# Two jailed for smuggling migrants hidden under rubbish in van at Eurotunnel



Two individuals have been sentenced to prison after attempting to smuggle five Vietnamese migrants into the UK by concealing them under rubbish in a van. Andrew Stainton, 48, and Denice Blendell, 62, faced their sentences after being apprehended in March 2022 by Border Force officers at the Eurotunnel terminal located in Coquelles, France.

During the search of their unregistered van, authorities discovered the migrants hidden beneath an old mattress, various clothing items, and heavy motorbike parts. This method of concealment highlighted the lengths to which smugglers may go to avoid detection.

In Hull Crown Court, Stainton received a sentence of three years and nine months for conspiring to facilitate illegal entry into the UK. Blendell was sentenced to one year and eight months for her role in the operation.

This case underscores ongoing concerns regarding human trafficking and the illegal migration of individuals seeking entry into the UK, often relying on dangerous and deceptive methods. The Home Office has been vocal about its commitment to tackling these issues, as the phenomenon of people-smuggling continues to pose significant challenges to border security.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/immigration-offenders-criminals-vietnam-timor-leste-natalie-alan-sirrell-b1172844.html> - This article discusses a UK-based gang, including siblings Natalie and Alan Sirrell, who were sentenced for their role in a trafficking operation that involved concealing Vietnamese migrants under a bed in a campervan bound for the UK in July 2020.
* <https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/a-human-smuggler-was-jailed-over-the-deaths-of-39-vietnamese-migrants-who-suffocated-in-a-uk-lorry-1.6475784> - This article reports on the sentencing of a human smuggler to 12 years in prison for the deaths of 39 Vietnamese migrants who suffocated in a UK lorry, highlighting the severe consequences of people-smuggling operations.
* <https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2022-01-19/smuggling-ringleader-jailed-over-essex-lorry-deaths-of-39-vietnamese-migrants> - This article details the conviction of a Vietnamese ringleader in Belgium, who was sentenced to 15 years in prison for his role in a people-smuggling operation that resulted in the deaths of 39 Vietnamese migrants in Essex.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-47320462> - This article reports on the conviction of three gang members who smuggled four Vietnamese men into the UK in a dinghy, highlighting the use of covert surveillance by police to monitor the activities of the gang.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-47390021> - This article discusses the sentencing of a gang involved in smuggling Vietnamese migrants into Kent, emphasizing the 'callous disregard for safety' shown by the traffickers.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c51rqyy18l0o> - This article reports on the sentencing of two individuals, Gheorghe Bonculescu and Elena Birovescu, for trafficking a woman into the UK and forcing her into sex work, highlighting the ongoing concerns regarding human trafficking and illegal migration.
* <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMiXEFVX3lxTFAyblFsaTlkaVlNODVPWEo4Y2tmZE1ncWxUN2FfdHRvdW1YbkdKT2ZpNHZaajdOZTJXWmRQcjJ5WnV3dHZ0bzFPb3U2UVFzUWhDc3p0cGVCOElWVUxz0gFiQVVfeXFMT21Sd1NneXhmVjU2eml5Q1ZVcThmYnJOMUJGUlh4Smppa0xXc1ZhT01TeHRKM2dkNlpKSm1LUElqb2JfMUg0SF9pOEM2TURfd2l6QVEtX3B4OE1hZnd1WklocHc?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data