

**REFUGEE RIGHTS**  
DATA PROJECT

**THE LONG WAIT**

**FILLING DATA GAPS RELATING TO REFUGEES  
AND DISPLACED PEOPLE IN THE CALAIS CAMP**



## DATES OF RESEARCH

20-26 February 2016

## STATISTICAL ANALYST

Mohamad Alhussein Saoud

## FIELD RESEARCHERS

Romain Assaad  
Cristina Cardarelli  
Nicholas Cotterill  
Jamie Crummie  
Alice Daumont  
Marta Davis  
Karen Diop  
Musashi Fujimura  
Ines Guerrero  
Louise Howitt  
Polina Ivanova  
Jaskiran Khera  
William Mosse  
Diala Nammour  
Yuya Ohira  
Natasha Pearce  
Charlie Richardson  
Natalie Stanton  
Marta Welander  
Kanako Yasunaga  
Emily & Mina  
*With the support of Jihad Nammour*

## REPORT AUTHORS

Nicholas Cotterill  
Eleanor Paton  
Natasha Pearce  
Martha Spencer  
Natalie Stanton  
Marta Welander

## REFUGEE RIGHTS DATA PROJECT TEAM

Marta Welander, Founder  
Natalie Stanton, Coordinator  
Nicholas Cotterill, Co-Coordinator  
Eleanor Paton, Co-Coordinator  
Sophie Drouet, Digital Communications & Advocacy Specialist  
Cristina Cardarelli, Researcher  
Guilia Fagotto, Researcher  
Hannah-Sophie Wahle, Student Researcher and Fundraiser  
Kanako Yasunaga, Student Researcher and Fundraiser  
Karen Diop, Student Researcher  
Musashi Fujimura, Student Researcher  
Natasha Pearce, Researcher  
Sarah Gaughan, Policy, Advocacy and Research  
James Ingram, Policy and Advocacy Strategy  
Storm Lawrence, Student Researcher  
Melissa O'Donnell, Researcher  
Johanna Puhakka, Policy & Advocacy Researcher  
Martha Spencer, Policy, Advocacy and Research  
Özlem Moryel, Gender Adviser  
Marta Davis, Events & Fundraising Manager  
Felix Davis, Driver & Operations  
Sophie Mckean, Events & Fundraising  
Chloe Turner, Events & Fundraising  
Pippa Stanton, Graphic & Website Design  
Kiya Gurmesa, IT & Tech Support

## TRANSLATORS

**Amharic:** Kiya Gurmesa  
**Arabic:** Hala Adel, Mohamad Saoud, Monica Georges Ibrahim, Omar Nooreddin, Saleh Dahman, Salma Kasmani, Shad, Talip Alkayer, Zeinah Talhouni  
**Farsi:** Fereshteh Hassani, Saied, Tifa Givian  
**French:** Vani Venkatachalam, Laja Destremau, Alice Daumont  
**Pashtu:** Gulalai Khan, Hammal, Mohamad, Usama Khilji  
**Urdu:** Jamal Mehmood and family

## RRDP ADVISORY GROUP

Ali Al-Sheikh  
Mark Bennun  
Lewis Emmerton  
Amr Ismaeil  
Jihad Nammour  
Fida Shafi

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

Pippa Stanton  
**Me And You Create**  
[www.meandyoucreate.com](http://www.meandyoucreate.com)  
[hello@meandyoucreate.com](mailto:hello@meandyoucreate.com)

## PHOTO CREDITS

Rob Pinney  
[www.robpinney.com](http://www.robpinney.com)  
[rob@robpinney.com](mailto:rob@robpinney.com)

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

Prof. Rizkallah Alsharabati  
**St Joseph University**  
*Beirut, Lebanon*

**Help Refugees**  
Josephine Naughton  
Liana Bird  
Annie Gavrilesco  
and other colleagues

All other organisations and volunteers operating in the Calais camp who welcomed and facilitated our work

Aldgate Press  
Calverts  
Stand Up Philosophy  
Jane Wentworth Associates  
Hotel Belazur  
Emma Fitts  
Andrea Chute  
Sara Sundholm

Everyone who donated generously via our crowdfunding campaign

**And above all, the residents of the Calais camp**

# CONTENTS

1 - 4

**INTRODUCTION  
AND METHODOLOGY**

21 - 25

**ARTICLE TWENTY-FIVE(1)  
LIVING CONDITIONS**

5 - 8

**ARTICLE ONE  
DEMOGRAPHICS**

26 - 29

**ARTICLE TWENTY-FIVE(2)  
FAMILIES AND CHILDREN**

9 - 14

**ARTICLE THREE  
SAFETY AND SECURITY**

30

**ARTICLE TWENTY-SIX(1)  
EDUCATION**

15 - 19

**ARTICLE FIVE  
POLICE VIOLENCE**

31 - 33

**ARTICLE TWENTY-EIGHT  
ASPIRATIONS**

20

**ARTICLE SEVENTEEN  
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY**

34 - 36

**CONCLUSION**

# INTRODUCTION

Located in an industrial wasteland in northern France, an informal camp in Calais has hosted thousands of displaced people over the years – men, women and children.

Contrary to many other large refugee settlements around the world, the Calais camp is not an officially recognised refugee camp. This has left it marginalised without any statistics or data available regarding the camp, its inhabitants or their living conditions.

While the existence of statistics by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is the norm elsewhere, none have been gathered in Calais. Moreover, there is no border data, and no registration process has been put in place by the authorities. This makes it impossible to gain an in-depth understanding of the realities of life in the camp. It also means that thousands of people are 'slipping through the net', being left outside of the system. As a result, the people in the Calais camp are rendered incredibly vulnerable – among them a significant number of unaccompanied children.

In this context, the Refugee Rights Data Project, in partnership with leading charity Help Refugees and a renowned professor at St Joseph University in Lebanon, set out to collect first-hand independent data regarding the situation in the camp. Over the course of a week in

February 2016, a team of 20 researchers conducted a survey investigating the camp's demographic composition, potential human rights violations occurring amongst the people currently living there, and their future aspirations and plans.

At the time of research, the southern part of the camp – which has since been demolished – was still intact and highly populated. The data sample collected by our research team accounted for 870 individuals, which is approximately 15% of the camp's entire population of roughly 5,500 people.

Overall, the data collection study aimed to provide a better understanding of the situation in the informal settlement. It is, according to our knowledge, the first of its kind to reveal a significant selection of facts and figures about one of the biggest refugee camps in Europe. We believe that our independent first-hand data can help inform the public debate, and guide Europe closer to a long-term resolution to the current humanitarian crisis.

The key findings of the field research study are found in this report. We

have chosen to structure the results around the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as it provides a common standard for all peoples and nations, and lists fundamental human rights which must be universally protected.

# METHODOLOGY

## The objective of this research study was to conduct systematic data collection on individuals in the Calais camp.

This was with a view to 'plugging the gap' on information relating to the refugees and displaced people living there. The first step was to identify specific data gaps. We achieved this by undertaking a desk-based mapping exercise to gather existing information on the topic. Next, we travelled to Calais to meet aid groups and community leaders, and to get their input on the type of data they regarded as lacking. As a result, our research focuses on three key areas: demographic composition, potential human rights violations, and future plans and aspirations.

A team of 22 independent academic researchers were recruited through an open recruitment process. They were subsequently trained by a lecturer from St Joseph University in Beirut, Lebanon who had led similar research studies among Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Researchers conducted a 14-page survey divided into the three research areas mentioned above.

The survey was created by professional statistician Mohamad Saoud, alongside the RRDP coordination team - with guidance from St Joseph University and the RRDP advisory group. Our advisory group also provided advice on research ethics which was built into the design of the survey. We were careful to recognise the significance of traumatic experiences that refugees may have been through, cultural sensitivities, child protection, and building trust with the communities in the camp.

Verbal interviews were conducted in English or Arabic, and written surveys were available in Arabic, Pashto, Farsi and Amharic.

The study was underpinned by a methodology devised to ensure adequate stratification of camp sections and we captured the range of demographic groups through random sampling. Country groups tended to reside in particular areas of

the Calais camp. In accordance with this, there was a stratification of areas, ensuring that the study covered all the main country groups in the camp. Researchers were distributed evenly and allocated to specific areas. The number of researchers per area was proportionate to the approximate number of residents in that area, to ensure a representative sample.

This stratification enabled us to survey a wide diversity of social, economic and political tendencies. The study also aimed to interview, in proportionate terms, people residing in the camp without any immediate threat of having their homes bulldozed and those who were currently at threat of having their homes demolished.

The research team was able to draw on a census recently compiled by Help Refugees to guide them in respect to the above, and coordinators checked the demographics of completed surveys each day to ensure we were on target in terms of covering reasonable percentages of each group.

We believe that some Kurdish respondents cited their state of origin (Iran, Iraq, Syria etc.) while others stated 'Kurdish' as their nationality. There may therefore be slight discrepancies in figures relating to this group.





***“Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world [...] Now, therefore the general assembly proclaims this universal declaration of human rights as a common standard of achievement.”***

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Preamble



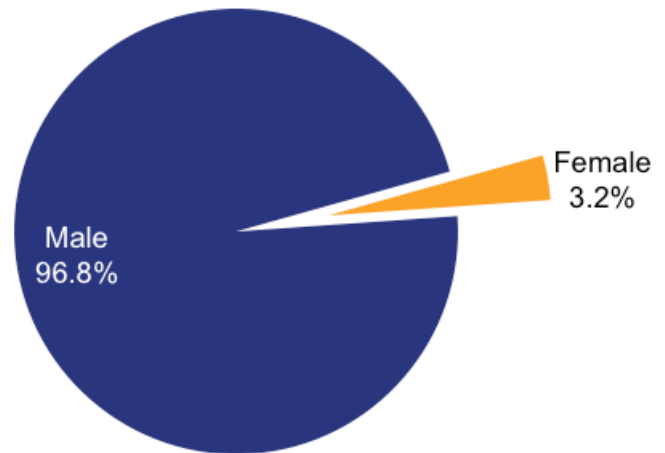
# ARTICLE ONE

ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE BORN FREE AND EQUAL IN DIGNITY AND RIGHTS...

The first part of the research study was aimed at obtaining an understanding of the demographic composition of the camp, thus answering the basic question: *“Who are the human beings in the Calais camp?”*

## MALES AND FEMALES

The sample covered 96.8% males and 3.2% females. This ought to be representative of the camp's overall sex divides at the time of the study. According to a census carried out by Help Refugees in February 2016, there were a total of 4640 men and 205 women residing in the camp at the time.

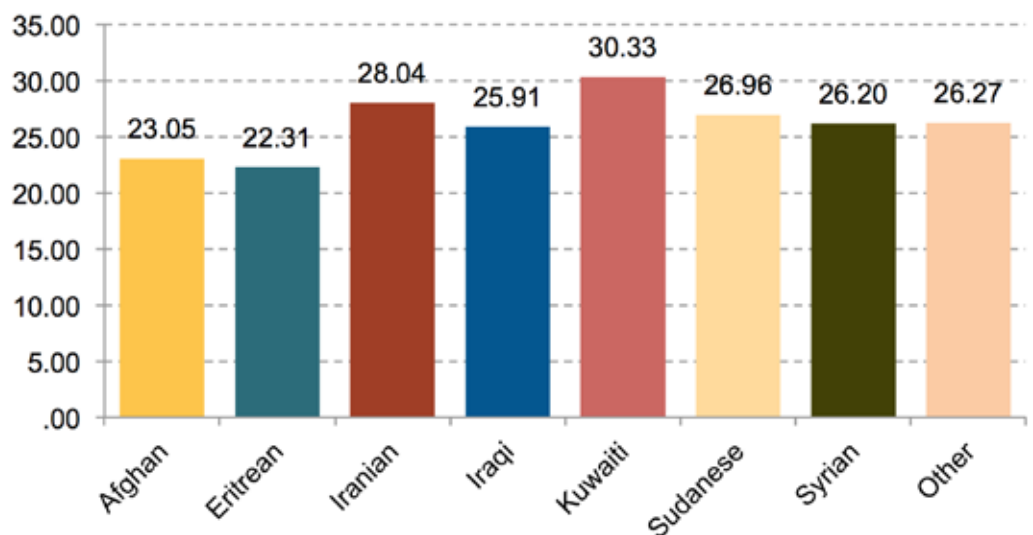


## AGE GROUP

Respondents' ages spanned from 12 to 65 years old. The average age of all respondents was 25.5 years, and the average age of women surveyed was slightly higher at 29.5 years.

Out of the surveyed population, 85.5% were over 18, and 14.4% were minors under the age 18.

