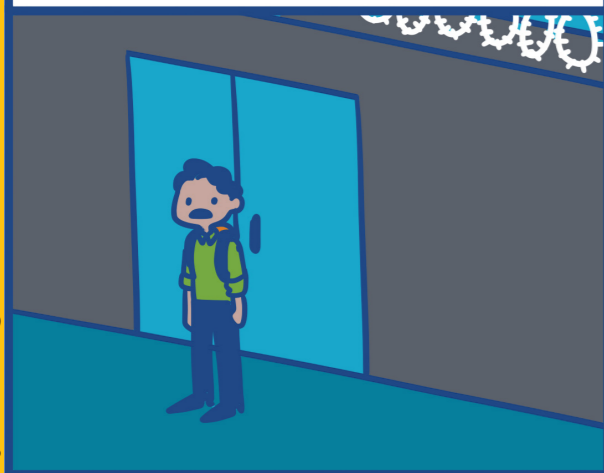


RELEASED ONTO THE STREETS

IMMIGRATION DETENTION IN COVID-19 TIMES



I ALREADY HAVE THE RETURN DECISION BUT I'M STILL HERE.



MY DETENTION PERIOD ENDS ON 27TH FEBRUARY AND I HAVE TO STAY IN PORTUGAL DUE TO A LACK OF FLIGHTS

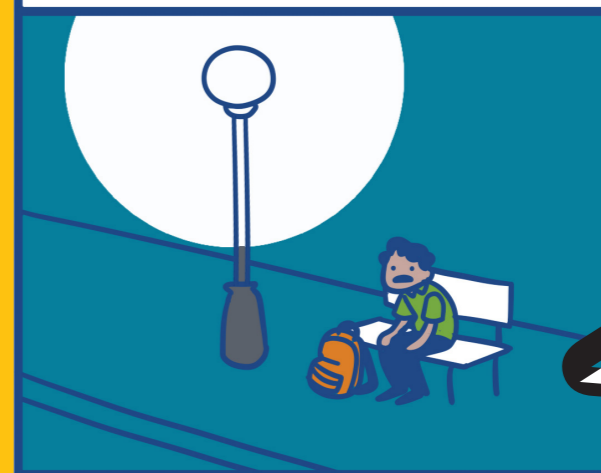


I WAS NOTIFIED THAT I HAD TO GO TO A SEF COUNTER ON 15TH MARCH IN FARO (577KM AWAY)

I DON'T KNOW HOW I'LL SURVIVE BETWEEN 27 FEBRUARY-15 MARCH BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ACCOMMODATION OR HELP TO EAT.



IT'S GOING TO BE HARD.



JRS detention visitor in Belgium

30 year-old Pakistani man, detained in Portugal between February and March 2021

At JRS Europe we respect everyone who shares its story with us. So while their stories are true, names have been omitted to protect their privacy. Faces and places are the products of the author's imagination

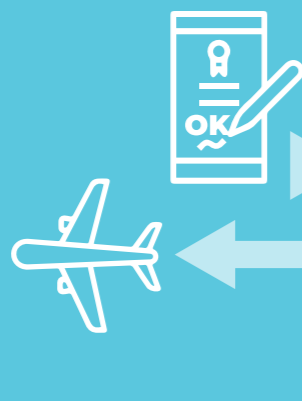
Ensuring accommodation post-release

In the context of the pandemic and beyond, JRS Europe recommends that the responsible national authorities:

1 Ensure accommodation arrangements for people released



2 Avoid detention in the first place and establish alternatives whereby people remain in their own homes or receive accommodation in the community while being accompanied in the examination of all possible options to resolve their migration status, such as voluntary return or regularization



From detention to homelessness

► As a consequence of the **Covid-19 outbreak, some EU countries have been releasing people from detention** in order to reduce the population in the centres and facilitate physical distancing. Many migrants have also been released because, due to international travel limitations, returns cannot be carried out and detention therefore becomes unlawful.

► **Most of them are released onto the streets.** The practice of arranging accommodation for the people released from detention existed before the pandemic in only a few countries, where it has been maintained.

► Homelessness and destitution after detention are not a new phenomenon in Europe. However, **the situation becomes more problematic in the context of a pandemic, because of the higher risk of contracting and spreading the virus.**

