

REFUGEE RIGHTS EUROPE

In collaboration with the Refugee Info Bus

STILL WAITING

FILLING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION GAPS
RELATING TO THE CALAIS CAMP



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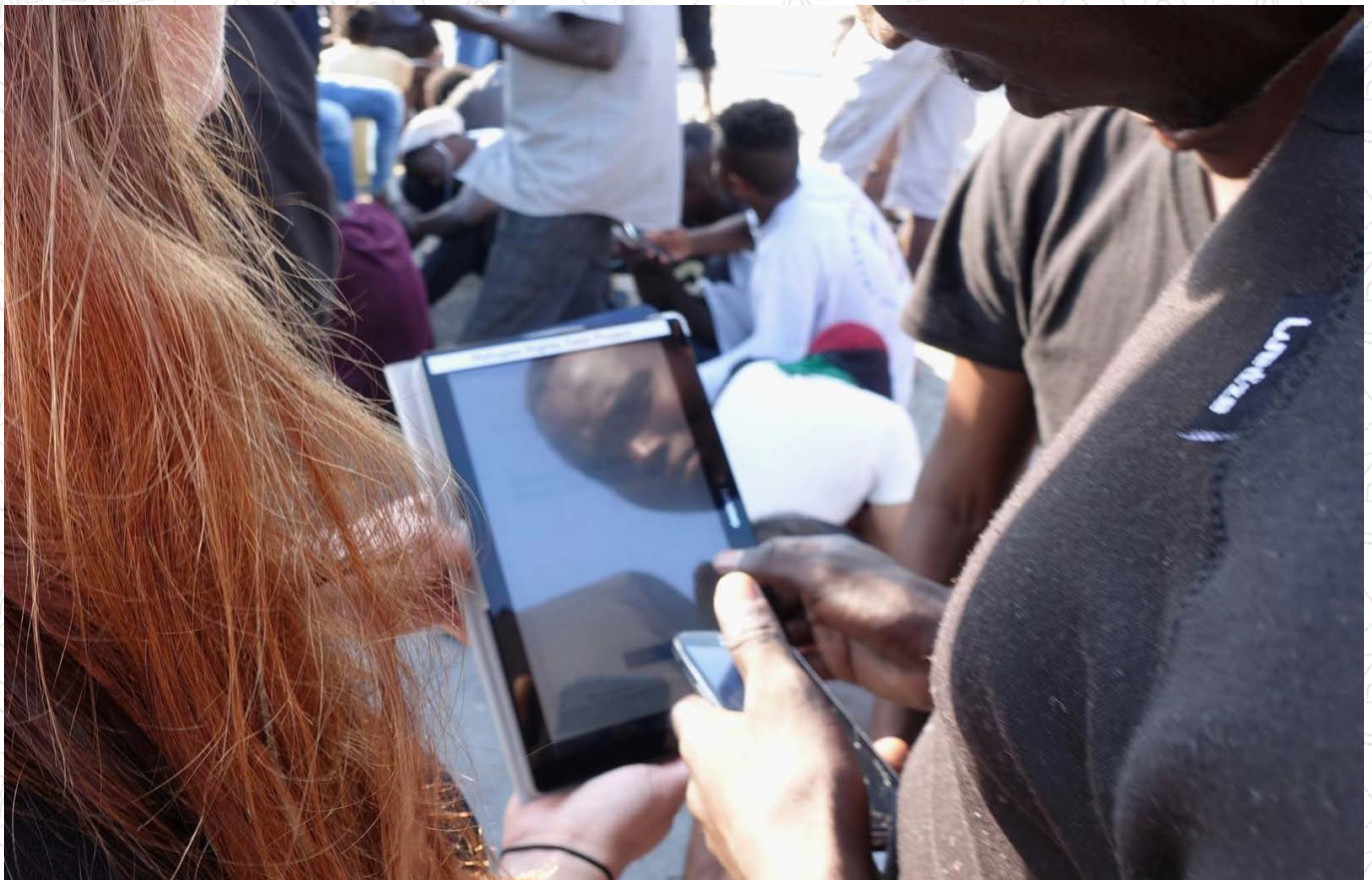
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Above all, we are most grateful to the camp residents who shared their time, insights and experiences thus making this research possible.



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INTRODUCTION

The future of the unrecognised refugee camp in Calais, northern France appears increasingly uncertain.

In recent weeks, the French government has evicted local shops and restaurants from the camp, making life more difficult for its residents. Meanwhile, prominent French politicians including the mayor of Calais have suggested revoking the Le Touquet Treaty whereby documents are checked on departure from France rather than on arrival in the UK.

Given this toxic political climate, it appears more important than ever to fill information gaps relating to the camp residents and to contribute towards a nuanced picture of the situation on the ground in Calais.

In this context, the Refugee Rights Europe (RRE) will be releasing a series of short reports aimed at exploring questions and misconceptions surrounding refugees and displaced people; including their demographics, motivations and ambitions. This is with two goals. Firstly, to inform public opinion and challenge preconceptions based on research directly from refugee communities. Secondly, to provide policy-makers and influencers with tools to strengthen their understanding of underlying human dynamics and trends which will help them reach a sustainable, long-term solution to the problem.

Over a two-month period, an ongoing survey was conducted in the Calais camp by nine independent researchers. This focused on three key questions which

emerged from RRE's previous study *The Long Wait*¹: the reasons for wishing to seek asylum in the UK rather than any other European country, what information is most important to camp residents, and trends relating to the length of time spent in the camp.

The report structure mirrors these critical questions. We begin by providing an overview of the demographic trends of respondents and the length of time spent in camp. We then proceed to analysing why camp residents wish to come to the UK specifically. Next, we investigate the information most important to camp residents and how it has been lacking. In a final section, we look at research findings relating to minors specifically, given the particular urgency surrounding their situation. The report aims to ultimately present a very real picture straight from the Calais camp, and emphasises the desperation faced by thousands of displaced people living there.



¹ http://refugeerights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/RRE_TheLongWait.pdf

METHODOLOGY

*Refugee Rights Europe relays the voices of displaced people in Europe, reporting what respondents tell us. Meanwhile, we have not been able to verify claims through official sources. Throughout the report, wording such as "30% had experienced police violence" means that 30% of respondents said they had experienced police violence, but such claims have not been possible to verify.

The objective of this study was to conduct an ongoing data collection over a two-month period in the Calais camp.

Following on from Refugee Rights Europe's two research reports emerging from data collection efforts in February 2016 (The Long Wait and Unsafe Borderlands) it aims to ensure the information gaps relating to the camp residents continue to be filled.

Based on an analysis of feedback received since the publication of The Long Wait, and in consultation with RRE Advisory Group members, an online survey was created using data collection software KoBoToolbox. The survey consisted of five questions: "How long have you been in the camp?", "What is your country of origin?", "How old are you?", "What information is most important to you?" and "Why do you want to go to the UK?". Once finalised, the survey was translated into five of the most commonly used languages in the camp (Arabic, English, Farsi, Pashto and Tigrinya).

Some interviews were partially conducted in French or Italian, in cases where the survey respondent had better command of either language than the ones offered on the tablet.

The survey was conducted over the course of two months by nine independent field researchers, each of whom travelled out to Calais for a five to ten day period. Researchers were hosted by RRE's partner organisation, the Refugee Info Bus, which had built up trust among the camp population over time and greatly facilitated RRE's access to survey respondents. Prior to deployment, each researcher signed a research participation agreement and received a full written brief of the role description, code of conduct, child protection guidelines, and terms of use for the data. Each researcher was also given a full induction to ensure they were versed in areas such as child protection, risks and security.

The survey was conducted using two touch-screen tablets, and a 'snowball methodology' was adopted, whereby camp residents were approached at random, or where potential respondents approached the researchers to take the survey. Information and instruction sheets (translated into different languages) were provided, in addition to a brief verbal introduction through which the researchers obtained verbal informed consent, highlighting the anonymity and background to the survey.

The survey was conducted in various different areas of the camp, enabling us to capture a range of demographics. However, we put particular focus on surveying around the Refugee Info Bus where people gather to access WiFi and were often open to

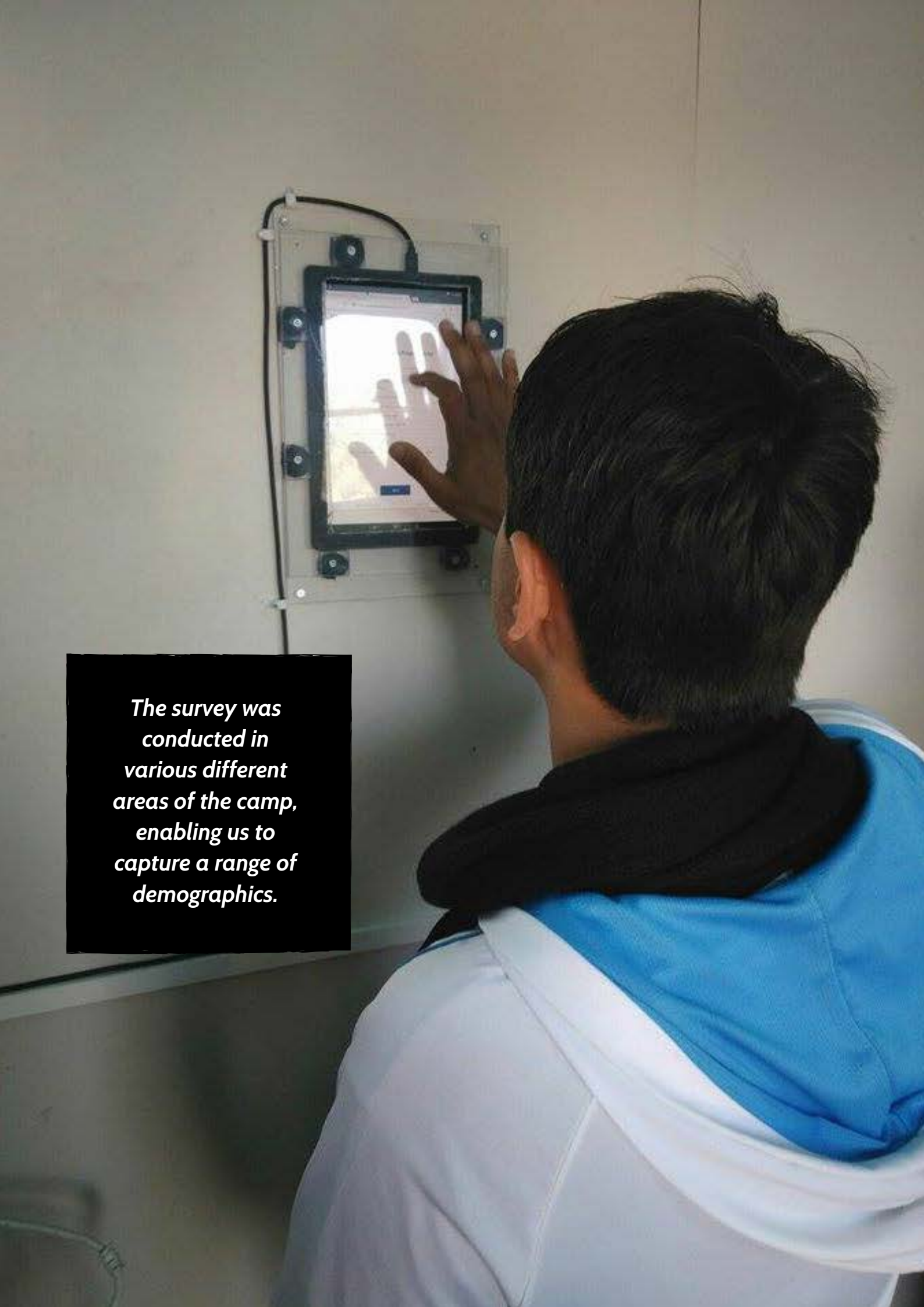
interacting with researchers. Additional surveying areas included camp restaurants, the volunteer-run Ashram Kitchen, the Unofficial Women and Children's Centre and Jungle Books school; this allowed us to survey respondents with diverse social, economic and political tendencies.