### AVERAGE AGE ALL RESPONDENTS

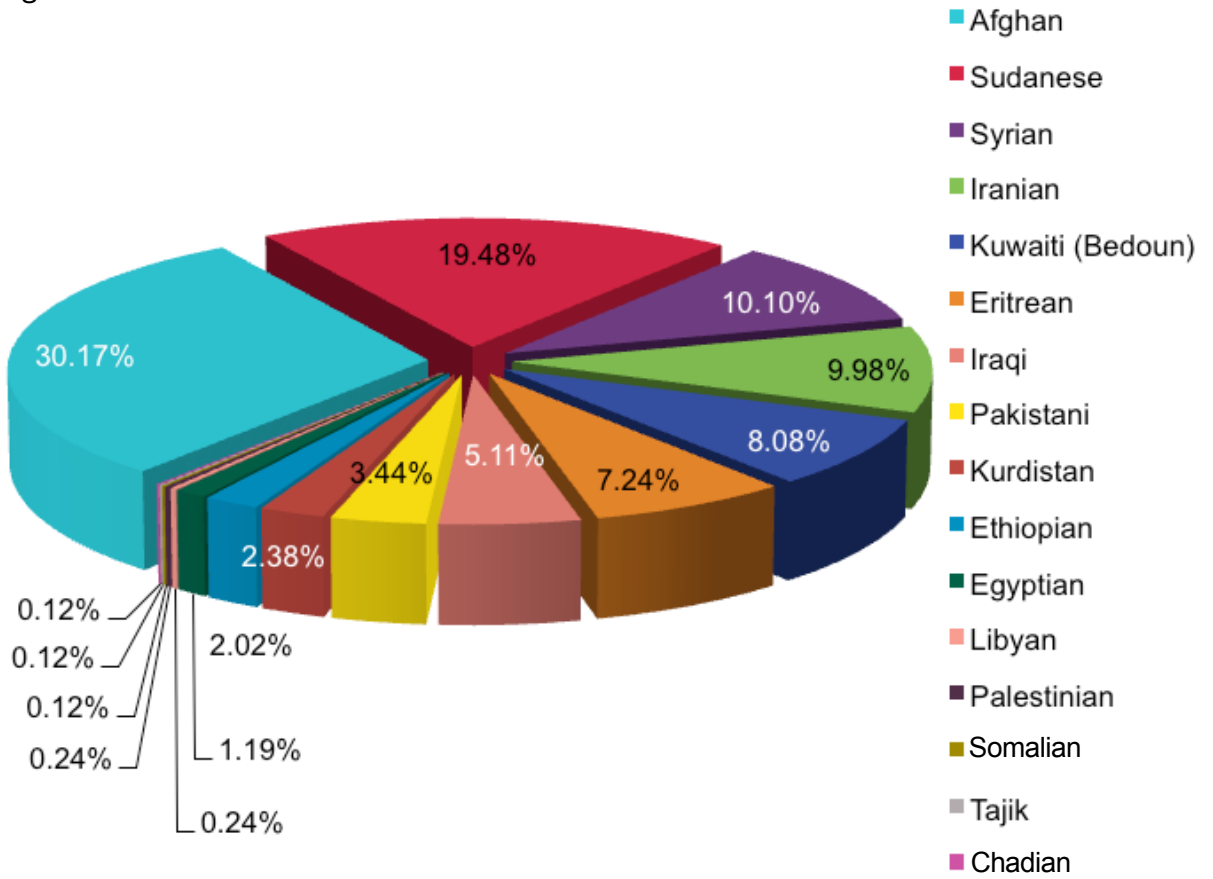




## COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

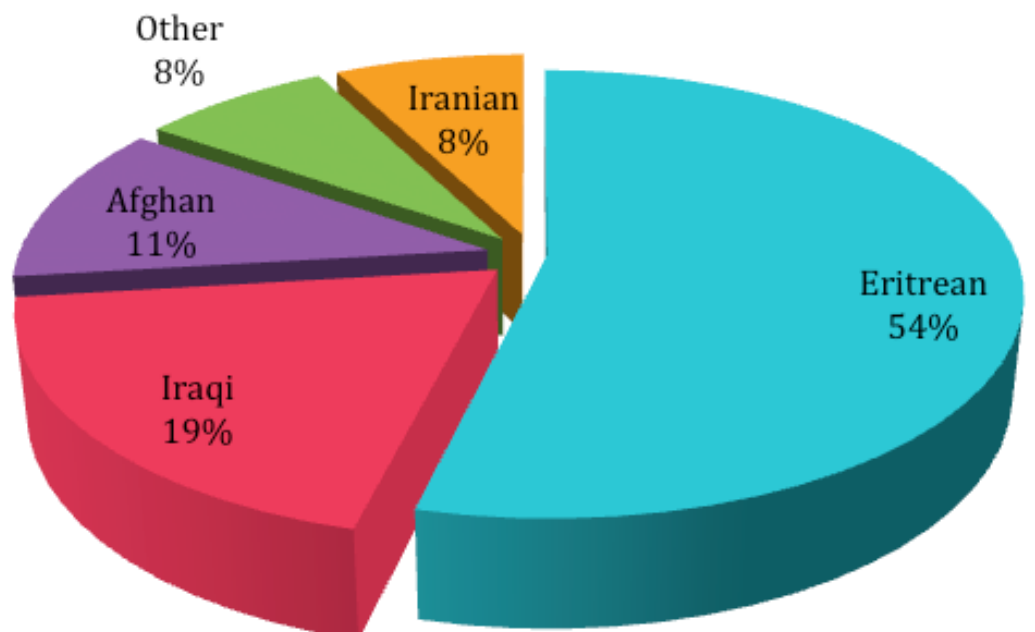
The sample covered the following countries of origin:

### COUNTRY OF ORIGIN ALL RESPONDENTS



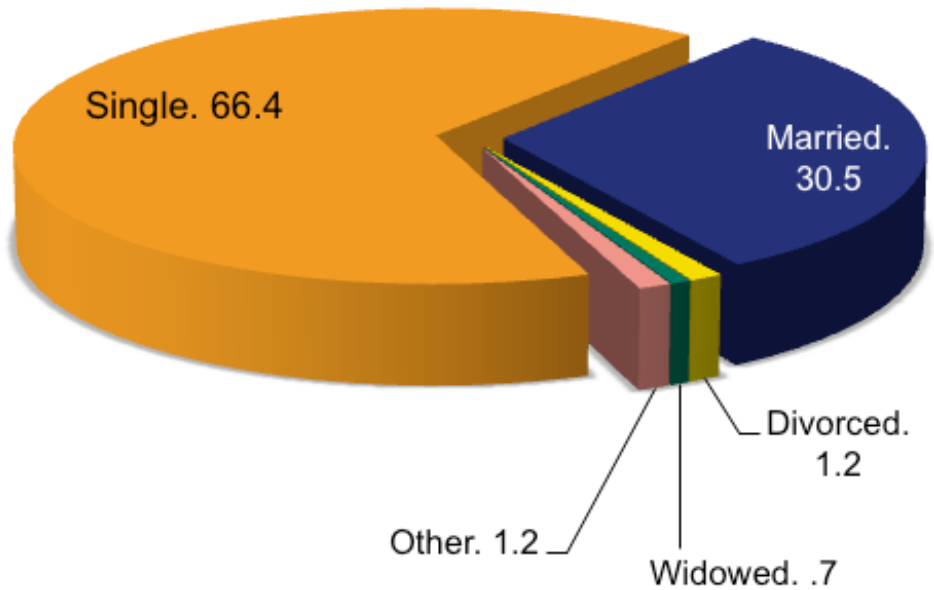
The women surveyed originated from the following countries:

### COUNTRY OF ORIGIN WOMEN ONLY



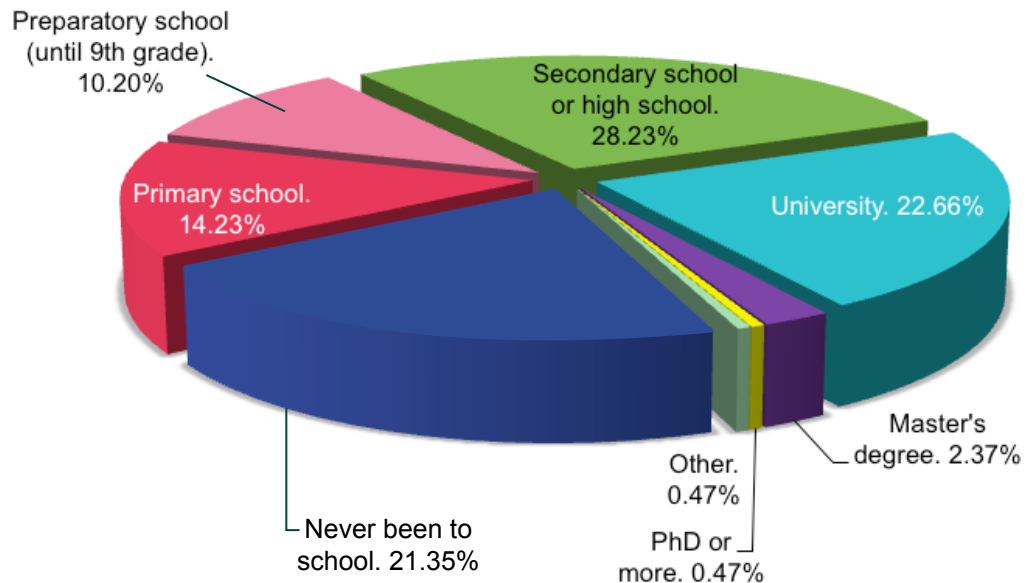
## MARITAL STATUS

The majority of individuals surveyed were single (66.4%). The next biggest group were married (30.5%). A small percentage were divorced (1.2%) or widowed (0.7%). An additional 1.2% did not answer this question.



## LEVEL OF EDUCATION

While 21.4% of the surveyed population had never been to school or had the opportunity to receive any formal education – most notably the Kuwaiti Bedoun (without citizenship) – over 50% had a secondary education or higher. Some 22.7% had university degrees and 2.9% Master's degrees or PhDs.



## PROFESSION

The study found a wide range of professional backgrounds amongst the people in the camp. Some 22.2% inhabitants were students prior to leaving their country of origin. 16.3% were high-skilled workers (such as technicians, carpenters etc.), and 9.9% were lower-skilled workers (such as cleaners, porters, etc.).

A total of 7.3% were farmers, 5.6% used to run their

own business, and 5.3% were specialised workers (such as doctors, lawyers, pharmacists etc.).

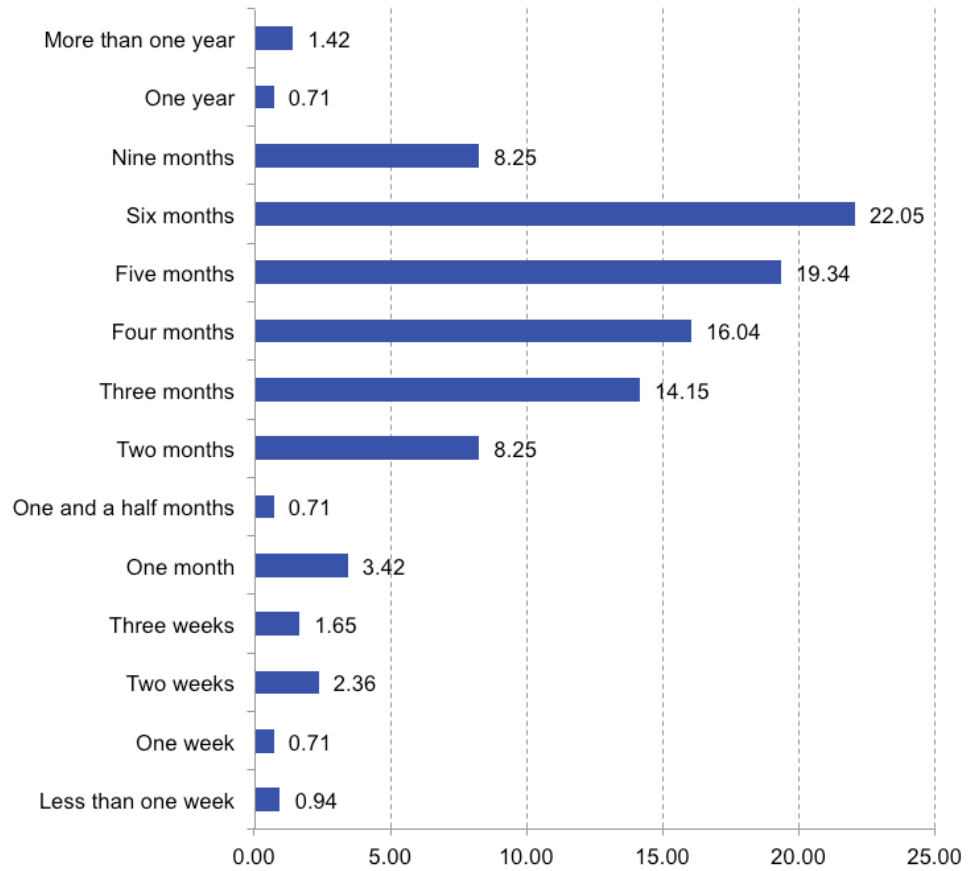
A relatively small proportion - 3.3% - were office employees, while 3.2% were employed by the army. Some 1.1% were in middle or upper management, and 15.8% were unemployed in their country of origin.

## TIME PERIOD SPENT IN THE CAMP

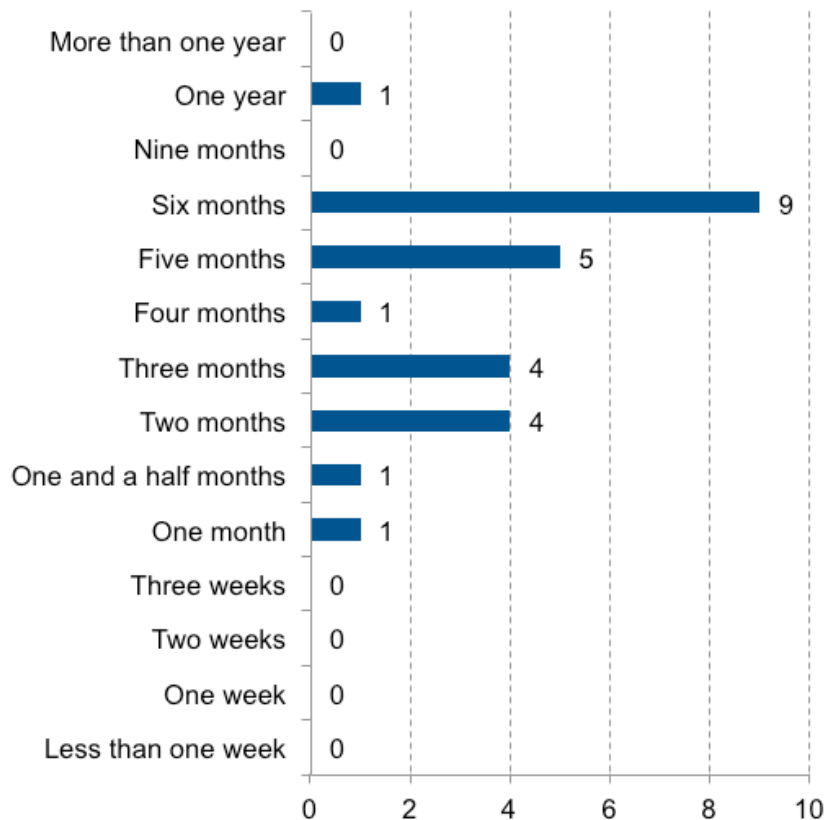
In total, 71.6% of the overall population had been in the camp for three to six months at the time of the study. This compares to 73% of surveyed women.

The two graphs below break down the time spent in camp. The first outlines details for men, women and children combined, and the second depicts responses by women only.

### MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN



### WOMEN ONLY



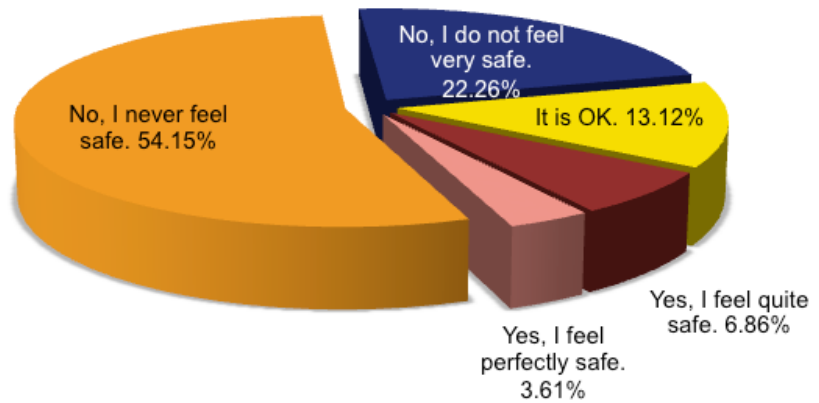
# ARTICLE THREE

## EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF PERSON

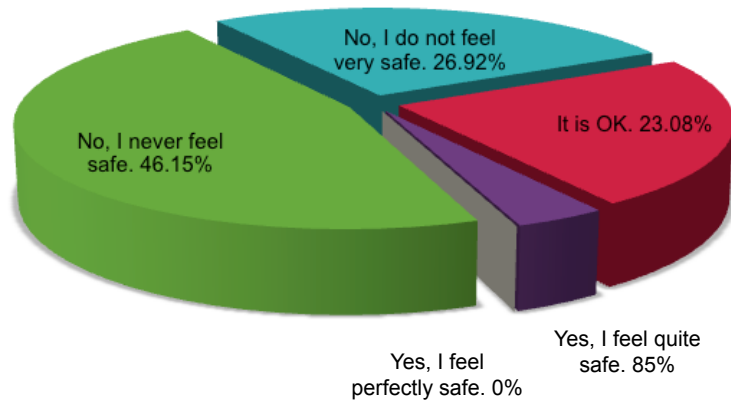
### The lack of safety and security is a chronic issue inside the Calais camp.

The vast majority of respondents - a total of 54.2% said they 'never feel safe' in the camp, while a further 22.3% admitted they 'do not feel very safe.' Only 10.5% told us they feel 'quite' or 'perfectly' safe.

#### DO YOU FEEL SAFE INSIDE THE CAMP? ALL RESPONDENTS



#### DO YOU FEEL SAFE INSIDE THE CAMP? WOMEN ONLY



This problem appears to be particularly acute among children - 61.1% of whom told us they 'never feel safe' inside the camp.

Respondents cited a number of reasons for feeling fearful inside the camp. One of the most significant causes for concern was distrust of the French police, who many believe are "very

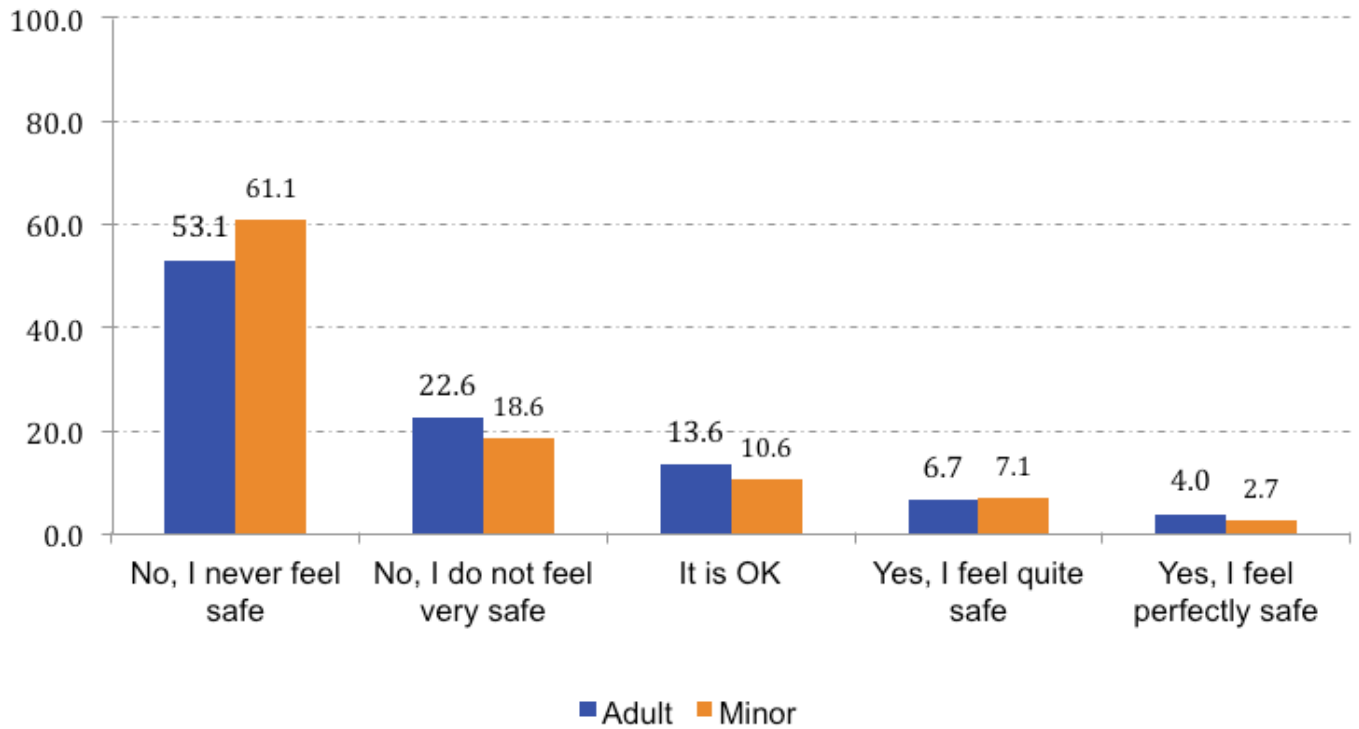
violent" towards the camp's inhabitants. "The French police treat us the same as Syrian police," said one resident. Some expressed frustration at police blocking the exit from the camp at night, reporting that their "freedom has been taken".

Some were worried about the lack of security and order to mitigate tensions within the camp. These could arise due to the dire conditions, desperation, exhaustion and overcrowding. Some 27% of respondents reported

experiencing violence by someone inside the camp, and a number said they had been victims of theft. Importantly, the existence of people smugglers drew safety concerns, with inhabitants citing incidents of violence including sexual violence perpetrated by traffickers.

In total, 27% of those surveyed told us they had experienced violence inside the camp. Of these, 19.1% experienced verbal abuse, 16.3% physical violence, and 1.3% sexual violence.

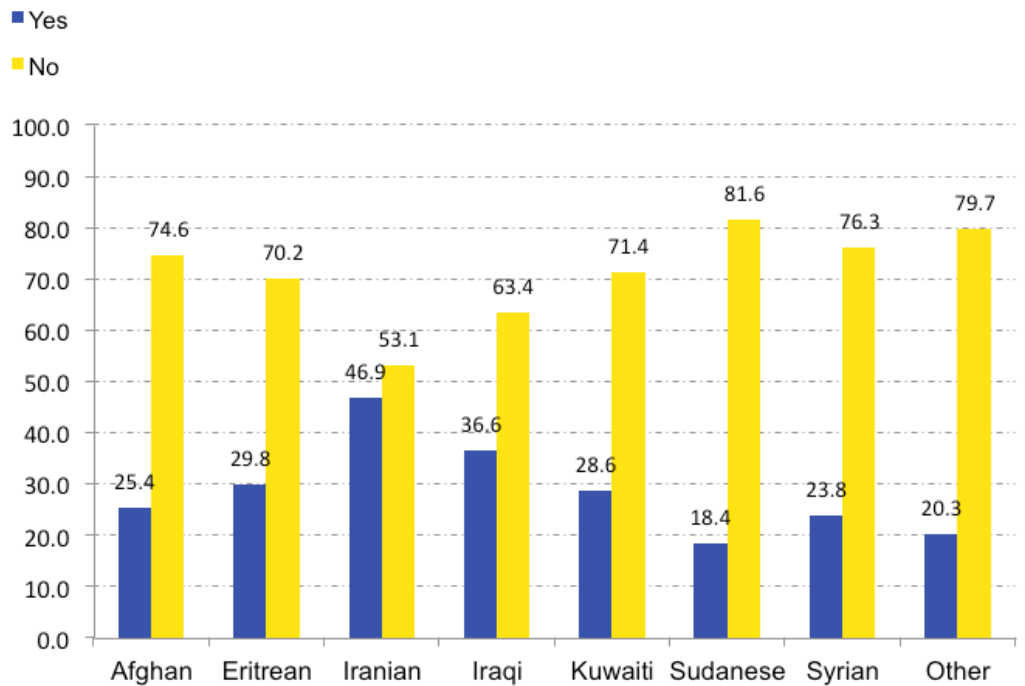
## DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU ARE SAFE INSIDE THE CAMP? ADULT / MINOR COMPARISON



## WHY DO YOU NOT FEEL SAFE IN THE CAMP? ALL RESPONDENTS

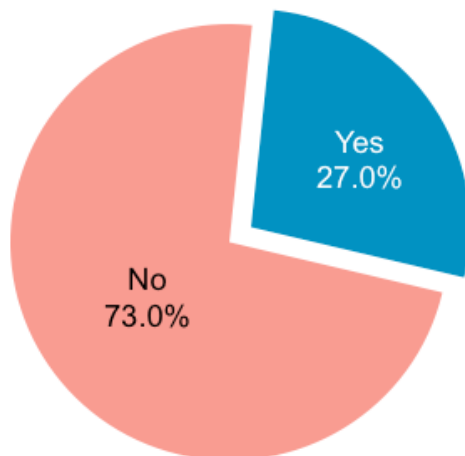


## HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE WITHIN THE CAMP? ALL RESPONDENTS

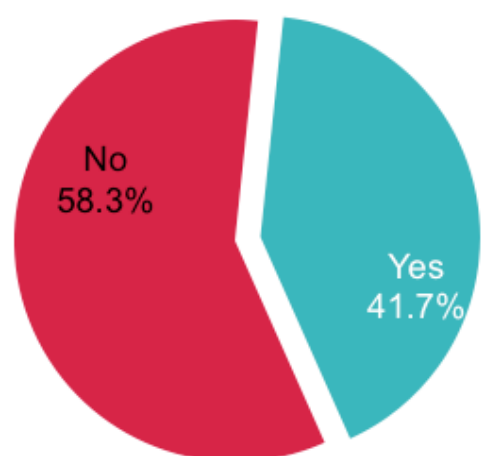


Worryingly, this figure was significantly higher among women respondents. Some 41.7% reported that they had experienced violence inside the camp – 25.9% verbal abuse, and 25.9% physical abuse.

## HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE WITHIN THE CAMP? ALL RESPONDENTS



## HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE WITHIN THE CAMP? WOMEN ONLY



Many respondents branded the camp as a “free for all”, with “no laws or protection”. As one 17-year old Afghan boy put it: “As I am young I feel scared and don’t know who to turn to”. Some people also expressed fears of violent attacks by “fascists” or “racists” who were particularly active on the periphery of the camp.

For others, the camp’s unhealthy environment was the biggest safety hazard. A lack of food, warmth and adequate shelters – particularly during the winter months – was clearly taking its toll. “There is no hygiene and we get ill every day,” noted one respondent. It appears that mental health problems are also rife, with numerous people claiming that life

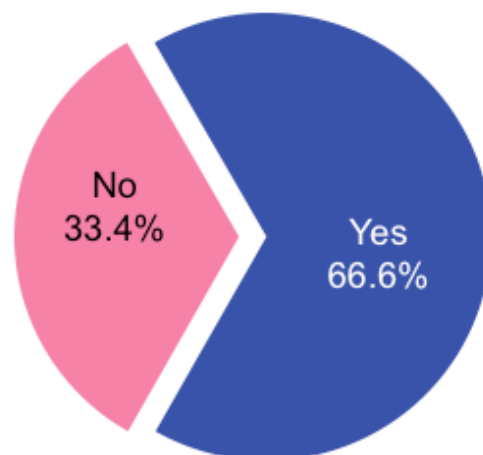
in the camp is “mentally and physically exhausting”. We recorded several reports of refugees concerned about their “sanity” due to the dire conditions they endure on a daily basis.

Finally, a number of those surveyed claimed to feel unsafe because the camp was at risk of being demolished by French authorities. “There’s the threat of closure then we have nowhere to go,” said one man. Another alluded to volunteer groups providing aid in the camp, noting “if the help stops, we have nothing”.

All of these problems were compounded at night when an absence of volunteers, and a lack of adequate lighting and heating made residents feel particularly at risk.

Our survey shows that these fears are not unfounded. Some 66.6% of respondents said they have known of deaths in the camp. They cited various causes including police and citizen violence, fights, unhealthy living conditions, chronic disease, old age, and road traffic accidents while attempting to cross to the UK.

## HAVE YOU KNOWN OF ANY DEATHS IN THE CAMP? ALL RESPONDENTS



## ARRESTS AND DETENTION

It is striking that since arriving in the Calais camp, almost half of the residents surveyed – 49.5% – said they have been arrested or detained. They reported being held for varying durations, ranging from a few minutes up to 60 days. Many of those arrested were detained in Calais, but some were sent further afield – we heard reports of people being held in detention centres as far away as Paris, Rennes, and close to the French borders with Italy and Spain.

A significant number of respondents were arrested near the train station or ferry port while trying to reach the UK. However, others told us they were detained while

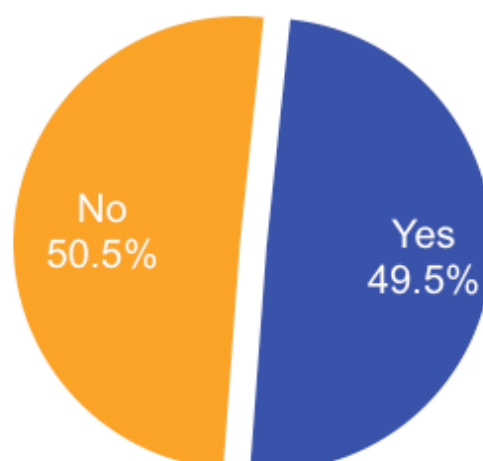
they were walking through the centre of town, while visiting the municipal hospital in Calais, or even while working in restaurants inside the camp. We are deeply concerned about stories of excessive police violence during arrests – occasionally using severe beatings and pepper spray, or unorthodox methods. For example, one respondent reported that police tied his hands using zip ties rather than handcuffs.

