



[www.associationsalam.org](http://www.associationsalam.org)

## NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

### MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

*(to Salam and to all those who participate in any way).*

"In this bitter cold here at the Grande-Synthe camp, the clothes you have given us bring us much more than warmth: they give us courage, hope and the feeling of not being forgotten. Your gesture means a lot to us. Thank you for your humanity and compassion."

*A.A. (Somali from Loon-Plage camp, 22 years old)  
Week of 17th November 2025.*

### EDITORIAL

## 2 ÉVÈNEMENT

Libération **Mercredi** 19 Novembre 2025

## ÉDITORIAL

Par  
**HAMDAM MOSTAFAVI**

## Abandon

Une obsession à l'origine de tant de drames. Au Royaume-Uni, la pression de l'extrême droite de Nigel Farage – la même qui avait conduit à la folie du Brexit – pousse le gouvernement tra-

vailliste de Keir Starmer dans ses retranchements, jusqu'à proposer lundi un plan radical anti-immigration. Dans l'illusion vaine de décourager les milliers de personnes qui risquent leur vie pour atteindre les côtes britanniques. Cette année, ils sont plus de 39 000 à avoir atteint les côtes anglaises, déjà plus que toute l'année 2024. Paradoxe fou d'un gouvernement censé être «de gauche» et qui ne cesse de durcir ses conditions d'accueil. La France participe à ce jeu dangereux, avec le déplorable accord «une entrée, une sortie», qui renvoie arbitrairement des migrants

sur le territoire français. Dans l'illusion, toujours, de contrer le discours d'extrême droite. Mais l'évidence est là : aller sur le terrain rhétorique et législatif anti-immigration ne fait pas reculer le vote d'extrême droite, mais ne parvient qu'à valider leurs idées dans l'opinion publique. La surenchère antimigrants des dernières décennies n'a pas réduit les arrivées. Et restreindre les canaux d'immigration légale, c'est aussi encourager l'immigration illégale, les passeurs, la criminalité, les conditions humaines déplorables... Notre enquête montre les impacts dévastateurs de ces poli-

tiques sur le territoire français. Dunkerque et ses environs, depuis que Calais s'est bunkerisé, en subissent particulièrement les conséquences. Les laissés-pour-compte de ces démarches cyniques évoluent dans des zones d'errance insalubres, privés de tout. Face à cet abandon, il y a indéniablement défaillance de l'Etat. On ne peut donc que saluer l'initiative de six associations, qui ont décidé d'attaquer l'Etat en justice pour «non-respect des droits humains», face à l'inaction persistante et à la seule présence policière pour toute réponse aux tragédies humaines. 

We are resuming the editorial of the issue of "Libération" (19<sup>th</sup> November 2025) which had the exclusivity of the announcement of the filing of the "liberty summary proceedings" against the State, about the living conditions in the informal camps of Dunkirk.

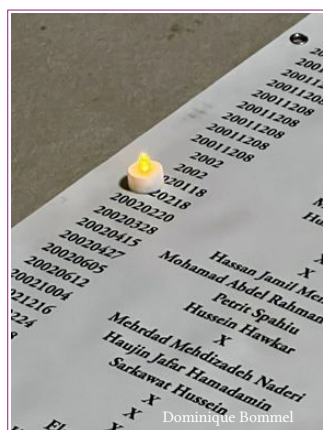
**LAST MINUTE. DUNKIRK : THE STATE CONVICTED FOR THE LACK OF HUMAN DIGNITY .**  
**The judges, in the administrative court (see p. 7/8) decided water containers distributions, toilets and showers installation and social roundups for the unaccompanied minors. (see our internet site, [www.associationsalam.org](http://www.associationsalam.org), in "Actualités")**

### A DEATH... CROSSINGS...

On 25<sup>th</sup> November, while preparing this text, I wrote: "A second month without death... »

But then, on the 26<sup>th</sup> at noon, the news came: "Yesterday at the end of the afternoon, a body was found on the beach of Leffrinckoucke, washed up by the sea. It would be an exiled person, who would have lost his life in an attempt to cross... (Delta FM news , 25<sup>th</sup> November at 11:25 am).

**This still makes 43 deaths (all causes combined) since the beginning of 2025. It's huge, it's gross ...**



The commemoration took place the day after the announcement, on the 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., in Calais, at the Parc Richelieu, and in Dunkirk (our photos), Malo les Bains dike, Place du Centenaire.

So there were attempts to get through!

Still, no crossings were reported by the Home Office between 14<sup>th</sup> November and the end of the month, and only four days saw crossings at the beginning of the month (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November). But attempt does not mean success... And it's true that we sometimes met people in life jackets...

During the month of November, the Home Office counted 2,338 people arriving in the United Kingdom by small boat on 33 boats.

In November 2024, there were 2,692 out of 50 canoes in ten days.

This year, the weather only allowed five days of crossings (November 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>). That's a difference of only 354 people, on half as many days of visit...

Certainly, always discreetly, some managed to make the crossing in trucks... We learn it by chance from the confidences of relatives who have received calls, or we don't know...

### Increase in the number of people per rubber dinghy :

"An inflatable boat, with 94 exiles on board, broke up in the middle of the sea." ("Voix du Nord" of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025, p. 16).