As the survey contained no questions of particularly sensitive nature, minors (17 years of age and below) were included, but researchers were instructed not to approach very young children without the consent of an adult.

The ever-changing demographic composition of the camp and the absence of official government or UNHCR figures made it difficult to ensure a fully representative research sample. Nonetheless, RRE made use of monthly censuses carried out by non-governmental organisations Help the Refugees and L'Auberge des Migrants to ensure the sample was sufficiently large to have statistical value. Based on the population size in July, which was estimated at 7,037 people, the 589 surveys conducted by RRE represented a sample size of 8.4%.²

By the same token, RRE used the census information to try and ensure a relatively representative sample in terms of gender, broad age group (minors/adults), and country of origin. According to the July census, the proportion of countries of origin was as follows: Afghanistan (38%), Sudan (32%), Pakistan (7.5%), Eritrea (8%), Ethiopia (and Oromia) (3%), Iraq (Kurdistan) (2%), Syria (3%), Other (6.5%). The same source estimated that there were 6,000 men (85.3%), 276 women (3.9%), and 761 children (10.8%) living in the camp. RRE's sample consisted of 552 men and boys (93.7%) and 37 women and girls (6.3%).

² <http://www.helprefugees.org.uk/2016/07/21/new-calais-census-released-761-children-in-calais-jungle-80-on-their-own/>

A person with dark hair, wearing a white and blue hoodie, is seen from the back, interacting with a tablet computer mounted on a wall. The tablet is secured in a clear plastic frame with black screws. The person's right hand is touching the screen, which displays a survey interface with a large white hand icon. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

The survey was conducted in various different areas of the camp, enabling us to capture a range of demographics.

LIMITATIONS

The main limitation of the study relates to the 'snowball sampling' method used, which meant that it was not fully feasible for RRE to steer the composition of the sample.

As a result, there was an overrepresentation of Sudanese (42.09%) and Eritrean (17.99%) respondents and a slight under-representation of Afghans (20.19%). This may be attributable to

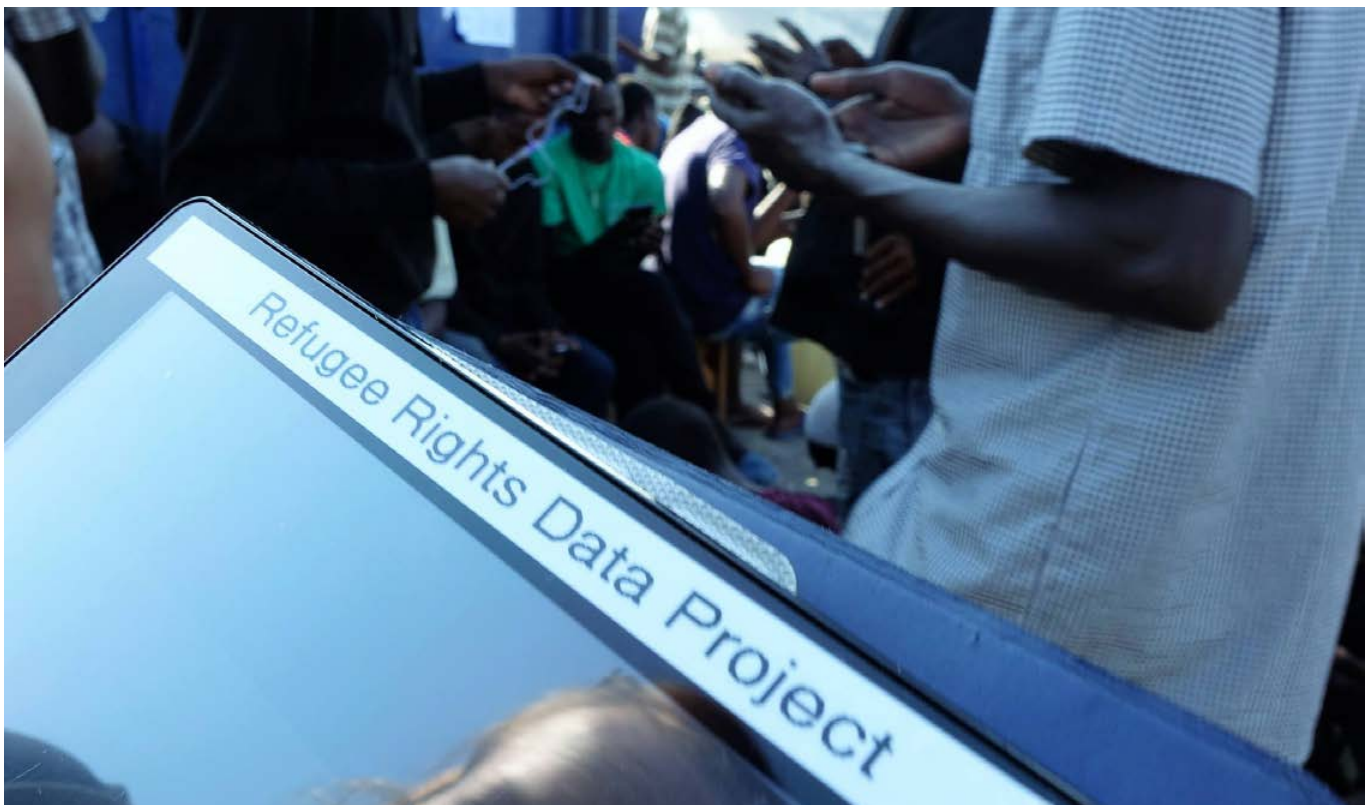
there being more Sudanese and Eritrean refugees using the services provided by the Refugee Info Bus, as well as a number of our researchers being able to speak Arabic and, therefore, having an advantage at encouraging more Arabic speakers to take the survey. The absence of a survey translation into Amharic is likely to have skewed numbers between Eritrean and Ethiopians respondents, which was subsequently addressed in the next RRE survey deployed. Similarly, there was a large over-representation of minors within the sample (38.88% compared to the 10.8% estimated of the total population). Once again, this might be a result of a large number of minors utilising the Refugee Info Bus services.

A further limitation relates to the country of origin cited, as we believe that some Kurdish respondents cited their state of

origin (Iran, Iraq, Syria etc) while others stated 'Kurdish' so there may be slight discrepancies in figures relating to this group.

Language barriers were generally overcome due to the availability of the survey in multiple core languages of the camp population. However, certain language barriers were identified among women respondents as well as those whose language was not included in the survey translations (notably Urdu and Amharic), which may have led to an underrepresentation of certain demographic groups.

Lastly, as the survey was conducted through self-reporting – a widely accepted methodology within the social sciences – no claims have been verified.



PART 1: DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS OF RESPONDENTS

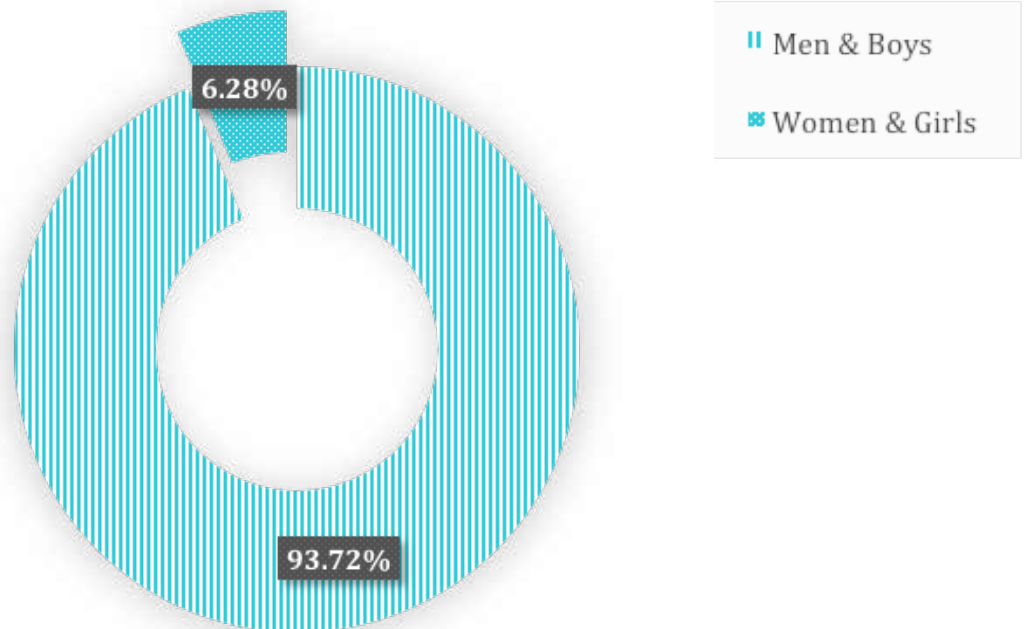
The following section outlines the demographic composition of the research sample.