The conditions experienced within detention centres themselves are also alarming. Many interviewees explained that they had little or no access to food or water. Toilets and shower facilities were also scarce, if not completely unavailable. Cells were cold and uncomfortable. Some reported being kept in darkness for long periods of time. Others found that they had no opportunities to walk or exercise. And a number told us that they were forced to have their fingerprints taken.

Finally, on release, many found themselves in a new city with no

money or means to return to Calais. In other instances, they experienced verbal abuse with police using swear words and profanities as they sent detainees on their way.

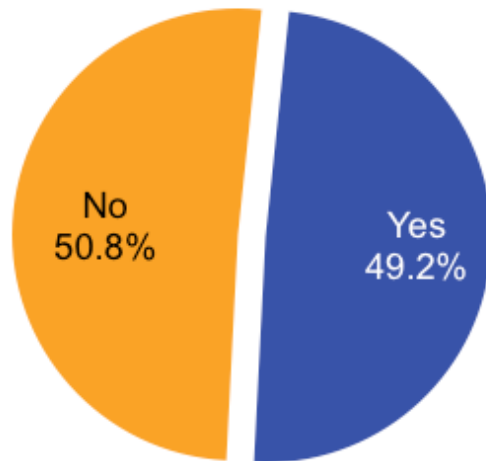
## HAVE YOU BEEN ARRESTED OR DETAINED SINCE YOU STARTED LIVING IN THE CAMP? ALL RESPONDENTS



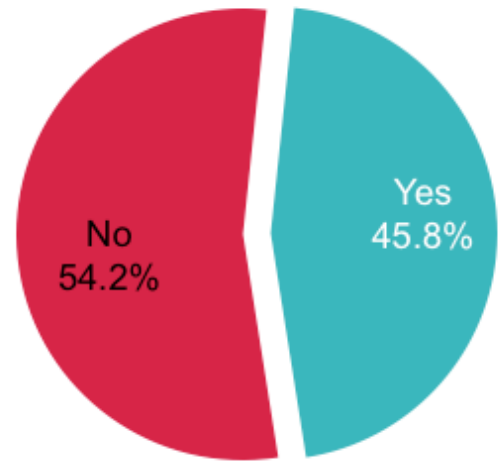
## CITIZEN VIOLENCE

Almost half of all respondents – some 49.2% – reported suffering from non-police citizens during their time living in the Calais camp. This number is slightly smaller among women, with 45.8% noting that they had experienced this sort of violence.

### HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE BY CITIZENS? ALL RESPONDENTS

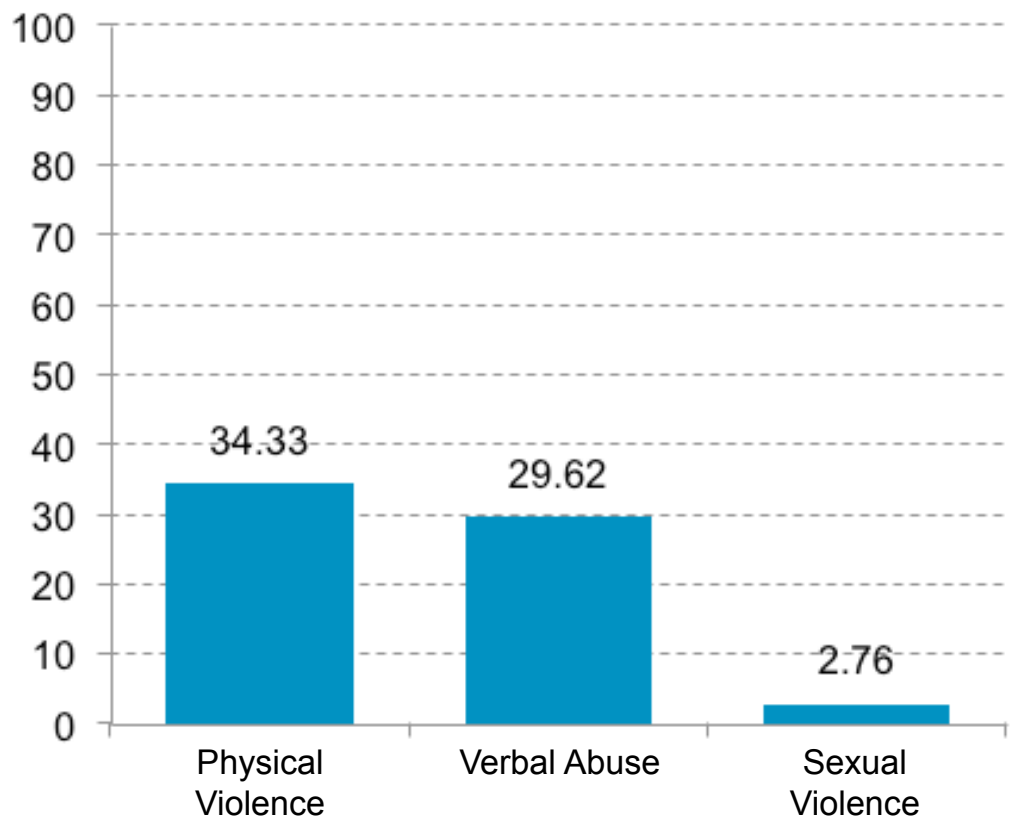


### HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE BY CITIZENS? WOMEN ONLY



For a total of 29.6%, this took the form of verbal abuse. Many had experienced racist remarks while walking between the camp and the city centre. “They yell, spit and insult from cars,” said one respondent, while another reported, “they hold their noses as refugees go past as if they smell”. This problem is extended to businesses in the Calais area, with a number of people reporting that some shops “refuse to serve refugees”.

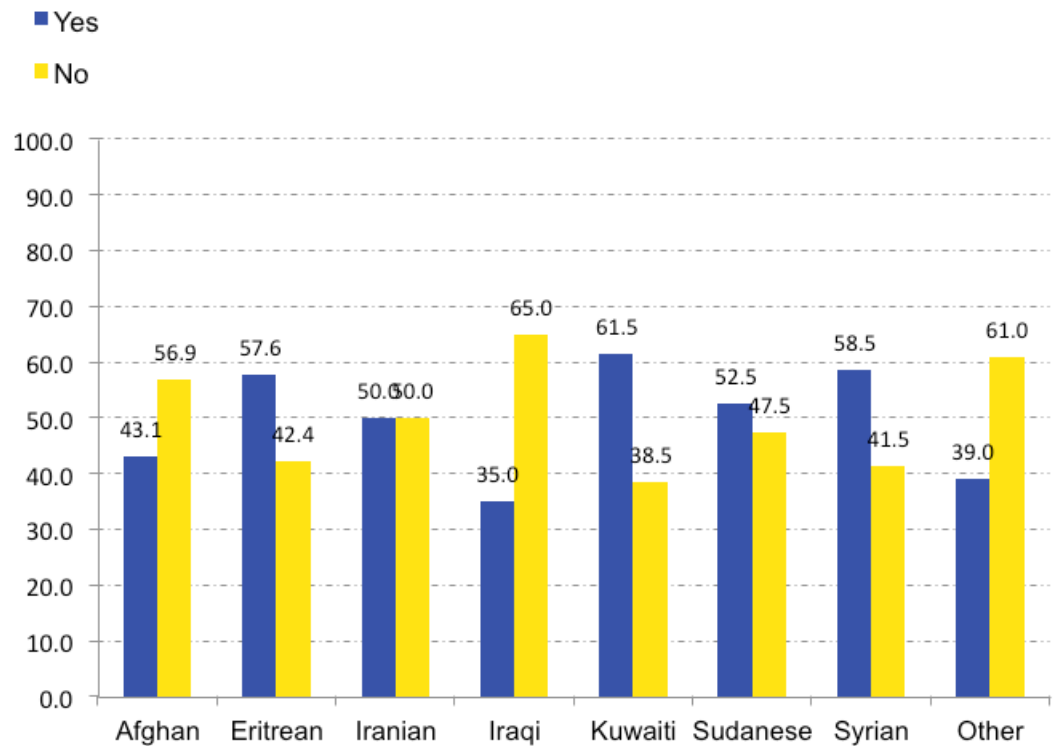
### WHAT TYPE OF CITIZEN VIOLENCE? ALL RESPONDENTS





Worryingly, 34.3% of the inhabitants surveyed have experienced physical violence by non-police citizens.

## HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE BY CITIZENS? ALL RESPONDENTS



When asked to explain the nature of this violence, many reported masked men in Calais “beating with sticks”. A significant number had also encountered attacks with guns, knives and aggressive dogs. For some, violence took the form of punches and kicks, while others reported being splashed by cars or thrown into the river.

It was common for refugees to be hit by glass bottles and rubbish thrown from moving vehicles. One respondent even noted that he had been victimised by

local people hurling “potatoes and tomatoes” from their houses.

It is clear that the camp’s inhabitants felt most vulnerable when walking in Calais alone, or in groups of fewer than three people at night. Traveling around the city centre was a particular risk, and the local Lidl supermarket a notorious hotspot for both police and citizen violence. Attacks often appeared to be coordinated by large groups, with some victims reporting being beaten by up to 20 aggressors at once.

Those surveyed had suffered from broken bones, severed body parts, and head injuries – while a number of respondents also knew of deaths caused by violence from non-police citizens.

A number of people reported their suspicions that some citizen violence was in fact carried out

by non-uniformed French police officers. Some claimed that the perpetrators wore items of uniform – albeit without a police badge – armed with guns and other weapons resembling those carried by the authorities. A number of people told us that a man had his “arm chopped off” by one of these individuals.

It was commonly suggested that violent citizens were “protected by police”, with numerous reports of the French authorities failing to intervene during incidents of abuse.

It is particularly concerning that 2.8% of respondents said they had experienced sexual violence by non-police citizens, although none provided details about the nature of these attacks.

# ARTICLE FIVE

## NO ONE SHALL BE SUBJECTED TO TORTURE OR TO CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

### The treatment of refugees by the French police in Calais raises serious human rights concerns.

The Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1984 (CAT) is clear that states should prevent acts of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment even when they do not amount to torture as defined the Treaty.<sup>1</sup>

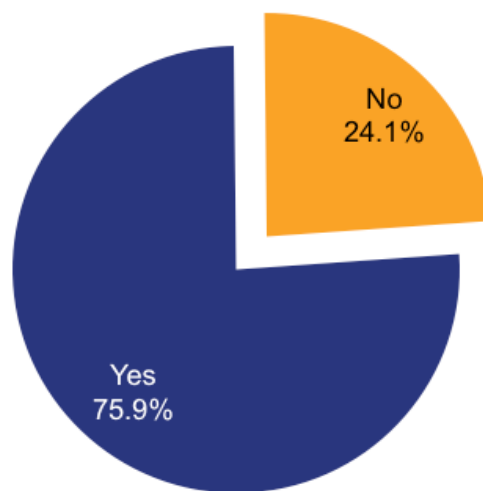
Our survey found that refugees had been systematically subjected

to high levels of police violence, and that such violence was often employed disproportionately. According to our findings, 75.9% of the survey's respondents reported experiencing violence from the police. The results show a complex picture of sustained police violence towards refugees and displaced people living in the camp.

Respondents referred to the use of tear gas, rubber bullets, beatings, and – to a lesser extent – the use of dogs, verbal abuse and sexual violence. Given these details, it can be inferred that victims experienced a spectrum of suffering, ranging from severe pain to comparatively lesser harm. However, it should be noted that the camp's inhabitants were regularly subject to more than one form of violence at a time. Many also reported that the police response was disproportionate. As one respondent explained: "We were on our

way to Lidl to do some shopping. They attacked me with gas and kicked me in the face with their boots even though I hadn't done anything bad".

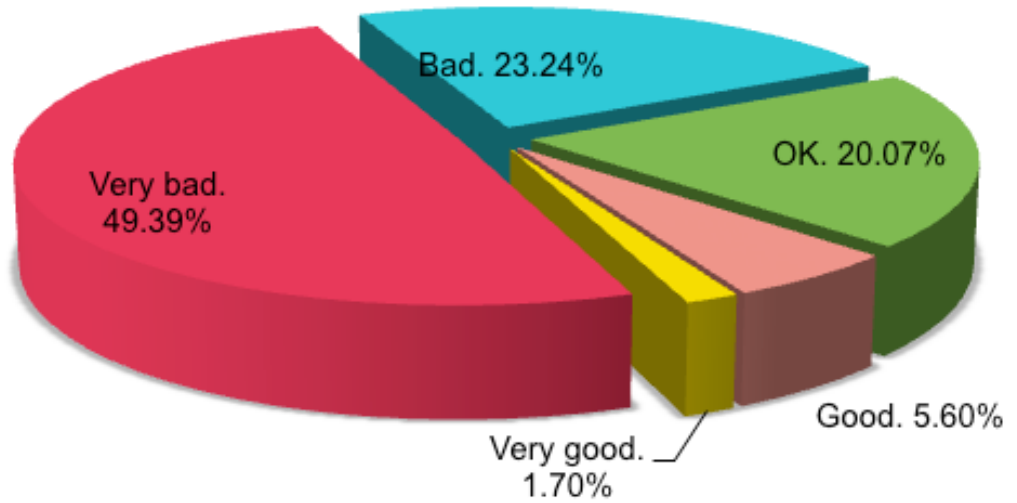
### HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE BY POLICE? ALL RESPONDENTS



<sup>1</sup> Article 16 in the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1984 states that acts of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment must be prevented by states even if such acts do not meet the threshold for the definition of torture. in Article 1 of CAT defines torture as any 'act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.'

Police treatment of residents in the camp was perceived as 'very bad' by 49.4% of respondents and 'bad' by 29.2%. Only 5.6% of respondents described the treatment as 'good.'

## HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE POLICE TREATMENT OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMP? ALL RESPONDENTS

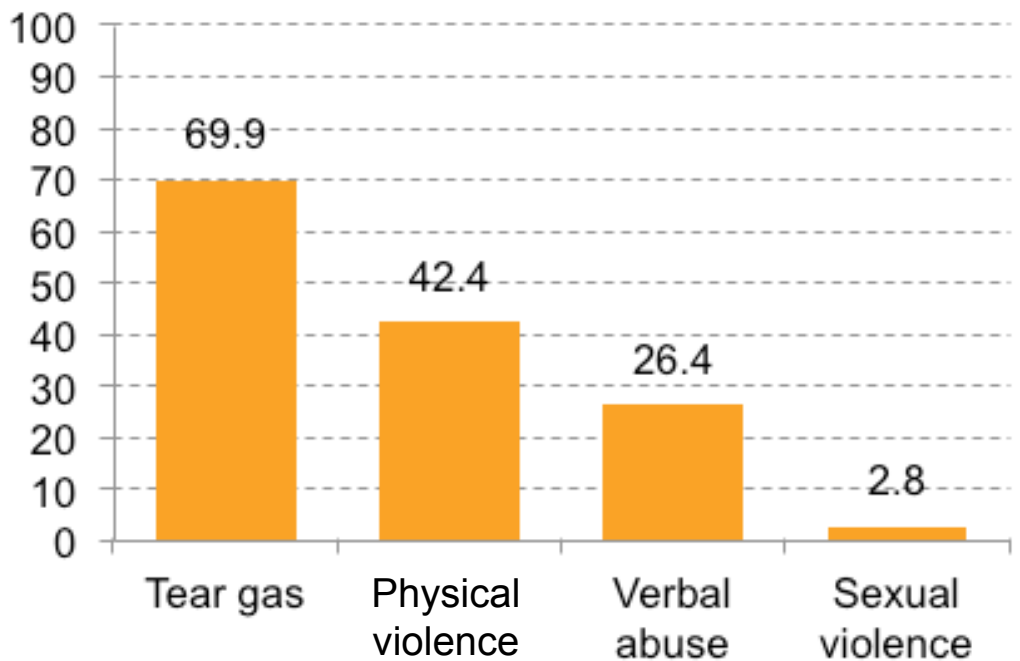


## FORMS OF VIOLENCE

The most prevalent form of violence reported was the use of tear gas, experienced by 69.9% of respondents. Furthermore, some 42.4% of respondents also told us they had experienced physical violence by police.

81.5% of women reported suffering police violence. These responses are included in the overall tally to the right.

## WHAT TYPES OF POLICE VIOLENCE? ALL RESPONDENTS



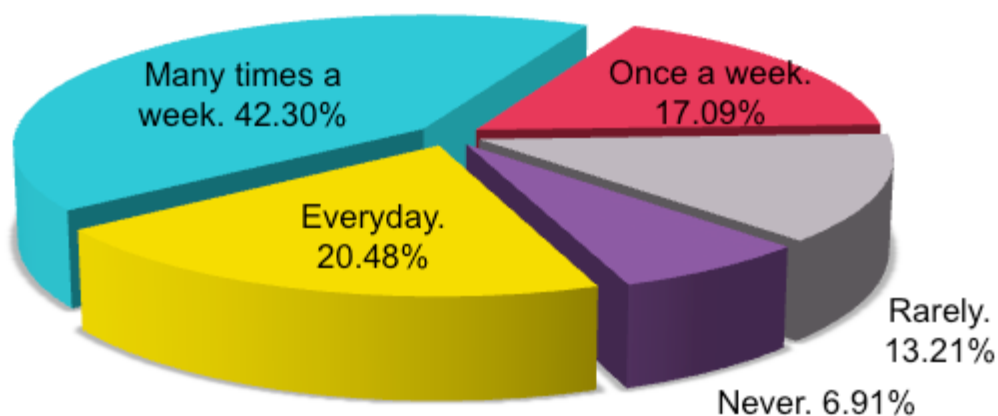


## TEAR GAS

If misused, tear gas can be life threatening – causing severe illness and even death. Tear gas is misused in the following contexts: use in a confined space; use of excessive amounts of tear gas; use that is not necessary or proportionate; use against those with compromised health; and any use which any use which could constitute as ill-treatment.<sup>2</sup>

The manner and systematic use of tear gas in Calais gives cause for serious concern. In total, 69.9% of respondents being exposed to tear gas since arriving in Calais. The study found that 20.5% of respondents had experienced tear gas on a daily basis during their time in the camp, while 42.3% had been exposed multiple times a week. It was often reported that tear gas was not used to disperse a crowd but was targeted

### HAVE YOU BEEN EXPOSED TO TEAR GAS? IF SO, HOW OFTEN? ALL RESPONDENTS



<sup>2</sup> Use of Tear Gas on Peaceful Protesters by Bournemouth University's Civic Hub, and the Omega Research Foundation, 2016

towards individuals to ensure maximum impact and damage to that person. For example, one respondent told us that two residents were arrested and held in a police van after being found attempting to travel to the UK. Police personnel detonated a teargas canister in the back of the van, and locked the doors for more than 20 minutes.

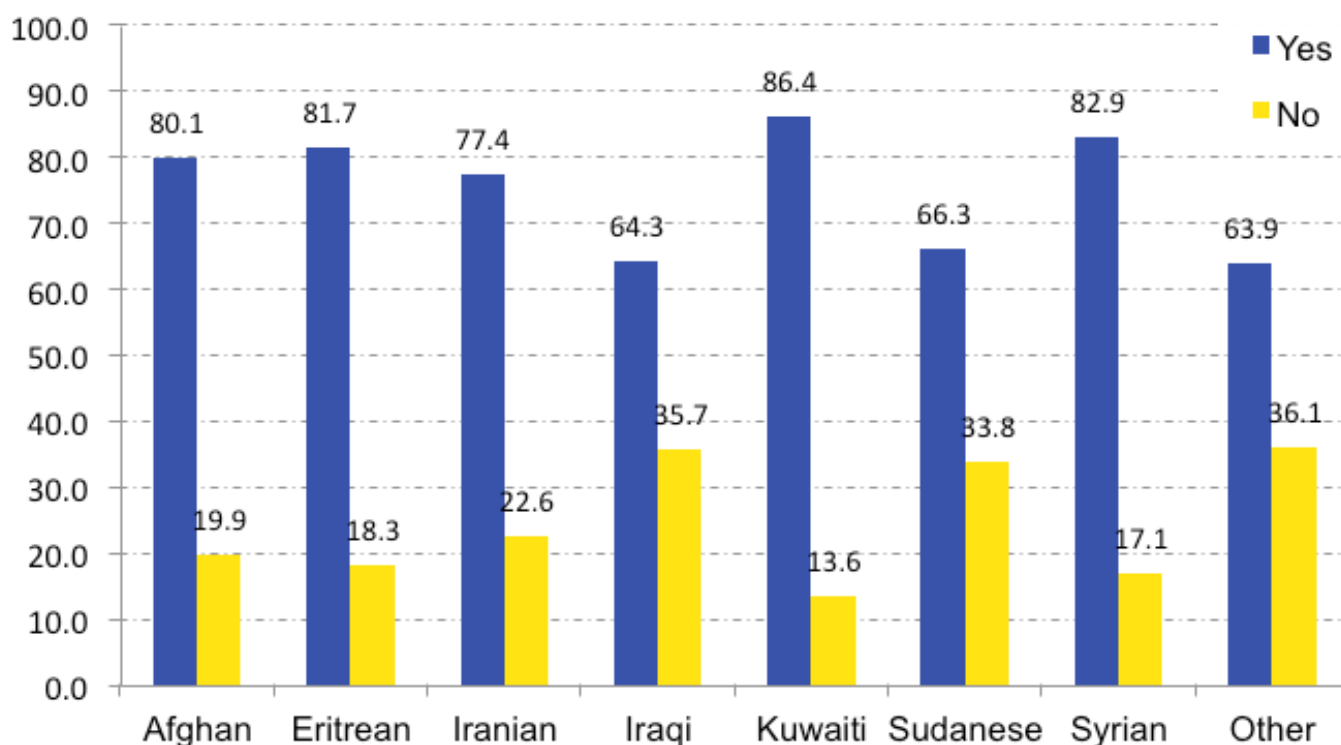
Tear gas should be used in a proportional manner, and only when necessary. However, many respondents stated that if a number of people larger than a 'small group' congregated in the camp, the police regularly detonated gas canisters. This practice not only affected the targeted group but also indiscriminately impacted others in the area.

## PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Some 42.4% of survey participants stated that they had suffered physical violence from the police. A number of respondents spoke of being beaten with "sticks and batons". The severity of these beatings

varied - ranging from bruises to broken bones. One respondent told us that a resident had his teeth punched out by the police.

### HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE BY POLICE? ALL RESPONDENTS



These beatings took place both in the camp, on the way into Calais, and in the city centre. The graph above shows the rates of violence suffered by nationality.

Rubber bullets were another form of police violence regularly reported in the study. Many respondents said that these were used in conjunction with tear gas – often when refugees and displaced people were

attempting to make their way to the UK. However, they also experienced the use of rubber bullets while walking into town or to the Lidl supermarket. Similarly, some interviewees reported that they had experienced aggression from police dogs in similar contexts. Others told us that police regularly confiscated or broke people's mobile phones - a lifeline within the camp.

## VERBAL ABUSE

Our research found that 26.4% of respondents reported experiencing verbal abuse from the police. This was regularly used in conjunction with tear gas and physical abuse. According to one respondent: “It seems like a routine affair for the police to cuss at us every time we walk past them”.

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The study found that 2.8% of respondents suffered sexual violence from the police during their time in Calais.



*“I have been here for three months, and experienced many violent incidents. We live in fear of the police at all times.”*

# ARTICLE SEVENTEEN

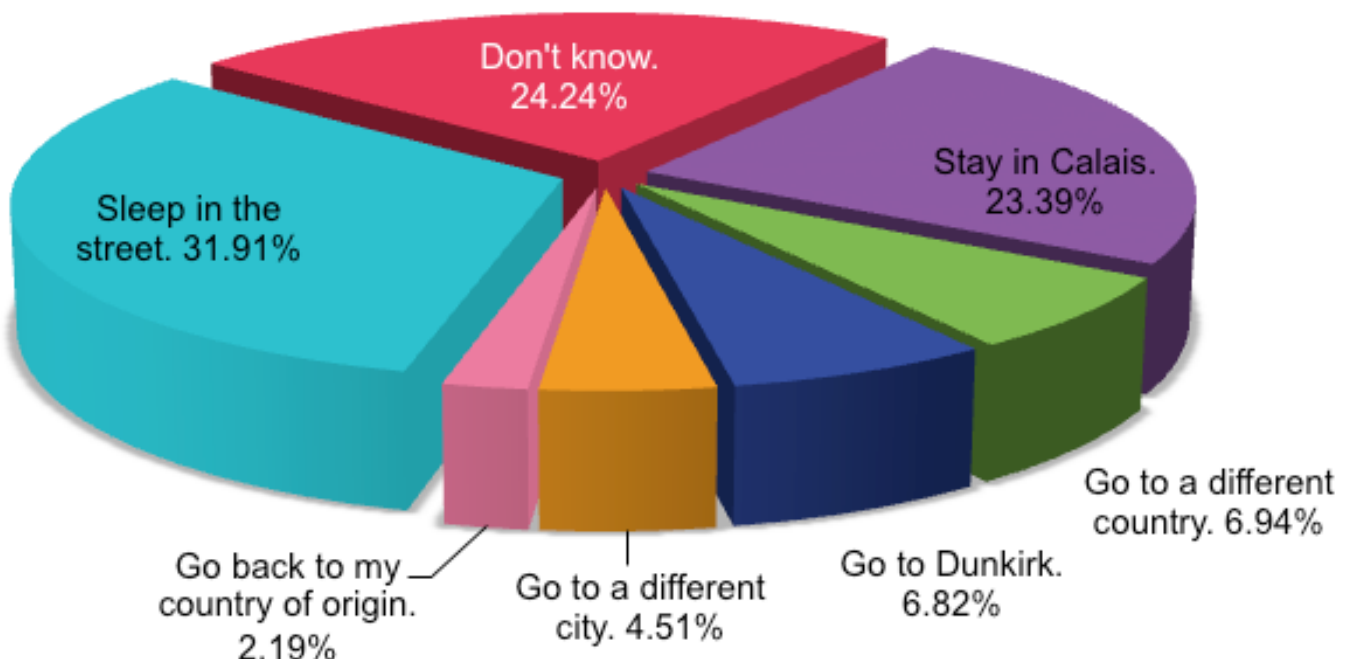
## NO ONE SHALL BE ARBITRARILY DEPRIVED OF HIS PROPERTY

Days after the completion of our research study, on 1 March 2016, the French authorities moved in to dismantle and demolish the 'South' part of the Calais camp. According to Help Refugees, they destroyed the temporary homes of an estimated 3,500 people.

In total, 86.4% of people living in the camp said they would stay in the area, sleep in the street, or move to the nearby Dunkirk camp if their temporary homes were destroyed. Only 6.9% would go to a different country, and 4.5% to a different city. A further, 2.2% said they would try to return to their country of origin. These results demonstrate that the demolition of the camp is highly unlikely to provide any long-term, viable solution to the situation.



### WHERE WOULD YOU GO IF THE CAMP DISAPPEARED? ALL RESPONDENTS



# ARTICLE TWENTY-FIVE (PART ONE)

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO A STANDARD OF LIVING ADEQUATE FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF HIMSELF AND OF HIS FAMILY, INCLUDING FOOD, CLOTHING, HOUSING AND MEDICAL CARE AND NECESSARY SOCIAL SERVICES, AND THE RIGHT TO SECURITY IN THE EVENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS, DISABILITY, WIDOWHOOD, OLD AGE OR OTHER LACK OF LIVELIHOOD IN CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND HIS CONTROL.



## ACCESS TO WATER

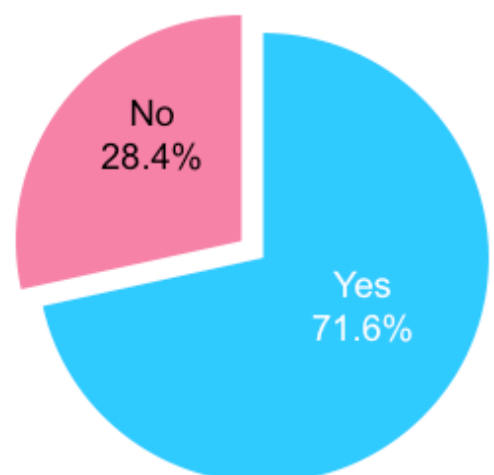
The vast majority of respondents - 84.8% in total - sourced their drinking water from a tap inside the camp. Meanwhile, 5.5% chose to go to a tap outside the camp. A further 8.2% bought bottled water.

