

## **1<sup>st</sup> Place Essay**

**Don Kudzanai Mbutsa  
Mutare**

### **“Life is a Journey: Keep it Safe”**

Safe migration is the act of moving from one place to another with the right travel documents including ETD, Visa, Blue Card, Passport and work permits. This is illustrated by the painting entitled “Travel Safely.” There are basically four modes of transport that necessitate the move from one country to another that include road, rail, air and water.

According to the painting it is clear that your personal documents are the centre of traveling. They are placed in the middle of everything meaning that when traveling one should possess essential documents at the right time to avoid inconveniences.

Some people risk their lives by sneaking into foreign countries through illegal points along the borders. These people are referred to as irregular immigrants. These people are likely to face penalties anytime they come across law enforcement agencies. Some of these people will end up committing crimes.

A passport and a national ID are very important documents. Whenever one wishes to cross a border he/she should have them. In some cases one maybe asked to produce a visa after producing the passport eg when traveling from Zimbabwe to South Africa. People may have alternatives such as Emergency Travel Documents and Blue Cards.

The search for a better life and job opportunities might force people to migrate though some are always against the law and end up being irregular immigrants. Other people are forced to immigrate due to war, poverty and natural disasters eg cyclones and earthquakes. In such a scenario international organizations such as IOM, Red Cross and the United Nations will be responsible for the movement of the people.

Now I’m giving a warning to all irregular immigrants, why are you risking your lives? Do you know it’s a punishable offence? To all those who have the right documents, “Thanks and keep on encouraging others that have THE RIGHT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND PROTECT YOUR HEALTH”

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Place Essay**

**Neville Moyo  
Cyale High School  
Bulawayo**

### Essay

Migration is the movement of a population away from its home, either occurring from one country to another (international migration). The migrants should have the correct travel documents. The documents include a passport that has a visa which is required.

In my art piece, which is a poster, painted with poster colours, the migrant is given the option in the way he wishes to travel. Option A is traveling legally with a passport and a visa if required. This way of travel is a much safer as shown. The migrant would arrive at his destination without any dangers and the way is actually much shorter than that of Option B.

The second option, B, involves traveling illegally without any documentation of any sort. In this option those who use it risk their safety and most essentially their lives. Then on the dangers of being attacked by wild animals such as the crocodile and lion depicted in the poster. Other than that, illegal migrants could also be electrocuted in their attempts in trying to get over the border electrical fences, they may also drown and be robbed in the certain ways they use. As in my art piece, Option B, contrary to Option A, the illegal migrant would hand over money to his transporter rather than handing his travel documents to the border officials. Then in Option B, there is no guarantee of a safe arrival for the migrant.

However, both of the options lead to our destination as expressed by the high buildings of the city detailed in the poster. The poster is also accompanied by the words, "Life is a Journey: Keep it Safe." In Option A, the journey is not dangerous. Then in option B the journey involves taking risks to arrive, and usually the migrant may arrive in his or her destination, however in a coffin, as depicted in the poster.

The poster sends out a message to the general public, particularly the Zimbabwean youth to think before they leap. Our youth are usually attracted to these destinations because of the employment, educational and health opportunities, but however they do not consider the proper channels they should use in order for them to arrive safely and still get the opportunities they desire. Life is precious and so should the public know that...

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Place Essay**

**Precious Ncube  
Nuli High School  
Beitbridge**

#### **Safe Migration**

Travelling every corner of the world with correct documentation entails the theme of being home from home. "Home is best", so they say. This means that with right documents, the whole world is your home. Therefore, there is peace and safety in every move you make.

Having the right documents brings about peace and tranquility in another country. No one has the right to harass legal migrants. Just imagine how border jumpers are treated in South Africa, They are despised, threatened and physically harassed. The question is, are they not aware of the risky situations? They think that they are hopeless, its not the issue of misfortune but its only that they are diverting from the law. Make sure that as you travel around the world you must possess the right documents and life will be easy for you.

Furthermore, safe accommodation is provided for legal migrants. With the right documents it would be easy to get a well protected accommodation and also work peacefully. More so, you get access to medical facilities. That would be only if you are in possession of valid documents. That is the visa, passport, traveling documents and so on.

The art piece reflects one having the whole world in one's hand. This is not a hard task, the gateway is documents. With these documents one can own the world, this is to say you can go anywhere anytime you like to. Surely traveling documents are very important in this world of uncountable missions and adventures because there are not traveling restrictions, that is, if all the documents are at hand.

The picture shows the idea of carrying the world, not the world carrying you. The world does not talk; neither does it have any feelings. So why let it control you? As a person who has the ability to think, control the world. The "Y" shaped road reflects many decisions that one can take. Note that this can be possible only if you are in possession of required legal documents, that is the passport, work permit, medical aid, traveling documents, only to mention but a few.

To add on, Irregular migration can lead to a risky situation, everyone is aware of this but people choose to risk their lives. They tend to follow the crowd to border jumping and using false documents. My appeal to you is simple, "Just follow the cloud not the crowd". Make sure you are found on the right side of the law all the time as a migrant.

As if that was not enough, safe migration in an umbrella shape encompasses free travel, personal security and protection while access to education, healthy facilities, freedom of expression and other benefits. Before engaging on a journey across borders have the right travel documents and enjoy free and safe travel.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Place Essay**

**By Author Zulu**

### **Safe Migration**

According to the word “safe migration”, it is all about crossing borders with correct documentation. Moreover, it all takes for one to have a travel plan and knowledge of the costs involved to avoid risky situations.

Risky situations involves mistreatment, get arrested and find yourself behind bars, robbery and you can be unlucky and get attacked by wildlife. In mistreatment, I actually mean that you can be mistreated by people in that foreign land you’ll be by taking an advantage that you don’t have right documents. You may work and get underpaid.

