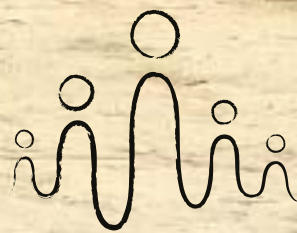


**SIX MONTHS ON  
FILLING INFORMATION GAPS RELATING TO CHILDREN  
AND YOUNG ADULTS IN NORTHERN FRANCE  
FOLLOWING THE DEMOLITION OF THE CALAIS CAMP**



**REFUGEE RIGHTS  
EUROPE**

In collaboration with



and

**Denise Charlton  
and Associates**

**DATES OF RESEARCH**

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# INTRODUCTION

April 2017 marks six months since the final eviction of the so-called 'Jungle' camp in Calais in October 2016.

Following the violent demolition, which was characterised by explosive fires and widespread chaos, an estimated 1,500 unaccompanied children were either transported to state-run accommodation centres across France, thought to have gone into hiding nearby, or simply have disappeared in the midst of the tumult. Meanwhile, local charities estimated that some 2,000 residents, including both adults and children, left the camp ahead of its demolition to seek shelter elsewhere in northern France, out of sight from the French authorities who were doing their utmost to disperse and remove people from the region altogether.<sup>1</sup>

As part of the UK's support for the Calais camp clearance, 750 children have been transferred from France to the UK.<sup>2</sup> In a seemingly encouraging move, the Dubs Amendment of May 2016 legislated that 3,000 children were to be brought to the UK. However, it was later decided that only 350 children would be relocated to the UK under very restrictive criteria.<sup>3</sup> At the same time, Britain has

contributed vast amounts of money towards the construction of a new wall in Calais, aimed at further hindering entry into the UK in connection with the demolitions.

Six months on, a large number of displaced people – including hundreds of unaccompanied children – are sleeping rough in Calais, seeking shelter in nearby makeshift camps, or living on the streets of Paris. Many still hope to one day make it to the UK.<sup>4</sup> The current situation appears untenable and a number of aid organisations operating in the area have raised strong concerns about the safety of children in particular. Meanwhile,

French and British authorities appear reluctant to address the situation in a meaningful manner in order to reach a more sustainable and humane solution to this crisis.

The displaced people in and around Calais have experienced repeated challenges during all stages of their displacement. Many have taken dangerous journeys to and across Europe which often lead to serious injuries or health problems and can sometimes be fatal.<sup>5</sup> Spending lengthy periods of time sleeping rough adds to these problems, leading not only to physical but mental

**THEY  
[UNACCOMPANIED  
MINORS] FACE  
HEIGHTED RISKS  
OF EXPOSURE TO  
SEXUAL VIOLENCE,  
EXPLOITATION AND  
TRAFFICKING.**

health concerns. Without the security of a communal camp or an adequate reception centre, the displaced people in northern France are at risk of health problems, exploitation, violence and abuse.

In order to investigate the situation faced by displaced people in the aftermath of the Calais evictions, Refugee Rights Europe (RRE) conducted research in Paris in January 2017.<sup>6</sup> There we found that adults and unaccompanied minors suffered from health problems due to the cold weather, frequently had their belongings taken, were moved on from their sleeping

**WITHOUT THE  
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OF HEALTH PROBLEMS,  
EXPLOITATION,  
VIOLENCE  
AND ABUSE.**

<sup>1</sup> Ansems de Vries and Welander (2016) 'Calais Demolition: Mission Accomplished,' <https://www.opendemocracy.net/mediterranean-journeys-in-hope/leonie-ansems-de-vries-marta-welander/calais-demolition-mission-accom>

<sup>2</sup> Parliament UK (2017) 'Immigration: Written statement', <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2017-02-08/HCWS467/>

<sup>3</sup> Help Refugees (2017) 'Legal Proceedings Update', <http://www.helprefugees.org.uk/news/help-refugees-legal-proceedings-update-2/>

<sup>4</sup> RRE (2016) 'Still Here', [http://refugeerights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/RRE\\_StillHere.pdf](http://refugeerights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/RRE_StillHere.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> UNICEF (2016) 'Danger Every Step of the Way', [https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/childrenonthemove/files/Child\\_Alert\\_Final\\_PDF.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/childrenonthemove/files/Child_Alert_Final_PDF.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Refugee Rights Europe (2017) [http://refugeerights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/RRE\\_LifeOnTheStreets.pdf](http://refugeerights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/RRE_LifeOnTheStreets.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Refugee Rights Europe (2017) [http://refugeerights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/RRE\\_LifeOnTheStreets.pdf](http://refugeerights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/RRE_LifeOnTheStreets.pdf)



spots, and experienced police violence and verbal abuse.<sup>7</sup> Many had not applied for asylum in France as they hoped to do so in the UK. In fear of officials, many remained hidden on the streets rather than in official accommodation, with no access to healthcare.

Unaccompanied minors are of course particularly vulnerable in this context. They face heightened risks of exposure to sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking. Moreover, a recent report found that they commonly suffer from depression, anxiety and PTSD.<sup>8</sup>

Upon arrival in Europe, children face a culture of disbelief and suspicion, and are often subjected to invasive age assessment tests which are largely unreliable.<sup>9</sup> At this stage, legal advice and support is often lacking.

### **SLOW ASYLUM AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROCESSES MEAN THAT CHILDREN OFTEN SPEND LONG PERIODS OF TIME WAITING.**

Their development is impaired and their needs neglected.<sup>10</sup> Slow asylum and family reunification processes mean that children often spend long periods of time waiting, uncertain of what their future holds and out of school for prolonged periods of time.

Following on from the Paris study, the Refugee Rights Europe deployed a team of researchers to Calais and the surrounding area for five days in April 2017. The aim was to document the situation faced by hundreds of children and young adults.

This latest study is based on a survey of 53% of the 400 refugees and displaced people estimated to be residing in the Calais area (excluding the Dunkirk camp) by local aid organisations. Among those interviewed were 86 children - some 43% of the displaced minors thought to be in the region. As a result, this is the largest independent study to be conducted in Calais since the demolition of the so-called 'Jungle' camp six months ago.

8. UNICEF (2016) 'Danger Every Step of the Way', [https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/childrenonthemove/files/Child\\_Alert\\_Final\\_PDF.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/childrenonthemove/files/Child_Alert_Final_PDF.pdf)

9. House of Lords European Union Committee (2016) 'Children in Crisis: Unaccompanied migrant children in the EU', <https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201617/ldselect/ldaucm/34/34.pdf>

10. Human Rights Watch, <https://www.hrw.org/topic/childrens-rights/refugees-and-migrants>

# METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

The purpose of our first-hand data collection is to provide policymakers, advocacy groups and the general public with an insight into the conditions faced by refugees and displaced people within European borders.

In contrast to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) who are responsible for demographic data collection in many of the state-run camps across Europe, our data and research are independently collected with the aim of informing public debate and contributing to a long-term resolution to the current humanitarian crisis.

The data presented in this report was collected in Calais and the surrounding area from 5 to 9 April 2017. Over this period, eight RRE researchers conducted 213 surveys in English, Amharic, Arabic, Dari, Kurdish, Pashto and Tigrinya. The format was semi-structured, and aimed to capture the lived experience primarily of individuals under the age of 18. In total, 92.5% of respondents were men and 7.5% women.

Each member of the research team had field experience of working with refugees and displaced people, or similar groups. The

**EIGHT RRE RESEARCHERS CONDUCTED 213 SURVEYS IN ENGLISH, AMHARIC, ARABIC, DARI, KURDISH, PASHTO AND TIGRINYA.**

researchers were recruited from RRE's pool and included native speakers of all key languages. The study was guided by ethical checklists that are underpinned by data protection policies, child safeguarding policies and a robust risk register to ensure the security and dignity of all participants. Researchers attended a compulsory induction session to stress the importance of strict adherence to all RRE policies, and to discuss referral policies,

child protection and issues pertaining to full and informed consent.

In most cases, RRE adopts a methodology of random selection - using stratification and continuously monitoring the breakdown of demographic groups within the sample throughout its research studies, to ensure that the final data is representative of a given situation. We initially planned to employ our methodology of random selection in Calais also on this occasion, but external conditions and barriers made it necessary for us to be flexible in our approach.

We surveyed as many individuals as possible, comparing our sample every evening against the estimated number of individuals identified by partner organisations operating on the ground. Moreover, we widened our reach by

visiting one safe house, two day centres in the area, and one informal camp. Each of these research locations hosts individuals who circulate in the Calais area, and it is our understanding that the same population group moves constantly between these research locations. This led onto a path of so-called snowball sampling. As a result, selection bias could not always be avoided, and we were at times unable to steer the sample and stratification as much as we would ideally have liked.

There is uncertainty about the exact population size, since it is in constant flux and there is no official registration system. This means it is not possible to determine exactly how large a sample we obtained, and how representative it is of the demographic groups in the area. However, having consulted local aid organisations, we estimate having surveyed approximately 53% of individuals in the area, not including the 1,500 Afghan and Kurdish residents of the Dunkirk camp (which burned down a few days after completion of our research study). We believe the country and age groups have been represented with relatively good accuracy.

**THE STUDY WAS GUIDED BY ETHICAL CHECKLISTS THAT ARE UNDERPINNED BY DATA PROTECTION POLICIES, CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICIES AND A ROBUST RISK REGISTER TO ENSURE THE SECURITY AND DIGNITY OF ALL PARTICIPANTS.**



# PART ONE

## THE OVERALL SITUATION FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE IN CALAIS

Six months after the demolition of the Calais camp in October 2016, many remain displaced in northern France, without recourse to state support. While no official figures exist, local charities estimate that there are approximately 400 displaced people in Calais and the surrounding area.

Our research study collected data from 213 respondents - some 53% of the estimated displaced individuals in the area. Respondents were identified on the streets of Calais, a safe

house in the town, two day centres in the area, and one informal camp. While the responses varied somewhat between those who sleep on the streets and those who had access to shelter in the camp or safe house, overall experiences were similar across the research locations - not least because respondents appeared to move between the different locations researched.

The research findings in this section relate to all 213 respondents - both adults and minors.

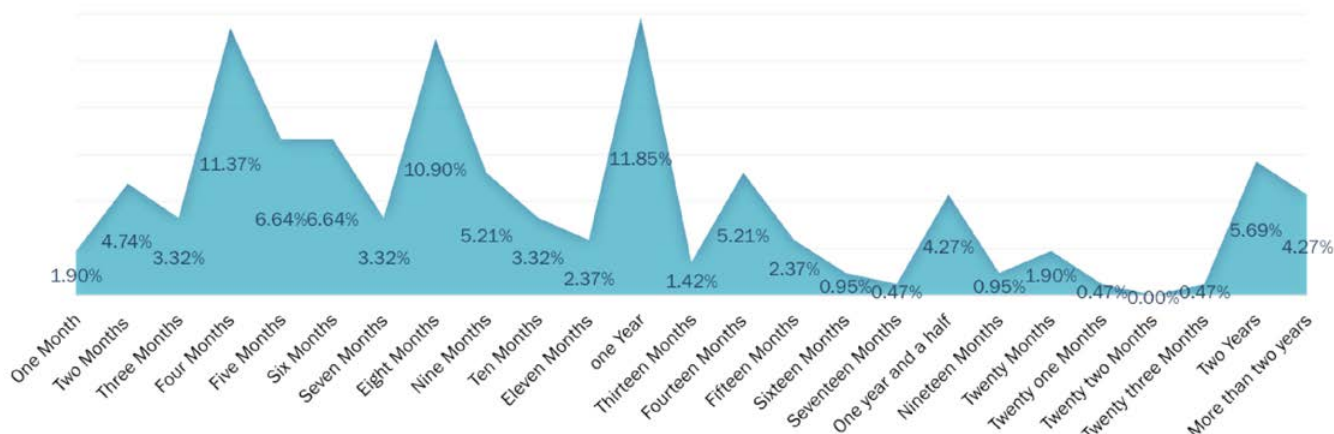
92.5% of these respondents were males, and 7.5% were females. Respondents came from Eritrea (39.4%), Sudan (29.6%), Ethiopia (19.7%), Afghanistan (4.2%) and Pakistan (3.3%), as well as a small number from Egypt, Iraq, Iran and Palestine.





