



www.associationsalam.org

JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL

A year ago, on 11th July, Jean-Claude Lenoir, president and founding member of Salam, left us forever.

On the 13th, at the place where he had fallen into the water with his van, many of us have paid our respects.

Salam continues his work of helping our friends in need, but...His superiority and accuracy of vision, his advice, are still terribly missed by us all..

The Salam team.



EVENTS OF THE MONTH

DEATHS (24 in 2025, as of 31st July).

Three more deaths in July, and that's still three too many.

Early in the morning of 15th July, a young man fell from a moving truck in Marck, Calais.

On the morning of 26th July, a man died. He was found with cardio-respiratory arrest on a boat at the beach of Equihen.

The usual commemorations took place at 6.30 p.m, the next day at Calais, Parc Richelieu and the day after in Dunkirk, on the Malo-les-Bains (in photos two views of 16th July in Calais and one of 17th July in Dunkirk).



As of 29th July, 5,454 people have crossed the Channel into the United Kingdom since the beginning of the month on 88 dinghies: on average 62 people per boat on average.

In July 2024, it was 3,414 out of 58 almost 59 people per canoe: 2,000 less!

Again, there is an increase from year to year.

This figure still does not take into account those who are not counted by the Home Office, starting with those who continue to try (and succeed) to cross by truck (such as the young man – see above – who died on 15th July).

The trend observed since the beginning of the calendar year is confirmed: the obstacles put in place against the departure of small boats from France do not reduce the number of successful passages and cause an increase in the number of people who board each dinghy, which makes the risk of death in the event of a shipwreck ever greater.

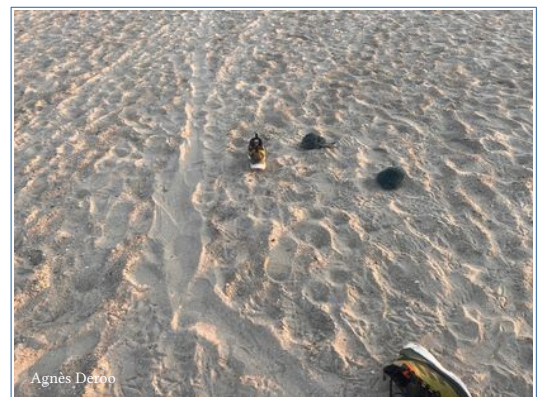
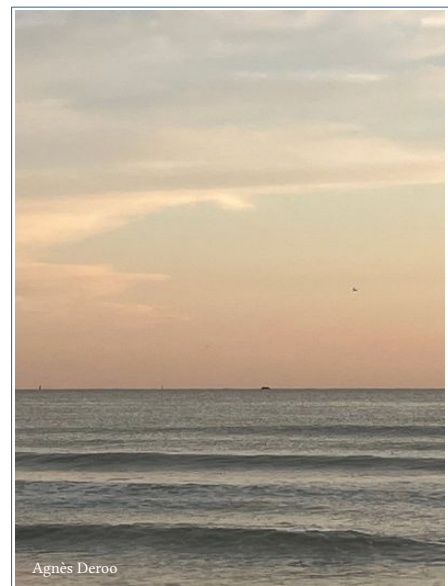
An article of 20th July in "Libération", published on 21st July on our website (under the heading "News") states that *"French coastguards note that "perforating" migrant boats does not prevent them from attempting a crossing."*

Our volunteers who pass by the beaches witness departures, successful or unsuccessful.

Agnès, who is an early riser, saw a boat leave on 4th July. She says: "...plane that didn't stop turning, I live 300 m from the beach, I was curious ... even if I suspected what was happening. The small boat was already a little far away, but it didn't seem to be moving much anymore... still people on the seawall, especially the Police and Utopia who were assisting people. »



The objects abandoned on the beach are touching signs of humanity: what they cannot take with them, including their shoes... a blanket. The black balls next to the pair of sneakers are women's mules...



On 6th July, it was an abandoned life jacket that Antoine came across on the beach of Hardelot...

Some have had contact with children from families turned away by the sea... Nothing is more effective in breaking the fear of foreigners than an exchange with one (or more) children. We published two examples on Salam's Facebook page on 15th July.

Antoine sent us two photos that illustrate his account of his meeting with the family on 5th July.



On the first, we see the child (back right) and his mother (back left, phone in his ear).



On the second, we see the police who "accompany" them until they disappear into the dunes. Is this a signal to walkers of the danger they represent?

THE NUMBER OF EXILES IN THE CAMPS DID NOT DECREASE.

1,037 breakfasts in Calais on 20th July, including 800 at the Squat Orange.

In Dunkirk, never less than 700 lunches (except on 10th July: 600), up to 950 on Sunday 27th (distribution by ADRA).

The passages are not numerous enough to reduce the number of presents, so the number of mouths to feed, or the number of people who want to go to England really increases and this is very worrying for the rest of our commitment.

In July 2024, we had an average of 313 meals per day in Dunkirk and 431 breakfasts per day in Calais... Especially with the number of volunteers who take vacations (and who could blame them?), we wonder if, and for how long, we will be able to meet the demands...

THE DISMANTLINGS.

On both sides, the police came in impressive numbers:



Men's (Calais, 4th July):



by vehicle (Dunkirk, 23rd July):

Their role was first and foremost to seize tents:



in Calais (photo of 18th July)



as well as in Dunkirk (photo of 23rd July):

In Calais, the rhythm of three times a week (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) was only disrupted because of 14th July. This delay due to public holidays is a fairly recent development (we go back to 11th November to find a public holiday with dismantling in Calais).

The HRO Human Rights Observers did not witness any evacuations between 11th and 18th July but said he had received testimonies from exiles reporting that there was an evacuation on the morning of 15th July at the BMX and in the city centre.

This concerns, each day, only two or three places, always the same: mainly the City Centre and BMX, the rue de Judée once this month, but quite exceptionally, on 30th July, the Fort Nieulay;



Families were still spared in the city centre (the HRO noted this on July 9th, 18th and 30th) but on the 23rd family tents (recognizable by the stroller in front of the door) were swept away.

The security perimeters are still as wide: sometimes any observation is impossible (the HRO notes this on 2nd, 7th, 11th and 30th July for example)

It is forbidden to pass (and even to approach!) for "safety" reasons, as the name suggests, but on 18th July in the city centre, a local resident is allowed to cross...

The equipment collected shows a desire to sit a little comfortably despite the regular interventions of the Police - in the City Centre two mattresses and even a sofa (!) on 21st July (our two photos) - three chairs on the 23rd; this site is never forgotten in the evacuations, except on 11th July).