Shamefully, more people lose more money paying to other people to help them cross the borders illegally and unfortunately they end up being exploited instead they should have done a better thing to use their money wisely and get right documentations or other possible uses.

According to law, anyone who goes beyond the rules get arrested. Likewise, anyone who migrates illegally has a high risk of being caught by the foreign police and get arrested. So for warned is for armed because it is not safe behind bars.

Robbery and the attack of wildlife mainly goes hand in hand. I say so because it mostly affects people who thinks border jumping is the best ever. At border posts there are people who have been exploited and some of them form gangsters to take away the belongings of border jumpers and if unlucky they might severely injure or kill their victims “How painful it is”!

From the rumours and what I know there are crocodiles in the Limpopo River at the South African border. I believe there are no boats/ships to help these border jumpers cross the river but they walk or swim across the river by themselves. There are high chances of being taken away by flowing water in that big Limpopo River. Besides crocodiles there are also dangerous animals in the bush border jumpers go through.

However, migration can bring opportunities to work, study and reunite with families but you need more than a ticket to go, you need the right travel documents to be safe and happy. One can apply for a passport, get a permit, visa or an emergency travelers document for a legal journey/migration.

Finally, every cloud has a silver lining but I don’t think it matches with illegal migration. It is my wish for every youth to never ever wish to be an irregular migrant for a better living.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Place Essay**

**By Desire Ngwenya**

Zimbabwe is one country in the world that holds safe migration of high esteem.

This artwork reflects my innermost views of safe migration. The world map represents places that a passport bearer or any bearer of proper documents can go without any restrictions on what so ever.

There is a broken chain around the passport. This emphasizing the point of easy migration. All the barring whatever comes to an end when proper documents are there. Exploitation, risking of health and abuse are not a threat under such circumstances.

Under the eyes of the law as a legal immigrant you are protected. Imprisonment and playing hide and seek with policeman is none of your games. This is represented by a police cap.

A candle represents success in study, career hunt or anything that one is seeking in foreign land. With documentation all actions are done in broad day light no need to hide as no crime is done. Let's then consider legal migration as best for a better future.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Place Essay**

**By Carlos Ngozo**  
**Bulawayo**

“Life is a Journey” goes the saying as they always say, when traveling one meets a lot of challenges along the way. One sees a lot of signs. Signs to show the right of way of travel, warning signs and informative signs and also one meets a lot of obstacles, but never the less we have to one way or the other overcome these challenges as we proceed along the way. As the other saying goes “A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step”, but I’ll like to put it this way “A journey of a thousand miles starts with adequate planning and preparation”. Meaning that whenever one plans to travel, they have to make preparations on their travel.

We have to ask ourselves these billion dollar questions. Do I have a passport? Does my passport have a visa? Do I have a work permit? If your answer is yes to these questions then you have really prepared your journey. If not, then it’s not late, start now! This is a message especially to all the youths out there, as it is shown in the picture one will see a lot of signs along the way, this is to help you plan on your journey. It’s not only a matter of having money but also having the right traveling documents remember life is a journey, keep it safe!

**\*\*Imagine everyone having the legal traveling documents, it begins with YOU!!**

## **7<sup>th</sup> Place Essay**

**By Nqaba Sibanda**

### **Safe Migration**

“Geh’eeh! Eeh old man be serious read. I do not have all day fumed the migration office throwing back Mr. Ndlovu’s passport “you need more than a ticket” you have no visa but you intend to pass to South Africa you are the very people who are causing mayhem and all (start) sorts of havoc there. I’m a civil servant retaliated a shell shocked and cornered as a wild beast Ndlovu throwing his pay slip and confirmation letter from the public works department attending my daughter’s graduation ad Wits University. This is the order of the day at the migration office as people migrate in and out of the country.

Life is a journey not a destination keep it safe welcome to Beitbridge Messina Border Post greeting me as I entered the migration office. It was a hive of activity people milling about left right and centre vehicles with the GP plates in particular roaming about having their papers checked placards and directional arrows informing you what not and what to do if you intend to reach your desired destination in one piece. Of particular interest to me was the one which read “you need more than a ticket to go before you go have the right travel documents and protect your health”.

The statements had me day dreaming as I thought to myself shortcuts can be very costly than in the flash the common border jumping. Crossing the path of the prompt and agile navy blue clad gentlemen at the migration office can really give you a rude awakening and regret the very first day you were born from your mother’s womb. Quickly the xenophobic attacks graced my mind leaving me hoping that the ground would open and swallow me up because life was not a bed of roses where I was destined to. Suddenly the loud voice from the migration officer brought me to my senses again as I wanted to be part of the proceeding at the migration office.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Place Essay**

**By Keith Maposa**

Migration is traveling from one place to another legal migration is safe migration were by an individual is required to have the right documents to cross the border. Illegal migration is where by people cross the border without authority, under harsh conditions including jumping the fence and going through bushes. Migration can bring school work or just visit opportunities if the migrant withholds the right documents to name a few, a passport, visa or permit illegal migration risk peoples life as people will have to face dangerous situations which include death, being eaten by animals and unnecessary body pains like fence scratches and so on.

In my art piece I did a composition in colour using mixed medium. It shows migrants on a border post. I did not include the border post name as not to particularise the situation to a certain border but to show that in any border post harsh situations can come down on illegal migrants. I showed a queue on the left with descent people confident and with no sign of depression as they know their documents will get them through. They have limited luggage to who that their visit is planned or it could be that their luggage took the other way through the searching department.

On the right we see a border police security with a gun, ordering a woman away. This shows that she has no proper documents. The other security police is dragging the lady who seems to be resisting. There also is a lady who has been evicted from the queue and seems to be going back with her bags. Sitting on this suitcase is a young man who is speechless and looks like has been evicted too. With no documents he just realized there was no room for free riders. There are long fences everywhere and nowhere else to go except back home. Some of these situations can occur at night as long as one does not have all travel documents at the right place at the right time.

