

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY FROM THE BORDER

If you have to ride with a strange driver alone, or if there are only two of you:

Before the trip:

- find the control points of the car when you got inside - how quickly open the door, how the door blocks and unlocks;
- Putting things in the trunk is fine, but if you have the opportunity to keep them close to you, use it. Keep bag or backpack with documents and money with you, and keep your bag or backpack between you and the driver. You can use it as a kind of shield, and when it's with you, you have it in case you have to run out without things.

On the trip / if the driver speaks to you during the trip:

- don't give him too much personal information;
- respond him in friendly but vaguely way if the conversation is about your personal details;
- try to move the conversation about your life to his life or to neutral topics, try to catch interest things for him and ask questions about it - let him talk more than you if he wants to talk;
- don't speak on contentious topics or try to move away from them (like religion, minorities, etc), if you're not sure of your solidarity with the driver on this issue;
- try to argue less with driver; if he expresses the opposite of your point of view, just agree or answer in vaguely way;
- try to keep as much confidence as possible and not show to the driver your vulnerability.

Suspicious if the driver:

- persistently asks or tell you that you're alone now, will be alone in the city or country where you're going, clarifies about your husband or boyfriend and asks you about good connection with him;
- persistently asks about you after you have tried to move the topic;
- asks a lot about have you anyone to stay, where is the place, who is your host;
- offers attractive alternatives;
- offers too much help in an uncertain future, does not specify how exactly he will help you, answers your questions in a vague way.

If you feel the driver violates your personal space, makes you suspicious or uncomfortable:

- speak confidently, a little bit harshly even if you don't feel any confidence;
- don't laugh, don't joke with him;
- get more personal space around you, move further from the driver, close your arms (this is where your bag or backpack is useful)
- get out of the car at the earliest opportunity.

How to get out of the car:

- ask to stop the car in an appropriate place, don't tell the driver about your intention to leave the car completely, say that you need to get some air
- if the driver is looking for a place to stop for a long time, pretend you feel sick, ask him to stop the car at the nearest parking with a toilet (usually there are people)
- if you're going through some locality ask him to stop right there as soon as possible
- if you are on a road with no village or town near, tell the driver you have a piece of clothing stuck in the door and it's pulling on you. Ask him to stop and unlock the door so you can free the cloth (he won't be able to see the clothing, so it can be imaginary)
- get out of the car with a bag with documents, ask to open the trunk (you can say you need something from your luggage), take out your luggage and after that tell the driver you don't want to go further with him.

If the driver doesn't stop:

- insistently demand, insistently ask why he doesn't stop;
- raise your voice if you can scream loud do it incessantly - it's very distracting;
- try to find something heavy or solid and threaten you'll start to crash the car; open the door on the move, if it's not blocked (just hold yourself), keep demanding to stop.

Extreme measures:

- start breaking, tearing, cutting, dirtying the car inside (don't hit windows - you can be hurt by fragments) - in most cases driver will prefer to save the car;
- attack the driver - hit with what you can, aim at his eyes with anything including fingers, bite as much as you can if the driver tries to move you away, interfere with driving - in most cases the driver will not want to have an accident because of you (but rate the chances to get into an accident);
- induce vomiting (press on the root of the tongue with fingers) if you can, try to vomit on yourself. This reduces the risk of the driver beating you for dirtying his car, and increases the chance of him not making contact with you before you clean yourself.

Remember your trump card is the driver's attention with the car and the road, he can't completely distract for your actions.