In Dunkirk,

An evacuation on 16th July (the first since 25th June; the rhythm given once a week in May and June was momentarily broken), then on the 23rd and 31st, again a week after the previous one.



They are harsher than in Calais, although fewer in number:

On 16th July, at least 198 people (including at least 4 women and 1 child) were on the move..

At least half a large dumpster is filled with seized belongings, which is about twelve cubic meters (the photo of skips was taken on 23rd July).



On the 23rd, next to the Matthieuws company, people were forbidden to return to the camp. Everything is collected, the people say that even their personal belongings have been taken away.

A HOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT FOR THE LOON-PLAGE CAMP.

On 22nd July, the representatives of the associations were invited to a new meeting with the Director General of Services of the Urban Community Dunkirk, on the subject of access to water and waste collection.

The meeting ended with the hope of a new water point for the exiles very far from the current one, provided that they obtain the authorization of the State, and the increase in garbage collection. As early as 1st August, a first response was visible: containers were added to the current garbage truck.

Thank you to the Director General of Services.

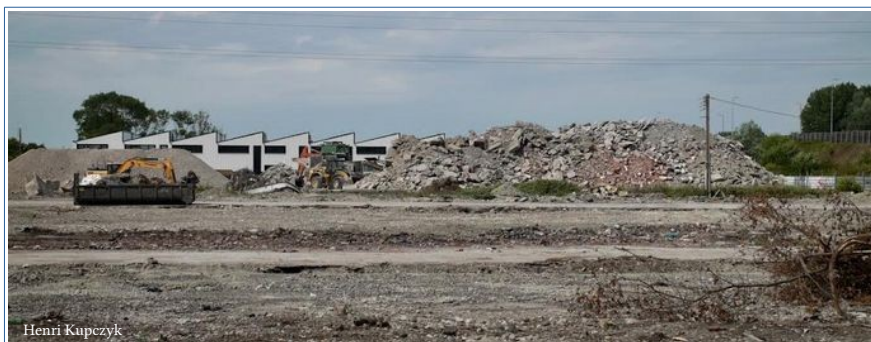


NEW EPISODE OF FAR-RIGHT VIOLENCE:

On 21st July during the distribution of Salam at the Orange squat, English journalists came and filmed the exiles insistently without asking permission, with words like: "Feel guilty for taking refugees across", and "Refugees commit crimes in England". It is British news, a far-right media outlet that describes itself as anti-BBC.

LA LINIÈRE: TESTIMONY TO A PAST THAT IS FADING.

Since the beginning of July we have seen, in passing, the landscape of the Linière site, in Grande-Synthe, reduced to a pile of rubble.



It was the site of a humanitarian project, "a very beautiful idea and project" writes Henri. The only time in France where we saw a refugee camp with wooden chalets, heated in winter, with toilets and showers and maintenance staff... (the photo was taken in September 2016)

It was built by MSF to UNHCR standards, and then entrusted to the management of the municipality of Grande-Synthe.

It existed between the beginning of March 2016 and the night of April 10th/11th, 2017 when it burned... For a few months (from 15th January 2015 to 24th October 2016) there was at the same time in Calais the Jules Ferry Centre, a day care centre financed by the State with toilets, showers, sockets for recharging mobile phones, bins for doing laundry, a reception centre for women, and the installation of a town canister on the neighbouring moor "the Great Jungle".

Even though we know for a fact that we were far from an ideal situation, those were the only moments when we said: "Never again will we have people in the mud, without toilets and showers..." And since then it's worse than before...



The hangars of La Linière were not concerned at the time of this humanitarian camp, we passed right next to it. Then, at the beginning of 2020 (our photos below), including during the period of confinement linked to COVID, they sheltered the exiles in tents. At least they were sheltered from the weather...

The total and definitive evacuation of 4th June, 2020 put an end to this occupation.

A FRANCO-BRITISH SUMMIT ON 10th JULY: BAD NEWS...

The decisions of the 10th July meeting between Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer are frightening.

The Franco-British agreements of 10th July provide for the interception of boats at sea and the exchange of exiles who arrived in small boats for others eligible for asylum in the United Kingdom. How can these measures be put into practice without causing additional deaths at sea? How can we find people eligible for asylum when family reunification has been stopped since Brexit? Unless it is a simple announcement effect that will have no concrete consequences... There is great concern among us.

An article in National French Newspaper "Le Monde" of 11th July, by Cécile Ducourtieux and Julia Pascual, comments on this agreement: *"The number of people concerned should be around fifty per week. A minimum according to London, which is symmetrically committed to welcome, in the other direction, people whose nationality would almost automatically guarantee asylum in the United Kingdom or in the context of family reunification."* »

And a little further down in the article, they make the connection with an agreement announced between the European Union and Turkey in 2016:

"For every Syrian returned to Turkey, another Syrian was to be resettled from Turkey in the EU. This highly controversial agreement has temporarily slowed down arrivals. But Ankara has not taken back any migrants since 2020 and the resettlement of Syrians has never reached the initial objectives." »

The full text of this article can be found on our website (www.associationsalam.org) on 13th July 2025, under the heading "News".

In a text in the "Voix du Nord" of 11th July, Aïcha Noui completes the information: *"The boats will be stopped and then sent back quickly to France," said Mr. Starmer. This implies that boats would be stopped even in deep waters.*"

"Well!! We have not finished mourning our dead," writes one of our volunteers when reading this article.

An event that could have been dramatic, was revealed by "The Guardian" and reached us by the "Voix du Nord" of 26th July: it was reported by a confidential report of the CROSS Gris-Nez, dated 10th July (the very day of the Franco-British agreement):

On the evening of 9th July at around 11 p.m., a taxi boat was torn up by Police from the beach of Cayeux sur Mer in the Bay of Somme, but continued on its way with 55 people on its board. The alert, launched by the CROSS, did not locate him and it was only the next morning that he was taken care of by the British coastguards. The challenge for France, writes Aïcha Noui in the article in the "Voix du Nord" of 26th July, would be "to obtain a substantial request from the British for the guarding of the border."

But why insist so much on guarding the border, to the point of risking the death of 55 human beings?

Why insist on doing this dirty work, for which the Libyans were paid first, then the Turks, to prevent migrants from entering Europe...

Let the exiles, who are doing everything to disgust them with being on our soil, leave it. And let the British guard their own border!