## REASONS FOR REMAINING IN THE AREA

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN EUROPE? ALL RESPONDENTS

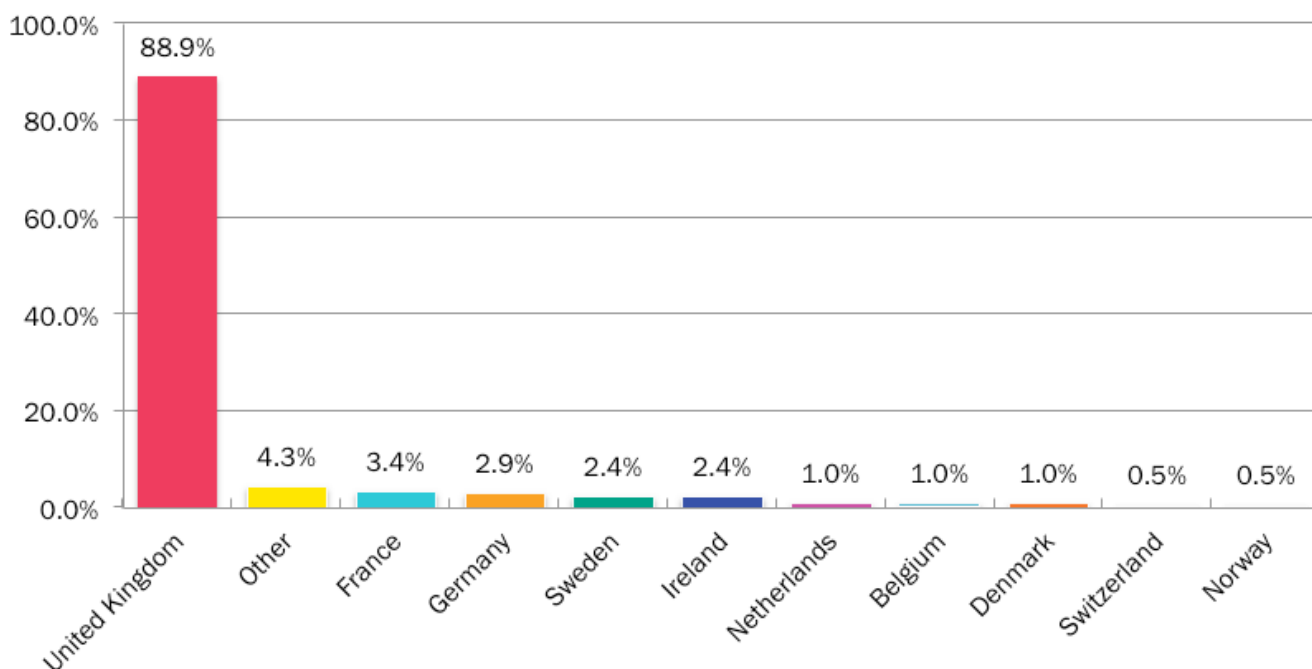


A whole 72% of respondents had been in Europe for six months to more than two years. 62.9% of respondents previously spent time living in the Calais camp before its demolition, and 37.5% said they had lived in Paris. Only 1.9% were in France with a family member.

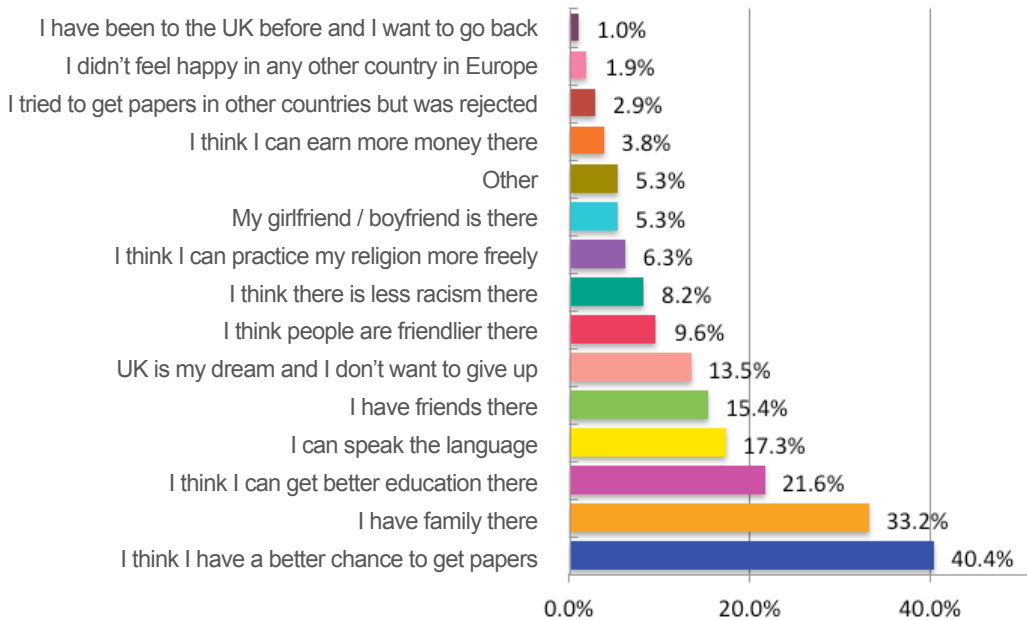
The vast majority (88.9%) are in the area because they wish to go to the UK. Respondents explained that a number of different factors were at play when identifying their preferred country to seek protection. 40.4% had chosen their target country based on the belief that they have a better chance of

being granted asylum, 33.2% because they have family there, and 21.6% because they believe there are better educational opportunities. Further reasons are depicted in the graph on page 7.

### WHICH COUNTRY DO YOU THINK IS BEST FOR YOU? ALL RESPONDENTS



## WHY DO YOU THINK THAT'S THE BEST COUNTRY FOR YOU? ALL RESPONDENTS

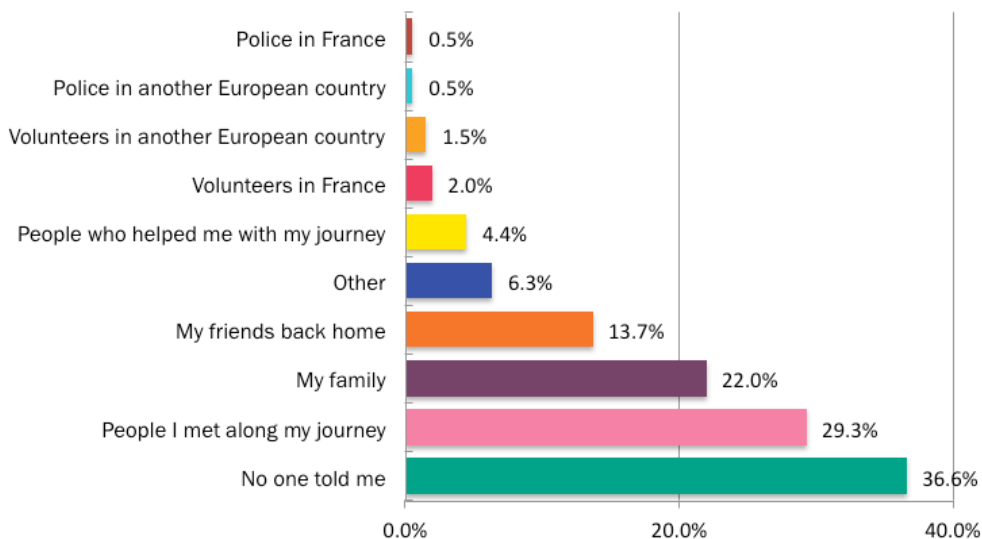


Only 3.8% of respondents said they want to stay in France, while 8.1% do not know whether they want to stay. Meanwhile, 88% do not want to stay in the

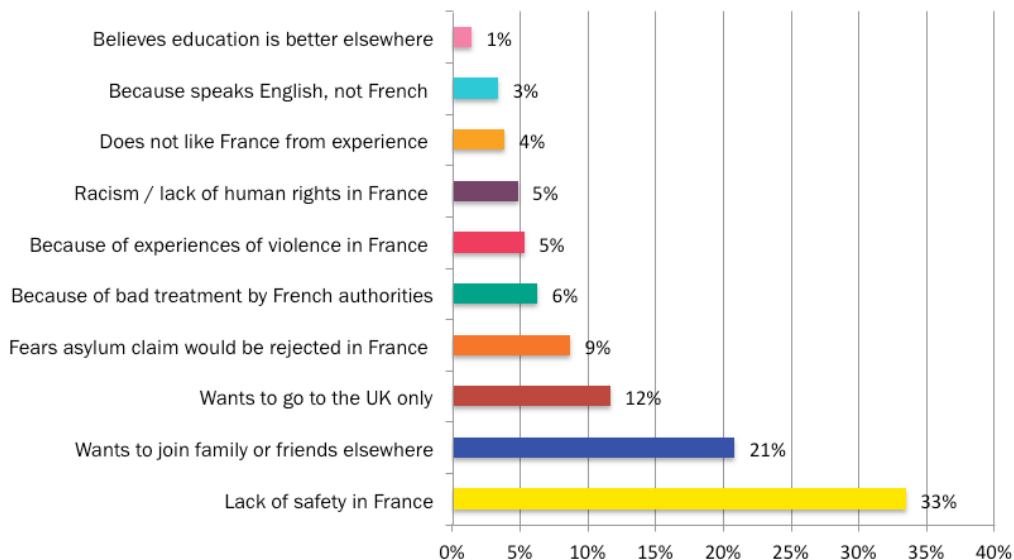
country, including one 23-year old Eritrean woman who responded that she would "never, ever" consider remaining in France. The graph on the following page illustrates some of the reasons that respondents do not want to stay.

Just 1.9% of respondents said they can go back to their country of origin, 3.9% do not know if they could, and 94.2% said they cannot return - largely for fear of persecution, war or other life-threatening problems.

## WHO TOLD YOU THAT'S THE BEST COUNTRY FOR YOU? ALL RESPONDENTS



## WHY DO YOU NOT WANT TO SEEK ASYLUM IN FRANCE? ALL RESPONDENTS



Only 11.7% said they have access to information about their rights and possibilities to change their situation. A similar percentage, 11.8%, said they are able to access information about European immigration laws.