I would like people to realize the need for travel documents to make life easy for everyone than pass through unnecessary danger that can risk one's life and health and merge entry problems by unauthorized border crossing. I would like to urge youths to be sure of how they want to travel, that is have a travel plan and knowledge of the costs of the trip to avoid trouble with the law. "Life is a journey: keep it safe".

## 9<sup>th</sup> Place Essay

By Izalobuhle Moyo

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another. Some people tend to leave their countries without legal documents hence they encounter difficulties such as exploitation. In my personal point of view I reckon it is good for us to make life easier for everyone and reject xenophobia.

The finger print represents identification. I as an individual have come to discover that identity is the key to life. Leaving the country with all documents plays a major role in the maintenance of one's status. Have an identity be a passport and birth certificate holder and enlighten your path as symbolized by the lamp.

For an individual to hit the target, he should be patient and decide from which angle to start as the saying goes 'A positive approach moves mountains'. Having your path cleared first would help to promote good health. If identified as a legal foreigner then access to shelter is a possibility.

Unleash your finger prints to the nation and smile broadly because nothing will disturb you on your way to wherever you are headed. I believe the origin of migration is the "finger print". Show your true colors and prove your innocence to the world, in turn you get a welcome not anywhere around the globe.

Some people have proved themselves thick headed and never will they see a 'dove holding a green leaf' for them. A dove in this case represents peace while the leaf denotes the greener pastures. If you chose to travel illegally then the ball lies in your hands and possibly the opposite is true for you.

I do agree with the saying which goes "Life is a journey: keep it safe", as represented by the clear tarred road. I would like to advise the youths never to stretch for greater heights but wait because the future has a spark for them. The concern is due to the fact that their requirements for crossing to the other countries are intense. This is also due to the peer pressure. My piece of advice is there is time for everything and in this case the right time comes when the right documents have been acquired.

A good nation is associated with a fabulous basis to unity and promotion of human rights. Exploitation, lack of accommodation and poverty, always draw a line between the hasty and the wise. The emotionally blind will never cross the valley of life. Show your identity, prove your innocence and wisdom and get a life, get access to the world at large!

## 10<sup>th</sup> Place Essay

**By Benias Mudenge**

Each paper cutting differs from its neighbour in either colour, letter or depictions, each has its own degree of beauty and effect on us yet all are part of the broader billboard at Mbare meaning no matter how different. Each is a surprise and a day in life of men. To go through them is a story that will only prove life is a journey full of surprises.

Reasons for venturing beyond borders differ among migrants. To a majority of migrants it is a coping mechanism against poverty and related situations and to the more fortunate it is opportunity to further education or simply just visit. Yet in all cases a travel plan is necessary to keep one's life safe.

A cowboy attitude places undocumented migrants at greater risk and danger. Along the way before and after crossing borders natural elements threaten lives but a menace that lays prey to unsuspecting migrants are bandits called magumaguma

Breaching any state's admission laws enlist migrants on a nameless wanted list. Wanted by authorities, fear renders them vulnerable to exploitative situation, human trafficking, sold for money, forced or voluntary prostitution expose victims to HIV and AIDS and unplanned pregnancies. That illegal status results in many not seeking for medical attention, results in death

Xenophobic attitudes on migrants simply make one realize there is no place like home. Increasing numbers of these that are voluntary detained and deported underline this. Why does history keep on repeating itself then? Simply because people do not learn from history. The Bantu people came from beyond Central Africa. Such a feat was possible using trade, persuasion and of course violence. That was the travel plan of the day.

A modern travel plan includes a valid passport, with appropriate visa, sufficient cash currency of host country, a genuine purpose for visit and not forgetting condoms. This is a tip toe nearer to discovery and unrestrained leisure. All the worries of being undocumented become trivial. Being legally covered and always using condoms migrant moves with warthog pride "a hakona mathatha" attitude, meaning no worries. Such behaviour is the one IOM advocates for, constantly reminding us the.....Each day that passes by reminds us life a journey. Though we smile, though we cry, we simply must keep it safe.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Place Essay

By Priscilla Ncube

Safe Migration means traveling with the correct travel documents.

Life sometimes turns out to be unreal but surely on the outlook it is real life. Gumbo used to think that life is all that you make but with the situation that he was in, it forced him to think of going to greener pastures. Gumbo tried here and there to find means of obtaining the legal travel documents but to his surprise he found that it needed money and the period of waiting was definitely not ok with him because he was already eager to go and find a better living.

Blissful and unaware of the situation, he didn't know that he was digging his own grave. Going there was not very easy and it was a difficult time and experience for him because of the things he went through. Torture and confiscation of his belongings and money was another painful experience by the so called "omagumbagumba." After this he decided to surrender himself to the police. They beat him hard since he had committed a crime and he went for several days without food. He then thought of how he would find means of survival when the police brought him back to the country of origin.

If you are one who has been in such a situation it's best to take the long process that is worth the wait than to take the short way that leads to Danger.

The picture itself

- the color in the background shows that the place that Gumbo was at was solemn meaning that it was boring and it all looked like everything was not moving well and life only became harder and harder
- the smoke pipe shows that it was a form of removing stress because of the situation that he went through.
- Gumbo thought of nothing but just doing what would make his body feel a bit at ease.
- The clothes were torn showing that life was a matter of living with nothing.

### Conclusion

Life is a journey not a destination. Traveling safely means having the right travel documents. IOM is there to give the full information on how people should travel safely. There is also the Beitbridge Reception and Support Centre which provides humanitarian assistance to Zimbabweans returned from South Africa. In the area of protection IOM assists returned migrants to get redress in cases of abuse, unpaid wages, rape, assault and unfair treatment.