A DRAFT SOLUTION IS SUGGESTED TO US in an article in "Europe 1" (24th July, 2025 at 9 a.m.):

"

Deaths exceed births for the first time in France, a historic turning point that has been anticipated but accelerated

...

The problem is the same in all European countries. For humanists, the solution is there at the gates of Europe: open the doors to migrants who will be very happy to build a family in a country at peace (we hope that it will continue this peace but we have to pay a price, don't we?!)...

Claire Millot

DUNKIRK, THE EVENING DISTRIBUTIONS:

Pascaline, sometimes accompanied by one or two volunteers (Sophie, a researcher at the University of Sheffield and in the region for two weeks - two London journalists working for an Australian media outlet) - a Swedish journalist, Clément).

Quentin, who was at work for three months, was only occasionally available.

Listing the requests received, preparing the belongings and loading them into the truck takes an average of one hour. Then, a distribution lasts an average of two hours.

Depuis début avril, Pascaline et Quentin nous font chaque semaine une présentation de leurs actions. Voici un résumé pour le mois de juillet.

Since the beginning of April, Pascaline and Quentin have been giving us a weekly presentation of their actions. Here is a summary for the month of July.

A few preliminary remarks:

Thursday 10th July:

I spoke with a very nice couple from Tanzania — it was the first time I had met people from this country in the camp.

We then tried to reach the Chemin de Mardyck, but the access, until then free, was now closed (as a consequence of our encounter with the police the week before? Or a simple coincidence?).

Friday 18th July:

Before putting everything away, I emptied the bins where there were mostly sheets, pillows and fabrics, useful for insulating the floor.

My car was almost full after this sorting.

Saturday 19th July:

There were many, many requests.

I left there quite disappointed... Many people had no blankets, no tents, not even a sweater. Many families were looking for a way to protect themselves for the night. I gave them the numbers of Utopia and Refugee Women's Centre.

The distribution on Wednesday, 23rd July followed the dismantling of several camps during the day. The distributions were made on the premises destroyed by the Police.

Relations with the police:

Thursday 10th July:

The police came by, they walked around the parking lot without getting out of their car and left.

Saturday, 12th July:

While we were in the Total car park, the police came and told us that it was forbidden to be there because it was private land. We kept telling them that going to distribute in the car park was too risky, that we were going to provoke fights. They told us: 'Well, you'll call the police'... I don't know if it was humour but we told them that we weren't staying long. They stayed next to us for a few minutes and then left. A lady from the camp when she arrived shook hands with one of the policewomen. The latter had a moment of surprise and shook their hand as well...

DISTRIBUTION BALANCE:

**between 4 and 5 distributions per week,
were given, in July, until the 20th:**

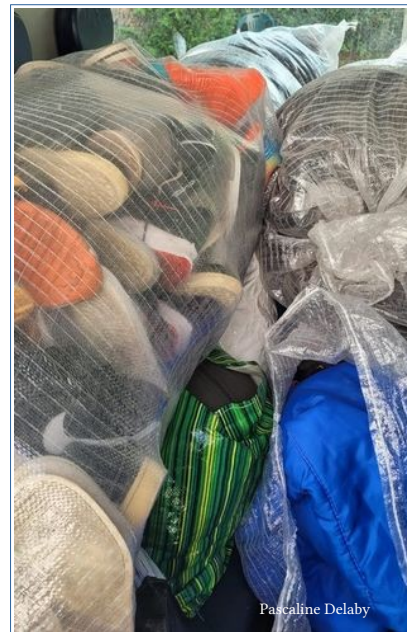
- 260 blankets and about 35 duvets and sleeping bags,
- Shoes
- clothes by boxes: socks (more than 6 boxes and a bag), sweaters/sweatshirts (more than 13 boxes, a bag of sweatshirts and a box of Damart jackets), trousers/jogging pants/jeans (14 boxes), t-shirts (12 boxes), jackets and jackets (65 and a large bag),
- children's clothes (at least 4 boxes) and women's clothes (more than one box and one box of women's sweaters)
- More than 4 boxes of various clothes.

THANK YOU.

The bins of blankets and clothes from Audotri (photos from 18th July), started last week, were restocked on Saturday morning (26th July) by Mathias, thanks to the blankets that arrived at the Sesame house and came from Emmaus St-Nazaire.



Pascaline Delaby



Pascaline Delaby



Many thanks for this vital resupply at this time, as blankets are becoming scarce on the camp. Thank you also to all those who collect, sort and store: it's a huge and essential job.

Pascaline.

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE...



Grande-Synthe, 5th July, 2025.

The Linière hangars have disappeared! Wiped off the map in a few digs... Only a few remains on the ground remind us of the passage of our friends...

We approach the graphite barriers. I can see the children playing the little harp, their fingers frozen... A semblance of a roof over the head, in the middle of a draught... Better than nothing... A pile of rubble today... Tomorrow's 'activity' centre?

At the camp this lunchtime, the queue seems endless. They are numerous and hungry. Thirsty too with this violent wind. The sand crunches between our teeth... Water is Life... Thank you Pierre for this water point which this time remains in place since you risked your life to save theirs...





Quentin Duflos

Barriers contain the crowd and separate families from single men. Despite this attempt to channel the human tide, some are pushing and trying to overtake. Pascaline monitors and sends them back at the end of the line. They grumble a little, trying to dissuade her but end up listening to her. None of them can resist his firmness imbued with so much benevolence.

The small harp is strategically placed between the two rows less than ten meters from the distribution table. A little ahead of Patrick, who is patiently handing out wooden cutlery, Claire is busy as always.



Claire Millot



Claire Millot



Bélinda Welton



Bélinda Welton

The little ones have gathered around the harp like a swarm of young sparrows chirping. They all want to play with it as they do every time they meet. Claire holds a bag full of mini plush toys (thank you Monique!) and small figurines (thank you Sandrine!) that disappear in an instant. So happy☺



Bélinda Welton



Claire Millot

On the other side of the line, irresistible... Each in turn brushes the strings of the harp as it passes at its height. End of the stampede. Distracted by this moment out of time, so unexpected. The surprise slows them down and our friends calmly advance towards the table where Quentin, the conductor of the day, is waiting for them.



Bélinda Welton



Bélinda Welton



Bélinda Welton

The Salam team is dynamic as usual. Precise gestures, words of encouragement, shared smiles... Hands outstretched... Humans who support others when life mistreats them... without any expectations in return... I call it unconditional Love!



Quentin Duffos

A few signs of gratitude, a thumbs up... Young and old alike are smiling again... to Life. A moment of hope, albeit ephemeral, that managed to warm hearts. Baby Ndisi's nostalgic look on mom's back says a lot about everything those little eyes have ever seen... I can't help but superimpose that of my little girl of about the same age, always smiling, with a twinkling look of joy...