*\*Respondents were asked to say in their own words why they did not wish to seek asylum in France. Their answers were recorded and subsequently categorised by RRE's statistical analysis team and depicted in this graph.*

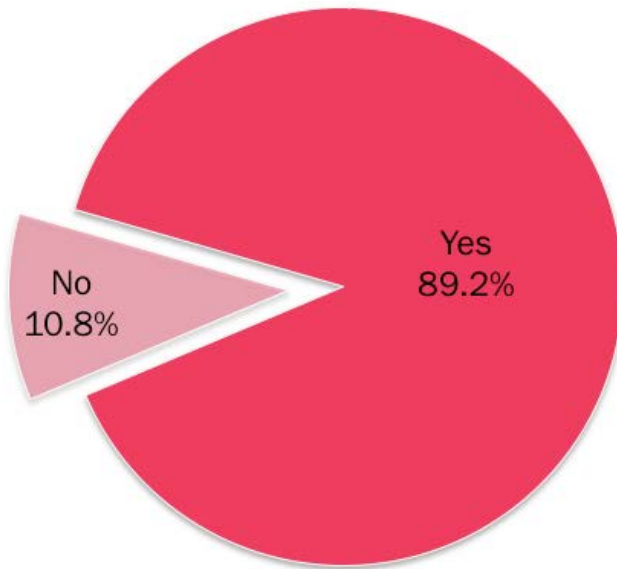


## POLICE VIOLENCE

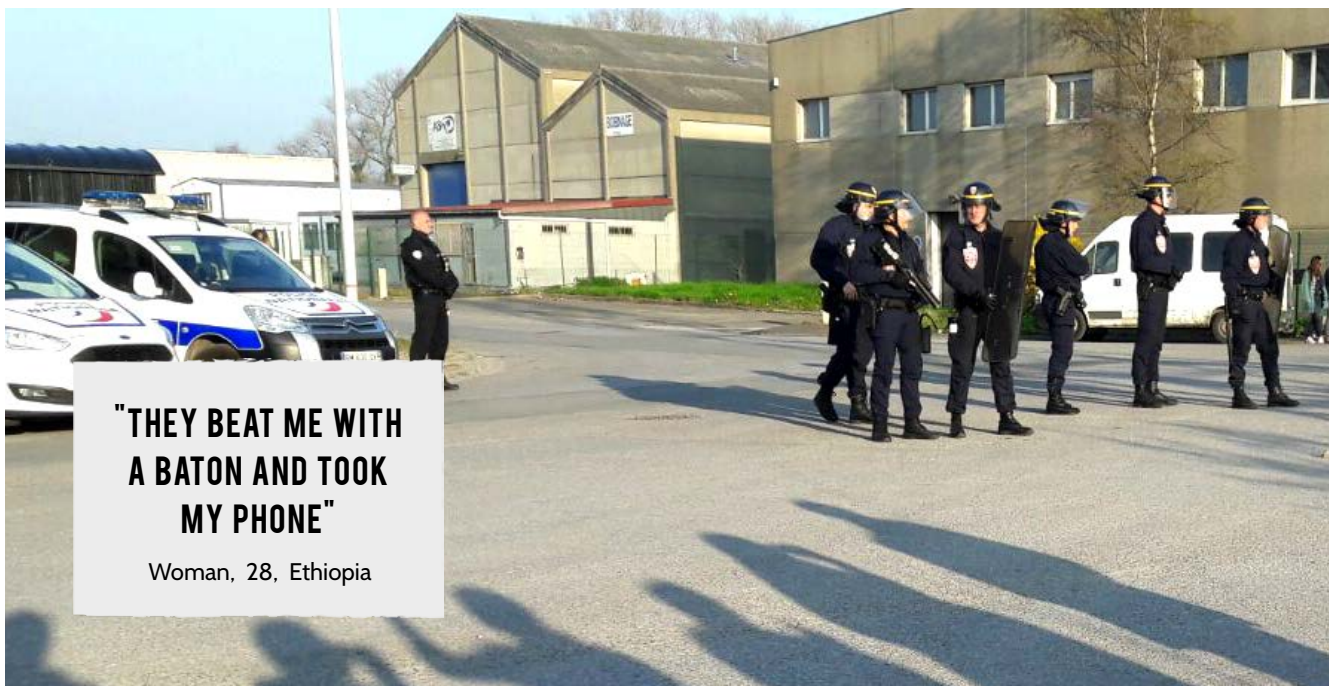
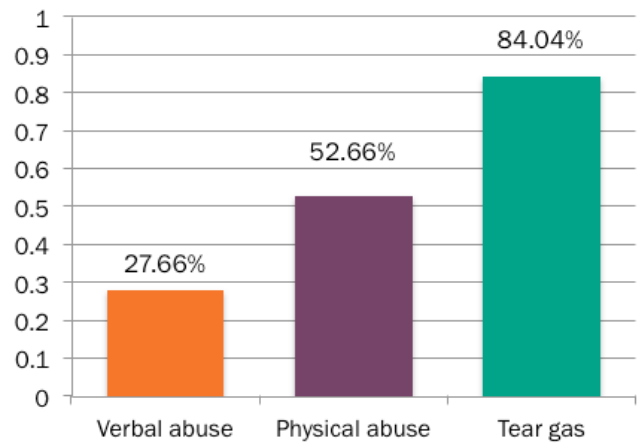
Police violence appears to be endemic in the area. During the research study, RRE witnessed numerous instances of the authorities taking a heavy-handed approach against displaced people.

89.2% of all respondents said they had experienced police violence during their time in Calais and the surrounding region. Of these, 84% had experienced tear gas, 52.7% other forms of physical violence, and 27.7% verbal abuse.

### HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY FORM OF POLICE VIOLENCE? ALL RESPONDENTS



### WHAT TYPE(S) OF POLICE VIOLENCE? ALL RESPONDENTS



## PART ONE: THE OVERALL SITUATION FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE IN CALAIS

There was a slightly higher incidence of police violence among respondents from Eritrea (93%), Ethiopia (83%) and Sudan (92%) than for respondents from Afghanistan (78%) and Pakistan (75%). This may be partially because the Eritrean, Ethiopian and Sudanese groups are more visible and present in and around Calais, while Afghans and Pakistanis tend to hide or travel back-and-forth to the (now-defunct) camp in Dunkirk.

When asked about police treatment in France, 1.9% said it was 'very good' and 1.9% 'good', 14.8% described it as 'OK', and 41.4% reported that it was 'bad' while 40% said it was 'very bad'. A respondent asked: *"Is there an option that is worse than very bad? I choose that option."*

**"I WAS SLEEPING WHEN THEY CAME OVER AND BEAT ME WITH THEIR BATON. THIS HAS LEFT ME WITH INJURIES TO MY KNEES WHICH MADE IT PAINFUL TO WALK."**

Man, 21, Eritrea

One respondent reported that his shoulder was dislocated by the police, while another explained that his fingers had been dislocated in a similar fashion on a separate occasion.

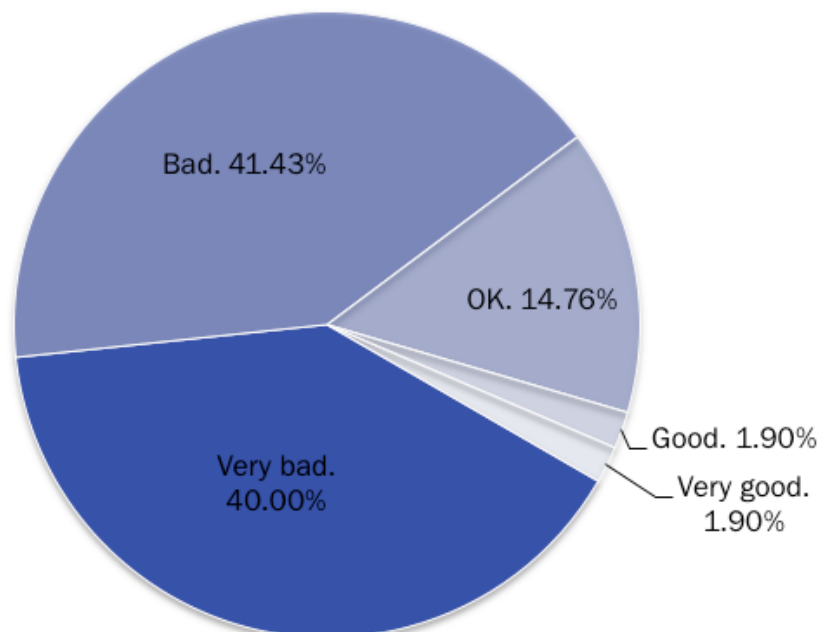
A 22-year old Palestinian male explained that he had endured beatings by police. The police had also sprayed tear gas directly into his face, broken his glasses and injured one of his eyes.

Women also face the same forms of police violence. A 27-year old Eritrean woman explained that she had been beaten by the police when she was trying to board a bus. A 22-year old Ethiopian woman also experienced police violence when she was trying to go to the UK, explaining, *"they pushed me to the floor and beat me."*

A significant number of respondents reported separately that they had had their mobile phones taken by the police. In some of these instances, the police had thrown the items to the ground and stamped on them.



### HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE POLICE TREATMENT IN FRANCE? ALL RESPONDENTS



## DETENTIONS AND ARRESTS

One 24-year old woman was reportedly taken into detention by police while she was sitting on the grass, eating food provided by aid organisations operating in Calais. At the time of the study, she had been in detention for ten days, which meant that her underage female friend was now living alone on the streets of Calais.

A Sudanese man explained that he was denied water or the right to go to the toilet for seven hours while in detention, despite suffering from stomach problems. Eventually he had to relieve himself inside the prison cell, which he found very humiliating. Similar treatment inside detention centres was cited by a number of other respondents. A young Afghan

**ONE SUDANESE MAN WAS DENIED THE RIGHT TO GO TO THE TOILET FOR SEVEN HOURS WHILST IN DETENTION. EVENTUALLY HE HAD TO RELIEVE HIMSELF INSIDE THE PRISON CELL.**

man reported that he had been held in a French deportation centre for 45 days and then suddenly released. He explained: *"I thought French police were good until I went into the detention centre. Now I think they are very racist".*

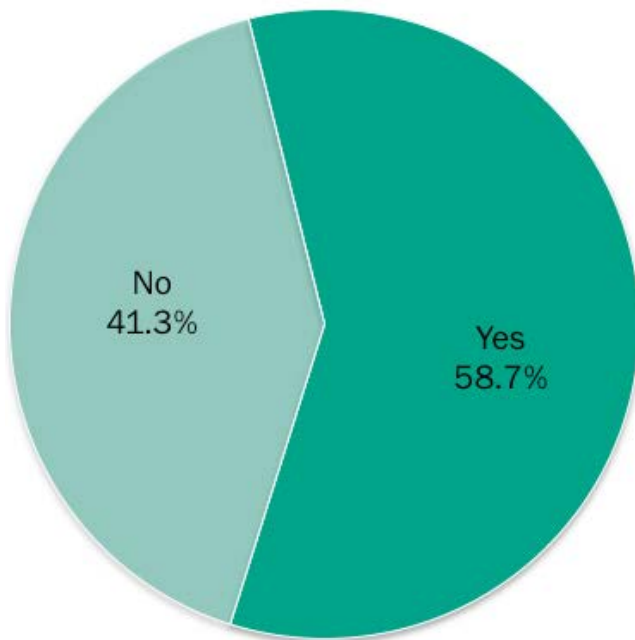


## CITIZEN VIOLENCE

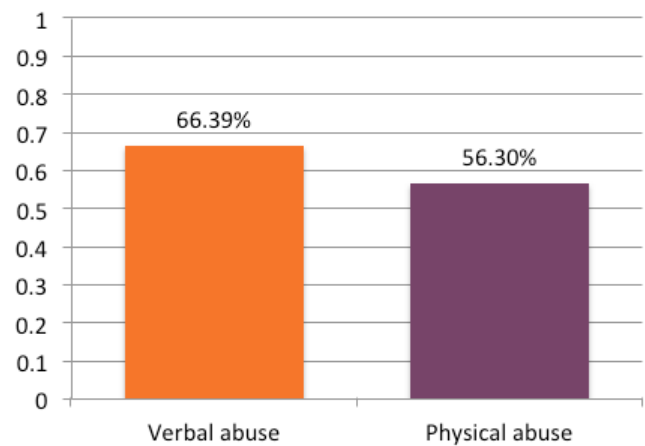
58.7% of respondents had experienced violence by citizens, which is a higher figure than in February 2016 when 49.2% of the Calais camp residents surveyed by RRE had experienced citizen violence.

66.4% of these respondents described the violence as verbal abuse, while 56.3% of the same respondents had experienced physical violence.

### HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY FORM OF CITIZEN VIOLENCE? ALL RESPONDENTS



### WHAT TYPE(S) OF CITIZEN VIOLENCE? ALL RESPONDENTS



**"THEY ALWAYS SHOUT RACIST ABUSE WHILE THEY DRIVE PAST. THIS ONE TIME THEY THREW SOME EXPLOSIVE STUFF AT ME. ANOTHER TIME THEY THREW RUBBISH ON MY FACE WHICH IS REALLY HORRIBLE AND LEFT ME WONDERING IF I AM IN EUROPE OR SOMEWHERE ELSE. THIS KIND OF TREATMENT DIDN'T EVEN HAPPEN TO ME WHEN I WAS IN LIBYA, A COUNTRY WHERE THERE IS NO LAW AND ORDER. I WASN'T EXPECTING IT HERE."**

Man, 21, Eritrea

A number of respondents separately reported that citizens of far-right groups (referred to by many respondents as "the fascists") circulate in the Calais area and seize opportunities to attack individuals who are alone. One Afghan respondent explained: "It's dangerous to be on your own, because fascists beat you up." Another reported: "My friend was hit by a black car with loud music, hit from behind, he had his shoulder broken and then the

driver escaped and no one mentioned anything." Citizens are also known to follow refugees around with video cameras and flashlights.

The highest incidence of citizen violence was found among respondents from Sudan (81%), compared to the 58.7% average across all country groups.

84.5% of respondents said they 'don't feel safe' or 'don't feel safe at all' in France.

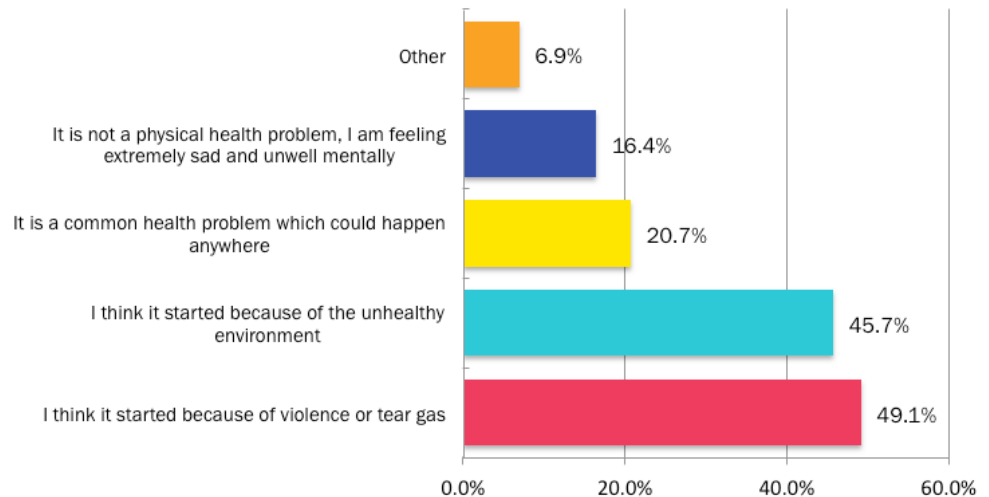
## HEALTH CONDITIONS

55.5% had experienced a health issue while in the Calais area. Of those, only 50% had received medical help.

**A 23-YEAR OLD SUDANESE MALE WAS ATTACKED WITH GLASS BOTTLES BY A GROUP OF CITIZENS, WHICH RESULTED IN HIM LOSING HIS SIGHT IN HIS LEFT EYE.**

49.1% believed their health issue had started because of violence or tear gas endured in France. For instance, a 23-year old Sudanese man reported being attacked with glass bottles by a group of citizens, which resulted in a glass splinter being lodged in his eye. Volunteers who were supporting him

### HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE HEALTH ISSUE? ALL RESPONDENTS



explained the young man had been forced to wait for five weeks before having the glass removed from his eye by the French medical services. By this time his condition was no longer treatable and, as a result, he has been left blind in his left eye.

Meanwhile, 16.4% described their health condition as a mental health concern, such as depression and anxiety, rather than a physical ailment.







# PART TWO

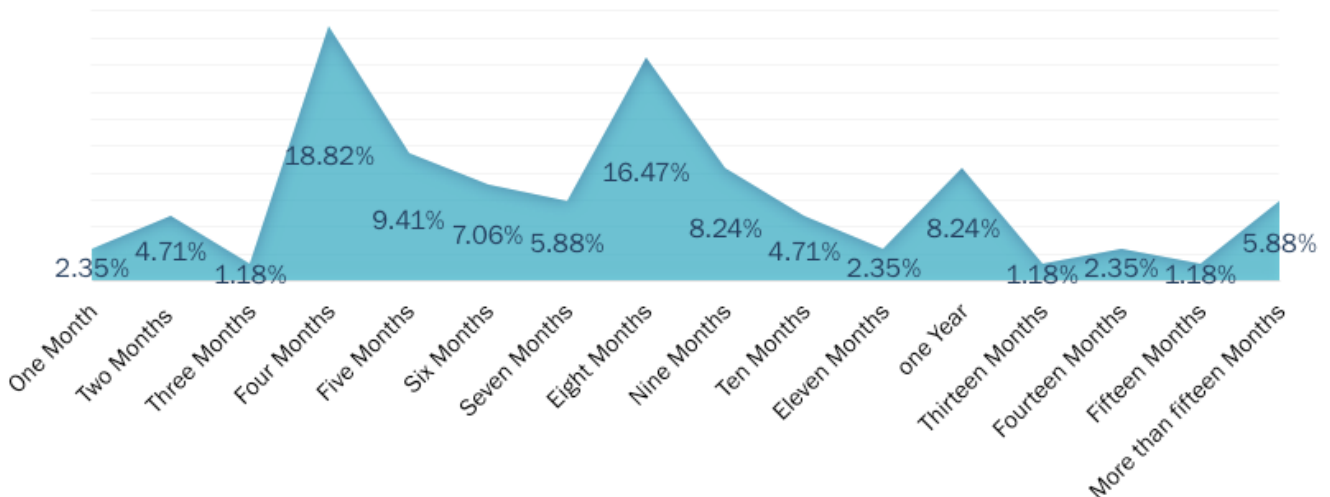
## FOCUS ON THE CHILDREN IN THE AREA

The situation in Calais and surrounding areas is particularly harmful for children. In the absence of official figures, local charities estimate that there were approximately 200 minors in the area at the time of the research. RRE surveyed 86 of them, or 43% of the estimated total.

The majority of children seen in and around Calais are boys, and our research sample consisted of 97.7% boys and 2.3% girls. Among the children, only 1.9% were accompanied by a family member, while the remaining 98.8% were unaccompanied. Some 30.6% of the children reported that they were now with 'friends' which, in this situation, tends to refer to other unaccompanied children or young adults they met at some stage of displacement.

### LENGTH OF TIME SPENT IN DISPLACEMENT

#### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN EUROPE? MINORS ONLY



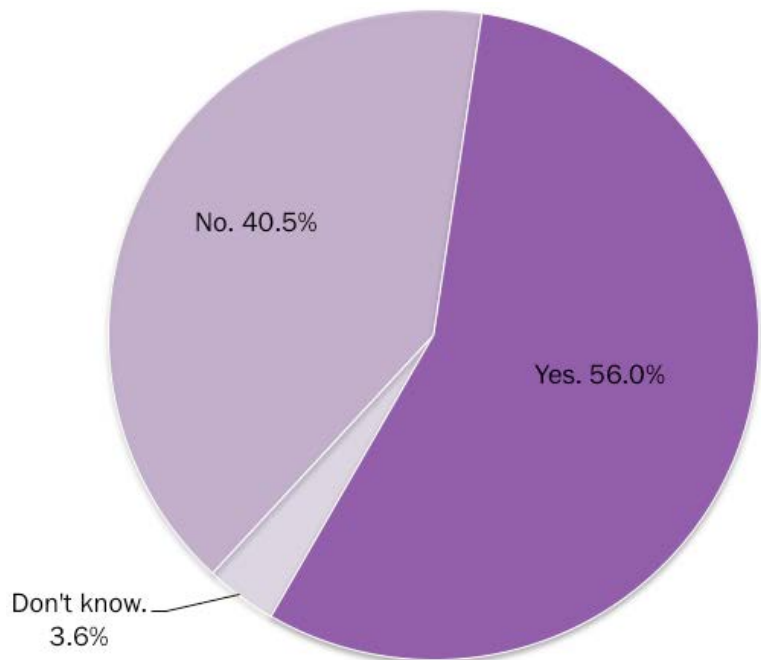
The average time children had spent in Europe was 7.85 months. A whole 19% had been in Europe for a year or longer, and still find themselves living in limbo and destitution. Meanwhile, the average time spent in France was 6.02 months. 7% had been in France for more than one year.

More than half (56%) of the children previously resided in the Calais camp (often referred to as the Calais 'Jungle'). When the camp was demolished, many of these children were taken to French government-run accommodation centres, while others disappeared into destitution in the surrounding area. This indicates that the demolition of the camp last October fell short in providing these minors with effective protection and alternatives to improve their situation.

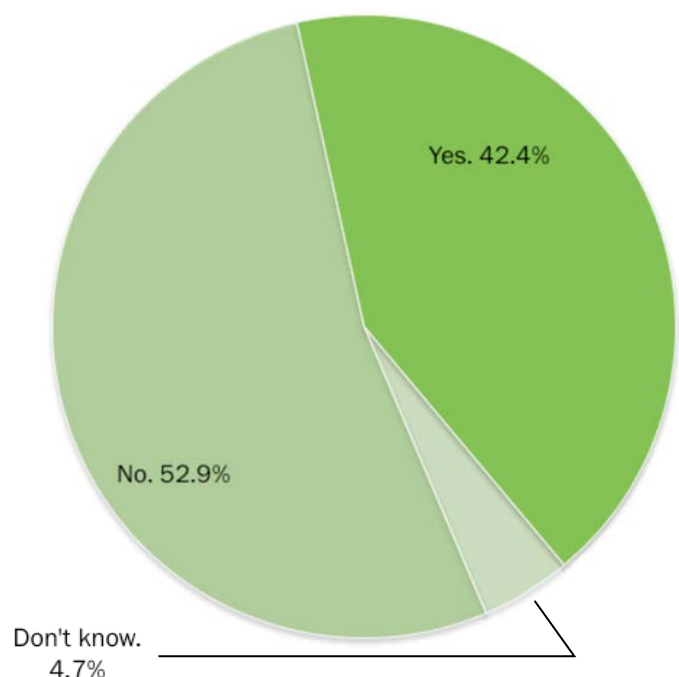
Nearly half of the children (42%) said they have spent time living in Paris. This is alarming in light of Refugee Rights Europe's research from January 2017 which showed that a vast proportion of displaced people sleeping on the streets of Paris had experienced tear gas, and over a third had been subjected to other forms of police violence, while 9.1% had experienced citizen violence, and 53.2% were experiencing health problems.<sup>11</sup>

Nearly a third (28.2%) of respondents had previously stayed in French government-run accommodation centres for children, also known as CAOMIE (Centre d'accueil et d'orientation pour mineurs isolés étrangers, loosely translated as 'Reception and orientation centre for unaccompanied foreign minors'). Upon the demolition of the Calais camp, these children were put on coaches and dispersed across France with minimal information and guidance. Many were under the impression that they would be given a chance to transfer to the UK through family reunification or under the 'Dubs' amendment. For the vast majority, this did not happen.

