# Don’t Come!

Europe might seem like a safe haven. A place where your current problems will go away. But is it really?

Even though it might seem that Europe has good working conditions with great benefits, it’s often much different for immigrants. Exploitation and slavery are reoccurring themes. Workers might be paid below minimum wage or forced to work long hours in hazardous conditions. Leaving isn’t an option either. Immigrants may be forced to take loans with high interest rates to pay for their transit to Europe and other fees. These workers aren’t able to pay it pay it back easily. This is referred to as “debt bondage”. Workers could also be faced with threats of violence against themselves or their families if they refuse to work. Such things can also occur due to human trafficking, where workers are brought here under false pretenses.

This brings us to the risks of travelling to Europe. You may face physical danger during travels, especially if travelling illegally (through human trafficking or smuggling). Abuse, sexual exploitation and similar are common risks. Legal issues are also something to worry about. Illegally entering a country might lead to you getting arrested or facing deportation.

How can the situation improve in countries of origin? It would be good to first look at why people want to immigrate to another continent. In Central Africa, poverty, lack of proper education or conflict and instability in the country may be reasons why someone might consider leaving. Addressing these issues, as well providing assistance, would be a great step in right direction. How that would be achieved will depend on the country and the situation.