## **12<sup>th</sup> Place Essay**

**By Prince Mbvumba**

### Legal Migration

They are migrating to other countries illegally through dangerous ways like in the forest where they pass through there are wild animals eg. Snakes, lions. They can be harmed there in the forest by thieves who can take your clothes, money and when you are a woman they can rape you. They cross borders through cutting electric fence which can injure then as well.

They hold a rope to stay closer to each other because it is dangerous to be apart from each other when you are going into the river because you can be swept away. The most dangerous part is that some women who cross with babies on their backs and they will be risking their lives and of the young babies.

While they are in the river some can be frightened when seeing crocodiles which will be attacking them and they panic and let lose of the rope. And they become crocodile's food or they can drown. As for women with babies on their backs the towel can let lose and the baby will fall into the water and the mother will have no other choice than to go after her baby. The mother will also drown with her baby.

### Safe Migration

As for me, I believe that migrating safely is the best way. One has to acquire the required documents which are passport, visa or emergency travel documents. This would enable one to live a better life out of the country.

Regardless of the reasons causing the person to migrate he is assured of success if they use the right means of migration. Very little chances of exploitation and abuse can happen if legal migration is undertaken.

Therefore I urge all youths to migrate safely for your own safety and success.

## 13<sup>th</sup> Place Essay

By Nyasha Natasha Tembedza

### Safe Migration

It is happening at last. We are leaving. It was not an easy feat; it took a lot of planning and organizing. It was a big decision and no one had taken it lightly.

There had been plenty of things to consider. For my parents they had to think if taking a new job in Botswana was worth it. Was the income more or less if they converted the pula to Zimbabwean dollars? The furniture had to be moved to Botswana and that cost money and also the duty at the borders had to be paid for. What I was really concerned about was leaving all my friends and close cousins. Moving would mean starting from the beginning again, making new friends and being viewed as the new kid in the school. We were not worried about the language barrier because we were quick learners. While packing and organizing we could learn more about the Tswana culture by going to the library...and so the madness of moving began.

Within a month everything was organized. Instead of selling the house we were going to rent it to my uncle. My parents were going to sell the big pieces of furniture and small kitchen appliances. This operation would also give us money to start our new life in Botswana. It was decided that my father would take care of our passports and getting work permits. After that he would travel to Gaborone to secure a job and look for a house for us to stay in.

Today is the day I have been appointed navigator. The route we would take would start in Harare, pass through Kadoma and Kwekwe and stop over for lunch in Gweru. We would then proceed to Bulawayo and if all goes well be in Plumtree on morning of the next day. My parents will pay duty and get our passports checked at the border and we should be able to cross into Botswana by end of the afternoon.

## **14<sup>th</sup> Place Essay**

**By Brighton Nyarango**

Over a million people migrate to other countries each year. Some are running away from intolerable situations such as food shortages, little money and no jobs. That is the reason why many people rebel and run away. Running away or migrating can solve nothing if you don't have a travel plan.

Migration can bring opportunities to work but can also create more problems. They leave their families so that they can look for employment. Most of these do not have the right travel documents required and can not cross borders safely considering their health and protecting their lives from danger.

Only a few migrants actually get jobs but for most of the people their life will be worse than it was before they left their country of origin. Without a traveling plan and knowledge of the costs involved to avoid the risky situations they decide to cross the border illegally. They do not find freedom on the road; instead they meet others like them who have been abandoned staying in unprotected areas. They also find lots of people who do dirty businesses to exploit others.

Young people are mostly easy target. They end up encouraging sexual perversions. Little wonder many migrants end up injured or dead. Their money can be stolen or their belongings. Their families suffer with no food or money to buy clothes. The only safe way is to have the right travel documents and a plan to avoid risky situations. Life is a journey, keep it safe and know before you go.

## **15<sup>th</sup> Place Essay**

**By Justice Jojwana**

Bongani Ncube is a young man who decided to leave the country and find a better job in South Africa. He first planned of crossing the border illegally, but he then heard of people being killed in the bushes near the border post.

After some time of thinking of how to migrate he contacted the Organization for Safe Migration for advice. He applied for a Zimbabwe passport and had to be patient until it was out. When it was out he applied for a visa. This process took long but he had to wait until he got all his traveling documents.

His friends had all gone to South Africa but using the illegal way. He always told them to have correct documents so that they could be safe in South Africa. When all his papers were in order he left the country. At the Beitbridge border they had to queue and have their passports checked. They reached the South Africa side of the border and had their documents checked again.

They arrived in Johannesburg in the early hours of the morning. Bongani knew no one in Johannesburg. he had to ask the police officers who were on patrol to take him to Durban where his uncle was. Unfortunately he could not stay with him as he had married and was living in a new place. They asked to see his travel documents and then they assisted him after seeing everything in order. After some time Bongani got a job.

## **16<sup>th</sup> Place Essay**

**By Phatutshedzo Mudau**

Safe Migration can be said to be the movement from one country to the other with the intention and awareness of risks that may occur on the journey or into the host country. For you to migrate safely there are travel documents required namely a legal passport and an entry visa if needed by the host country.

It is worthwhile for you to travel safely because you have the privilege to social security in the host country for example the right to education, housing and medication.

A legal migrant is also honored and has the right to family reunification, that is, you are allowed to reunite with your family in the host country.

If you have migrated safely you have the freedom to move as you wish without fear of the law. You will do this in trust and confidence since you would have the right documents needed for a migrant. Again you will not fear deportation or a brush with the law.

It is dangerous for one to migrate safely in that you have the honor to be represented in the trade unions of the host country. More so, it is a privilege to be a safe migrant because you are treated the same way as nationals of the host country. It might be at work, in the streets, in paid holidays, schools, medical centers or in every social service you need as a human being.

Many people find it difficult to comply with all these requirements forgetting the correct travel documents. As a result many migrants are taking the risk of working abroad without the right documents. Such people are called illegal migrants. It is vital to know before you go that illegal migrants are more likely to become victims of exploitation and mistreatment.