Being born somewhere says the song... Midal bursts out laughing as he plays a cascade of crystalline notes. Her little sister is also taking the plunge. A large scar on her father's hand testifies to the suffering inflicted during their journey. Our eyes meet. He is also disfigured on his right side, his eye saved by less than three millimeters...

I decide to keep Natou's smile in my heart by leaving the camp a bit like him, reluctantly... He drags his feet and turns around several times saying goodbye...

Goodbye Salam's friends!

You know that the little harp will return... I will see to it!

With all my tenderness and friendship,

Bélinda M. Welton



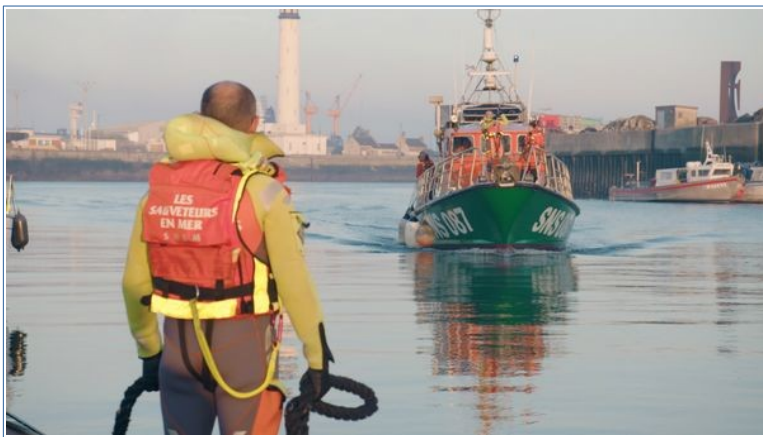
SALAM OUTSIDE ITS USUAL SETTING.



Catherine has retired.

A surprise ceremony marked the retirement of Catherine, pillar of the "Maison de la Citoyenne" in Grande-Synthe, where she gave us a warm welcome for years.

Ghislaine and Geneviève represented Salam.



"One by one", a film by Camille Guigueno: a documentary on the work of the SNSM, with AZADI productions.

We were invited to the first screening, on 1st July at "Studio 43" in Dunkirk. :

"My meeting with you during my high school years was also crucial in building the commitment that pushed me to make this film," she wrote to us. Indeed, Camille, a high school student in Les Dunes, had done a lot of awareness-raising work with Salam in her school, almost ten years ago...

She was particularly followed by Odile. The old-timers remember...

We were represented in the room.

Marie wrote to us after the performance:

"Very nice documentary It's a shame that there wasn't a debate afterwards. I really missed him.

In this one-hour film, these women and men explain their commitment.

Just like us, they are VOLUNTEERS - We feed them, they save them.

Having read the SNSM newspaper for a long time, it should be noted that since the interventions for the rescue of migrants, the number of members has decreased:

We can save windsurfers, boaters and their boats, but migrants are not well regarded.

These women and men in orange t-shirts explained their commitment. Each in their own way, they explained a memorable outing, the face of a child, a moment of emotion...

The cinema was full.

This documentary will be broadcast on television. »

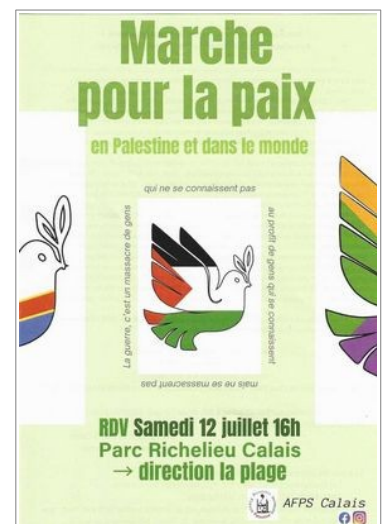
The march of 12th July, for peace.

Salam signed the call for this rally, of which here are excerpts:

"Our government, like many others, pretends to be concerned about the number of civilians, women and children killed, but still refuses to enforce the decisions of the International Criminal Court, thus making itself complicit in the war crimes of the far-right Israeli government.

(...)

And to flee these fights, people have no choice but to flee: by the end of 2024, nearly 123 million people had been displaced willingly or forcibly. »



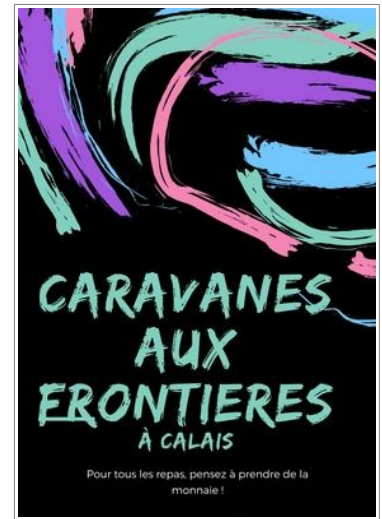
"Caravans at the borders"

The "Caravana Abriendo Fronteras" movement is back to support the struggles on the Franco-British border!

They were in Calais and Dunkirk from 15th to 18th July. These are 180 to 200 people in solidarity from different borders (Basque Countries, FR/ES, FR/IT border or Tunisia, Morocco, Mexico, etc.) to support our local struggles, while making the link with the global struggle of racist and violent policies at the borders.

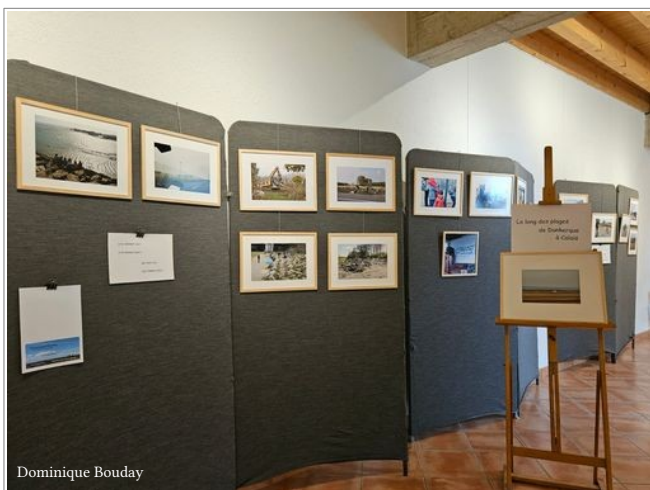
The idea was to join forces to propose an action, a joint event in Calais and Dunkirk.

