



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organizacion Internacional para las Migraciones



This Programme is co-financed
by the European Refugee Fund

UK VOLUNTARY ASSISTED RETURN and REINTEGRATION PROGRAMME REFERRAL FORM FOR UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

Case Number

Date of Application:

FOR IOM USE ONLY

Please complete this form in **BLOCK CAPITALS**

Family Name/s

First Name/s

Date of Birth

Gender

Place of Birth

Nationality

Address in UK

Telephone

Referral Agency

Carers Name

Responsible Social worker

Telephone

FAMILY MEMBERS IN UK

Name	Relationship To Applicant	Address	Tel No.

FAMILY MEMBERS IN COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Name	Relationship To Applicant	Address	Tel No.	Date last Contacted

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES REGARDING YOUR STAY IN THE UK AND RETURN TO _____ (e.g. Special health needs, family circumstances etc.)



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VARRP – Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme

Guidelines for Unaccompanied Minors

IOM can assist Unaccompanied Minors to return voluntarily to their countries of origin under the Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP).

Eligibility

The VARRP is open to asylum seekers of any nationality, whose asylum claim is under one of the following criteria:

- Waiting for a Home Office decision
- Refused by the Home Office
- Appealing against an asylum decision
- Withdrawn asylum application
- Given ELR (Exceptional Leave to Remain).

Procedures

IOM works closely together with different agencies to ensure that the voluntary return is in the best interest of the child and s/he is placed back safely with her/his family or an alternative institution in their country of origin.

Additional to the general VARRP procedure, IOM has special procedures for UAMs

1. An unaccompanied minor who wishes to return to the country of origin, under the Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme, will need to complete the general VARRP Application Form, the Declaration for Voluntary Return and a specific application form: Referral Form For Unaccompanied Children. This form includes additional information, such as details of the carer and/or family members in the UK and of the family in the country of origin.

All application forms including the form for the Reintegration Fund can be obtained by calling IOM London (Freephone 0800 783 2332 or 0207 233 0001) or visiting our website www.iomlondon.org. Further information and translated documents can also be requested or found on our website.

2. When receiving an application form from an UAM, IOM liaises with the responsible carer/social worker and partner organisations (CHOICES – Refugee Action, OPTIONS – YMCA Glasgow, North of England Refugee Service, and Safe Haven Yorkshire) to assess that the return to the country of origin is really the best option for the UAM.

UAMs are also welcome to contact us or our partners directly to get advice and discuss the option of return confidentially.

3. IOM will send the completed VARRP Application Form to the Home Office for approval.

4. IOM will get in touch with UNHCR London, who will make contact with the relevant UNHCR Mission in the destination country. They will contact the child's family in the country of origin and ensure that family/carer is ready to receive her/him and to provide the necessary assistance.
5. Upon receiving approval from the Home Office and the confirmation from the UNHCR, IOM London confirms to the minor and his/her carer in the UK that arrangements are in place for a safe return of the minor to his/her country of origin and proceeds with travel arrangements, in close coordination with the UNHCR.
6. UNHCR and IOM will assist the minor at the airport and if required will involve the airline for assistance during the flight. IOM can also provide an escort in certain circumstances. UNHCR will make sure that the UAM is reunited with the family or carer on arrival.

Reintegration Assistance

Besides travel arrangements and advice throughout the application process IOM can also provide reintegration assistance to UAMs after they return home.

- The aim of the Reintegration Fund is to provide financial support for activities that would benefit returnees, to facilitate a sustainable return to their country of origin.
- Reintegration assistance for children can be in the form of accessing training and education or help with purchasing school uniforms, books, equipment etc. IOM does not provide cash grants.
- To apply for Reintegration Assistance an additional form needs to be filled in: [Application for the Reintegration Fund](#)
- The applicant identifies what s/he would like to do or receive and IOM will then try and find a suitable activity in the country of origin.
- IOM London works very closely with over 100 offices worldwide to arrange reintegration activity.
- Everyone who is successful in their application to return home through IOM is eligible and encouraged to apply for reintegration assistance.

FAQs

1. What happens to young people who just turned 18?

They will be treated as adults and only need to follow the general VARRP application procedures. They will be able to benefit from all the assistance IOM offers.

2. What if a child has been age assessed/ disputed and counts as an adult for the Home Office or Social Services?

IOM will treat the person still as an unaccompanied minor, unless s/he states a different age to us. If there is no responsible social worker/carer assigned, IOM will liaise with the Refugee Council's children's panel and IOM's partner organisations (CHOICES – Refugee Action, OPTIONS –YMCA Glasgow, North of England Refugee Service, and Safe Haven Yorkshire).

3. What happens, if the UAM has no family in the home country or the family can not take care of the child?

UNHCR and subcontracted agencies in the relevant country will investigate, if the child can be placed in a foster family or children's home. This information will be available before IOM makes travel arrangement, so that the minor and her/his social worker/carer can review the decision of return. Family tracing is done by the Red Cross.

4. How does the application for VARRP affect the asylum application?

- VARRP is funded by the Home Office. The Home Office decides whether a VARRP applicant is suitable for return under the programme.
- When applying to the VARRP the asylum application with the Home Office will be temporarily suspended for up to three months. If the applicant changes her/his mind after applying to the VARRP and decide to remain in the UK, she/he may withdraw the VARRP application and the asylum application will become active again. The Home Office may use the information provided on the VARRP application form now or in the future in the normal course of their duties.
- Every returnee will be requested to sign an asylum disclaimer at the airport, prior to departure, which means that she/he is withdrawing any outstanding application for asylum in the United Kingdom.
- S/he will be requested to return all Immigration Documents, e.g. IND SAL2, ARC etc, to IOM staff on the day of departure.

5. How long will it take to organize the return travel?

IOM always aims to meet the needs of returnees and to find the most appropriate way of return. The timeframe for the return will depend on various factors such as Home Office approval, confirmation from UNHCR, obtaining travel documents, availability of commercial flights, and any special needs to be taken into consideration for the return travel.

6. How much luggage can the returnee bring?

That depends on the airline. The average luggage allowance is 25 kg. Any excess luggage needs to be paid by the returnee. IOM is not responsible to pay for any excess luggage. Since excess luggage is very expensive, we suggest that a cargo shipment of the excess luggage is organized by the returnee well in advance, because it is much cheaper.

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