Problems and risks that you face as an illegal migrant include being denied admission and returned to your original country. If you manage to enter the country you may be deported. Suppose you are using someone's document you may be imprisoned or systematically deported.

As an illegal migrant you will not have freedom to move within the country for fear of deportation if you are asked to produce legal documents. Without proper documents you can be exploited and mistreated by your employers: they may pay you less or nothing at all or you may be denied social security. Women and children find themselves more at risk of STIs because they end up indulging in prostitution to earn a living. More over affordable healthcare might be too remote for you.

Border jumping is malevolent. It is bad and means exposing your life to danger. You can drown if there is need to cross a river to the host country you might be killed by wild animals or criminals. Let us be loyal to ourselves and apply for required documents. Remember PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE! Migrate legally, stay free and protect your health.

## **17<sup>th</sup> Place Essay**

**By Polite Mbedzi**

After putting down my suitcase I let my mind rake through the events of the few days since setting foot in South Africa. The days were characterized by sorrow and disaster. I had encountered situations of exploitation and xenophobia. I started regretting what I had done. I had allowed my emotions and feelings to drive me without making proper decisions. Abandoning my own birth country without any document was a grave mistake.

I remember vividly, the days I haunted for a job in the streets. Then one day my eyes rested on a building with a vacancy posted on the door. The words 'foreigners are allowed' were inscribed in bold letters. I was happy and full of enthusiasm. However, I did not get the job. The company needed someone with at least an O level certificate. Again it was useless to employ someone whom the police were in hot pursuit of.

I also thought of the women with seriously oozing money that begged you to sleep with them. Although I knew the risk I could not resist. Then at the end I made a resolution. I would board a bus to Zimbabwe. I was determined to go back to school and make a new beginning. Actually I had one thing in mind. I should have migrated safely. I should have planned before I left. All the dangers and risks that I encountered should have been taken into account. If only I had vowed not give way to peer pressure and be patient and worked towards my goal, I could have been someone else.

When I came to realize it, it was too late. It would have taken me only a few years to have an O level certificate and go through a job course. Armed with these I could then have applied for a passport and visa and oh how easy it could have been.

So youth do not be like me. If you have a chance it's high time you grab it with both hands. Do not be tempted to bribe a taxi that will drop you in the streets of wherever. In fact have the right travel documents.

## **18<sup>th</sup> Place Essau**

**By Jimmy Alfonse Hofisi**

When I look behind the life of a widow which I lovely expressed in full beam of light, a woman without legal documents in a foreign nation would be a mistake amongst the community. I have a little story about my close relative who left us to neighboring Mozambique in search of a job. That is not something to hide. I always try to imagine she is being affected by humanitarian crisis. The best option was to leave kids with grand parents. I used to ask myself what the driving force behind her struggles. It is the illegal movement within the country.

She is not the only one but many of our friends are always caught on the wrong side of migration. We are forbidden to travel without correct documents. Anyone with that problem is at risk of contracting HIV and AIDS. If anyone wants to acquire these visa and traveling documents it is wise to approach embassies.

A journey without the right travel documents might lead to someone behind bars. It might lead to complete destruction of ones future. Most people do not realize that if they are in some situations driving them to migrate they must obtain asylum or refugee status. Organizations which can identify the right traveling documents for a certain situation include the International Organization for Migration.

## **19<sup>th</sup> Place Essay**

**By Everjoy Ngwenya**

As it universally acknowledged that safe migration means crossing borders with correct documentation, having a travel plan and knowledge of the costs involved to avoid risky situations.

The art work portrays a graduate juxtaposed to a jail bird. The graduate used the rightful means of migration. That is the passport with a visa if necessary or emergency travel document. This is represented by the green passport lying at the corner of the painting.

As a result of proper documentation the person managed to undertake his studies till graduation. The building blocks or bricks behind him represent safe living. That is the person is assured of accommodation, good working conditions and a good life.

This other person represents border jumpers that are awaiting deportation. The person looks miserable and pathetic behind bars. All his plans are hopeless, no study, career furthering or family reunification.

The plight of this person might be that this person was unemployed and resorted to being a criminal and later on arrested. The lash behind him represents a xenophobic attack weapon that may be used to beat him if he is unfortunate like some migrants in South Africa. Therefore brothers and sisters let's unite and be on the right side of the law.

## **20<sup>th</sup> Place Essay**

**By Walter Ngorima**

Life is a journey and we should keep it safe. Having the right travel documents you can also keep your life from the harsh environment.

This picture tries to give us the disadvantages of not possessing the right travel documents and the advantages of having them. In the case where you do not possess any of these documents and you try border jumping you may face a lot of problems. Like being robbed and for women they may result in death, rape or injuries.

In the country you may have gone without proper documentation jobs will be hard to come by. This will result in lack of money to buy basic necessities. That may push the person into stealing or become a lady of the night and then end up behind bars.

But if you have the right travel documents you will not face many problems. You may be just like the smiling gentlemen in my picture because if you have the right documents you travel safely and you are free to move from one place to another.

## **21<sup>st</sup> Place Essay**

**By Utis Mphini**

### **Mother and Child- Stuck in The Wilderness**

Whenever I imagine how I would feel like if I was to be stuck in a foreign nation, my mind gets puzzled. Just like my neighbour Thandi who vanished from the neighbourhood about two years ago. Many of us have got no clue. The young woman was unfit for her mission of going astray. During the days of her disappearance, relatives and friends were so much concerned about her disappearance. I wonder what she did with her pregnancy, but according to the portrait, they are alive. Some were mumbling that she never had a single legal document. Of course Thandi did not follow safe migration precautions. I don't want to beat about the bush as I did on the portrait but what she did was absolutely wrong.