The number of participants shows the success of this operation.



Salam was represented (the photos were taken on 16th July in front of the "Maison d'Entraide et de Ressources" of Secours Catholique and in front of the CRA of Coquelles.

A new exhibition by Dominique Bouday in the Ardèche:



She wrote to us:

"As part of the "Books and Readings" festival in Chalencon in '07, an excerpt from the exhibition that I entitled "Along the beaches - from Dunkirk to Calais -". Interesting meetings with people who are sensitive to the work of volunteers.



A show in which Salam has his place:

Arnaud sent us the information:

WHEN SALAM, AMONG OTHERS, INSPIRES ARTISTS...

"Hello disorder" does that mean anything to you? No? And Leslie, Caesar and fries do you speak more?

<http://www.bonjourdesordre.com/>

They came to Salam several times, including to prepare fries for the camp with their mobile chip shop on 31st December.

Photo "César 2023 1st cornet exchange" photo "Bonjour désordre".

A show was born from their various encounters.

So if they pass by your home, near your vacation spot or if, like us today, you are ready to travel a few kilometers, go ahead.



2025

>17/10 au 26/10 - Festival Michtô, Maxéville (54)

>11/10 - Scènes plurielles, La Porte du Hainaut, Brillon (59) OPTION

>27/09 - Festival Mosaïque, la Faïencerie, Théâtre de Creil (60)

>20/09 au 21/09 - Cité des électriciens (62)

>13/09 - ReOuverture du Théâtre Massenet, Lille 3000 (59)

>20/08 au 23/08- Festival d'Aurillac, sélection officielle(15)

>17/07 au 20/07- Festival Chalon dans la rue, Chalon sur Saone (71)

>11/07 au 13/07- Scènes de rue, Mulhouse (68)

>04/07 au 06/07- Festival les Tentaculaires, Amiens (80)

2026

>26-27-28/06 - Festival Viva Cité, Sotteville les Rouens (76) OPTION

>19-21/06 - Festival Les invités de Villeurbanne (69) OPTION

>05/06 - Moulins de Chambly, La Faïencerie (60)

>29/05 ou 30/05 ou 31/05 - Festival La Bougeotte, Frouard (54)

SOLIDARITY AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION- AN EXCHANGE BETWEEN EQUALS

The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) took place in Seville (Spain) from Monday, 30th June to Thursday, 3rd July, 2025. Official Development Assistance (ODA) is going through a major crisis. It is all the more important to understand the way in which the actors who intervene at the global level on development - UN agencies, the most committed States (bilateral cooperation), civil society actors, financial instruments put in place since the 1970's - operate and the real impact on the ground - and are little known to the general public. Crises always allow you to enrich your knowledge and consider a new beginning. Beggars can't be choosers.

For IFAD, a specialized agency of the United Nations and an international financial institution that has been fighting rural hunger and poverty since 1977, this International Conference "represents a unique opportunity to reform financing at all levels, including by giving impetus to the reform of the international financial architecture, and to address the challenges that hinder the urgent investment needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals." These International Conferences on Financing for Development are "the only forum where leaders of all governments, as well as international and regional organizations, financial and trade institutions, business, civil society and the United Nations system, come together at the highest level, thereby strengthening international cooperation." (1)

For Forus, a global network of national platforms and regional coalitions that make a collective contribution to development, peace, democracy and justice, "active and collaborative participation can help influence local and global negotiations and build a more effective international community to promote an equitable and sustainable world, where the most vulnerable populations have a voice, where human rights are respected and where inequalities and injustices are fought." Forus also believes that FFD4 is an important opportunity to accelerate the implementation of the #2030Agenda agenda. The conference must play a crucial role in shaping the global financing agenda and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. (2)

For the French President, Emmanuel Macron, present in Seville, "When we talk about financing for development, it is about the ability to inhabit a common planet, to define priorities, and rather than building walls or imposing tariffs or closing our digital spaces, to measure how interdependent we are". The FFD4 is a bearer of hope in turbulent geopolitics. He insisted on the major points of development in 2025. "Climate and environmental vulnerability, a concept that had been shaken up for a long time, has now taken hold", "scientifically established and politically measured". Another point is that "the financial situation of the most fragile countries has deteriorated", their debt and repayment are impossible in the face of an increase in security spending due to political and military instability (coups and deleterious influence of foreign powers). Four areas of work are suggested. The first is to mobilize new resources, for example by increasing the IMF's capital (Special Drawing Rights). The second is to create new international taxes on sectors that benefit from globalization (maritime transport, aviation, etc.). The third is to improve the leverage effect (every euro or dollar of public money must lead to the equivalent in the private sector). The last axis is to develop value chains, create economic wealth in the poorest, developing and middle-income countries (3).

Esther Duflo, winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2019, whose work on the fight against poverty is a reference, recalled that "the poorest countries are not bottomless pits where all efforts are in vain". The strategy of denigration and disinformation implemented to justify the drastic reduction in public funds for development aid, in the United States but also in Europe, is destructive. It also undermines the generosity of the public (donations and legacies). Esther Duflo reminds us that "at a time when social progress in rich countries is stagnating, when life expectancy has even fallen in some years in the United States, the progress made in thirty years in the poorest countries has been considerable." The figures speak for themselves "According to the World Bank, the number of people living below the extreme poverty line has increased from 2 billion people in 1992 (38% of the world's population) to 713 million in 2022 (8.5% of the world's population). In sub-Saharan Africa, life expectancy at birth has increased from 52 to 63 years in twenty years (2000-2023). Esther Duflo insists on misinformation from certain countries in the North – official development assistance is not a "waste of public money". It makes it possible to "strengthen global public goods, overcome crises, and rigorously test and evaluate innovative approaches". It is impossible to carry out an accurate and exhaustive assessment of ODA because it is so diverse and varied. Examples of successful programs are edifying. GAVI, the international fund for immunization, has saved at least 1.5 million lives (*American Economic Journal*). Thousands of researchers on all continents are striving step by step, action by action, programme by programme, to build up a scientific corpus of convincing results. They are essential to inform political decision-making, abused by ill-intentioned Cassandras.

The ambition declared by the rich countries to devote 0.75% of their gross domestic product to external aid will not be met. The security problem does not only affect the countries of the South but the entire planet where Russian (in Europe but also in Africa) or Chinese (on all continents) threats are dangers not only for the countries of the South that they exploit (by pretending to help them) but also for Western democracies through an effective hybrid war (by circulating false information that undermines the morale of public opinion). It is always easy to pit one against the other, to dig up inglorious parts of European history (colonial past), or to cast opprobrium on NGOs presented as agents of laundering mafias or financing terrorism..