## ACCESS TO FOOD

The vast majority - 71.6% of respondents - had access to food on a daily basis and expressed appreciation towards the multitude of volunteer-led kitchens operating in the camp. However, others found a lack of easy access to food problematic. Some 28.4% of those surveyed reported not having easy access to food every day.

This shortage is partly a result of long queues at distribution points. People reported waiting for up to 8 hours for food. However, on average, respondents said the waiting time was 55 minutes to receive a simple meal.

## DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO FOOD EVERY DAY? ALL RESPONDENTS



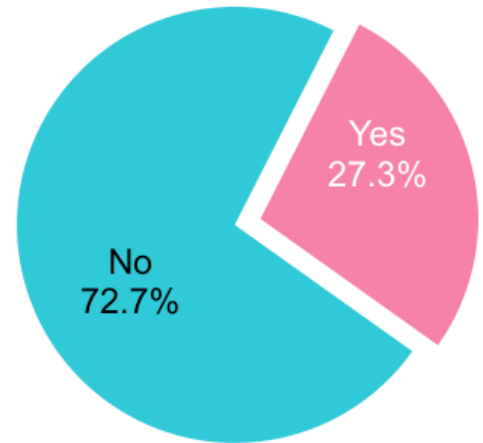


## SHOWER

It is alarming that 606 people, 72.7% of respondents, reported that they did not have enough water to shower or wash themselves in the camp.

In total, 91.3% of those surveyed said they were not able to shower any time they want – largely because of long queues. Some 48.9% cited overcrowding a major obstacle to showering at a time of their choosing, while 33.4% said that camp rules were the root of the problem. A number reported that Salam, the distribution and medical centre housing the camp's showers, charged €3 for a 6-minute shower – a sum that is prohibitive to many people living in the camp. A further 2% cited security concerns as a problem when showering.

### DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH WATER TO SHOWER AND WASH? ALL RESPONDENTS



## MEDICAL CARE

At the time of our research, there were a number of different medical facilities in the camp provided by various charitable organisations and NGOs including Médecins Sans Frontières and Doctors of the World. Respondents generally spoke highly of these organisations and their staff, explaining that they are working very hard to help.

Therefore, the largest proportion, 40% of respondents, described the medical care they received as 'OK' while 20.5% noted that the care was 'very good' or 'excellent'.

However, a number of those surveyed identified a lack of medical supplies to be

a problem. Since the medical organisations operating in the camp are relatively limited in their ability to distribute prescription drugs, many of the camp's inhabitants said they were given paracetamol – often insufficient to treat their various and complex health issues.

"They try but they don't have proper medicine," said one respondent. Others reported a significant lack of trained and specialised doctors in the camp – some adding that they experienced extremely long waits to see nurses or volunteers with basic skills. Language barriers also appeared to be major hurdle to providing adequate medical care.



## HEALTH ISSUES

A huge majority – 76.7% of respondents – reported experiencing at least one health problem since arriving in the Calais camp. For the largest proportion, 40.4%, the problem originated due to being subjected to the camp’s ‘unhealthy environment’ – often due to the cold weather, lack of a decent mattress to sleep on, or poor living conditions in general. A further 8.4% said that the issues were caused by ‘a contagious disease spread inside the camp’.

When asked about the types of health problems experienced, a number mentioned suffering from depression and anxiety disorders,

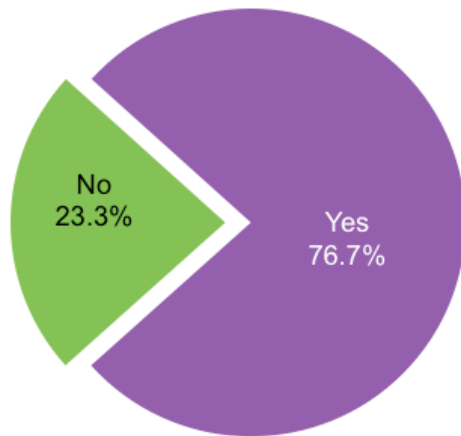
including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Others reported skin infections, ongoing colds and flus that seemed difficult to treat, chest infections and persistent coughs, health issues resulting from exposure to chemicals, food related illness, and back problems.

This situation was worsened by the squalid hygiene conditions in the camp. The toilets – a number of mobile portaloos – were particularly

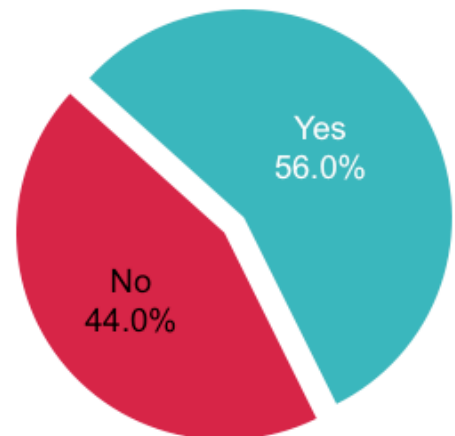
filthy. Of the people we surveyed, 51% described the toilets as ‘very dirty’ with a further 22.6% citing them as ‘quite dirty’.

Furthermore, the unhygienic environment attracted vermin to the camp. In total, 84.4% of respondents said that ‘there are many’ rats and insects, or ‘they are everywhere. As one man put it: “the rats are as big as rabbits”.

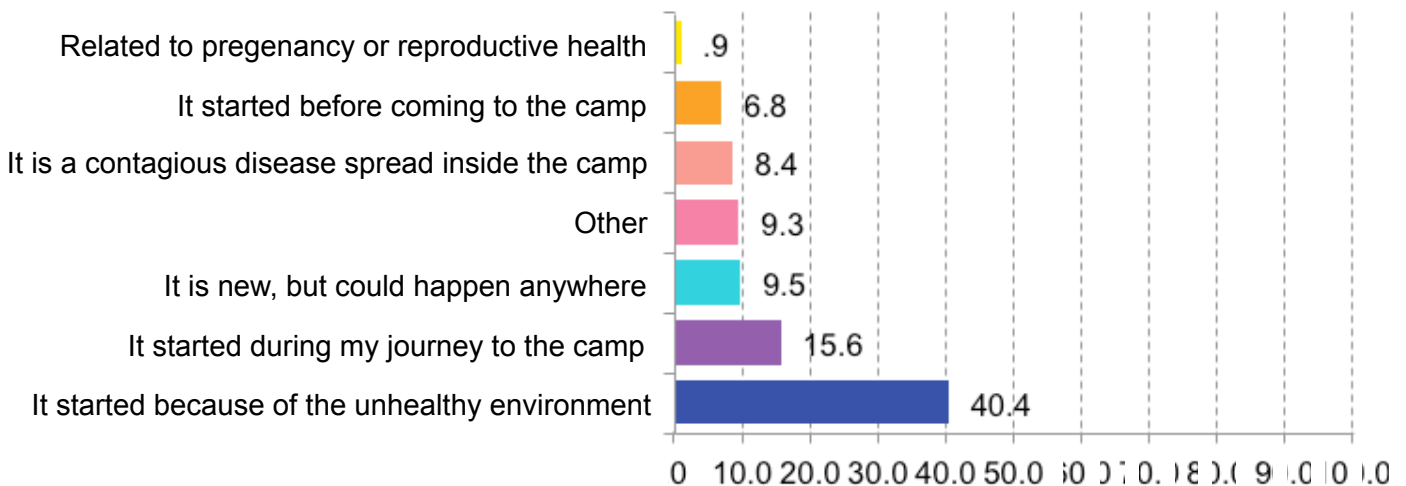
### HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY HEALTH PROBLEMS IN THE CAMP? ALL RESPONDENTS



### HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY HEALTH PROBLEMS IN THE CAMP? WOMEN ONLY



### WHAT WAS THE HEALTH ISSUE? ALL RESPONDENTS



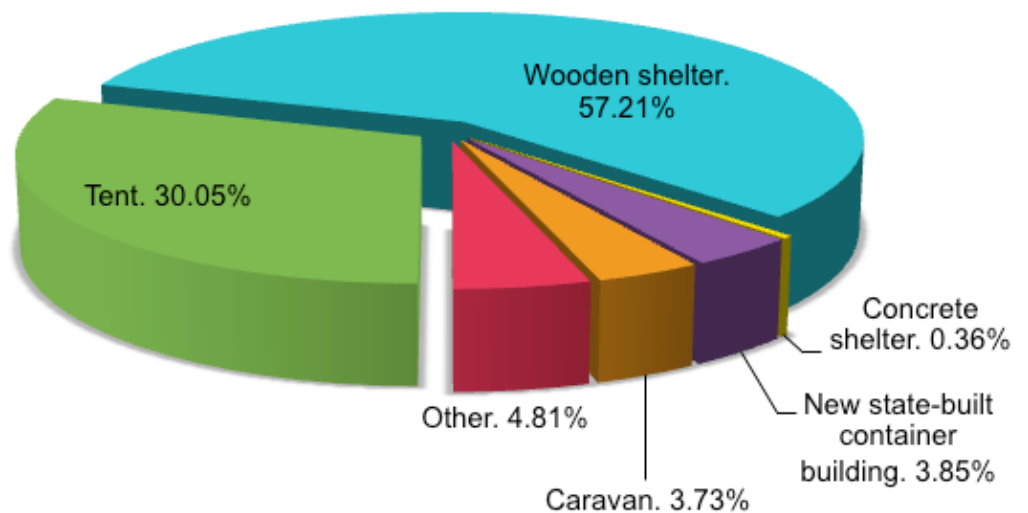
## SHELTER CONDITION

Residents of the camp reported living in various different types of shelter, as illustrated by the graph below.

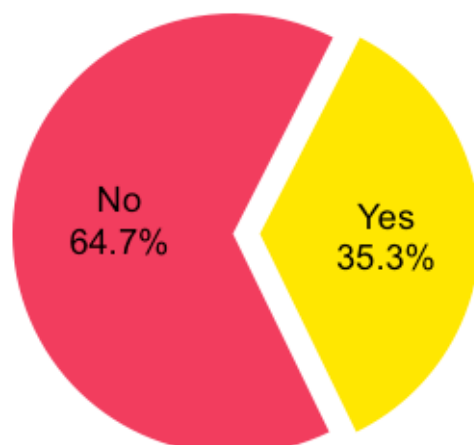
The study found that, on average, five people share every shelter. The vast majority of these shelters are clearly unfit for purpose, with some 60.4% of respondents reporting that their temporary home lets in water when it rains.

Given the security risk inside the camp - as outlined above (see page 9) - it is deeply concerning that only 35.3% reported having a secure lock on their shelter.

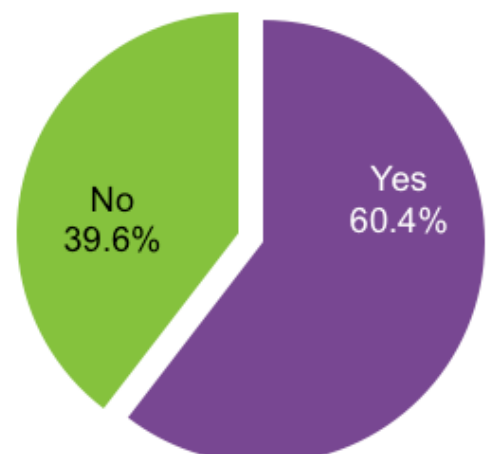
### WHAT SORT OF SHELTER DO YOU LIVE IN? ALL RESPONDENTS



### DO YOU HAVE A SECURE LOCK? ALL RESPONDENTS



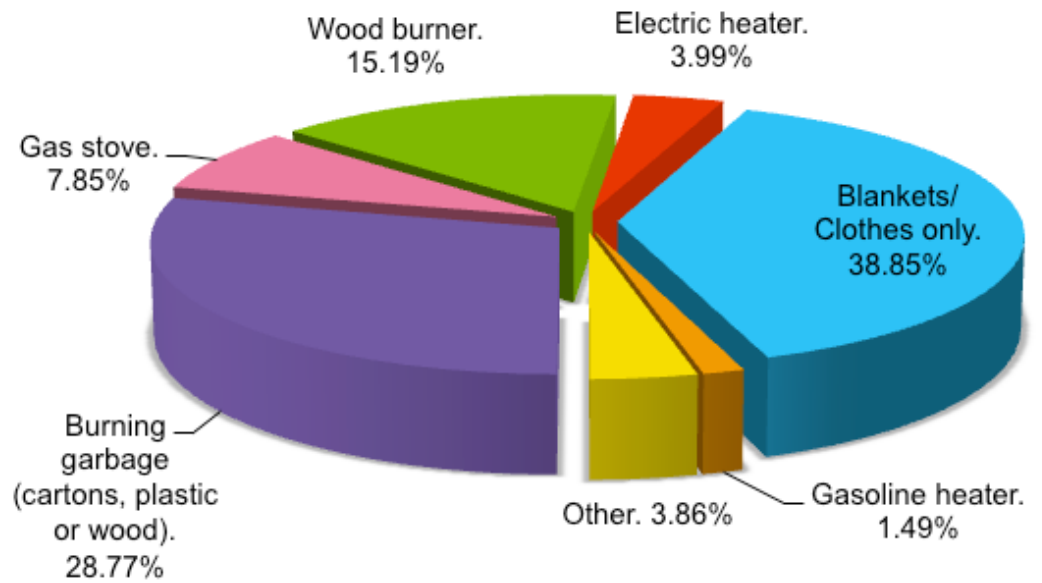
### DOES YOUR SHELTER LET IN WATER WHEN IT RAINS? ALL RESPONDENTS



Despite the freezing weather conditions during the winter months, very few respondents reported having access to adequate heating.

The largest proportion – 38.9% – said that they were forced to cover up with blankets in an attempt to keep warm, while a further 28.8% resorted to burning garbage.