If my fellow youths want to live a reckless life

Living a reckless life the young woman in her twenties might have strived to seek and acquire medical attention on whichever part of the world she is in. Obviously such kind of life leads to crime, corruption and unhealthy conditions. It's true that the government cannot protect anyone who is against the law. Peer educators must advise that if anyone wants to have a safe holiday, business trip or for any other cause can be able to approach certain organizations concerned about crossing borders.

There are popular migration places in our country like the passport offices. They must issue other different types of travellers' documents like the emergency travelling documents and many others. I urge the government of our country to take special precautions at their peak to issuing the right documents to the right people at the right time. The general public has all the rights to legal travellers' documents. If the general public notice the delay in issuing their rights to travelling documents they will instantly break the law. I cannot always blame the government for not issuing some legal documents but blame corruption. One of the organizations which is concerned about safe travelling is the International Organization for Migration. Many youths might think that if others travel a lot abroad, they might wish to join, it makes an unplanned trip.

Before I travel anywhere just like going to the city centre, I would have planned my mission and destination. The whole trip has to be planned for such that I won't have stratagems. As for the expression on the portrait, I used some bright lemon yellows and lovely oak to enhance the unfavourable atmosphere. To me it means things are hard to comby. I like using dull colours especially on the foreground with a bit of rough texture for the young urchin's face. The mother-child love has been expressed at the same time as you can see how he's been held by the mother. The light greens on the background might as well complement to produce a destination which repels the family. Being not borne and bread on such a place might be difficult to adopt to it's kind of living. Shades of light purple and blue violet might express the sense that they are new comers to their uncertain destination.

## **22<sup>nd</sup> Place Essay**

**By Bridget Tami**

### **What is a dustbin?**

How would you describe a person without the right travel documents?

A dustbin is a container used for keeping trash. If you travel without the right travel documents you will be treated as trash, you belong to a dustbin.

I'm proud to be a passport holder with a valid visa. I know I can travel freely, safely without fear because my passport is valid. Life is a journey, it has so much to offer, pleasures to sweeten up the leisure but they can all turn to be sour if you travel without the right travel documents.

Did you know that all migrants with or without documents have certain basic rights but in reality these rights are often denied to migrants without legal papers. So my dear friends insist on your rights and have a passport with a valid visa and if you are working, have a worker's permit and visa or if you are studying have a study visa.

If you travel without the right travel documents you put your life at risk, you can either be killed or raped or deported. Don't you want the independence to move freely within the country without fear of deportation? Do you want to be reluctant to return to your home country for fear that you may not later be bale to re-enter your host country. Do you want to be exploited and mistreated or treated like trash bin just because you don't have a work permit? Why risk your life? Why expose your life to HIV and AIDS.

Do you know that you may be denied free or affordable health care. Remember LIFE IS A JOURNEY SO KEEP IT SAFE. Hupenyu rwendo, huchengetedze. You are worth not to be called trash, be responsible, travel legally. Before you do it, have a travel plan, have sufficient funds, have the right travel documents and a genuine legal purpose. By holding all these, you will be respected and stay safely.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Place Essay

By Lovemore Madyira

### Safe migration, safe sex, have the right travel documents

Ndiri mugwara uye ndiri kufamba zvakanaka nokuti ndine magwara angu akakwana. Kuva nemagwara akakwana kunoita kuti ndifambe ndisingatyi. Passport ichiri kushanda ine visa rinoita kuti ndifambe zvakanaka murwendo rwangu kunyange ndikasangana nemapurisa handitizi kana kutya nekuti ndine magwara angu akakwana achiri kushanda. Kan uine passport nevisa une kodzero yekupinda paborder ripi neripi zvaro kungave kunyika dzakatikomberedza dzakaita seSouth Africa, Botswana nedzimwewo. Unokwanisa kutsvaga basa zvichibva nekuti visa rako nderipi uye iwe unoda zvipi. Unokwanisa kureporter mushure mekunge wambunyikidzwa pabasa ipapo. Hauna kufanana neuya nenge asina magwara akakwana anenge achitya mukati kuti ndikabudisa kana kutaura zvandaitirwa ndinobatwa ndodzoserwa kunyika yangu yechizvarirwo.

Unenge uine kodzero yekurapwa kana kudya uye kupikisa pamari yaunenge uchipiwa uchishanda nebaso nenguva yakataurwa usingapfuuri nguva iyoiyo. Kana pane ane magwara akakwana neasina vanekodzero dzakafanana sekuva nepekugara, kuwana zvekudya, kurapwa kana vakuwara uye kuendesawo nyaya kumapurisa kana uchinge wambunyikidzwa, asi semunhu anenge akahwanda nechimunwe anenge achitya kuti kuti ndikazvibudisa neniwo ndatovavo pamhene, ndinobva ndatowanikidzwa ndobva ndadzozwa kunyika kwangu nemabhazi aya anodidzwa kuti magumbakumba pamwe neesangana re International Organization for Migration. Kana uine magwara akakwana hausangani nematambudziko akaita sekubatwa nemagumaguma, kueredzwa nenzizi, kudyiwa nemakarwe nemhuka, kushandiswa kana kurepwa. Kusagununa nemari yaunopiwa uye kushandiswa nguva refu. Kusashandisa marights ako akakwana, kuderedzwa pabasa uye kusavimbiwa nevamwe pabasa ipapo.

Mavara matatu, Green, Amber, Red ane zvirevo zvizhinji paSafe migration.

