and the bad.

When: When do you have to decide about migrating? By when would you need to apply for a visa or other documents?

Where: Where do you want to go? Do you know the place? The language? The culture?

Why: Why do you want to migrate? Be sure to have a very clear reason. Is this the best thing for all people involved? Are there other options at home that could also lead to a positive outcome?

Choosing to migrate is not a simple choice. Be sure to think it over very carefully and inform yourself using the #MMN_USSD.

Dial *920*45# Migration Choices on all networks

#MMN_USSD: Information about migration choices

#MIGRANTMEDIANET #SMARTMIGRATION #PLANB4UPACK
The #MMN (Migrant Media Network) project uses the USSD system to provide information to people in Ghana who are thinking about migration. The system is free of charge, works on regular phones without internet, and is well known throughout the country.

For more information about #SMARTMIGRATION choices. dial *920*45# for our #MMN_USSD application.

Migrant Media Network

agency for open culture & critical transformation

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Federal Foreign Office