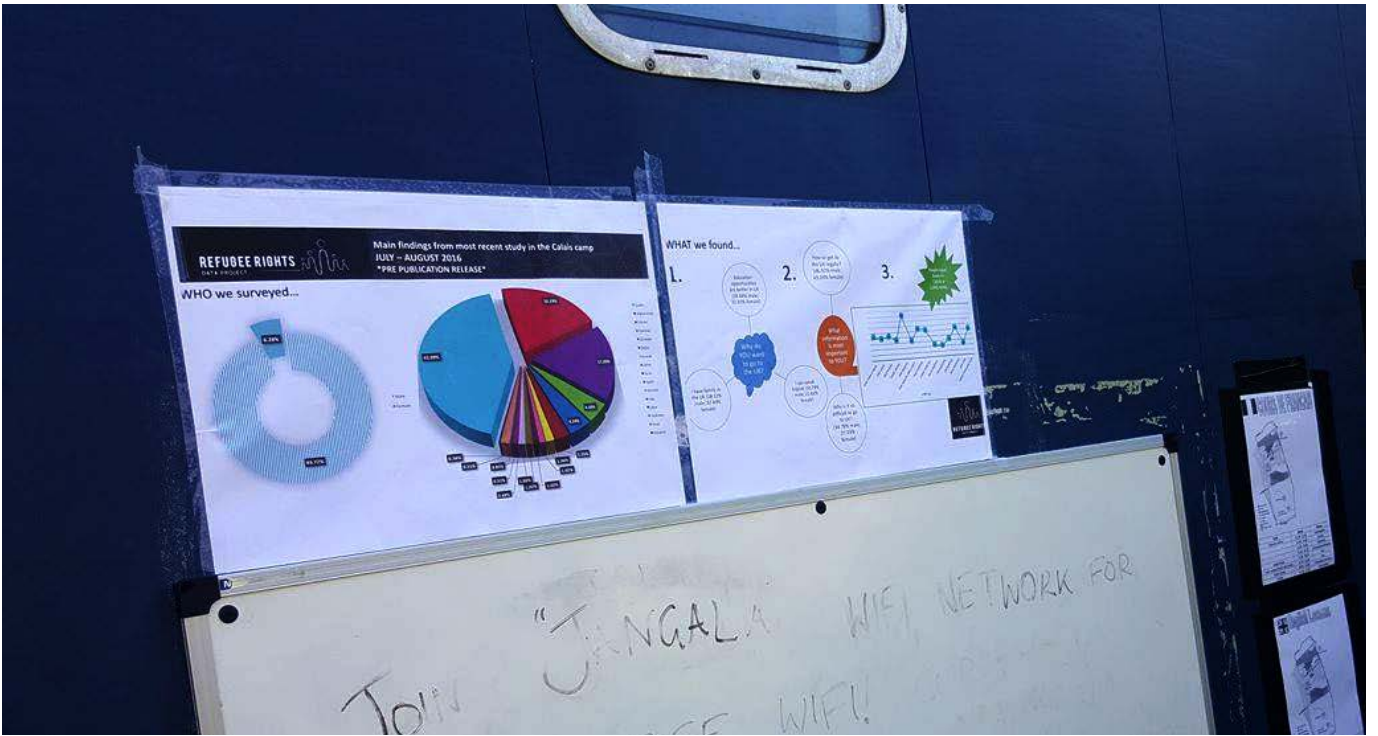
1.1 MEN AND BOYS / WOMEN AND GIRLS



GENDER ALL RESPONDENTS

A total of 552 men (93.72%) and 37 women (6.28%) were surveyed; this ought to be representative of the camp's overall gender composition in accordance with available figures.

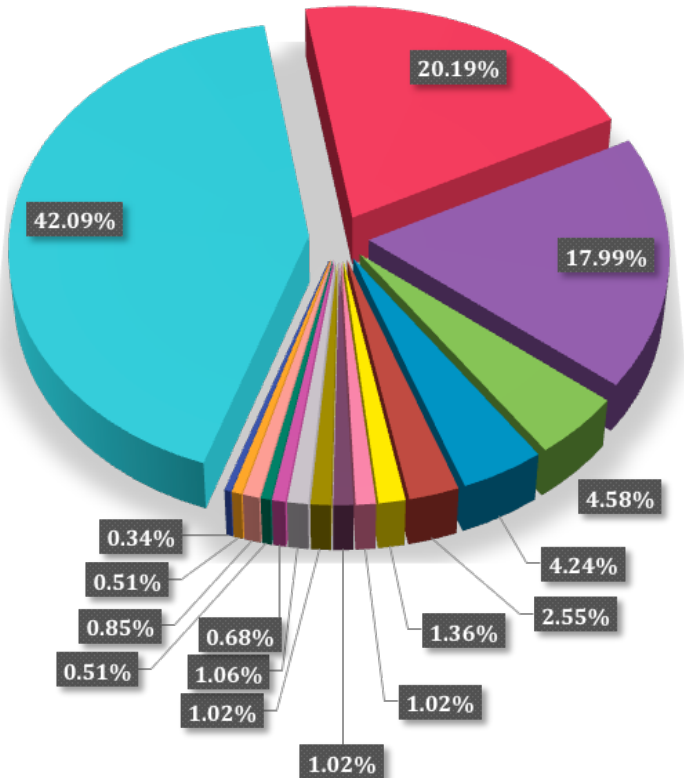




1.2 COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

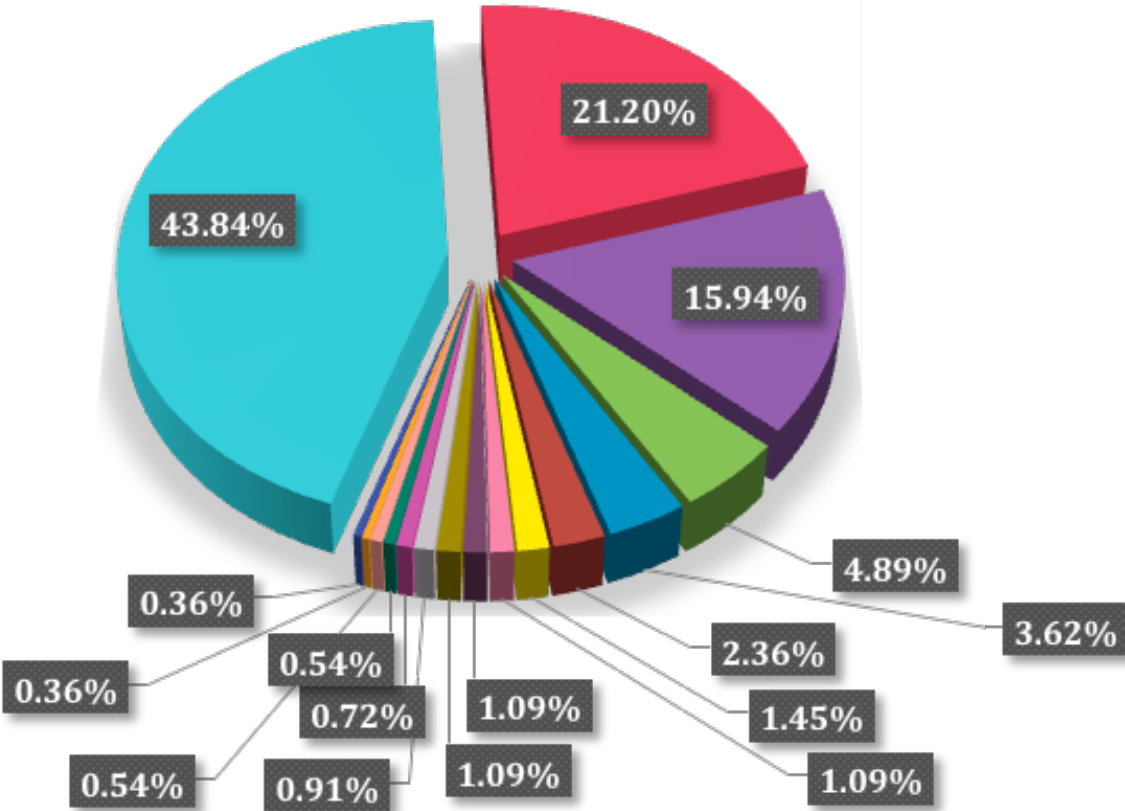
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN ALL RESPONDENTS

- Sudan
- Afghanistan
- Eritrea
- Pakistan
- Ethiopia
- Other
- Kuwait
- Iran
- Syria
- Egypt
- Somalia
- Iraq
- Libya
- Tajikistan
- Chad
- Palestine

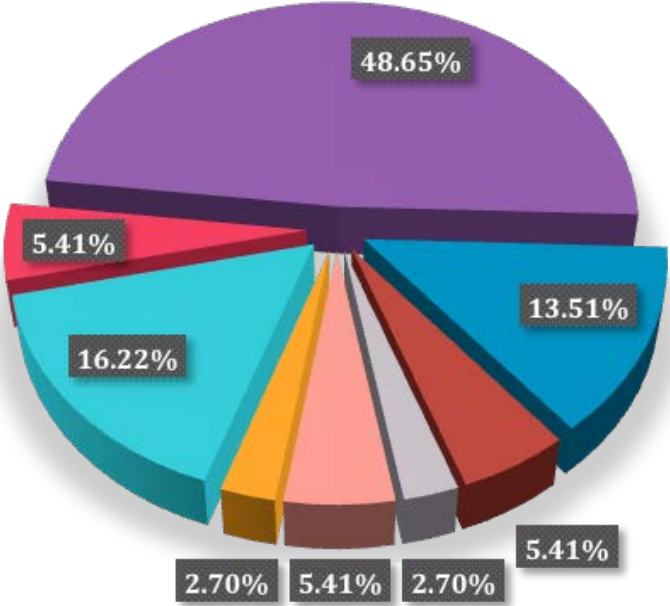


**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
MEN AND BOYS ONLY**

- Sudan
- Afghanistan
- Eritrea
- Pakistan
- Ethiopia
- Iran
- Kuwait
- Other
- Syria
- Egypt
- Somalia
- Iraq
- Libya
- Tajikistan
- Chad
- Palestine



**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
WOMEN AND GIRLS ONLY**



The majority of camp residents were unlikely to leave the area even if the camp were to be evicted.