**Green:** Ruvara urwu runofananidzwa nemunhu anenge aine magwara ake akakwana anosanganisira passport nevisa zvichiri kushanda. Zvichireva kuti munhu haafanirwi kutanga nemberi sekujamba maborder zvisiri pamutemo usina magwara ako akakwana anoita kuti ufambe zviri pamutemo pasina kutya, kuyambuka nemumvura kana kubhadhariswa mari nemagovernment officials kuti upfuure. Unenge usina mafack documents uye haukwanise kuita smuggling nokuti unenge uine magwara ako akakwana. Haunumiri miri sezvatinoziva ruvara urwu rwunoreva kuti une kodzero dzako dzakakwana unofamba nechinangwa hautyi kana kutiza mapurisa. Wakatora matanho akakwana ukatora gwara rakanan rokutora passport yako. Wakatora usingabhadhariswe mari zhinji uye wakamirira kusvikira yabuda. Kana uine madocuments ako akakwana une kodzero dzako dzekuvhunza uye kuramba kusungwa nokuti unenge wava kutodzvinyirirwa uye kumbunyikidzwa kodzero zako. Ikodzero dzako kutaurira mapurisa kana wabatwa zvisina kunaka uye une kodzero dzekurapwa kana wakuwara.

**Amber:** Urwu rwunoratidza kuti wakamirira kusvika passport yako yabuda. Hauna kumboedza kuda kupfuura kana kutyora mutemo.

**Red:** Hauna magwara akakwana ekufambisa uye hupenyu hwako hunenge hwatomira. Utano hwako nemafambiro ako haavimbwi. Pese pauri unogara uchingotyana nokuti unenge watyora mutemo wenyika yako pamwe neyaunenge waenda. Unosangana nematambudziko mazhinji mungava mukufamba kana pakushanda anosanganisira kumbunyikidzwa kodzero dzako nemagumaguma, kudyiwa nemakarwe, kunyimwa mari kana kupiwa shoma pabasa raunenge uchishanda

## **24<sup>th</sup> Place Essay**

**By Bongani Mabika**

### **Safe Migration**

Safe migration is travelling to another place with fully required documents which are passport or travelling documents like the Emergency Travelling Documents (ETD) when travelling out of your country of birth. This is so because it will be the safest way for the traveler destined for the journey.

Travelling with the required documents is an advantage because you can be offered any help you need from that country like health care, working conditions will be the same with the original citizen and even for furthering your studies at any University or school or school you wish to enroll they may offer you a place. After studying and graduated for the job you intend to do. The country will offer you a job and you will be working under the good conditions and you will be like a king or queen, because the company will be needing your profession. There will be no segregation among the employer because he will know that by losing you the company will not function actively and it will take some time for the company to get other qualified personnel. Even the employer may be sued for slavery or cruelty among humans. So migrating safely is the best way to travel than travelling illegally.

Safe migration is vital, especially if you are a family man and want to unite with your family again. It is one of the best and easiest ways for you and your family to unite again. This is so because the government of the country you are working for will take care of your family and it is the duty of every country to take care of the children of legal migrant. They have the right to health, education, and shelter, so this will be offered to you if you have every particular.

Migrating safely still is one of the best ways because you can live a first class lifestyle in that country through having proper documents and having entered legally you can enjoy your stay. To those who enter illegally unsafe migration, to some of them don't engage their brains on doing something progressive but they turn to forget how they entered that country and that they end up being swallowed by the lifestyle of the original citizens because they will be hiding their origins. Without proper travelling documents it is rare to find an employer who will treat you fairly. That is why our brothers and sisters who travel illegally are always caught in these situations and they end up doing minor jobs. Also the policemen will be always on their back because they are illegal, no identity, no proper shelter and health care for you and your family.

So my advice is, to be a safe migrant have all the required documents and travel and stay safe on your destiny. If you don't have the documents stay home and try something productive to fend money to have proper travelling documents.

## **25<sup>th</sup> Place Essay**

**By Jerome Cambell**

### **Life is a journey, Keep it Safe.**

As you can see on my drawing that there are two ways of crossing borders which are illegal and legal.

The people that are jumping borders which is illegal is caused by many things which are lack of food: most people jump borders to accumulate food both selling and personal use. These people if caught can be imprisoned even shot.

Also, most of the people that jump borders go to the country looking for jobs but more importantly better living conditions which they don't find. They end up living in squatter camp and if they find jobs it's normally a low paying one where the salary they get is not worth the labour they do. Other become sex workers like prostitutes.

On top of the border jumpers that cross because of lack of money in the country they originate from, never succeed in the next country that's why legal crossing is better.

To cross legally one would need a passport which should be valid, a visa, one would need address of new accommodation in the next country and better from that person one would want to live with. This would mean that if one crosses they would live a proper life without need to sell body.

As you can see in my drawing that on the left are people who are jumping the borders who are the people who are going to suffer at the end if caught or when hunting for jobs and that is way illegal crossing is not wanted.

On the right of my drawing is a simple drawing of what at the border where one would have to pass through customs and then pass soldiers/police officers to cross to the other side. If one crosses these way one would need to have a visa which is given if one has relations in the other country or has money waiting for his use in the other country so he would not have to do extreme things for money.

## 26<sup>th</sup> Place Essay

By Tapiwa Mutonga

Safe zone was developed to reach out young Zimbabweans between the ages of 15-24. Safe zone is their dish out information about migration and risks and realities which are going to be faced by an irregular migrant/ undocumented document migrant and in addition to that we encourage Safe Health practices for a safer future as part of the safe journey Information Campaign.

Yes migration can bring opportunities to work study and reunite with families. But can carry risks and can place you at greater risk of becoming victim to human trafficking or to sexual exploitation. This can also put your health at risks. All migrants with or without documents, have certain basic rights but be aware that these rights are often denied to migrant without legal papers. Be a properly documented migrant and you will have additional rights. I wonder why people find it difficult to comply the requirements for getting the right travel document than to be victims of exploitation.

Living in another country is more than just an opportunity to find work and earn a better salary. My fellow Zimbabweans lets not just do it, let's migrate legally and protect our health. And be aware that everyone can be victim to human trafficking. They are friends who pretend to be friends. But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother, The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has programmes worldwide to end this horrific crime. Life is the most precious thing if you check it so keep it safe. Youths you are encouraged to make a plan before travelling.