### DID YOU LIVE IN THE "JUNGLE" CAMP BEFORE IT WAS DESTROYED? MINORS ONLY



### HAVE YOU LIVED IN PARIS? MINORS ONLY



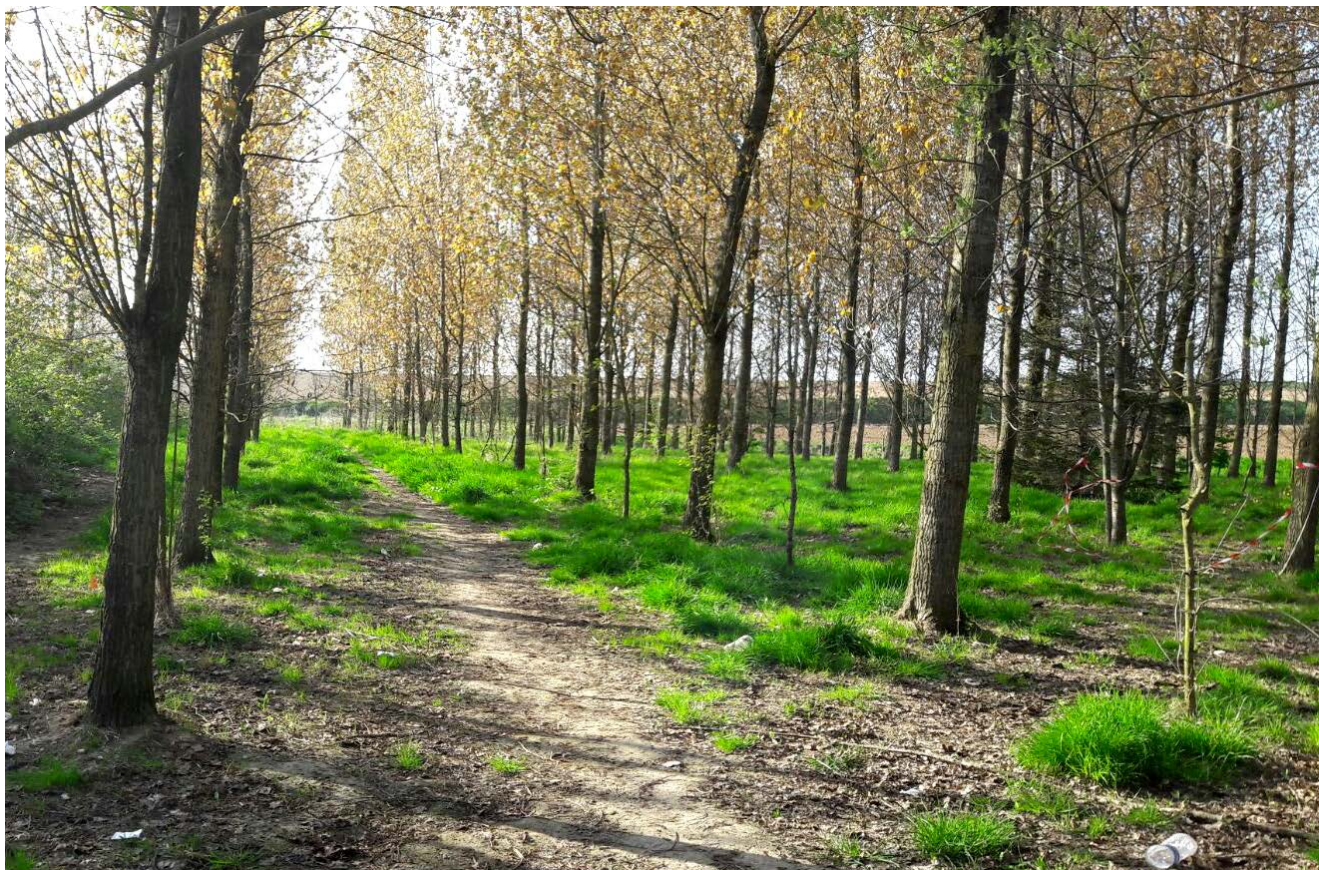
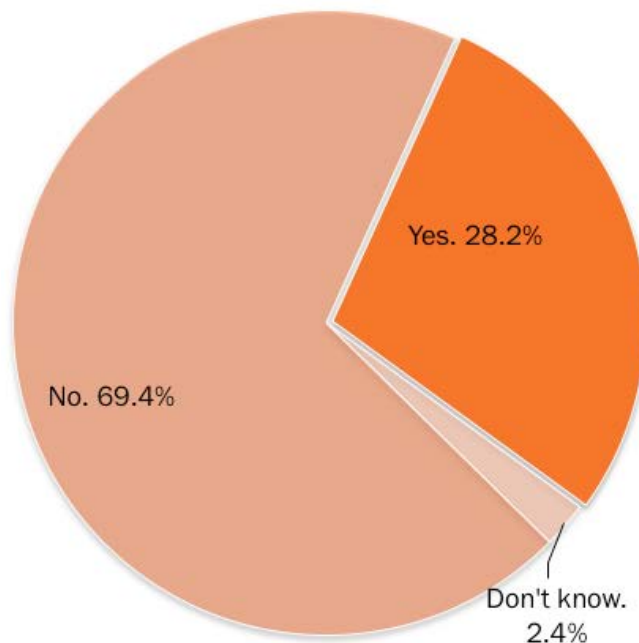
<sup>11</sup> Refugee Rights Europe (2017) 'Life in the Streets' <[www.refugeerights.org.uk/reports/](http://www.refugeerights.org.uk/reports/)>

When asked why they had left the French accommodation centre, a number said they had been told by the French authorities that there was no way they would be able to reach the UK. A small number had been officially rejected by the UK Home Office. Importantly, many others reported that nothing was done by the French authorities to process their cases, so they decided to leave and take matters into own hands. One child explained: *"They didn't do anything for us, they didn't tell us anything. I spent four months [in the accommodation centre] and I didn't see any hope."*

**"THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR ME. THEY SAID THEY WILL PROCESS US TO THE UK BUT THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING SO I LEFT."**

Boy, 16, Eritrea

### HAVE YOU STAYED IN A FRENCH ACCOMMODATION CENTRE? MINORS ONLY





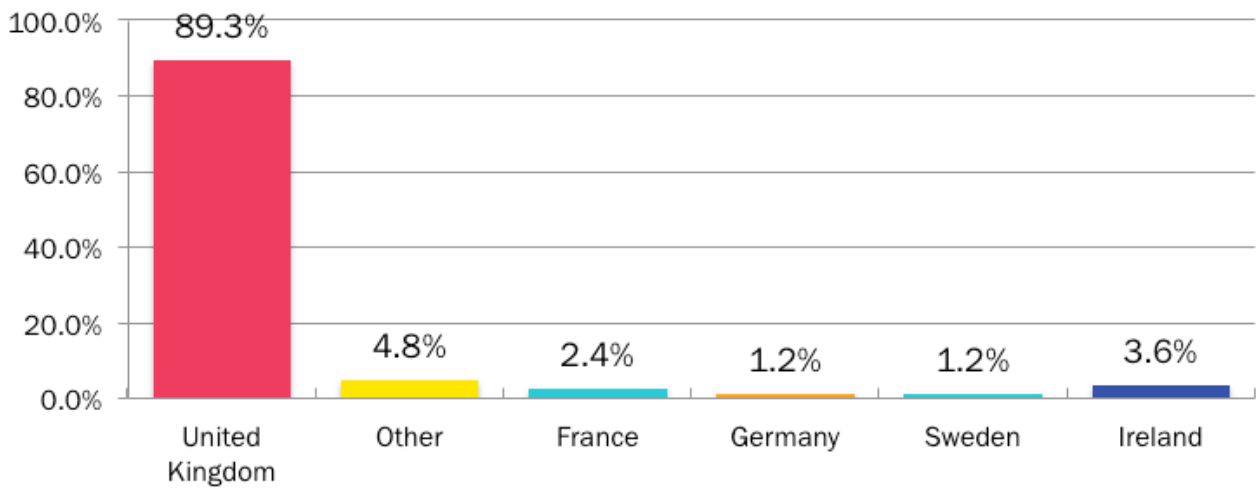
**"THEY SAID THEY  
[WOULD] PROCESS OUR  
FAMILY REUNION BUT ONLY  
TOOK 10 PEOPLE OUT OF 50  
AND LEFT THE REST OF US.  
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY OPTION  
BUT TO LEAVE AFTER."**

Boy, 17, Eritrea

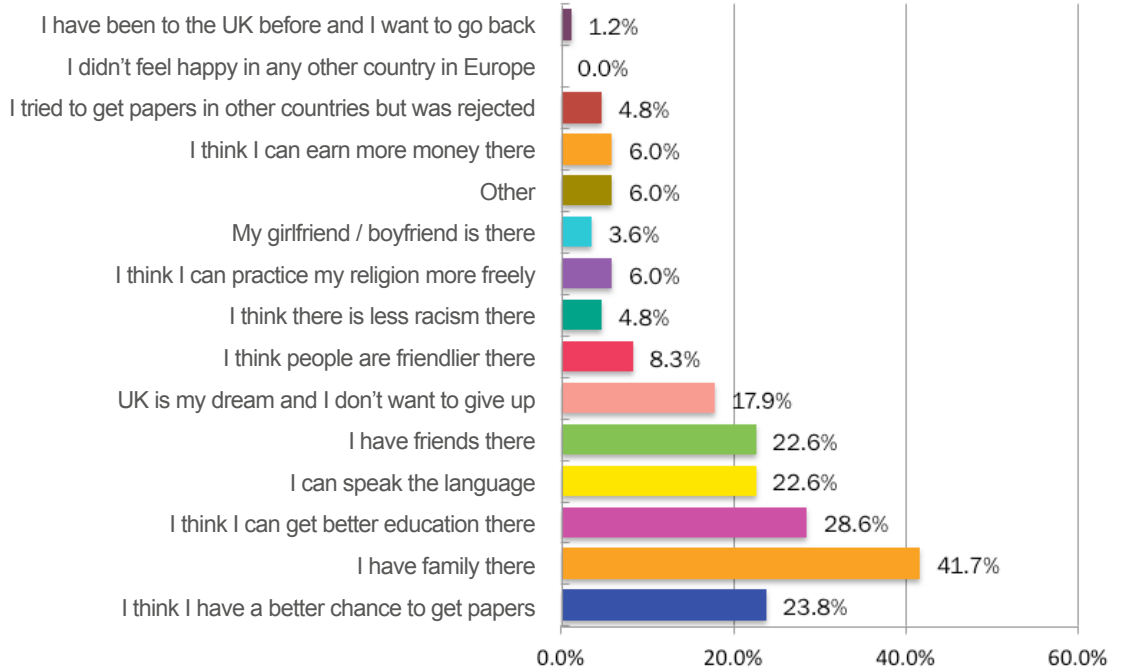
## REASONS FOR REMAINING IN THE AREA

Most of the children (89.3%) remain in the area because they wish to go to the UK.