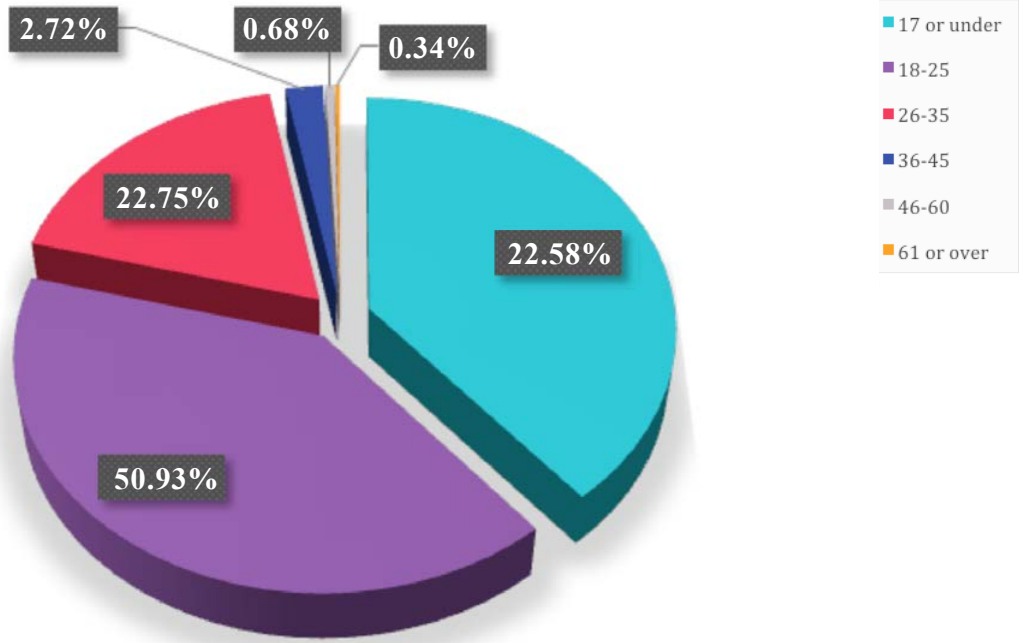


1.3 AGE

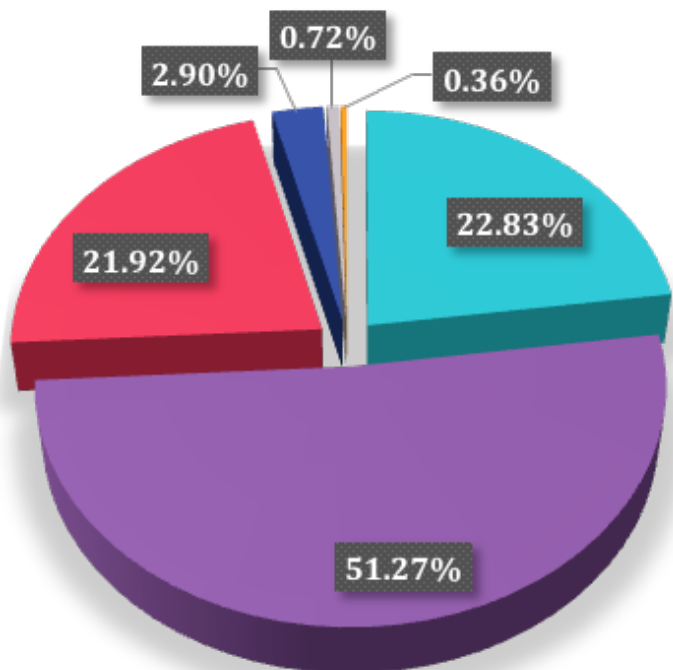
AGE ALL RESPONDENTS

Most respondents were aged between 18 and 25 (50.93%). Meanwhile, the high proportion of those aged '17 or under' (22.58%) indicates the high number of minors living in the camp.

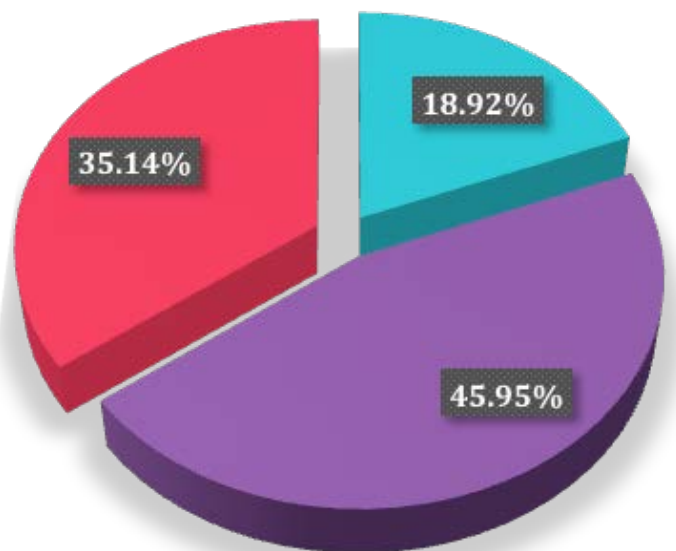
Our sample contained a smaller number of girls aged 17 or under (18.92%) than boys of the same age group (22.83%).



AGE MEN AND BOYS ONLY



AGE WOMEN AND GIRLS ONLY

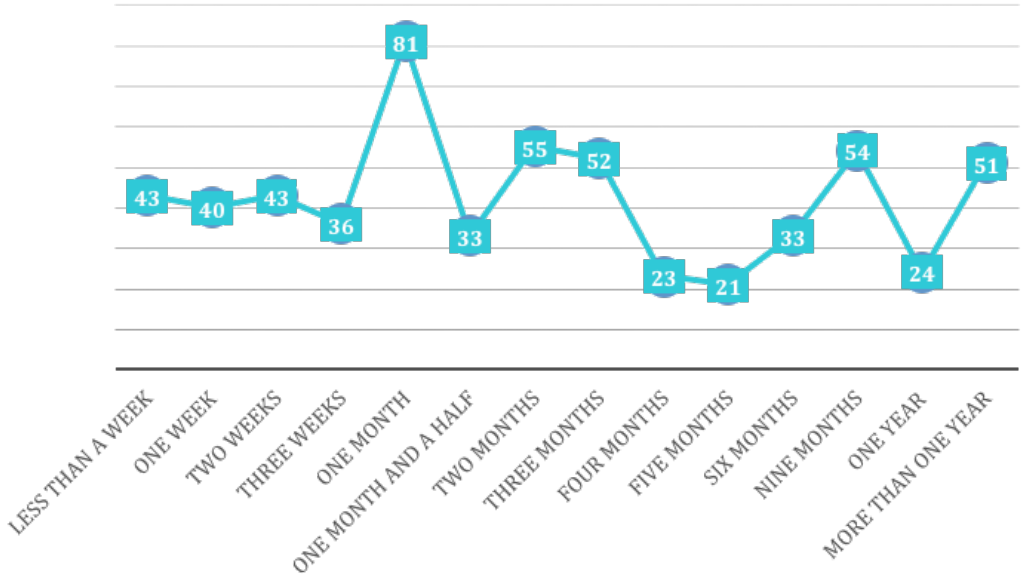


1.3 TIME SPENT IN THE CAMP

RRE's research findings outlined in *The Long Wait* identified that refugees and displaced people spent long periods of time in the unhealthy and unsafe environment provided by the informal camp in Calais. The data also found that the majority of camp residents were unlikely to leave the area even if the camp were to be evicted.

These latest findings demonstrate that the situation has not changed, indicated by the very small percentage of men (12.5%) who have been in the camp for over one year and do not want to go to the UK. This suggests that the "bottle-neck" scenario existing in Calais and current British and French government policies are doing little to resolve the ongoing situation.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE CAMP
ALL RESPONDENTS



PART 2: WHY DO REFUGEES WANT TO COME TO THE UK?

RRE's previous report, *The Long Wait*, found that 94.6% of respondents wished to continue onto the UK from the Calais camp.

The same research study investigated residents' reasons for wanting to live in the UK. Our latest survey aimed to generate a more in-depth understanding of this issue by asking respondents to select one or multiple reasons for wishing to go to the UK specifically, as opposed to other European countries they may have travelled through. It was not within the scope of this survey to address so-called 'push factors' or reasons for leaving their country of origin, but rather the appeal of the UK compared to other European destinations.

There appear to be a whole host of misconceptions and question marks regarding

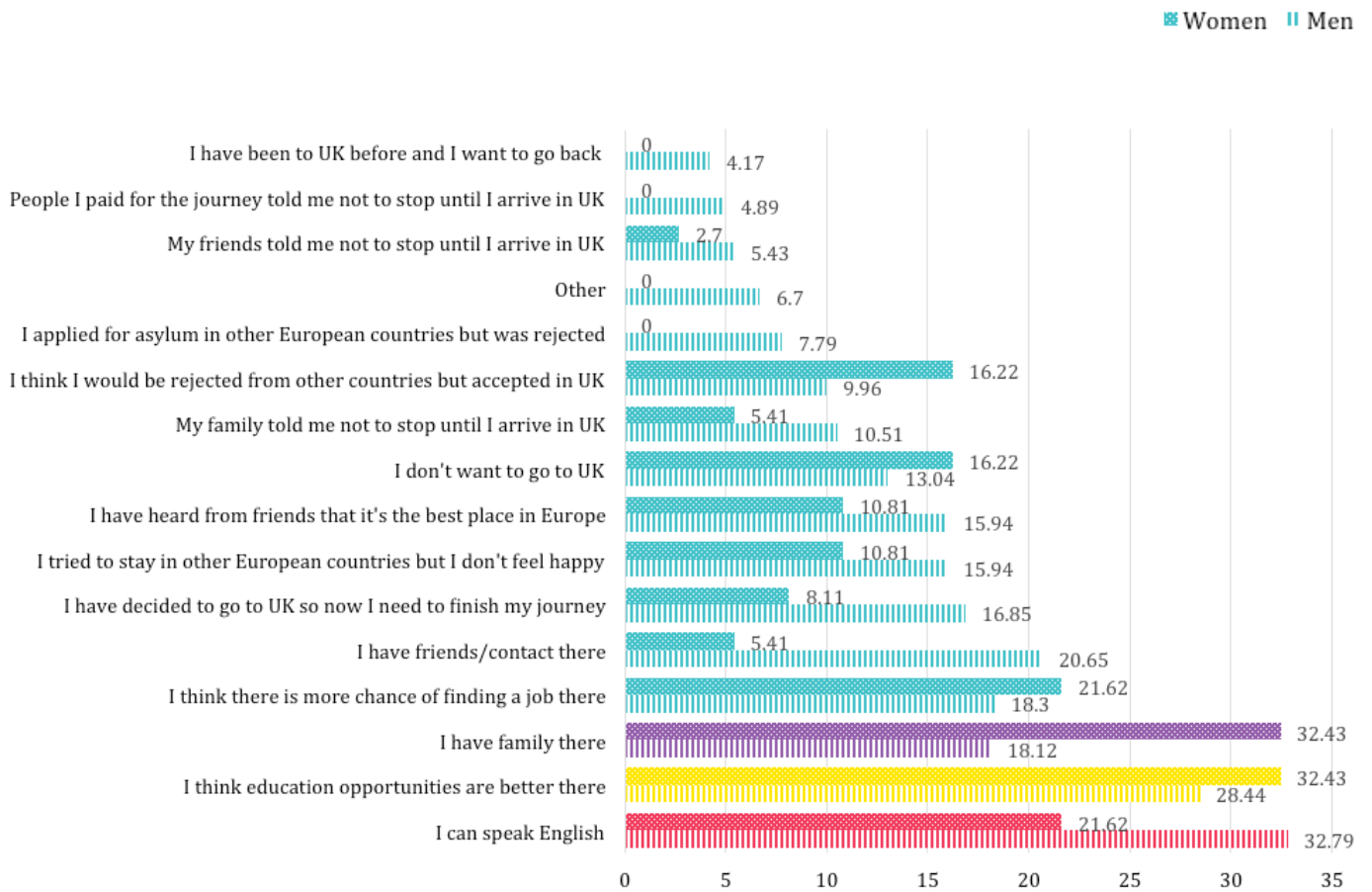
refugees' desire to submit their asylum applications in the UK rather than elsewhere. Aiming to bring more clarity to this matter, the research found that 32.1% of all respondents sought to reach the UK because they had pre-existing English language skills (32.8% of men and 21.62% of women), 28.7% believed that the UK provides better education opportunities than other countries (28.4% of men and 32.3% of women), and 21.4% had family in the UK (18.1% of men and 32.4% of women).

A significant number answered "I have decided to go to UK so now I need to finish my journey" (16.3% in total - 16.9% of men and 8.1% of women). This was a common sentiment which also emerged anecdotally from RRE's February research, and presents an interesting yet problematic phenomenon; displaced people having few things left to hold onto and therefore clinging to a determination to reach an 'unreachable' destination.