## HOW DO YOU GET WARM IN YOUR SHELTER WHEN IT IS COLD? ALL RESPONDENTS



# ARTICLE TWENTY-FIVE (PART TWO)

**MOTHERHOOD AND CHILDHOOD ARE ENTITLED TO SPECIAL CARE AND ASSISTANCE. ALL CHILDREN, WHETHER BORN IN OR OUT OF WEDLOCK, SHALL ENJOY THE SAME SOCIAL PROTECTION.**

The poor living conditions in the camp create particular adversities for women going through different stages of motherhood, for children and for families.

Our research shows a significant number of children living in the Calais camp - whether with a family member or unaccompanied.

Some 14.4% of those surveyed were below 18 years of age. And of the adults we spoke to, 32 respondents had children with them in their care. This included parents to infants as young as one year old, as well as many who are caring for toddlers and young children. A total 33.9% of

going outside the camp to play. Another reported that her daughter had been threatened by an older man in the camp, who indicated that he would “kill her” while she was playing outside.

The provisions made for women’s health in the camp are somewhat unclear. Of our respondents, 9% reported health issues related to pregnancy or reproductive health. But, only 34.5% of total respondents



accompanied children were under the age of six years.

Several of these families reported that they had been living in the camp for over a year, and all had been there for at least one month. Children in the camp lack access to the required resources and security needed for healthy development.

Safety was a significant concern for mothers and children. 46% of female respondents surveyed said that they did ‘not feel safe’ inside the camp with a number explaining that they feel the environment is “not safe for women and children”. One woman told us that her children had been shouted at by police when

said that they know where a pregnant woman in the camp would be able to find medical advice. A slightly higher proportion of women – 40% of those interviewed – said they knew where they would find such information.

The situation for pregnant women is particularly precarious. One respondent reported that she lost her unborn child due to the detrimental effects of tear gas exposure. Another told us that a woman in the camp had “given birth in the back of a truck”. These findings suggest that the maternal health of women in the camp is seriously undermined.

## CHILDHOOD IN THE CAMP

Of the total 870 inhabitants we surveyed within the Calais camp, 14.4% were children aged between 12 and 17. According to Help Refugees' census, there were 651 children in the camp altogether. This means our sample amounts to roughly 18% of the camp's total child population.

The largest proportion of the children interviewed came from Afghanistan – some 47%. The second biggest group was from Eritrea with 16.8%, followed by 7.6% from Kuwait, and a number hailing from Syria, Iran, Iraq and Sudan. A total of 76% said they had been in the camp for between three and six months, which suggests there was an influx of children between August and November 2015. 23% had spent five months in the camp, indicating their first arrived in September 2015 – likely having made the dangerous journey across the Aegean Sea in the summer months.

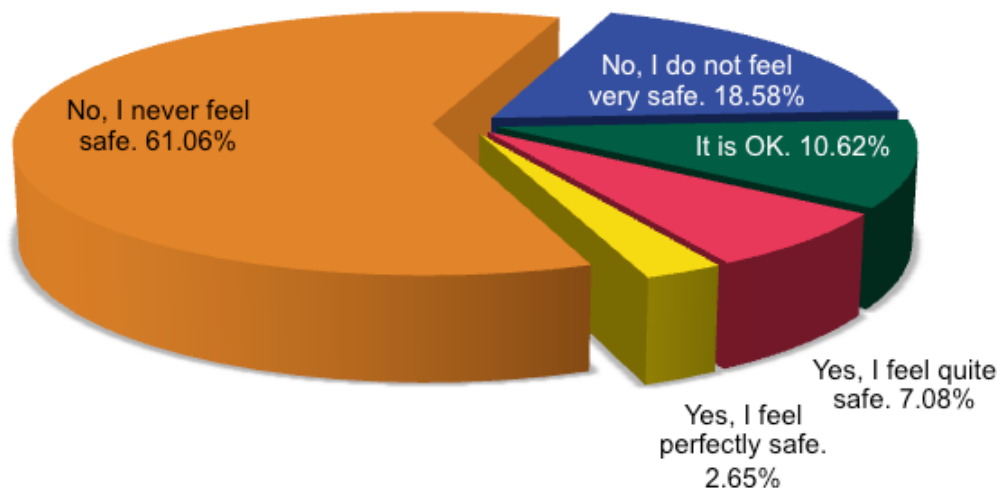
It is deeply concerning that the majority of these children – 59.7% – were living in the camp

unaccompanied. Only 6.7% reported being with their mother and/or father. Some 14% were in the camp with at least one brother. 5.8% of the children surveyed were living with one or more sisters, and 3.4% claimed to be in Calais with other relatives, primarily uncles.

Safety is a major problem for children in the camp, with 61.1% reporting that they 'never feel safe'. The reasons for this tend to mirror their adult peers – including police violence, citizen violence, fights within the camp, health issues, and concerns that the camp could one day be demolished. One 16-year-old expressed his emotions through the following statement: "In Afghanistan there's 80% to die, here there's 100% chance".

Some 20.4% of surveyed children felt 'OK', 'quite safe' or 'safe' – generally due to the children's services and protection provided by volunteers and charitable organisations on the ground.

### DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU ARE SAFE INSIDE THE CAMP? CHILDREN ONLY

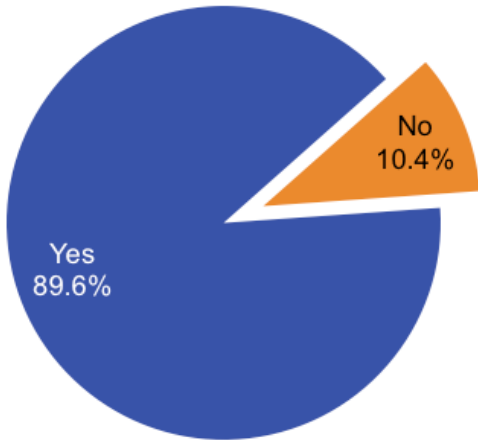


Worryingly, the number of children subject to violence is significantly higher than the same figure for adults. Some 89.6% of children had experienced police violence since arriving in Calais (compared to 73.7% of adults) – a total of 61.3% of children suffered physical abuse, and 27.7% verbal abuse. The majority of these cases were reported to have occurred while trying to travel to the UK, but others suffered problems

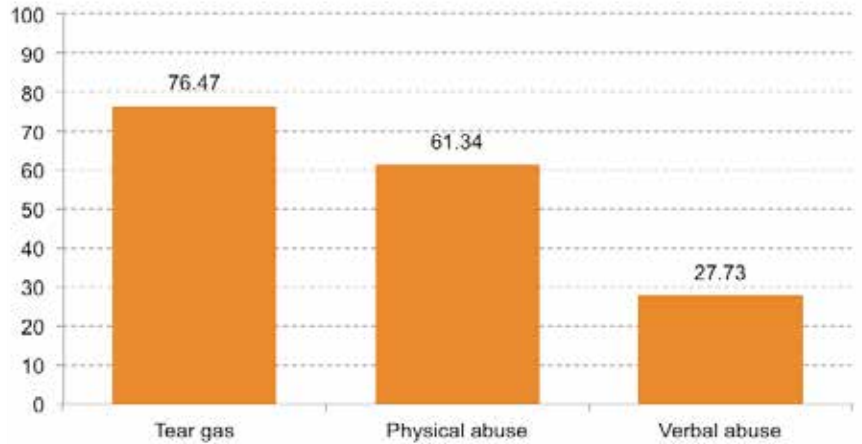
while walking to the Lidl supermarket or shops in central Calais. According to one minor: "The Jungle is surrounded by police and if you try to leave they are violent towards you".

Exposure to tear gas is also an extremely serious issue for children in the Calais camp. 76.5% said they had been exposed to tear gas, many of them on a daily basis or several times a week.

**HAVE EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE BY POLICE? CHILDREN ONLY**



**WHAT KIND OF POLICE VIOLENCE? CHILDREN ONLY**

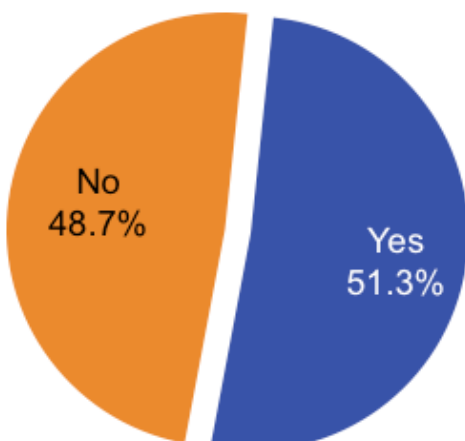


It is shocking to find that roughly half of the children surveyed in the camp – 49.6% – said they have been arrested or detained since arrival in Calais. In one extreme case, a 15-year-old claimed to be held by the French authorities for 60 days, while a 17-year-old reported being detained for 40 days. However, the majority found that they were held for a time ranging between 10 minutes and a few days. Respondents reported that the conditions experienced within detention centres are grim. One 15-year-old said, “they gave me no food

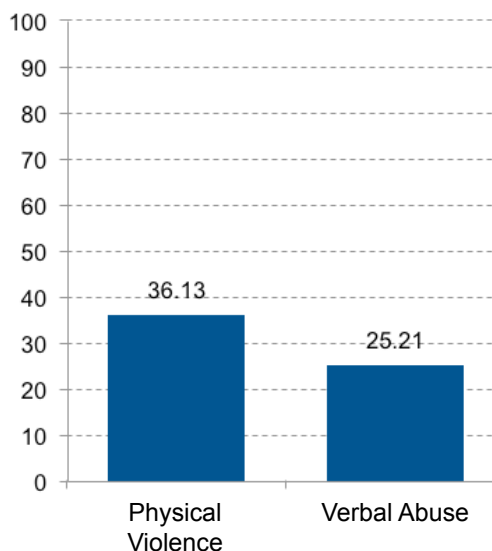
or water and kept me in a cold place”. Another reported that his friends were arrested and returned with no money and all their hair cut off.

However, police violence was just one of the many concerns for children in the Calais camp – citizen violence also posed a serious threat. More than half, 51.3%, of minors surveyed said they have been exposed to citizen (non-police) violence – 36.1% physical abuse, and 25.2% verbal abuse.

**HAVE EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE BY CITIZENS? CHILDREN ONLY**



**WHAT KIND OF CITIZEN VIOLENCE? CHILDREN ONLY**



Health problems were rife among the camp's children. Some 73.9% experienced health problems since arrival, with 38.7% reporting that it started due to the 'unhealthy environment' they were living in, and 19.3% reported that it started during their journey. Mental health issues were a problem for children, as well as adults, with a number reporting suffering from nightmares and severe anxiety.

Living conditions in the camp did not appear to be conducive to security and health for children - particularly those living without adult protection. Some three quarters of children interviewed did not have their own bed, while 60.7% said they live in a shelter than leaks water when it rains. Furthermore, children in the camp are going hungry. Only 70.5% had access to food on a daily basis, while 73.8% said there wasn't enough food.

Contrary to some beliefs, these children do not appear to be living in the camp out of choice. 85% said they cannot go back to their own country fearing they would be killed - primarily by the Taliban or Daesh. Some young interviewees had witnessed their family being killed, and had been threatened with the same fate. Meanwhile, others were worried they would be imprisoned by a corrupt government, or victimised by their country's police. One child noted: "I don't know if I'll return to my family dead or living".

The research results suggest that 44.5% of the children interviewed in Calais wanted to come to the UK to be reunited with family members. This suggests that many unaccompanied children in the camp may be qualify for inclusion under the Dublin III regulation, enabling them to claim asylum in the UK because it is in their best interests.

If the camp disappears one day, the largest proportion of children - 55.9% of respondents - said they would remain in Calais or sleep in the street. 5.4% reported that they would go to Dunkirk, while 18% said they would leave the region and move to another city or country. Only one single respondent - a 17-year-old from Afghanistan - said he would return to his country despite the fact that "it's not safe". A further 19.8% told us that they didn't know what they would do if their fears were realised and the camp destroyed.





# ARTICLE TWENTY-SIX

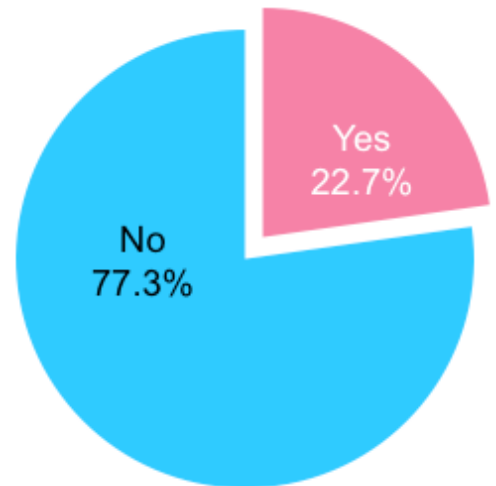
EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION. EDUCATION SHALL BE FREE, AT LEAST IN THE ELEMENTARY AND FUNDAMENTAL STAGES. ELEMENTARY EDUCATION SHALL BE COMPULSORY. TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION SHALL BE MADE GENERALLY AVAILABLE AND HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL BE EQUALLY ACCESSIBLE TO ALL ON THE BASIS OF MERIT.

The people living in the Calais camp hail from a variety of locations and backgrounds. Our research reflects that diversity.

Whilst a proportion of respondents – 21.4% – had never been to school or received any formal education, over 50% had a secondary education or higher. Some 22.7% had university degree – 2.9% a Master’s degree or a PhD.

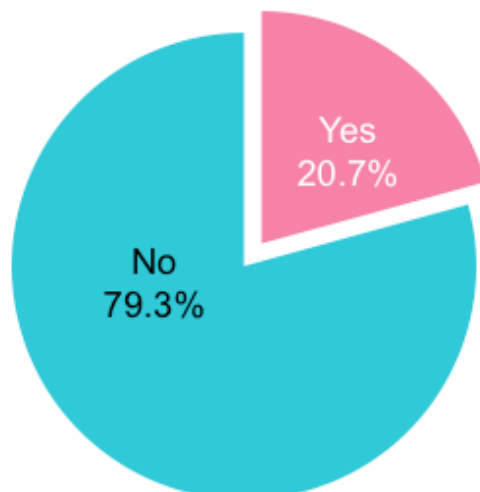
Meanwhile, 77.3% of respondents said they had no opportunities to access any form of education in Calais.

DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO ANY FORM OF EDUCATION?  
ALL RESPONDENTS

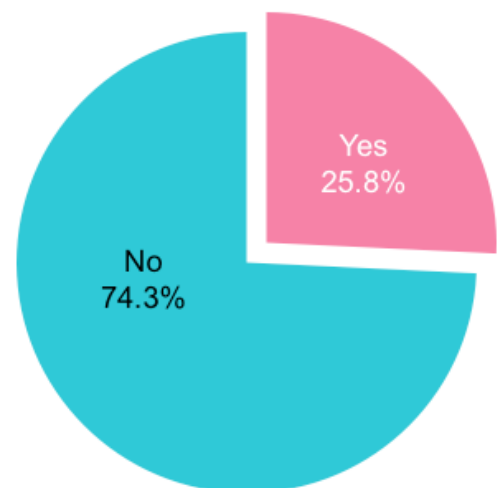


Despite there being an array of skillsets amongst the camp population, there is no formal access to education or employment. It is particularly concerning that 79.3% of respondents reported not having access to advice about their rights or opportunities to change their situation. A similarly high percentage of respondents – 74.3% – said they did not have any information about European immigration rules.

DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO ADVICE ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS, AND OPPORTUNITES TO CHANGE YOUR SITUATION?  
ALL RESPONDENTS



DO YOU HAVE HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT EUROPEAN IMMIGRATION RULES?  
ALL RESPONDENTS



# ARTICLE TWENTY-EIGHT

EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO A SOCIAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORDER IN WHICH THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS SET FORTH IN THIS DECLARATION CAN BE FULLY REALIZED.

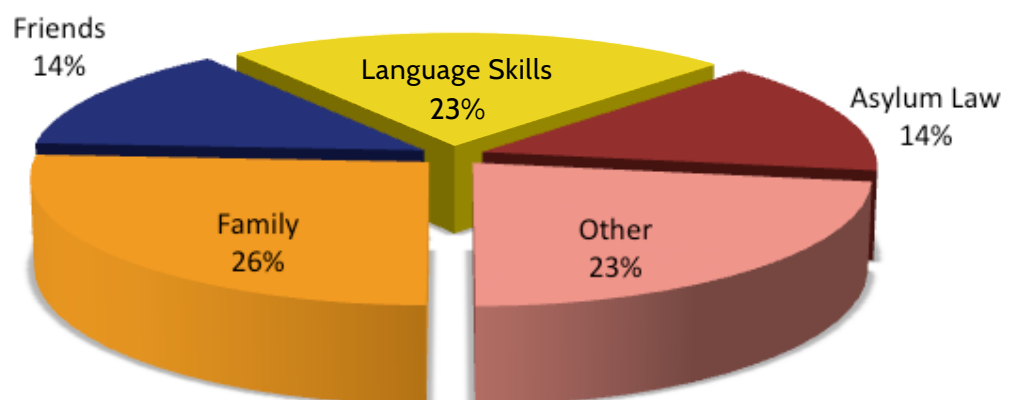
## The study also explored the life goals and aspirations of the inhabitants of the Calais camp.

The study also explored the life goals and aspirations of the inhabitants of the Calais camp. Approximately 94.6% reported that they are aiming to continue on to the United Kingdom where they would like to seek asylum and protection of their rights and freedoms. Some 89.6% of respondents said they have already tried to go to the UK on one or several occasions. Only 6.23% have applied for asylum in France, and 9.27% in another European country.

In total, 40% are hoping to reach the United Kingdom as they have

friends and/or family there. 14% cited that they hope to reach the UK as British asylum laws are preferable to the French laws, with a number of respondents telling researchers that they fear their application would be rejected by the French authorities but potentially accepted by the British. A further 23% of respondents told researchers that they are looking for refuge in the UK because of their language skills.

### WHY DO YOU WISH TO LIVE IN THE UK? ALL RESPONDENTS



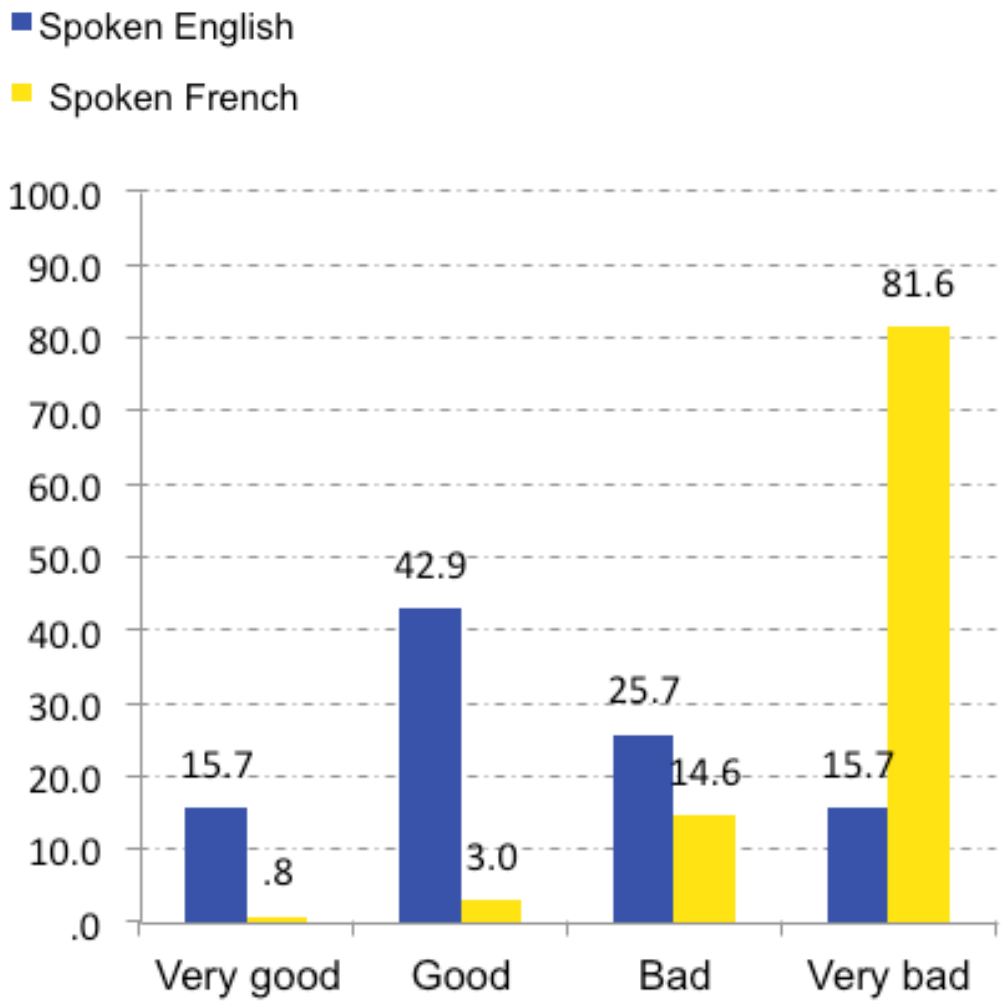
In terms of language proficiency, understanding of English is much more widespread in the camp than French. Some 58.6% described their spoken English as 'very good' or 'good'. Only 3.8% of those surveyed felt that they spoke 'very good' or 'good' French. Therefore, many people consider education and employment opportunities to be far more attainable in the UK than other European countries.

Many respondents told researchers that France is not a good place for them to live. They cited disproportionate police violence and racist abuse as two key factors deterring them from wanting to reside in France. Meanwhile,

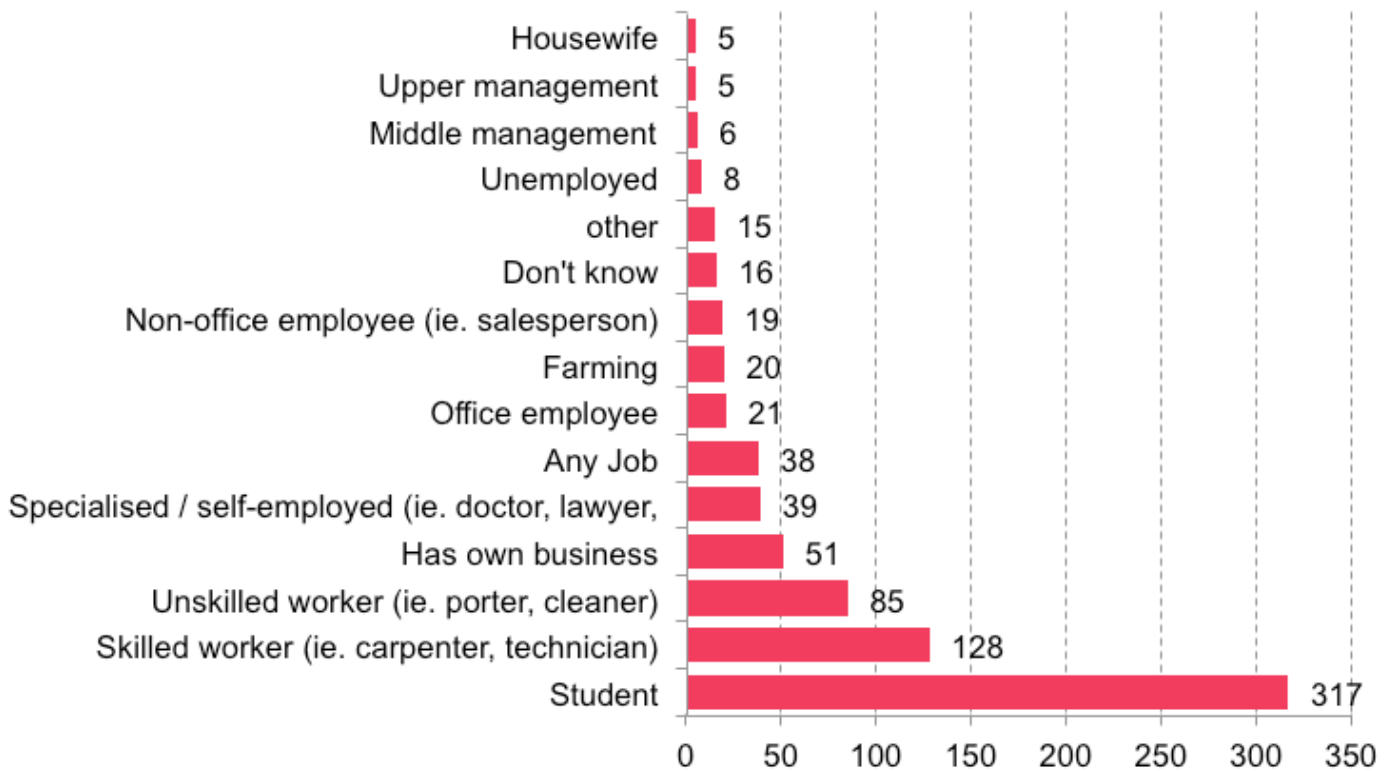
they had an image of Britain as a good place to live and seek refuge, as they believed that human rights would be protected in Britain and that they would be met with respect by British citizens.

When asked about potential employment in the UK, the importance of education and previously attained skills were reflected in responses. A total of 36.4 % said they would like to engage in further study. The vast majority of others had an idea of the type of employment they would like to engage in, ranging from being employed as skilled workers and specialised professionals to business ownership and agricultural work.

**AT WHAT LEVEL IS YOUR SPOKEN ENGLISH AND FRENCH?  
ALL RESPONDENTS**



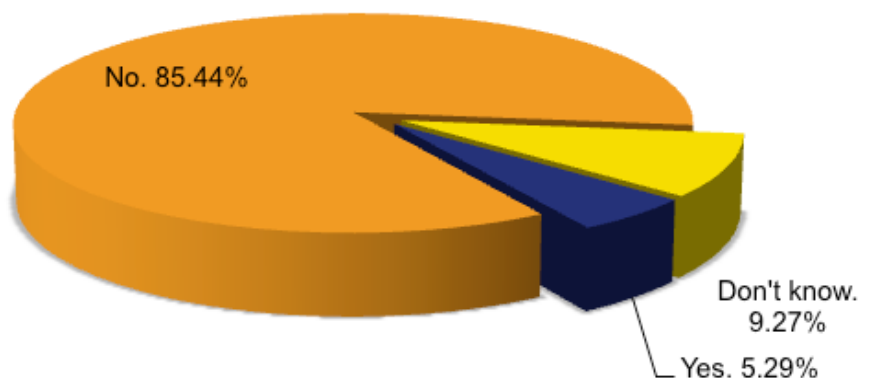
## WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD WORK AS IN THE UK? ALL RESPONDENTS



## CAN YOU GO BACK TO YOUR COUNTRY? ALL RESPONDENTS

When asked how they felt about being in Europe, 51.2% said that they feel 'very unhappy' or 'not very happy'. Another 24.9% told us they felt 'happy', while 23.9% said they didn't know. Indeed, several respondents expressed a notion of "shock" at the state of the Calais camp and the treatment of refugees by the French police and citizens.

Similar trends were reflected in responses to questions about inhabitants' feelings towards the British and French governments as a result of their current situation. For instance, 44.7% felt 'a lot of fear' towards the French government, compared to 12.2% towards the British.



Lastly, when asked whether they can go back to their country of origin, 85.4% answered that they can't go back (85.2% among women). A further 9.3% were not sure whether they can return home or not (14.8% among women), largely for fear of persecution, war or similar.

# CONCLUSION

## The Refugee Rights Data Project's findings shine a light on the desperate conditions faced by thousands of refugees and displaced people living within the informal camp in Calais.

During the course of the study, we spoke to approximately 15% of the camp's total inhabitants - including a significant number of families and children.

The report is structured around particular articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which emphasises the principle that human rights are universal - to be enjoyed by all people, no matter who they are or where they live.

The data demonstrates that a significant number of people living within the camp either struggle or are unable to realise the following rights:

### ARTICLE 1

'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights..'

### ARTICLE 3

'Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person'

### ARTICLE 5

'No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,' Article 17 (2) 'No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property'

### ARTICLE 25 (1)

'Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family..'

### ARTICLE 25 (2)

'Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection'

### ARTICLE 26

'Everyone has the right to education..'

### ARTICLE 28

'Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized'

**Bearing this in mind, we hope that our findings can inform public debate and help drive progress towards a constructive, long-term resolution to the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Calais.**



***Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.***

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article Thirty