Faced with such an offensive by autocrats, the worst way would be to disengage from the poorest countries, which need to be supported. They can get out of this situation through the will of their governments and the participation of their people, with the support of the richest countries.

This is not charity disguised as philanthropy, a form of neo-colonialism where exchanges remain unequal. It is a question of defining a new contract, a pact between equals with the poorest countries of the South. The oft-quoted African proverb says that the hand that gives is always above the hand that receives. A genuine exchange, based on solidarity and lasting cooperation, is the sine qua non condition for the success of a development policy that is first and foremost the responsibility of the countries themselves.

Bénédicte Halba,

President of the IRIV (www.iriv.net) qualified person of the Order of Chartered Accountants Paris Ile de France since 2017, article published on 8th July 2025

1) IFAD-<https://www.ifad.org/fr/w/evenements/le-fida-a-la-4-conference-internationale-sur-le-financement-du-developpement><https://www.ifad.org/fr/w/evenements/le-fida-a-la-4-conference-internationale-sur-le-financement-du-developpement>, downloaded 8th July 2025

2)Forus- <https://www.forus-international.org/fr/event-detail/11759-the-fourth-international-conference-on-financing-for-development-ffd4>, downloaded 8th July 2025

3)Emmanuel Macron, speech at the FFD4, <https://www.elysee.fr/front/pdf/elysee-module-24953-fr.pdf> Monday, June 30, 2025

4)Esther Duflot, professor at MIT and the Collège de France, president of the Paris School of Economics and the Fund for Innovation for Development, "The poorest countries are not bottomless pits where all effort is in vain", Le Monde Idées, Tuesday, 1st July 2025

SUPPORT – ASSIST – FIGHT – ACT – for MIGRANTS and countries in difficulty.

To all the teams of SALAM...

For the past two years, I have been studying living conditions in informal refugee camps along the northern coast of France, on the French-Italian border and on the Spanish-Moroccan border as part of a research project that is coming to an end on reception at militarized borders.

All this knowledge I have acquired of the northern frontier, I owe it to you. We often talk about experts, but the real experts are the people on the ground who have been working tirelessly for years in these lawless states and who are the guarantors of this traumatic memory of the border.

You are the experts in these places, You are the pillars of these communities, You are the last link to humanity for the exiles and you must take center stage in the writing of this history.

You relentlessly support...

During these hours spent at your side in Grande Synthe and Calais, I must testify to your dedication, self-sacrifice and your determination to stand up against murderous state practices.

I have seen entire teams spend hours cooking meals and preparing breakfasts, I have seen thousands of meals, toast, bananas, tea and coffee being distributed, I have seen thousands of blankets, shoes, clothes and tents being sorted and then distributed in the evening on the island. Loon-Plage camp, I have seen the smiles, the benevolence, the comfort and the humanity of your daily gestures, I have also seen teams that do not give up, who refuse to be guided by fear and prejudice, who are present in these camps at all costs because without these meals the exiles would not be able to without these clothes the exiles fall ill, and without these tents the exiles die of cold.

But above all, I have seen the incredulity and relief of these women, children and men who, after the hell they experienced during their exile, no longer believed that this humanity could exist and who know that without you they are alone!

You are tirelessly helping...

Over the past two years, I have spent time in Grande Synthe, Calais, Briançon, Paris, Ceuta and Melilla, places characterized by extreme forms of militarization of borders that are in fact real laboratories used by European states to test techniques and tools of repression on populations so vulnerable that they are not able to file complaints.

With this hindsight, it is very clear that the northern border of France is the most brutal and violent in Western Europe and in addition to this emergency work that you all carry out without respite, you are also a central witness to these abuses of power.

A witness who has been the custodian of the traumatic memory of this border since the 90's. A witness to all these forced, brutal and inhumane evacuations that have been carried out without respite for years.

A witness to all the failures of the state, police brutality and generalized indifference that contribute to the persistence and normalization of these situations of extreme violence.

You fight relentlessly...

Of all the frontiers I have been to and of all the organizations I have worked with, SALAM is by far the most enduring and versatile. You have given yourself the means to support, help, fight and act on an extremely violent and inhumane border, but above all, you have given yourself the means to adapt to environments that change very quickly and to needs that evolve. You galvanize and inspire those who want to make a difference but don't always know how...

Whether it is these French courses given to those who wish to stay; whether it is these two Comorian women from Grande Synthe who make rice in their kitchen every week for the exiles; whether it is these merchants and individuals who cook or offer products and clothes; whether it is all those essential human reactions to senseless situations like this little boy who without Salam Calais' team would have been left alone because the government organization in charge did not take responsibility for the minors... or like the endless struggle of the Salam Grande-Synthe team to obtain a water point and a dumpster on the Loon-Plage camp...

You act relentlessly...

All this to tell you, beautiful souls of SALAM, that thanks to you the world on this border is a better place, that you restore faith in humanity, that without you the exiles would be even more neglected and that people like me would never have been able to know and understand what is happening at this border. Your work, your presence and your determination are essential to the survival of all the 'wretched of the earth' and to the maintenance and respect of human rights.

Thank you all,

Sophie, researcher at the University of Sheffield.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS.

TWO THANKS, THAT ARE OUT OF THE ORDINARY:

To journalists:

We always welcome them: massive information can move the lines... But this month some have behaved like real actors of solidarity:

- On 10th July, RFI's Amélie arrived with a batch of soft blankets, which she had bought because she didn't have time to try to get them.
- On 26th July, Clément, a French journalist who works in Sweden, was helping with Pascaline's dishes and evening distribution.

To Ghislaine, who on 17th July brought back five straw hats and made them available to those who distribute under the gnash.



Dominique Prost



© Clément Martz

THANK YOU TO THE FIELD TEAMS:
Present during the summer while others rest in the sun, in preparation, distribution and reception of donations.



Florent



© Clément Martz

- To those who have worked overtime to complete the reduced teams, Joseph and Joseph, for example, on 7th July.

-To the old ones, who also came as reinforcements, sometimes with friends, new volunteers, Elise (with one, then two friends), Jean-François and Cécile (from the mining area), Patrick (who came several times from Belgium during the month), Hubert, Thierry and Isabelle from FTS.

to the new ones, who also came to help: Amandine and Mathias from Maison Sésame, Sabine and Nathan on 29th July, Arnaud's two children who helped a lot on 8th July and were delighted to do so...