A number of respondents reported that they thought they would have a better chance of their asylum claim being accepted in the UK than elsewhere (10.4% in total - 10% of men and 16.2% of women). This may suggest that camp residents are lacking asylum-related information, instead basing their assumptions on rumours and non-expert advice which hinders well-informed decision-making.



WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO THE UK? (% FREQUENCY) ALL RESPONDENTS



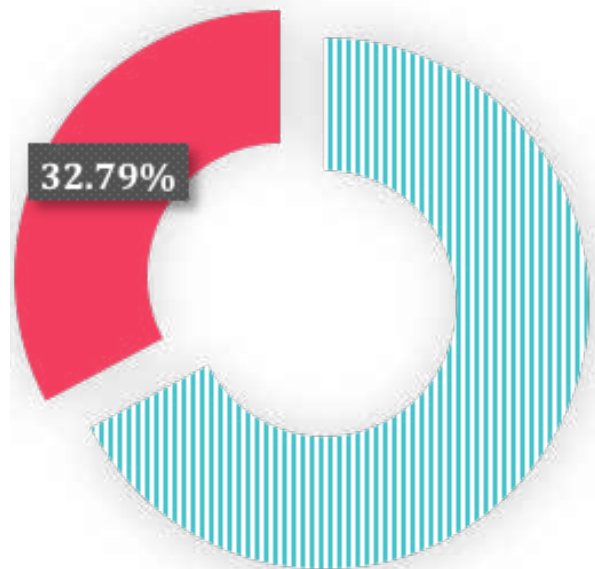
The three most regularly-cited reasons for wishing to go to the UK rather than another European country indicate residents' good grasp of spoken English, the

value placed on education, and that many refugees in Calais already have family or friends in the UK. Such trends were apparent across all demographic groups.

2.1 BECAUSE I CAN SPEAK ENGLISH

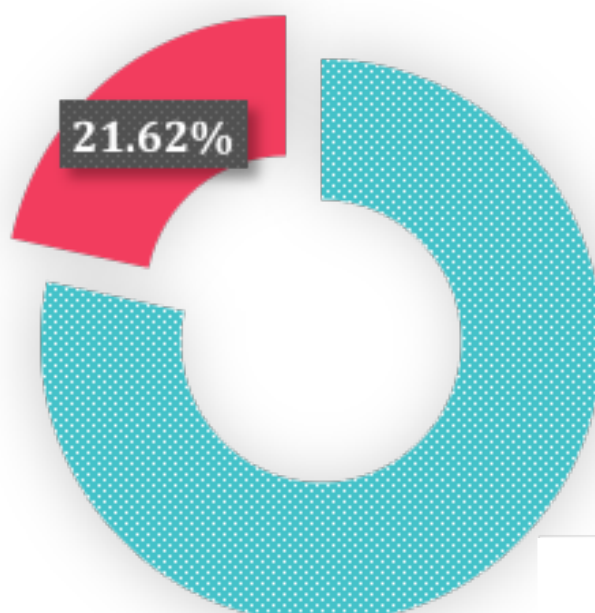
As noted above, one of the main reasons given for wanting to go to the UK rather than another European country was that many respondents are able to speak English. This result was shown across all demographic groups including gender, country of origin and age.

BECAUSE I CAN SPEAK ENGLISH MEN AND BOYS ONLY



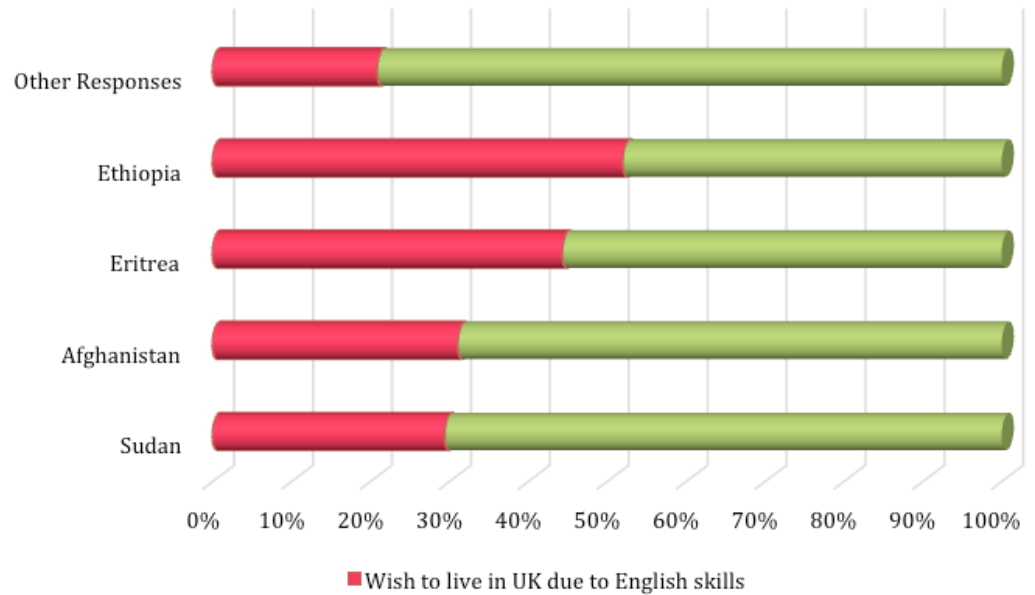
BECAUSE I CAN SPEAK ENGLISH WOMEN AND GIRLS ONLY

In total, 32.1% of all respondents said they wanted to go to the UK because they speak English. While a greater proportion of men than women cited language skills as a major factor (33.79%), almost a quarter of women respondents said this was among their key drivers (21.62%).



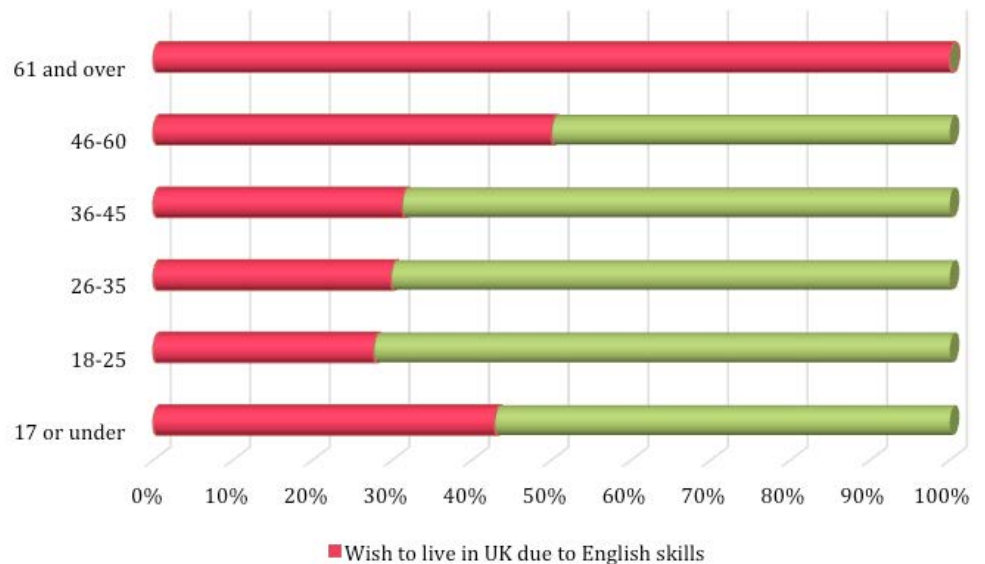
BECAUSE I CAN SPEAK ENGLISH (COUNTRY OF ORIGIN COMPARISON) ALL RESPONDENTS

It should be noted that this percentage is not an indication of the level of language skills, but rather the respondents' perception of why the UK is the best country for them to seek asylum. This trend is particularly pertinent given the nationalities of respondents who could speak English - many of which had been former British colonies (Sudan, Afghanistan and Eritrea). 44.34% of Eritrean respondents cited the ability to speak English as a major reason for wanting to go to the UK, as with 31.09% of Afghan respondents and 29.55% of Sudanese respondents.



BECAUSE I CAN SPEAK ENGLISH (AGE COMPARISON) ALL RESPONDENTS

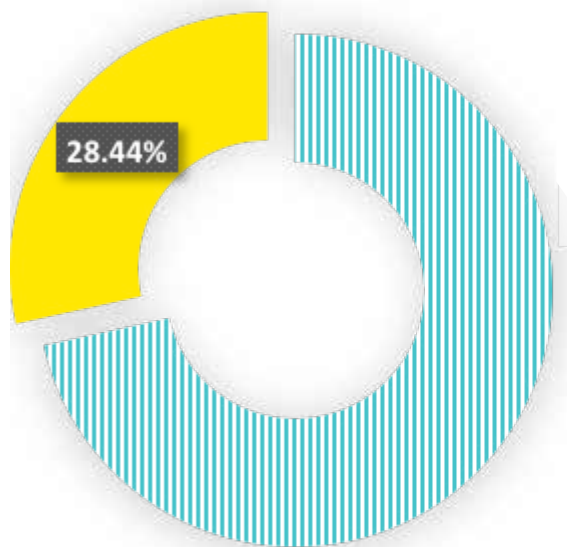
The high proportion of respondents seeking to live in the UK due to their ability to speak English is further demonstrated across age groups.



2.2 I THINK EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES ARE BETTER THERE

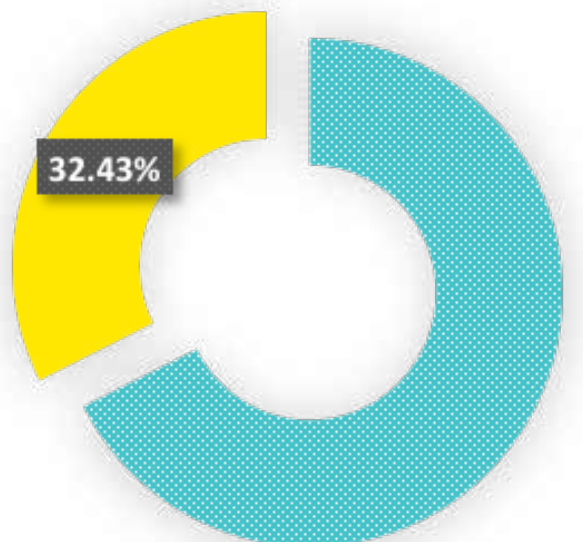
Some 28.7% of those living in Calais expressed a wish to go to the UK for education opportunities, indicating high levels of ambition amongst camp residents. In this context, it is worth noting that while access to education is a basic human right in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 26), this is largely absent from the Calais camp.