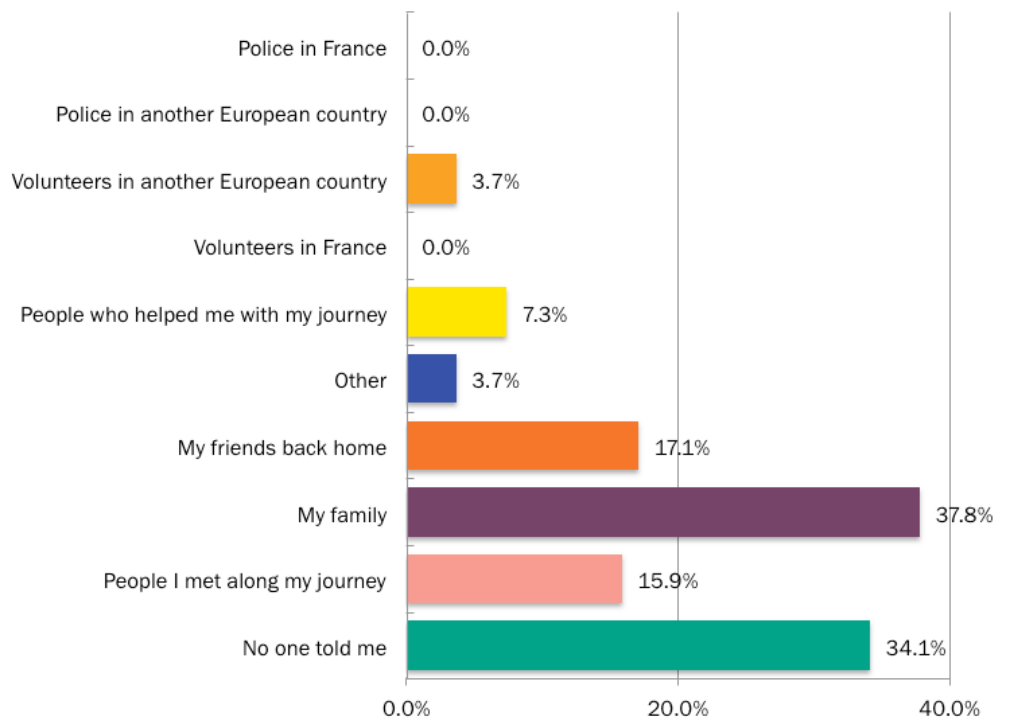
### WHICH COUNTRY DO YOU THINK IS BEST FOR YOU? MINORS ONLY



**WHY DO YOU THINK THAT'S THE BEST COUNTRY FOR YOU?  
MINORS ONLY**



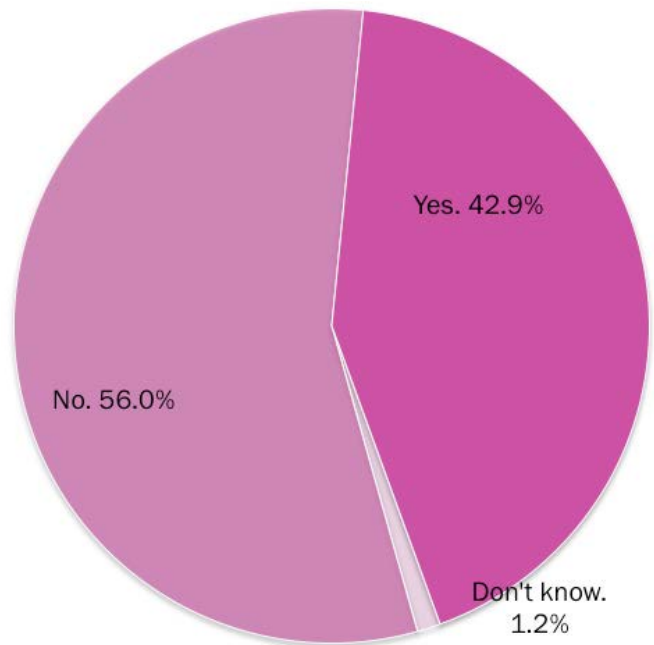
**WHO TOLD YOU THAT'S THE BEST COUNTRY FOR YOU?  
MINORS ONLY**



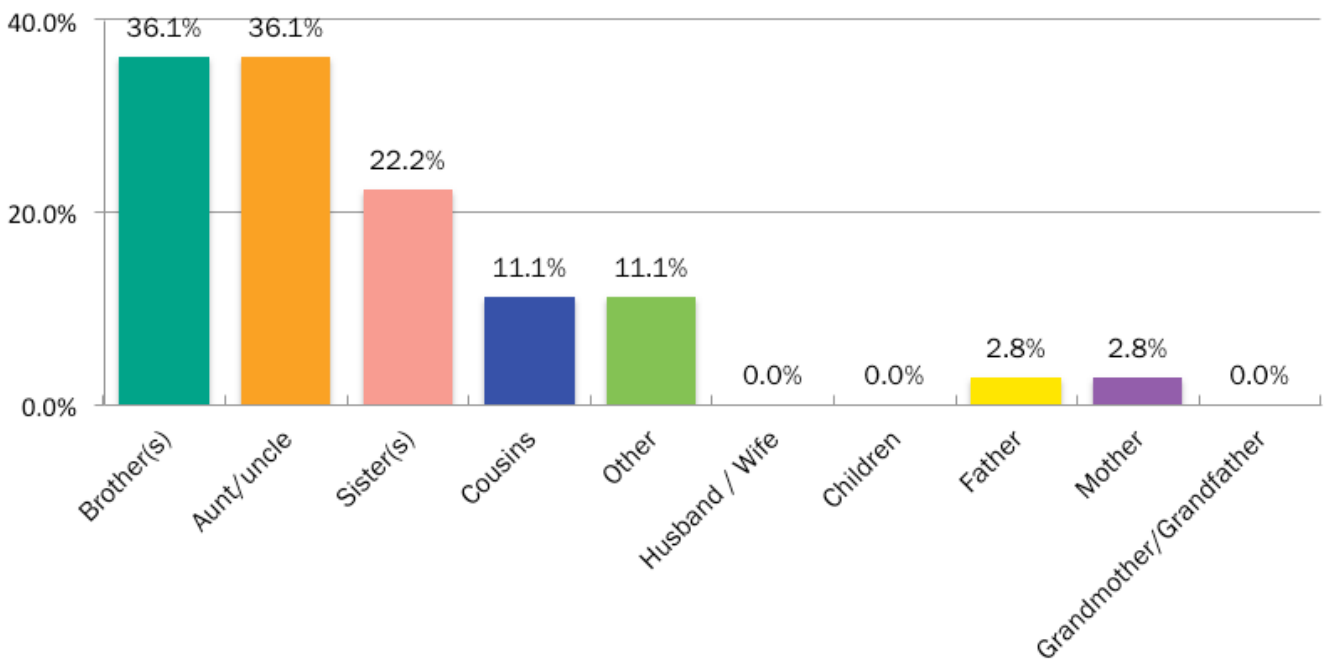
**NEARLY HALF OF CHILDREN REPORTED THAT THEY HAVE FAMILY IN EUROPE.**

A whole 42.9% of children reported that they have family in Europe. These family members included siblings, aunts and uncles, cousins and parents.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY FAMILY MEMBERS IN EUROPE?  
MINORS ONLY**



**IF YES, WHICH FAMILY MEMBERS?  
MINORS ONLY**



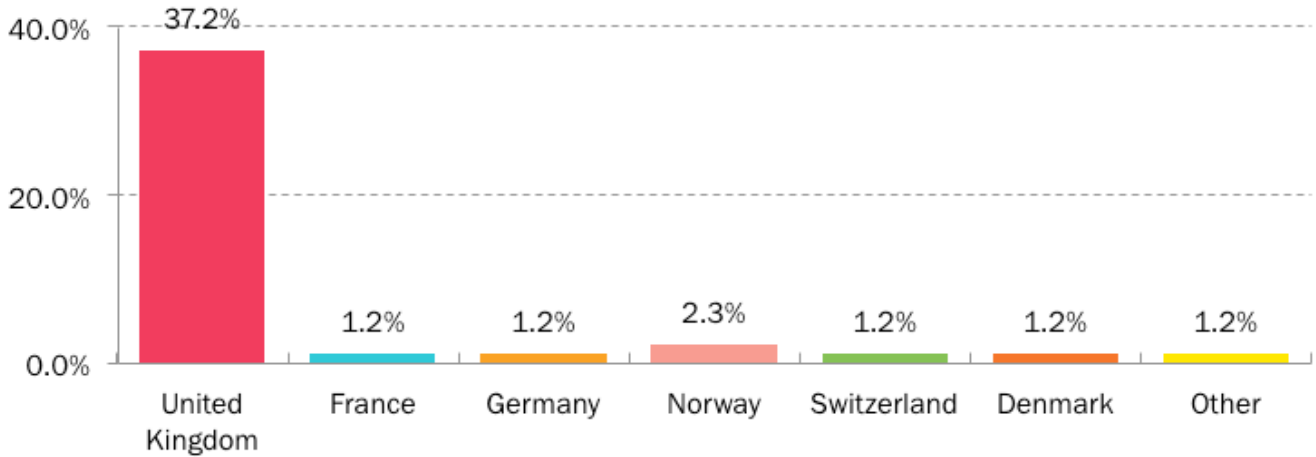


- continuer, continuer, continuer,  
ne pas s'arrêter
- continuer, continuer, continuer,  
ne pas trop penser,
- continuer, continuer, continuer,  
essayer de passer
- continuer, continuer, continuer,  
~~je~~ je vais rester !  
je vais continuer!

BUENA  
BOA

- go on, go on, go on,  
I will not stop.
- go on, go on, go on  
do not think too much
- go on, go on, go on,  
try to cross
- go on, go on, go on,  
I will stay!  
I will go on!

**WHERE ARE YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS?  
MINORS ONLY**



When asked whether they had applied for family reunification under the Dublin Regulation, 77.8% said they had not yet been given this opportunity. 2.8% had applied and had their application refused, while 19.4% applied but had not received any further information about the result.

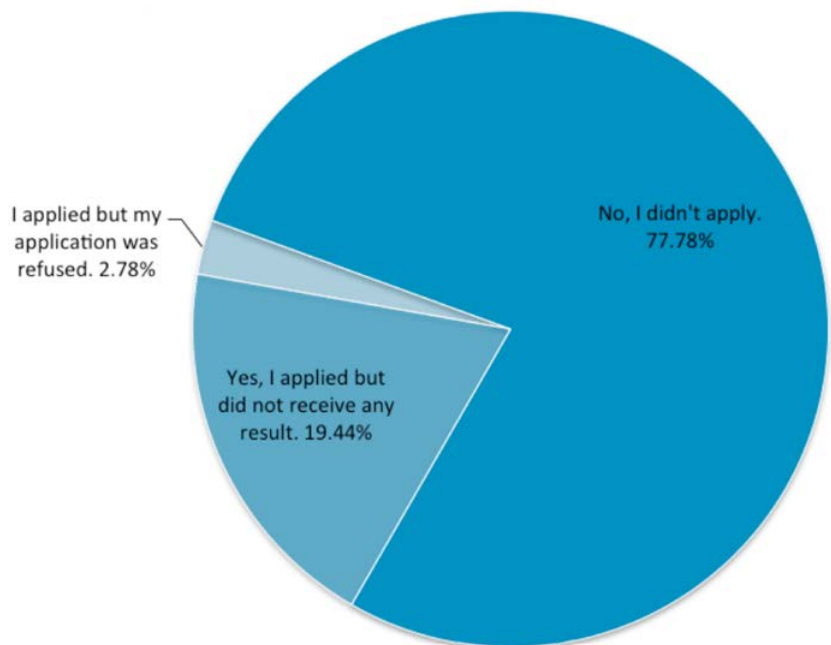
Only 3.6% of children said they want to stay in France, while 8.3% didn't know. A whole 88.1% said they do not want to stay in France. Those who said they would not want to stay in France cited a number of reasons as illustrated by the graph below.

**VERY FEW SAID THEY HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT EUROPEAN IMMIGRATION LAWS.**

1.2% said they can go back to their country of origin, 3.6% didn't know if they could, and 95.2% said they cannot return, for fear of persecution, war or other life-threatening problems.