Our interns:

Charlotte sent us a very touching message of thanks:

"First of all, I wanted to thank you for this internship, it has brought me a lot both personally and professionally. I am grateful to have been able to do so within this association. I appreciated being able to be in contact with refugees and no longer be a simple spectator of their situation, especially since it also allowed me to understand the challenges that this represents. So thank-you, for everything! »



Denise Cassignat



Denise Cassignat

- to those who do the shopping, Denise on Wednesday 2nd (our photos) and Friday 25th July. On July 2nd, she brought back 400kg of pasta, 50kg of coarse salt and 30 cans of peeled tomatoes.

- to those who travel when needed:

*Geneviève and Denis to bring back 500 kg of potatoes and 40,000 trays from Calais for our distributions.

*Dominique, in urgent need of trays and spoons, for the same distributions.

- To our specialists:

*Josette, the Monday pastry chef.

*Henri and Jean-Pierre, the craftsmen who never give up to and repair tables and barriers that suffer from their age and the jolts during the jostling in distribution and the pots whose handles, with age, tend to unsolder... They secured them with stainless steel bolts.

- Sylviane, always unbeatable in the cleaning of the Guérin room:

She cleaned Ali Baba, the fridges and swept the basement on 24th July and on the 10th she had already cleaned the fridges with a lot of merit because salads have kindly rotted there (they had been put in an unplugged fridge).

THANK YOU TO THOSE, KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, WHO GAVE US GIFTS FOR OUR EXILED FRIENDS.

Food donations:

- On 12th July, part of what was distributed during the meal was provided by Abdelkader following the donation of his friend Slimane, after a death. In particular, there were bottles of water and mini sausages.

Slimane accompanied us that day in distribution.

- During the month, Abdelkader donated several large packages of frozen meat.



Textile donations:

Laurence, from the clowns of Eindhoven, who filled our vehicle on 2nd July, with what she had collected: we went to her house on our way back from vacation and it was a very beautiful moment.

- On 5th July, boxes of clothes were brought by Sophie, Bélinda and others.

-On 10th July Pascale de Killem arrived with her trunk full of blankets and clothes and two days later with more blankets.

- On 12th July, clothes and shoes were brought by Sueda and Ishak.

Donations of equipment:

On 12th July, we found a box of dishes in front of the Guérin room on our return from distribution, and we received containers from Anne-Cécile.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED US IN THE NAME OF A FRIENDLY ASSOCIATION OR IN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING ONE...

The Municipality of Grande-Synthe,

thought of us on 2nd July, after a festive meal, because there were about sixty pans “bagnats” left. Thanks also to Ghislaine and Jean-Pierre who went to pick them up.

Six new barriers were given to us on 16th July by the municipal workshops.

Thank you to Mr. Limousin, always anxious to facilitate our work, and to Henri who ensured the reception. These new barriers are certainly not new, but in much better condition than the previous ones, so damaged in jostling during distributions.

Jean-Pierre has kept pieces of the old ones, for possible repairs.

On 1st July, the young people from the EPIDE of Doullens arrived once again to help us with their companion.

On 31st July, the "Community" association of Arques brought a group of a dozen children (from 8 to 14 years old) with Justine, their director and two supervisors. Ghislaine took care of them in two groups: they came to find out about the association's activities - very attentive and asking good questions - and also gave a motivated hand (sorting shoes, a little cooking, preparing fruit salad, sorting and counting spoons and forks for the next distributions).

It is a project, supported by the European Commission, that aims to promote solidarity, citizen participation and human rights across Europe, with a focus on issues at European borders..

The Boquet farm in Bainghen, (where Quentin works for three months during the summer) gave us 37kg of courgettes and 30kg of tomatoes in July. It is a small village between Boulogne-sur-Mer and Saint-Omer. Thanks to the tomatoes brought back by Quentin on 26th July, only one box of paste was used, which represents a significant reduction in our expenses.

The urban farm of Grande-Synthe regularly offers us fresh vegetables that Geneviève fetches at dawn before coming to cook for the exiles.

On 17th July, it was tomatoes and cucumbers.

Marie, from the "GAEC des sabots communs" in Bourbourg, managed magnificently to get us bread and vegetables on 27th July, while her usual contacts were all on vacation:

"Good evening Claire, it's all good, Dominique came to pick up the bread and vegetables and give it to Salam for tomorrow."

The CFC association in Calais, which intervenes like us in helping the exiles, shared with others a large quantity of potatoes received as donations. We were able to benefit from 500 kg. Thank you to Geneviève and Denis who went to pick them up.

"Firm-fleshed variety so it holds up well when cooked," comments Geneviève, who knows her stuff.

The Sesame House regularly sends us precious gifts through the young people who come to help us (see above):

- a large lawyer's box,
- eggs and potatoes,
- a large load of blankets.

The OSE association offers the Calais team a large quantity of clothing every week.

The AMiS association which collected bread and vegetables for our distribution on 28th July and managed to get it to us: two successive text messages testify to this:

We recovered almost 20 kg of vegetables and breads and baguettes. It's your meal tomorrow and Tuesday. Where can we table that? St Jacques? today? Tomorrow?

We have recovered.... We went to Guérin. No Borders Medic has dropped everything off in your premises. Everything comes from the halls of DK, an organic store.

Aftha, with the "Help me" team from Pontoise, was back on 6th July at the Calais office with a large load (among other things, sneakers, jackets, sugar, red beans...



The scouts (the team of companions "Lesvertsdeterss"), originally from Villars (42) accompanied us from 14th to 24th July in all our tasks: Colombe, Timeo, Sidonie, Line and Victoire.



The reports of the teams honoured them: "Particularly friendly and efficient" and "Great team of scouts who immediately got to work and helped us a lot." Colombe, their manager, sent us two successive messages that were just as positive:

I wanted to thank you again on behalf of our entire companion team for the warm welcome to the Salam association.

We spent five beautiful days at the association where we did our best to help you. It was a great experience for all of us, which allowed us to better understand what migrants go through once they arrive in France but also to make ourselves useful for these people in need. Thank you again!

I also wanted to tell you that I would like to continue coming to Salam next year if possible. I am studying in Lille and I would like to try to come on Saturdays as I have classes during the week.



AND FINALLY THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO GAVE US FINANCIAL DONATIONS,

without which we would not be able to maintain the vans, put diesel in the tanks, pay for the water and electricity used in our premises, replace the gas bottles...

Thank you to everyone (close friends and strangers) who slipped us a banknote, sent a cheque, made a transfer directly or through Helloassos.