I THINK EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES ARE BETTER THERE MEN AND BOYS ONLY



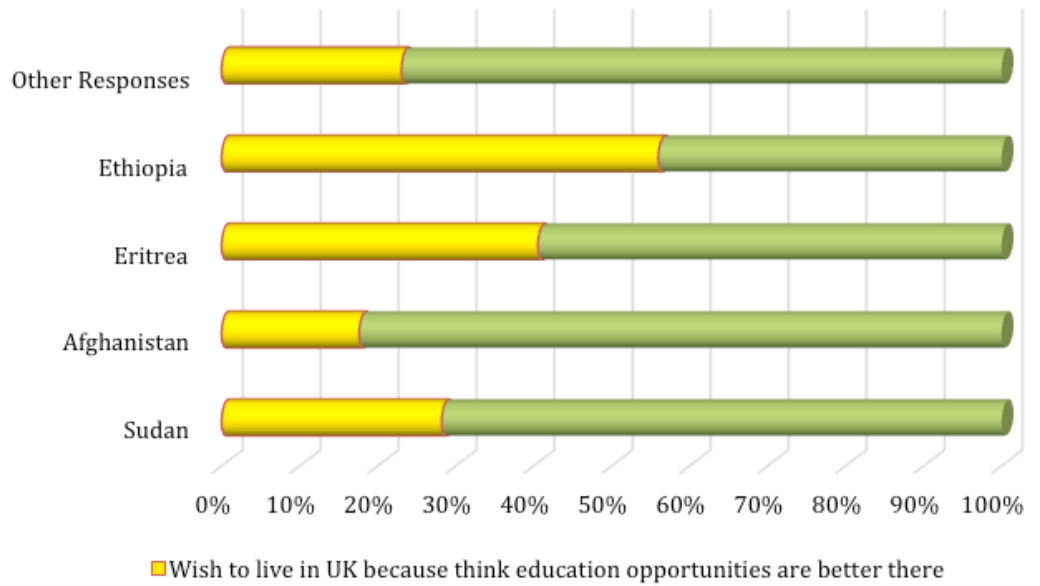
■ Thinks education opportunities are better in the UK

I THINK EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES ARE BETTER THERE WOMEN AND GIRLS ONLY

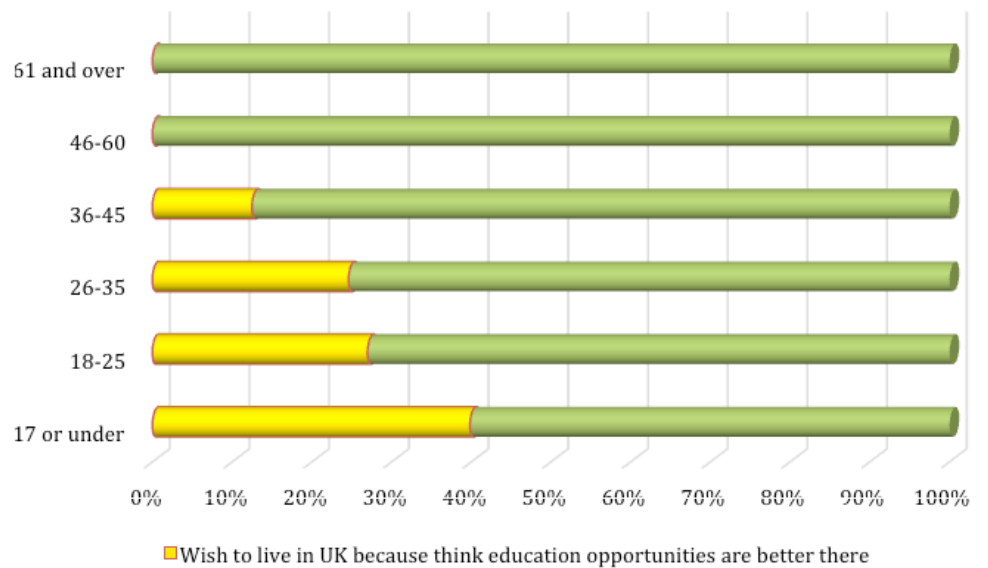


■ Thinks education opportunities are better in the UK

**I THINK EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES ARE BETTER THERE (COUNTRY OF ORIGIN COMPARISON)
ALL RESPONDENTS**



**I THINK EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES ARE BETTER THERE (AGE COMPARISON)
ALL RESPONDENTS**



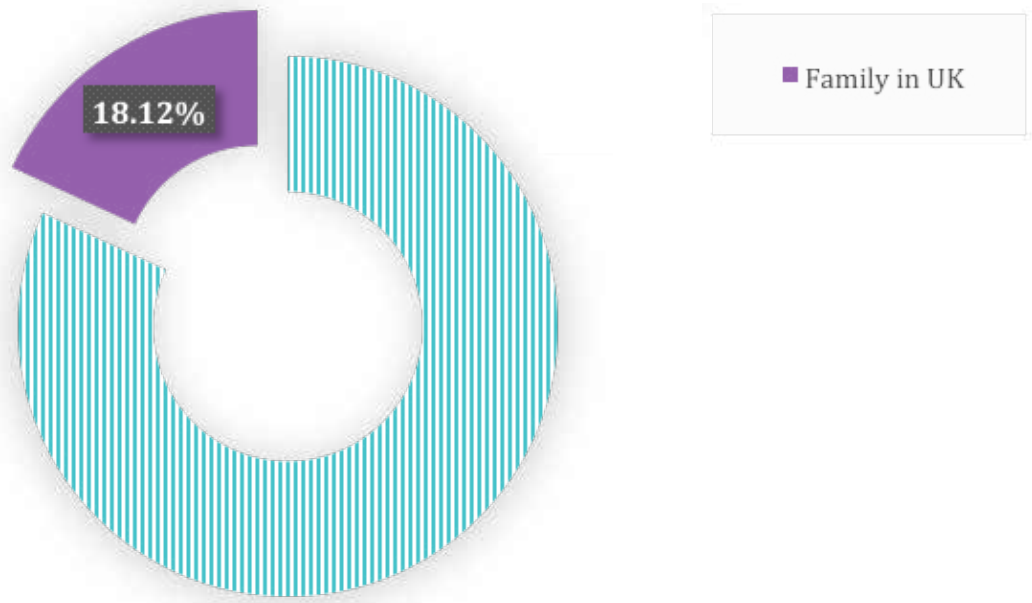
The '17 or under' age group has the greatest number of respondents (39.85%) wanting to go to the UK for education opportunities. This demonstrates the importance that the camp's children place on furthering their education, and shines a light on its denial as a breach of human rights.

2.3 BECAUSE I HAVE FAMILY THERE

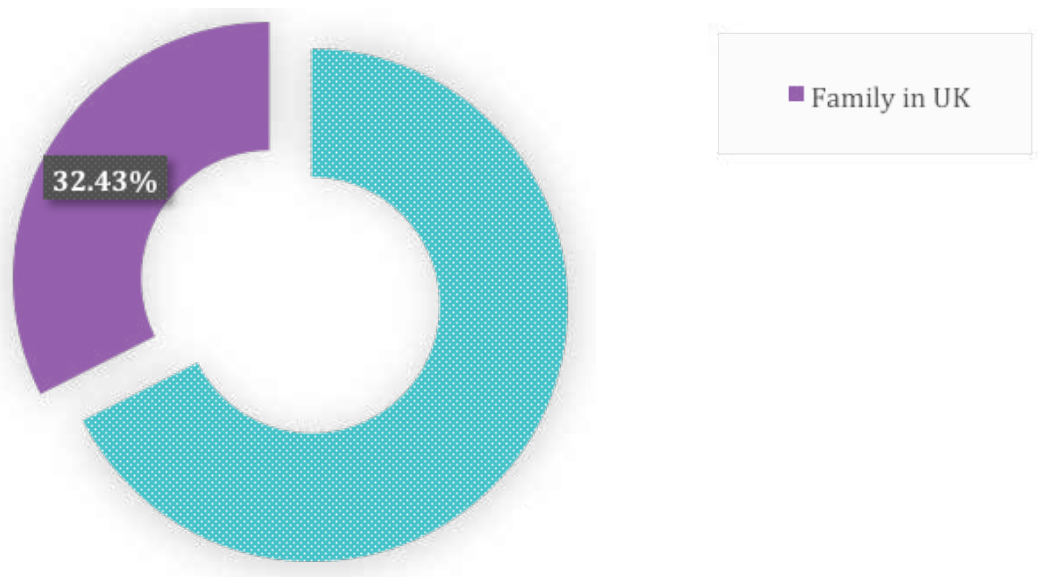
In total, 21.4% of those surveyed - 18.12% of men and 32.43% of women - said they have family in the UK (note that no explicit definition of 'family' was given here). These findings suggest that more needs to be done to help these individuals reach the UK and apply for asylum, once these claims have been verified. In the case of minors in particular, safe passage must be ensured swiftly, to ensure timely and safe family reunion in accordance with international conventions and universal human rights standards.

Governments are recommended to take the necessary measures for the protection of the refugee's family, as stated in the UNHCR's 'Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees' (1951). This is especially relevant with a view to ensuring family unity and safeguarding the protection of minors - in particular girls and unaccompanied children.³

I HAVE FAMILY THERE MEN AND BOYS ONLY



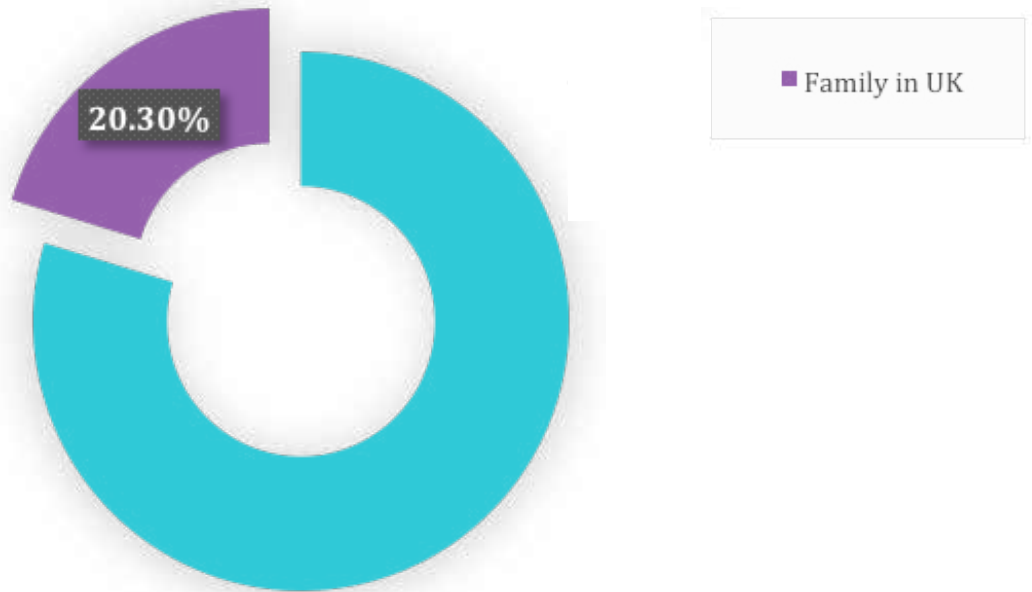
I HAVE FAMILY THERE WOMEN AND GIRLS ONLY



³ UNHCR (1951) 'Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees', accessible here: <http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/3b66c2aa10.pdf> - pp. 10-11

**I HAVE FAMILY THERE
MINORS ONLY**

As highlighted in the 'Methodology' section, RRE has not verified claims but encourages timely and sufficiently resourced efforts to do so, and expedite asylum processes and family reunification processes without delay.