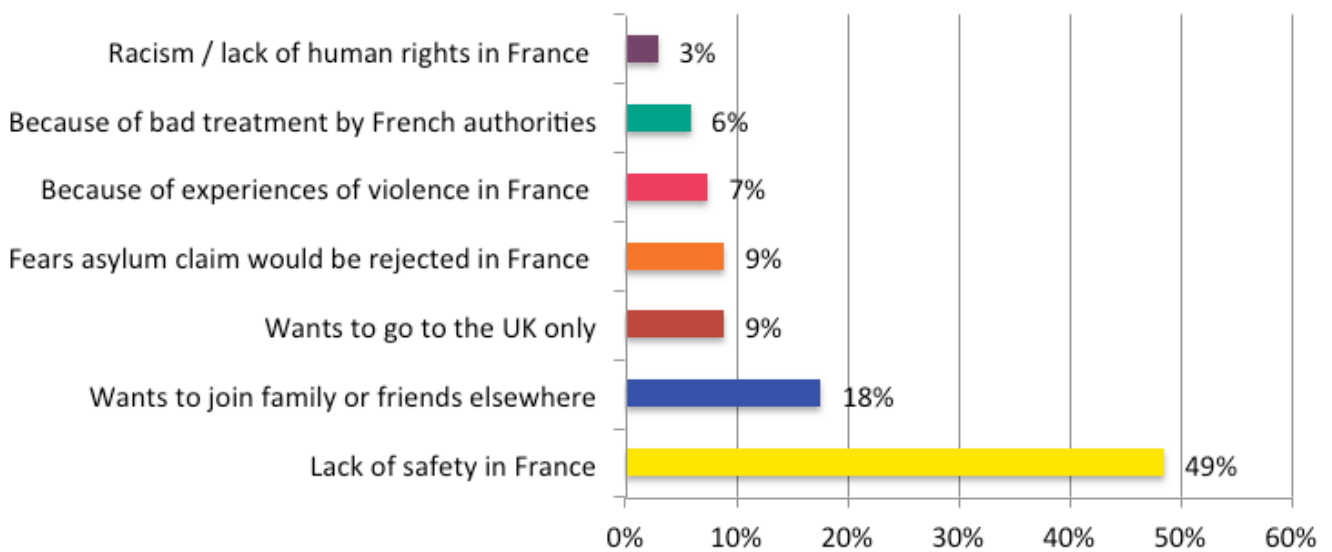
Only 16.9% said they have access to information about their rights and possibilities to change their situation. A similar percentage, 4.8%, said they have access to information about European immigration laws.

**HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR THE DUBLIN PROCESS TO JOIN YOUR FAMILY THERE?  
MINORS ONLY**





**WHY DO YOU NOT WANT TO SEEK ASYLUM IN FRANCE?  
MINORS ONLY**



*\*Respondents were asked to say in their own words why they did not wish to seek asylum in France. Their answers were recorded and subsequently categorised by RRE's statistical analysis team and depicted in this graph.*

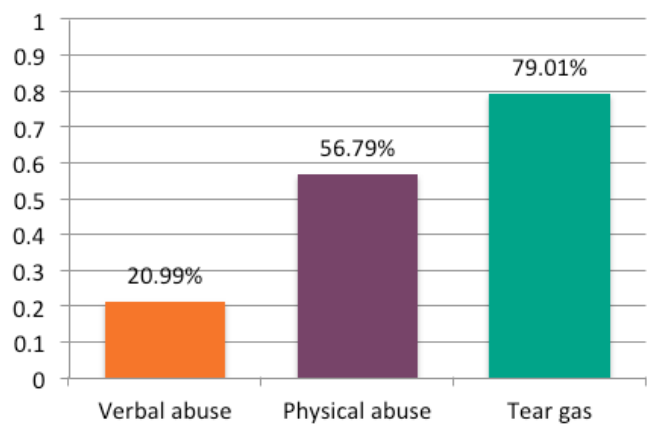
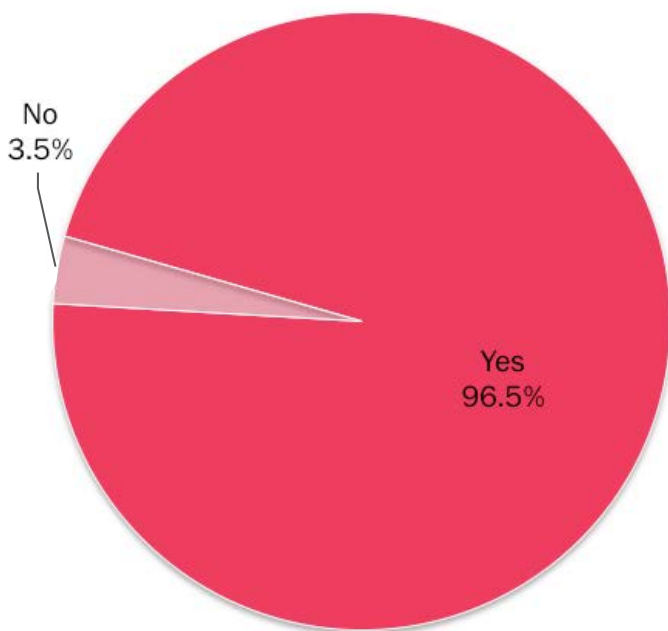
POLICE VIOLENCE



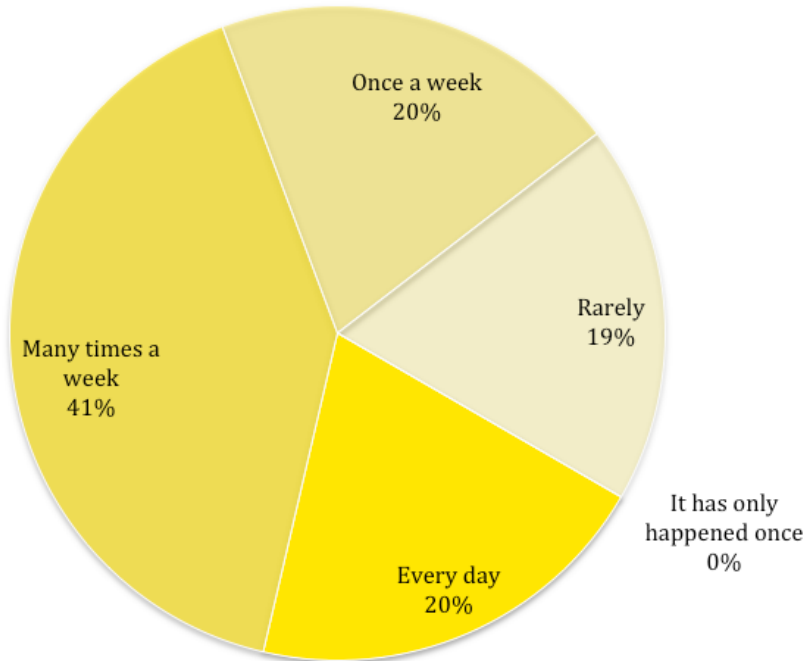
96.5% of minors had experienced police violence in the area. 79% had experienced tear gas, 56.8% other forms of physical violence, and 21% verbal abuse by police.

**HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY FORM OF POLICE VIOLENCE?**  
MINORS ONLY

**WHAT TYPE(S) OF POLICE VIOLENCE?**  
MINORS ONLY



**HOW OFTEN DO YOU CURRENTLY EXPERIENCE TEAR GAS IN FRANCE?  
MINORS ONLY**



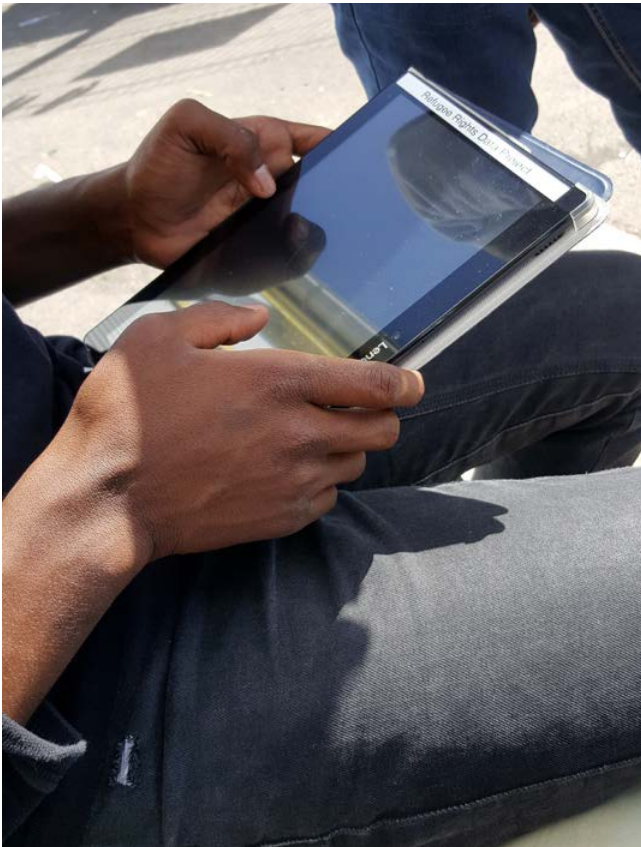
In a recent development, police are reported to be using tasers to give refugees an electric shock. One 16-year old respondent from Eritrea reported that he had been tasered when the police found him in the port area. Another boy explained that he was about to be crushed by some wooden panels while hiding inside a truck, and therefore had to come out voluntarily. When he came out, the police gave him an electric shock. One 16-year old boy from Eritrea recalled: *“They gave me an electric shock. It happened in Calais port because they were searching the area.”*

While a significant proportion of the police violence takes place when children try to go to the UK, there were also an alarming number of instances of unprovoked police violence. An Eritrean boy, aged 17, explained: *“Once in the middle of the night they threw tear gas on us, while we were sleeping under the bridge. Another time in the middle of the night, two police officers chased me and beat me with a baton and kicked me.”* Similarly, a 17-year old Sudanese boy reported: *“France police beat me in the middle night when I was alone.”*

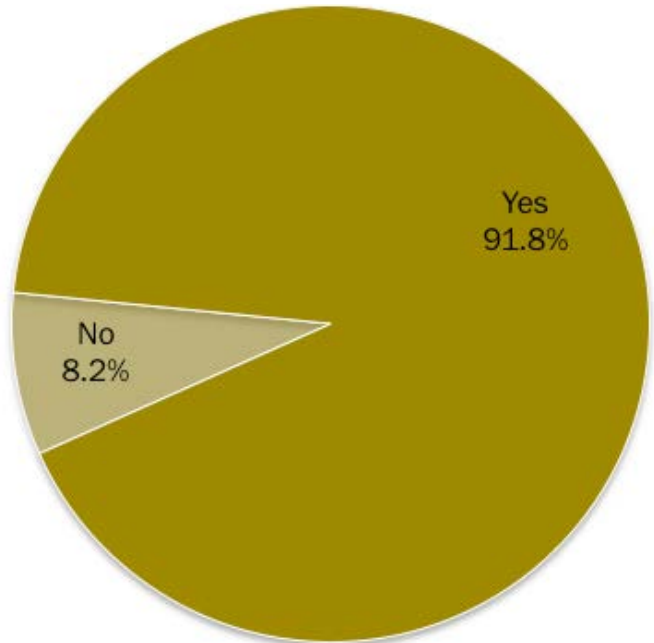


**“[THE POLICE] RECOGNISE ME BY MY HAIR AND THEY ALWAYS COME AFTER ME. THEY BEAT ME UP ALMOST EVERY DAY. I HAVE HAD TEAR GAS SPRAYED ON ME SEVERAL TIMES.”**