Thanks in particular to Fatna, who made us a big transfer: the recipe for the "Amazones Danse" gala (see our last two issues of this newsletter).

THANK YOU TO BETHLEHEM, ABDELKADER AND THE RENAISSANCE ASSOCIATION, TO FLANDRES TERRE SOLIDAIRE, TO THE PROTESTANT MUTUAL AID, TO THE AUBERGE DES MIGRANTS who share with us the ton of bananas offered by CONHEXA once a week, to EMMAÛS who give us surpluses every week, for Calais as well as for Grande-Synthe, to the Maison Sésame who shares with us two mornings a week the surplus fruit and vegetables from the ALDI store from the rue du Kruysbellaert, to the Ressourcerie de Montreuil sur mer ("Il était deux fois") and to the Secours Catholique de Berck which provide every month clothes brought to Calais by André de Merlimont, to the Audotri association which regularly supports us with donations of clothes and blankets, to the Calais bakeries and those opposite the Noordover, "La mie du pain" and "Aux pains du Nord" by Coudekerque. Week after week, they are there to help us.

Thanks to the Human Rights Observers, Tom de Roots, Clément Martz and Dominique Bouday who allowed us to publish their photos.

THANK YOU to the diocesan association of Lille which, through the parish of Grande-Synthe, has been making the premises of the Salle Guérin available free of charge for more than fifteen years.

THANK YOU to Michel who has been ensuring the layout of this newsletter, without fail, for years,

to Chris who translates it into English, month after month, for our website,

to Antoine who has been managing the Facebook Page, also without fail, since 2017,

to Guillaume who introduced us to the LinkedIn network three years ago,

and to Quentin who opened an Instagram account for Salam a little over a year ago:

salam_calais_grandesynthe.

And I ask forgiveness from all those who helped us in one way or another and whom I forgot, or who were forgotten to report to me...

Claire Millot

OUR NEEDS FOR VOLUNTEERS.

Dunkirk:

We need people on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from the beginning of the peeling chore (8 a.m.) to the end of the dishes (between 2 and 4 p.m.). In between, we distribute the meal.

Call Claire (06 34 62 68 71).

Calais:

Salam continues to distribute improved breakfasts every morning with tea and coffee.

But we are sorely lacking in volunteers, especially volunteers with driving licenses:

Meeting at 7:45 a.m. at the premises, 13 rue des Fontinettes.

Call Yolaine at 06.83.16.31.61.

CALL FOR DONATIONS.

MONEY NEEDS.

Without state subsidies and with a very significant reduction in subsidies from local and regional authorities, we still need money to make the association's work last:
Maintenance of premises and vans, fuel, purchase of missing foodstuffs...

Visit the association's website: www.associationsalam.org
section: "Support us"

Go through HELLOASSO:
<https://www.helloasso.com/associations/salam-nord-pas-de-calais/formulaires/2/widget>

or simply send a cheque to:
Association Salam
BP 47
62100 CALAIS

You are entitled to a 66% tax reduction on these donations, in cash by one of our volunteers, by cheque payable to SALAM, or by bank transfer (direct or by Helloasso)

A big thank you to all our generous donors!

TENTS AND TARPAULINS!

From dismantling to dismantling, the tents are being removed on both sites and we are unable to replace them. Many people sleep with nothing on them, in all weathers.

You can also buy tarpaulins, pieces of 3 m by 3 m (or 2.50 m by 3 m). They cost much less and allow an honest man to spend a night in shelter.

Otherwise, the most pressing needs at both sites:
BLANKETS (DUVETS, SLEEPING BAGS).

men's clothing from XS to XL: boxer shorts, long johns and thermolactyl undershirts,
socks, jogging pants, jeans, shorts, t-shirts,
MEN'S SHOES: sneakers or light hiking boots (sizes 40 to 46),
tap dances, caps.
backpacks,
lamps and batteries,
water packs,
bags (small backpacks, garbage bags, freezer bags, shopping bags and plastic bags)

clothes for women and children: while we have received too much for them for a long time, in recent times the number of families has increased a lot in our camps...

Food for Calais:

JAM and MAYONNAISE,
Milk
tea and sugar, instant coffee,
cookies (or pastries, or cake bars or pound cakes etc...)

To drop off your donations, go to 13 rue des Fontinettes, and call 06 83 16 31 61.

And for Grande-Synthe:

Especially canned vegetables of all kinds (we receive much less fresh produce for some time),
bags of pulses, pasta, rice.

Drop off your donations in the Salle Guérin, 1 rue Alphonse Daudet, behind the church of St Jacques on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The membership form for 2025 is attached to this mailing.

If you are not yet a member, do not hesitate to join us.

Whether you are an active volunteer or not, becoming a member gives the association the strength to the union! We were more than 250 members in 2024, help us to exceed the 300 threshold.

CONTACT US

<http://www.associationsalam.org>

salamnordpasdecalais@gmail.com

Facebook page: SALAM Nord/Pas-de-Calais

The LinkedIn page, which can be consulted at the following link :

www.linkedin.com/in/association-salam-nord-pas-de-calais

and the Instagram account: [salam_calais_grandesynthe](#)

Association SALAM
13 rue des Fontinettes,
BP 47
62100 CALAIS

Association SALAM,
Salle Guérin, Quartier St Jacques,
1, rue Alphonse Daudet,
59760 Grande-Synthe

Merci de remplir le bulletin ci-dessous et de le renvoyer à l'adresse suivante :

Association SALAM-Nord/Pas-de-Calais

BP 47

62100 CALAIS

Monsieur/Madame : _____ Prénom _____

Adresse _____

Code postal _____ Ville _____ Pays _____

Téléphone _____

E mail (important pour la convocation à l'AG) _____

☐ J'adhère à l'association en versant la somme de 10 €.

(5 € pour les étudiants et demandeurs d'emploi , adhésion valable jusqu'au 31/12/2025)

Date et signature :

☐ Je fais un don* à l'association Salam en versant la somme de : _____

*Par chèque à l'ordre de l'association Salam. Un reçu fiscal vous sera adressé

☐ Je souhaite recevoir davantage d'informations sur l'association Salam.

"Au regard de la loi n°78-17 du 6 janvier 1978 relative à l'informatique, aux fichiers et aux libertés, l'association s'engage à ne pas utiliser les données à des fins commerciales. Quant à l'adhérent ou donateur, il peut exercer son droit de regard et de rectification concernant ses données personnelles conformément au RGPD en vigueur depuis le 25 mai 2018"