In the case of minors in particular, safe passage must be ensured swiftly.

PART 3: WHAT INFORMATION IS MOST VALUABLE TO REFUGEES?

RRE's extensive research study conducted in February 2016 highlighted that there was a critical information gap amongst refugees and displaced people in Calais.

At the time, 74.3% reported that they were lacking information about European asylum and immigration rules, while 79.3% stated that they did not have access to advice about how they could improve their situation. The present study went into greater depth to generate a better understanding of what type of information the individuals in Calais were lacking to help them make informed decisions and life choices.

According to the present study, the most sought-after type of information related to entering the UK. In total, 46.7% of respondents (or 46.9% of men and 43.2% of women) were seeking information about how they could access the UK legally. This

signals that the majority of refugees and displaced people in the Calais camp – contrary to common misconceptions – would like to know how they could apply for asylum in the UK through legal channels rather than taking illegal routes on the back of lorries and/or by paying a people smuggler.

A large percentage of respondents were also lacking an understanding of why it is so difficult to go to the UK (34.3% in total - 34.8% of men and 27% of women) suggesting a communication gap around complex issues such as the France-UK border and the UK's absence from the Schengen area.

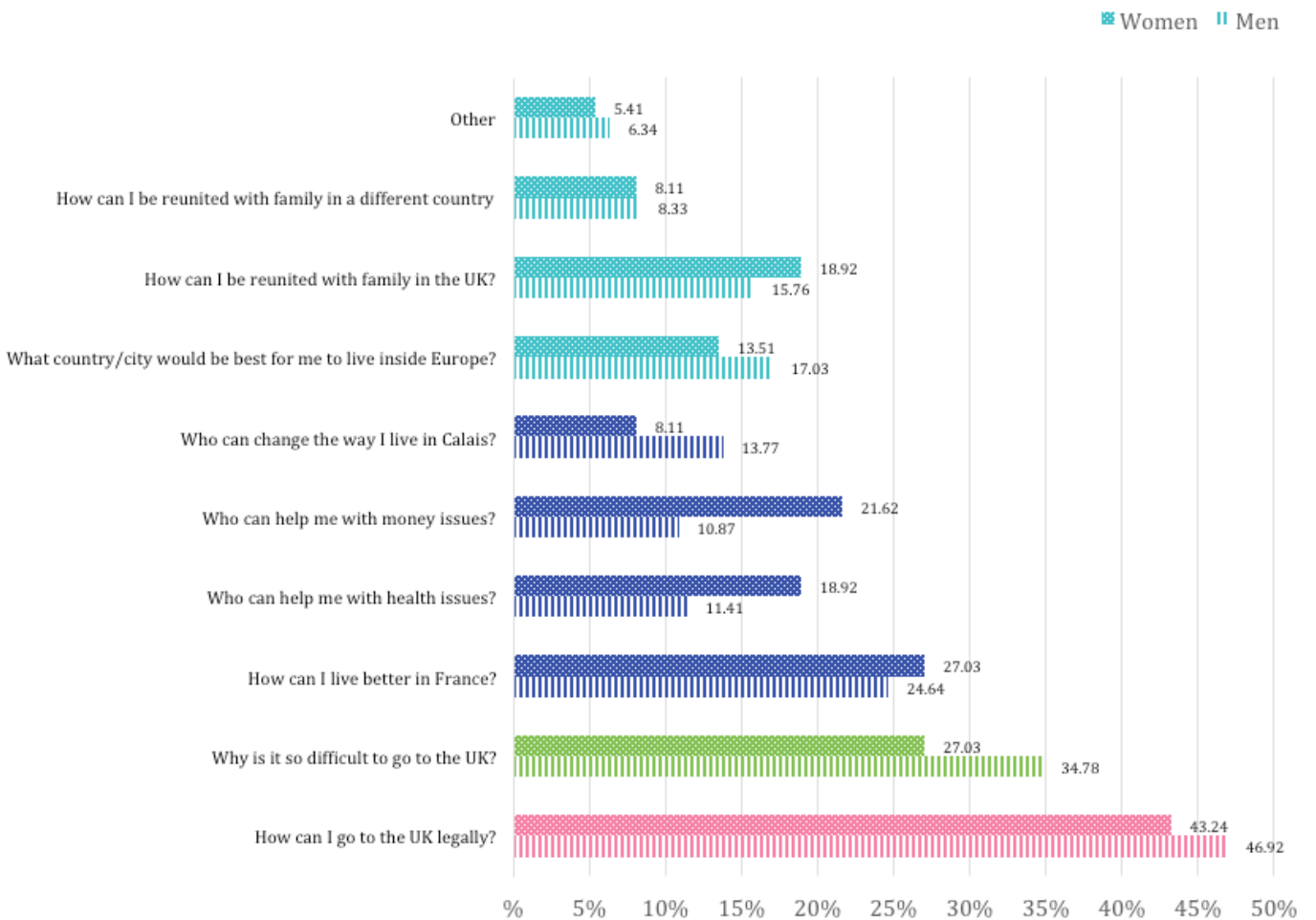
Some 16.3% of respondents (17% of men and 13.5% of women) wished to obtain information about alternatives to going to the UK, enquiring about which country/city in Europe might be the best destination for them to seek asylum.

Meanwhile, 13.4% lacked information about how to change their current situation in France (13.8% of men and 8.1% of women), while an alarming proportion of 11.9% sought information about health care (11.4% of men and 18.9% of women). Family reunification in the UK (16% in total - 15.8% of men and 18.9% of women) and other European countries (8.1% in total - 8.3% of men and 8.1% of women) were also regularly-cited options.





**WHAT INFORMATION IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU? (% FREQUENCY)
ALL RESPONDENTS**



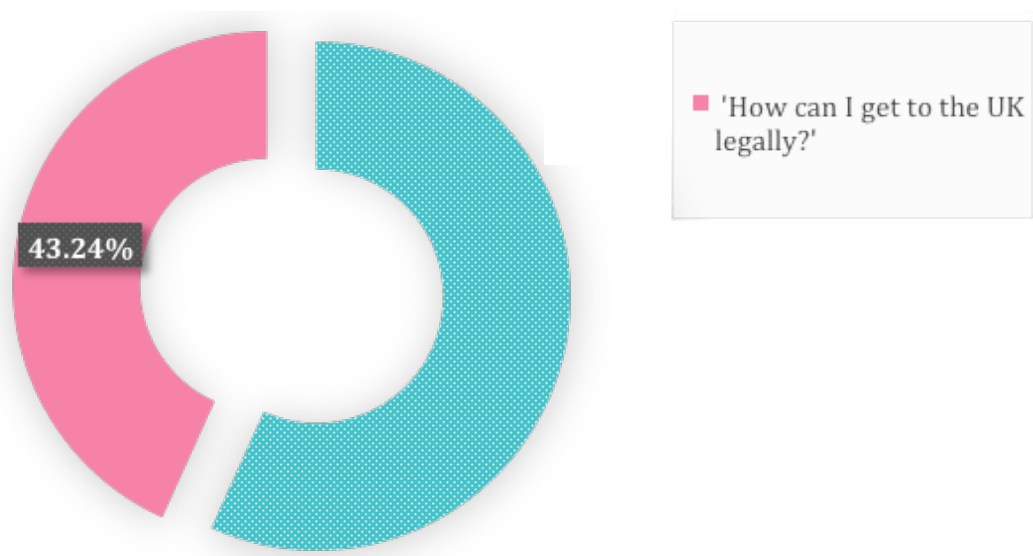
3.1 HOW CAN I GO TO THE UK LEGALLY?

Almost half of all respondents (46.7%) wanted to know how to travel to the UK legally, and such trends are present across nationality and age groups. This indicates the overarching wish of camp residents to reach the UK without breaking the law.

HOW CAN I GO TO THE UK LEGALLY? MEN AND BOYS ONLY



HOW CAN I GO TO THE UK LEGALLY? WOMEN AND GIRLS ONLY



The majority of refugees and displaced people in the Calais camp...would like to know how they could apply for asylum in the UK through legal channels rather than taking illegal routes.



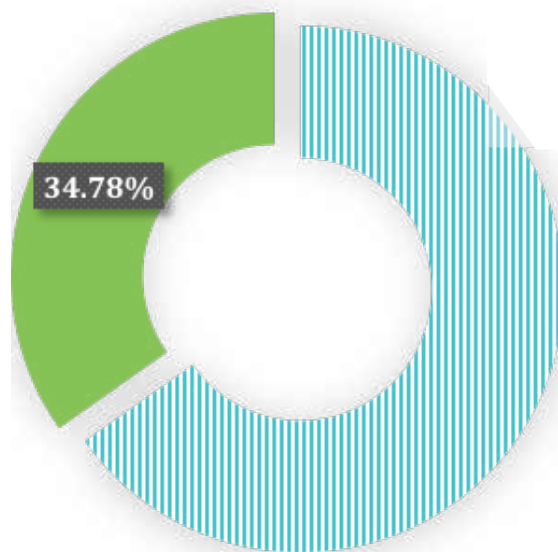
3.2 WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO GO TO THE UK?

A large proportion of respondents - some 34.3% (34.78% men and 27.03% women) - said they wanted to know why it is so difficult to reach the UK.

Such trends were similarly apparent across all demographic groups further indicating the general absence of information provided to refugees and displaced people.

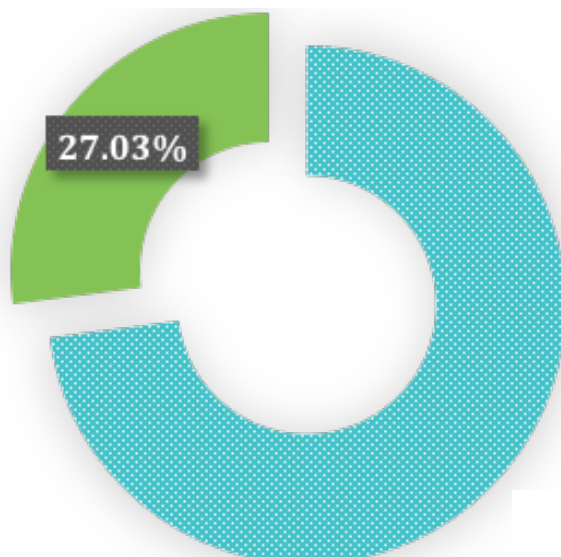
The lack of understanding relating to UK immigration rules and asylum claims appears to be particularly problematic given the 'bottle-neck' situation that exists in Calais. The strong determination of many to reach the UK rather than other European countries, combined with a lack of legal entry routes, indirectly fuels the existence of organised crime and smuggling networks.

WHY IT IS SO DIFFICULT TO GO TO THE UK? MEN AND BOYS ONLY



■ Why is it so difficult to go to the UK?'