Amagama guma is one of the endangered species so don't put your life at risks. Let's inform others about the dangers of irregular migration there is even death. Travelling with right documents is the best way of avoiding risks. If you work without a proper permit you can be exploited and mistreated and you can't move freely. Let's have the necessary documents for travel abroad and promote safe migration.

You need to have a passport whenever you leave Zimbabwe. Migrants life is a journey keep it safe, travel legally. Stay safe and protect your health. Say no to be a victim!!! Lets bring an elephant into a house by helping each other with the correct information. Parents make sure that your children are getting lessons for life

Famba zvakanaka safe journey

## **27<sup>th</sup> Place Essay**

**By David Ndou**

### **Safe Migration**

A person should take precautions when thinking of migrating. Safe migration is when one travels from his country using to another using documents which are valid. The documents include the passport with a visa, identical card or drivers licence and working permits.

In order for a person to acquire a passport he should have an identity card, birth certificate, two passport sized photos and an application form to fill in. After this, he is given receipts which indicate the date on which the person will collect the passport and the applications are done at the Home Affairs Offices. For a person to travel the passport should have the visa which is applied from the Embassy of the country of interest. Passport should be accompanied by a traveller's cheque. A traveller's cheque is an official document showing that an individual has a certain amount of money to be used during the visit. These cheques are sent through the embassy as a proof that the person has got enough money to undertake a journey.

The valid documents all a person to travel via designated entry points or border posts. These areas are operated by immigration departments of the neighbouring countries. There are complicated and sophisticated machines to screen travellers and goods which are crossing through border posts.

One can use advanced transport technology such as an aeroplane. If you are using this type of transport you produce the documents which are valid such as visa and work permits. Air travel has low risks but it has got disadvantage of that it is used by rich people because it is expensive.

Road transport has an advantage in the sense that it carries many people from one place to another and it is cheaper than air. Everyone prefers the form of transport because it is affordable.

Crossing in undesignated entry points or border posts is dangerous in the sense that an individual can encounter many problems such as attacked by water predators and wild animals. In addition, many people are ill treated because they don't have proper documents such as working permits and passports. However people must have right documents in order to stay safe in any country of their dreams.

When the migrants travel they should have adequate or enough food, clothes, money and other things which maybe useful during the journey.

## **28<sup>th</sup> Place Essay**

**By Danmore Mambondiyani.**

### **Safe Travelling**

Life is a journey so let's keep it safe. On my picture I have I have tried to point out safe travelling which is very expensive but recommended to safeguard our lives. The plane in flight ready to land indicate how safe the mode of transport is, thus when travelling people are recommended to migrate with the required documents, to have a good living wherever you are going.

On the other hand I have pointed out a situation which most of the p[people out here are using "Crossing boundaries irregularly- border jumping". This has several dangerous outcomes which include the one on my picture. As some people use the deep forests when crossing the boundaries a lot of dangerous animals like snares and lions can be life barriers.

On my picture a man is being chased by a lion whilst in the forests trying to cross the boundary illegally. This happens in most cases and you find out that people like these go missing. Thus I have showed that it's illegal and not wanted by the face or giant hands crossing the whole scene.

Thus people are advised to safeguard their lives when travelling

## **29<sup>th</sup> Place Essay**

**By Bongani Mathe**

### **Safe migration**

The picture behind outlines the story of a lady who is wearing a red duke who wanted to go to Botswana legally. She has no idea about the requirements which are needed when migrating from Zimbabwe to Botswana, so she went to Botswana embassy when she got the information that she should have the legal documents like a passport or Emergency Travelling Documents (ETD), road levy, no visa and also money that will enable her to survive during her visit.

We see her on the second part of the picture at Ramakhebana boarder (Botswana) migrating with correct documents required.

If you want to travel abroad and you don't know the requirements contact your embassies or IOM on  
iomharare@iom.int  
www.iom.int  
or call 04- 335044

Migrate safely and enjoy your stay

## **30<sup>th</sup> Place Essay**

**By Vusimuzy Moyo**

### **Safe Migration**

Safe migration is a process chiefly concerned with safe movement of an individual or group of individuals from one place or country to another with the intention of temporarily changing the place of residents. About seventy percent of irregular migrants are the youth who are at school or school leavers leaving their mother country to other foreign countries usually without the right travelling documents. Migration can be internal or external but the former require more safe migration documents than the latter. Safe internal migration chiefly requires or needs a ticket to go whereas safe external migration requires a number of legal and safe migration documents.

The piece of art describe how exactly safe migration can be possible for specifically external migrants and for specifically youth though it can be applied to all age groups. Safe migration needs a lot of attention to reduce problems related to health such as water borne diseases especially cholera and attacks by foreigners. Many youths who are studying abroad obviously in conducive living and learning environment, patiently carried legal safe migration procedures and these procedures are shown on the piece of art.

The youth have a higher degree of thinking as shown on the piece of art since they managed to ask themselves” What are the basic safe migration procedures?” and they managed to come up with four different types of basic requirements namely valid passport with a visa, permit, Emergency Travelling Document and Border Pass.

Then from the list above the individual decides which one is for long term period or not. Then the individual decides to apply for a passport with the intention that it will last longer and for the purposes of staying for a longer period of time in that defined foreign country of his or her own choice, Republic of South Africa for instance. Then if one has the passport with a visa, he or she can decide to go to any foreign country of his or her own choice since the travelling documents are in his or her own hands.

To solve destination problems the individual must know where he or she is going to stay. It will be easier if he or she will have relatives in that foreign country who will provide food and accommodation hence reducing to zero possible risks related to health mainly prostitution as a result of severe shortage of money for buying food and clothes. Individual can also apply for a vacancy to any country of interest before he or she leaves the mother country to migrate to safe place of destination.