Boy, 17, Eritrea

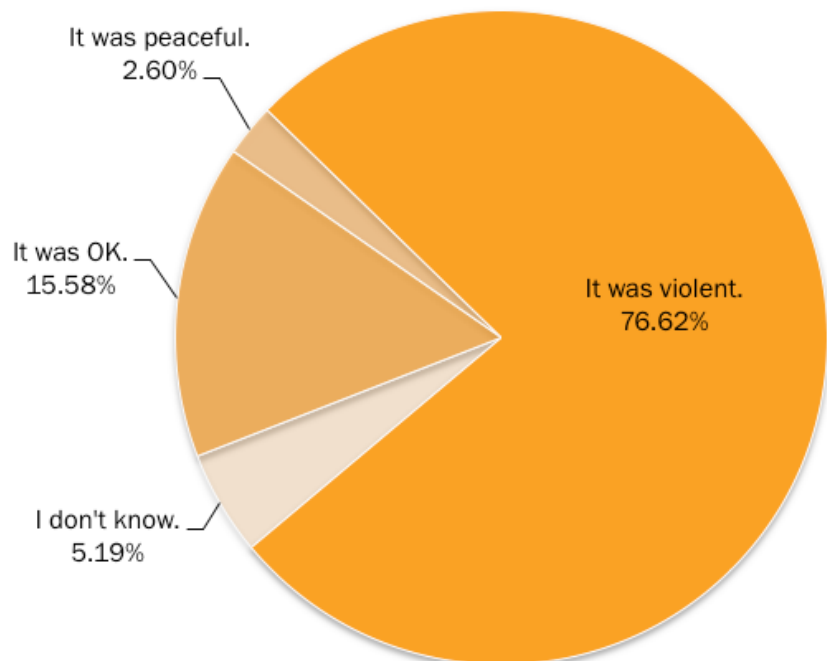


**HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TOLD BY POLICE TO MOVE FROM WHERE YOU WERE SLEEPING?  
MINORS ONLY**



Indeed, 91.8% had been told by police to move from where they were sleeping. 76.6% described the incident as 'violent' and 55.1% said they 'felt scared' when it happened. Some 84.6% of those affected were not provided with information about where they could sleep instead. One 16-year old Eritrean boy explained: *"I was sleeping with some others in the woods when the police came and told us to get up and move. I did what they asked but they still hit me with their baton on my legs which left me in pain for a while. But I am feeling ok now."*

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THIS INCIDENT?  
MINORS ONLY**



**"I WAS ON THE ROAD IN THE EVENING. THEY WERE MANY POLICE AND THEY VERBALLY ABUSED US, HIT US WITH BATONS AND SPRAYED TEAR GAS. IT WAS JUST ME AND A SINGLE FRIEND."**

Boy, 16, Sudan

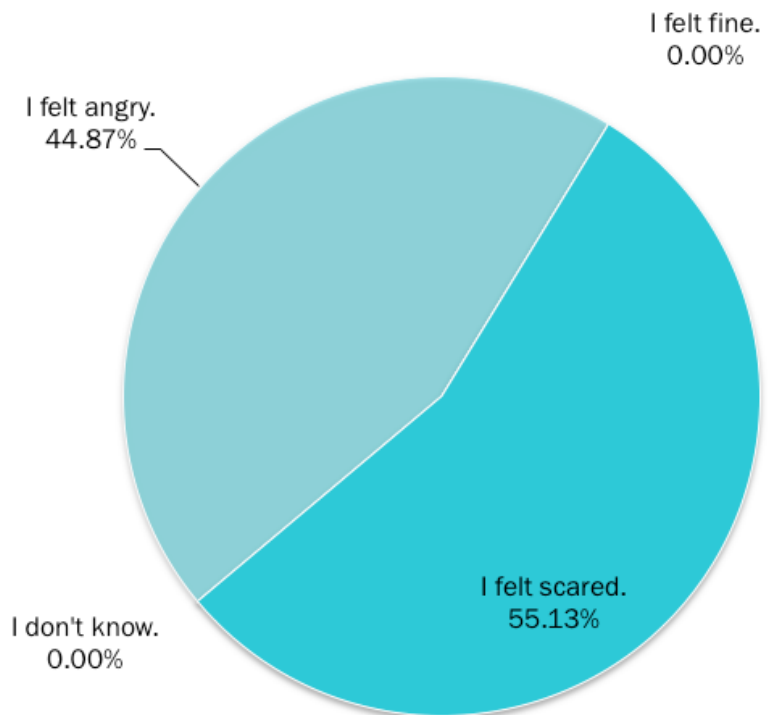
An Eritrean teenage boy explained how he used to have a paper that proved that he was under 18, but the police ripped it and detained him for more than 12 hours without letting him go to the bathroom. After that he was allegedly beaten by the police, before being released with an injured knee.

75.3% of children had been arrested or detained in the area.

**"THE NATIONAL POLICE RAN AFTER ME AND FOUGHT ME, BEAT ME BY STICK AND SPRAYED ME WITH TEAR GAS ON MY FACE. I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT TO HAPPEN IN A COUNTRY LIKE FRANCE."**

Boy, 14, Ethiopia

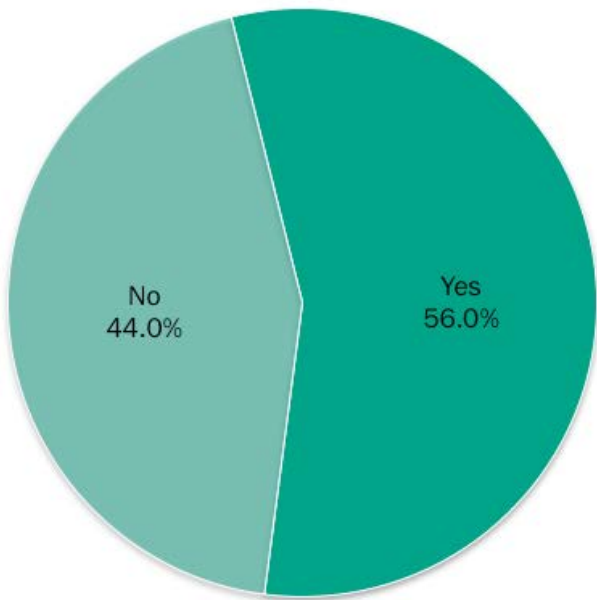
### HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN IT OCCURRED? MINORS ONLY



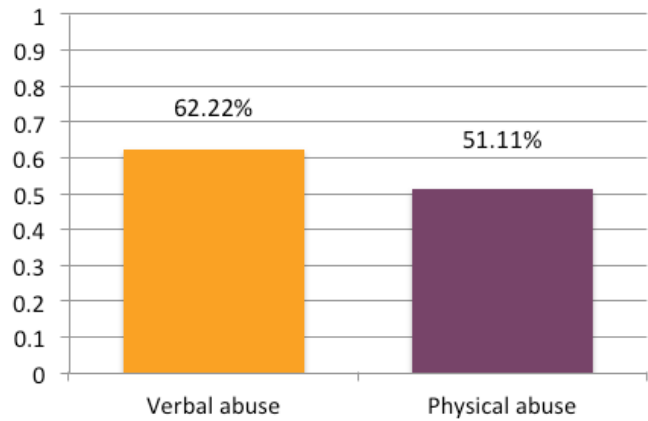
CITIZEN VIOLENCE

A whole 56% of children had experienced violence by citizens, of which 62.2% had experienced verbal abuse, and 51.1% physical violence.

**HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY FORM OF CITIZEN VIOLENCE? MINORS ONLY**



**WHAT TYPE(S) OF CITIZEN VIOLENCE? MINORS ONLY**



**"THEY BEAT ME HARD AND FINALLY THEY TOOK MY SMART PHONE."**  
 Boy, 14, Eritrea

Several respondents reported being chased by cars or motorbikes. Some had glass bottles thrown at them from the vehicles, while others were hit by the cars and sustained serious injuries. Verbal abuse was commonplace, often in combination with physically violent acts. One 17-year old Eritrean boy explained: *"They came and chased us away and threw bad bottles at us. We can tell they are saying bad things about us although we don't speak the language. It's obvious."* Another Eritrean 17-year old reported separately: *"The racists were riding on bicycles and smacked someone across the head with a bottle. They cover their faces."*

One Sudanese teenager had been attacked by a group of citizens beside the Lidl


supermarket in Calais. He reported being beaten and stabbed with a broken glass bottle, before eventually managing to escape. RRE's researchers saw the injuries to his leg and noted that his jeans were cut severely by the glass bottle.

Several children also reported the use of pepper spray and firecrackers by citizens to intimidate and scare them. A 16-year old boy from Ethiopia said: *"I've been abused by racists and nationalists who used some kind of gas and firecrackers."*

It was also reported that unidentified citizens occasionally turn up unannounced to food distribution points and speak to the children.

One evening, while the research team was present, an adult man drove off with one of the young boys in his car. None of the aid groups operating in the area knew this man and could see no reason why he would drive off with the child. The incident was reported to the police due to suspicions of sexual child abuse.





**"ON THE ROAD THEY  
CONSTANTLY TRY TO RUN  
ME OVER. THEY PULL THE  
MIDDLE FINGER ON ME."**

Boy, 14, Ethiopia

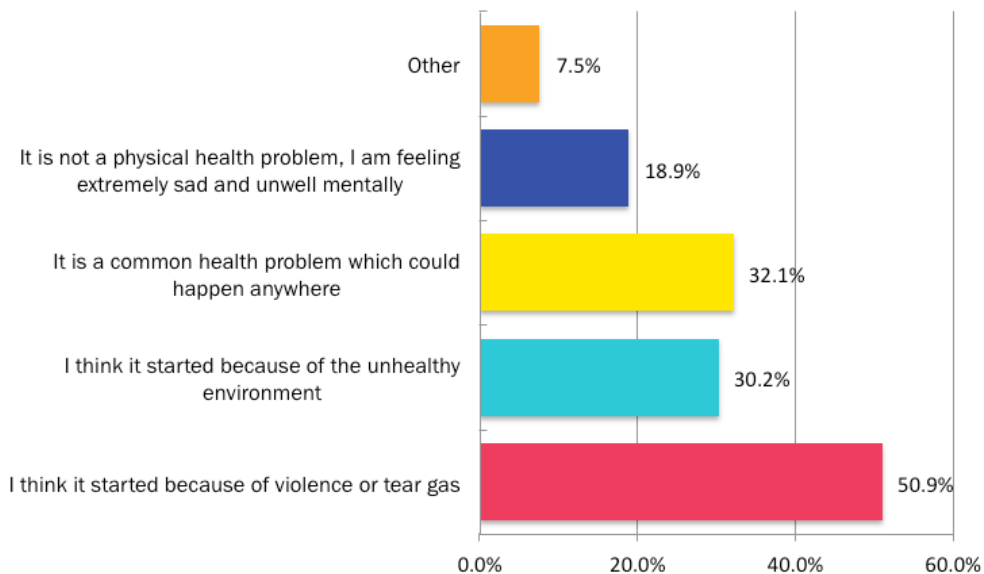
HEALTH AND SAFETY

85.9% of children said they 'don't feel safe' or 'don't feel safe at all' in and around the Calais area.

Meanwhile, 63.1% had experienced health problems in France, and only 52.8% of those had received medical assistance.

More than half (50.9%) thought the health issue had emerged due to violence or tear gas, while 18.9% said they were experiencing mental health issues rather than physical ailments.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE HEALTH ISSUE?  
MINORS ONLY



# CONCLUSION

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Six months after the demolition of the Calais camp, it's clear that many problems remain unsolved.

These research findings shine a light on the extent of the child protection failure taking place in the Calais area. A large proportion of refugee children living in the region are unaccompanied, and many of them have been in France for six months or longer. During this time, the

majority have suffered from police violence, including tear gas and beatings. The lack of safety combined with an absence of recourse to information, advice and support, is striking.

A large number of respondents reported that they have family in the UK, suggesting they may be eligible for reunification under the Dublin Regulation. However, many have been denied the chance to join their family under this legal mechanism, some are still awaiting the outcome, while others have not yet had the chance to apply. It is also clear that many vulnerable children on the streets of Calais should be granted protection in the UK under

the 'Dubs' scheme, and this calls for decisive action by the British government.

Meanwhile, there is an urgent need to provide more humane standards on French soil. The current state approach of police brutality and intimidation does little to resolve the unsustainable situation that continues to unfold in and around Calais.

In sum, British and French governments have an urgent role to play in the development of this humanitarian crisis, six months on from the demolition of the camp.