HOW CAN I GO TO THE UK LEGALLY? WOMEN AND GIRLS ONLY

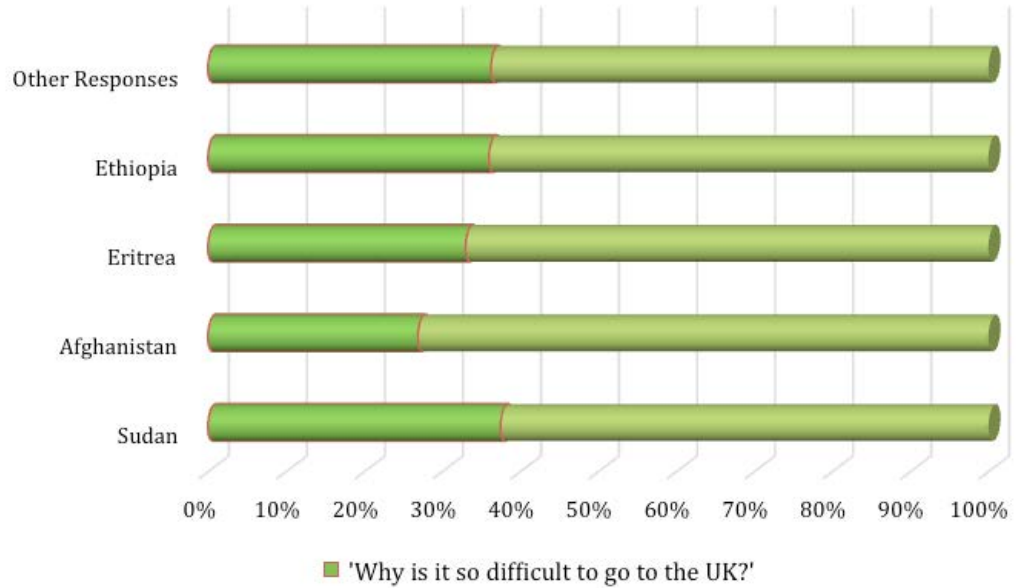


■ Why is it so difficult to go to the UK?'

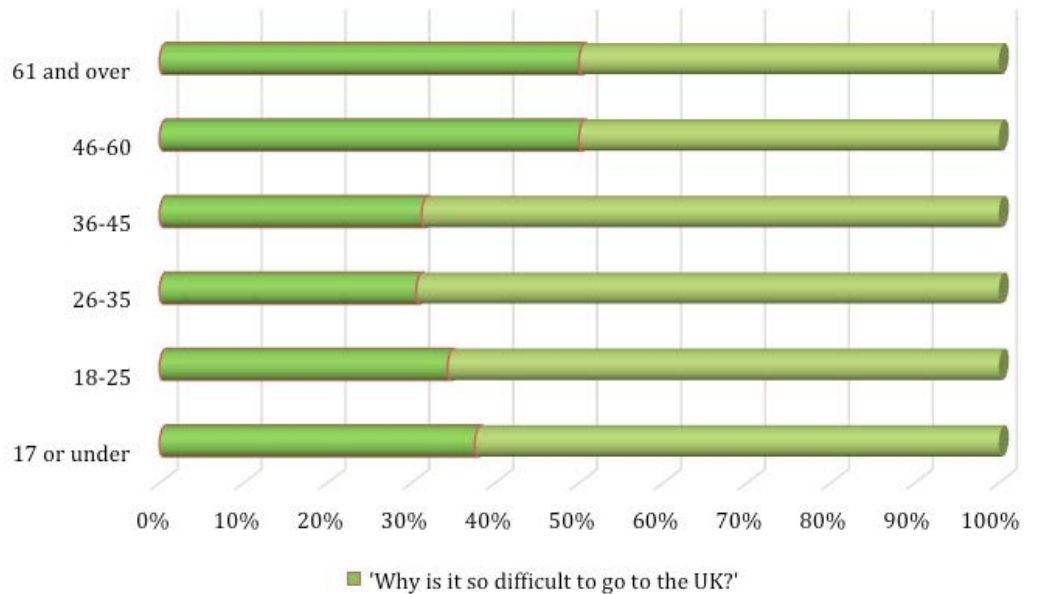
WHY IT IS SO DIFFICULT TO GO TO THE UK? (COUNTRY OF ORIGIN COMPARISON) ALL RESPONDENTS

As suggested by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: “Smugglers take advantage of the large number of migrants willing to take risks in search of a better life when they cannot access legal channels of migration.”

It is also important to note the dangers faced by thousands of displaced people when attempting to cross the English Channel and reach the UK. The OECD recommends that “addressing the demand for smuggling could lie in offering significantly more – and quicker access to – resettlement facilities, in order to allow more people to get international protection in a safe and orderly way.”



HOW CAN I GO TO THE UK LEGALLY? (AGE COMPARISON) ALL RESPONDENTS



PART 4: MINORS IN THE CALAIS CAMP

In accordance with the Dubs Amendment (proposed in February 2016 and finally accepted by the UK government in May 2016), the British Secretary of State must *“as soon as possible after the passing of this Act, make arrangements to relocate to the United Kingdom and support a specified number of unaccompanied refugee children from other countries in Europe...”*

However, at the time of the research, only a handful of the 761 children (80% of whom were unaccompanied) in the Calais camp had been relocated, and there were few signs of government plans to do so. Meanwhile, RRE’s research findings indicate that an alarming 9.77% of minors (accompanied and unaccompanied) reported to have been in the camp for more than one year, living under conditions that are highly unsuitable for children due to the unmet humanitarian standards, human rights infringements and overall health and security dangers. As mentioned above, 20.3% of the surveyed minors reported to have family in the UK and are therefore highly likely to be eligible for safe passage and family reunification - regardless of the Dubs Amendment.

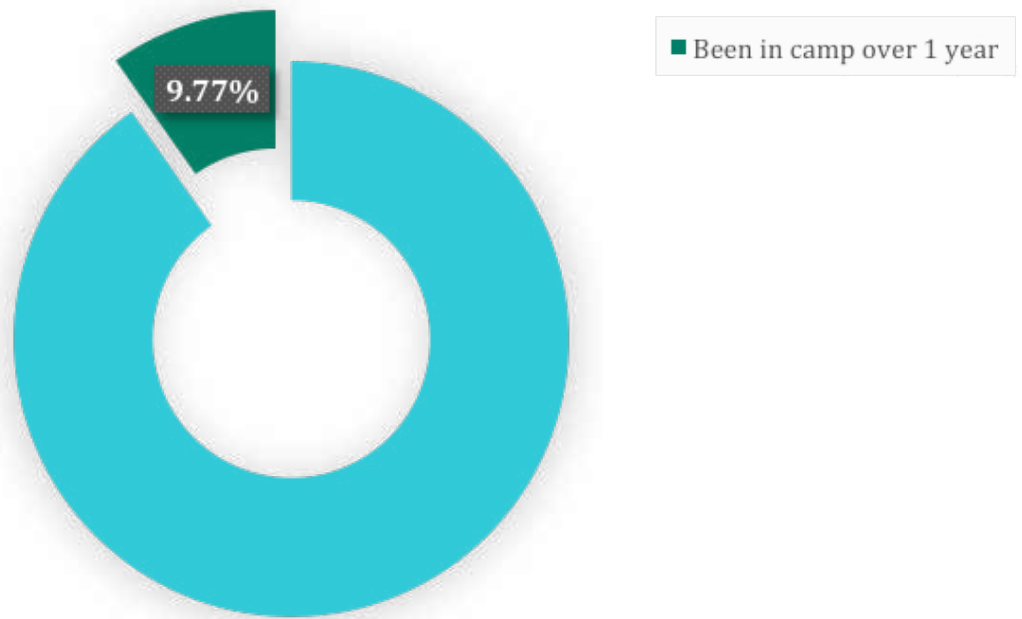


⁷ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/19/section/67/enacted>

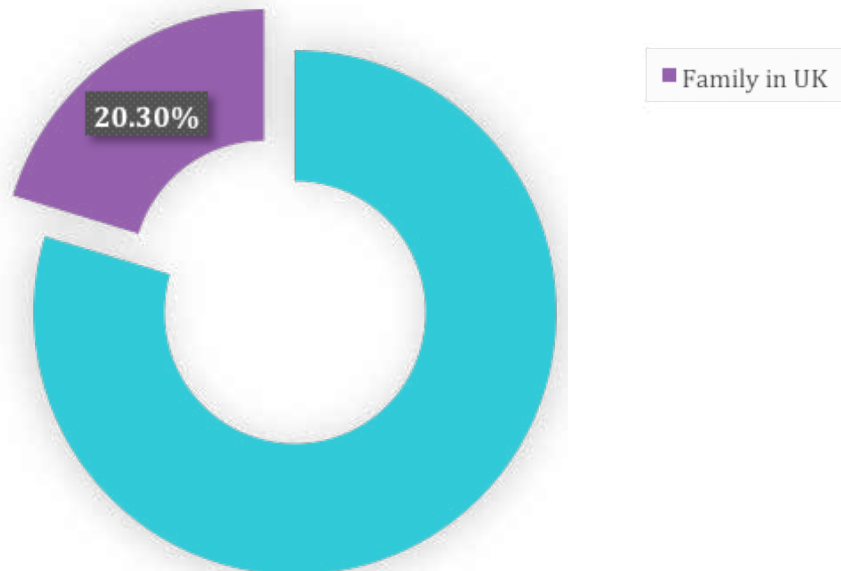
⁸ Estimated figures according to Help Refugees and Auberge des Migrants' July 2016 census.

⁹ See Refugee Rights Europe (2016) The Long Wait for further detail.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE CAMP? (MORE THAN ONE YEAR)
MINORS ONLY



WHY DO YOU WISH TO GO TO THE UK? (BECAUSE I HAVE FAMILY THERE)
MINORS ONLY





"I have decided to go to UK so now I need to finish my journey."

CONCLUSION

The research findings emphasise the ongoing plight of thousands of displaced people in the Calais camp, including children.

We hope that this data can also help shed light on the camp residents' aims and motivations, and challenge common misconceptions voiced towards refugees.

Our research suggests the following conclusions:

1. A high proportion of camp residents wish to seek asylum in the UK rather than any other European country because a) they speak English, b) they want to be reunited with family members, or c) they perceive the UK as the most plausible option for continuing their education.
2. Despite the tireless efforts of volunteer organisations in the Calais camp, thousands of displaced people are denied adequate access to information. Most notably, the wish to gain an understanding of UK immigration rules, why it is so difficult to reach the UK, and importantly, how to get there legally. Such information gaps are likely to delay any constructive and sustainable solution to the existing Calais 'bottle-neck' scenario.
3. There appear to be a large number of people – most alarmingly minors – who have the legal right to be accepted in the UK, but who do not have access to legal channels or support.
4. There also appear to be many people who have been in the camp for over a year, including minors. These figures are deeply concerning given that the living conditions in the camp are not suitable for any person for a prolonged period of time, let alone children. Related data originally presented in The Long Wait indicates that even if the camp were to be demolished, and residents evicted, the quest to reach the UK will not end.

We hope that these findings can help inform public debate, challenge common preconceptions and drive progress towards a constructive long-term resolution to the ongoing humanitarian crisis that exists in the informal Calais camp.