Of course, this is not the most frequent case, but we were at an average of 65 per canoe in October, almost 71 in November, while in November 2024 we were at 54 and in November 2023 at 50...

The risk of death in the event of a shipwreck is always greater, because of the number of people overboard, and because an overloaded dinghy is, of course, more fragile...

**The number of crossings has increased overall, despite the dangers, the police pressure:**

The Home Office announces between 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and 30<sup>th</sup> November **2025** the arrival of 42,537 people in small boats and over the same period a year before: 34,054...

And yet, we come across many soaked people who have missed the passage even in the period when many have succeeded (on 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November, about 80 on the 8th road from ST Omer to Calais).

**And the number of people in our camps is not decreasing.**

Proof of this is the number of meals we distributed during the month of November: 767 on average per day in Dunkirk, 903 in Calais where there are never less than 600 people on the hospital site...

Meanwhile, the bowls are not multiplying, nor are the volunteers...

We buy more bread, jam, mayonnaise, in Calais. For example, on the hospital site alone, on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, we donated more than 200 litres of drink: 120 of tea (6 thermoses), 40 of coffee and 50 of milk.

We buy more meat, pasta, canned tomatoes in Dunkirk.

We worked miracles with what we had to feed 1030 people on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1008 on 12<sup>th</sup> November and 1040 on 21<sup>st</sup> November in Calais and 1000 people on 11<sup>th</sup> November and 998 on 15<sup>th</sup> November in Dunkirk.

Twice in the month, our team in Dunkirk did not manage to make a distribution queue but was overwhelmed by the crowd of hungry people. Both times the place of retreat that is tolerated for us, in the parking lot of the AFEJi bus, allowed us not to leave with our meal ready...

**AT THE SAME TIME, WE LOOK AT THE NUMBER OF POLICE EVACUATIONS ON THE TWO SITES.**

**In Calais** there were very few deviations from the habit of three evacuations per week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays:

\*Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> replaced the operations of Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 7<sup>th</sup>: during the whole weekend of the 7th to Sunday 9th the city was paralyzed by the celebration of the inauguration of the Varan.

\*The operation of the 19th has been moved to the 20th, without this changing anything to that of the 21st, and without us understanding why...

The BMX site is evacuated almost every day (8 times out of 11 operations), it is often the only one.

But the Human Rights Observers's follow-up of the convoy is not always easy: it is reminiscent of the period when the police "had fun" by losing the HRO's Human Rights Observers team...

\* on the 6th, the convoy was not found anywhere else, "there may have been only one place concerned", says the Human Rights Observers,

\*on the 10th the convoy was lost, then "found on Land and Waters",

\*On the 27th, the convoy divided. The Human Rights Observers do not find him,

\*on November 26<sup>th</sup>, it's something else, the Human Rights Observer was not available, it was the "Secours Catholique Support Group" who attended the setting up of the convoy but did not have time to follow it.

The desire to harass the exiles is clear:

\*on 14<sup>th</sup> November, at the BMX, those whom the Human Rights Observers met said that some had gone to the "Active Life" meal. However, it is the State that is responsible for this distribution. The dismantling team should know where and when they are operating, and respect it!





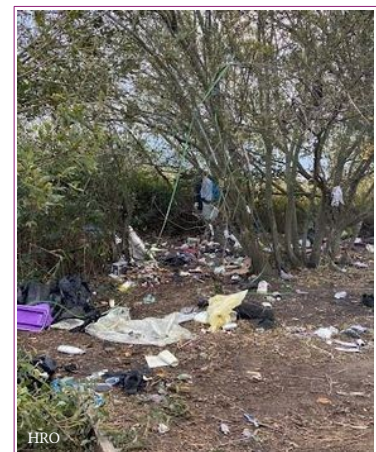
The seizures follow one another:  
On the 3rd, we see, on the BMX, that all the belongings are seized (a tent dragged on the ground, a bicycle, chairs) and a van that is filled with tents

Also on the 10th, with "Earth and Water", the tents dragged on the ground and were brought to a van.



Some days are more severe than others:

\*on 20<sup>th</sup> November, twelve CRS ( Republican Security Corps ) vans intervened on the site of the Hospital... It was an evacuation operation to take shelter, the police say, but the exiles report that they arrived at 6 am with a bus and arrested people. The **HRO** sees the seizures: a dump truck is full of pallets; a large van is filled with tents. They have: 53 tents, 16 of which are full of equipment, 21 tarpaulins, 24 pallets, 24 mattresses, 7 sleeping bags, 2 blankets, 1 carpet, 1 jacket, 3 shopping carts, one of which is empty...



Their photos show the seized equipment, grouped together at 9:20 am, and the pick-up by the "cleaning" van at 9:39 am

Because, yes, these vehicles are called "cleaning", but it's an idea of cleaning that we don't share. The photo shows the state of the site after their passage...

The shelter places in CAES are clearly insufficient: those who want to take advantage of them go to rue des Huttes. We see them when we serve breakfast. On 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 30 people were waiting, only one family had been taken. On 8<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November, about thirty people were refused. On the 25th, the bus does not come at all.

**In Dunkirk**, there were four evacuations in the month (on 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November), while there were eight last month...



It was a welcome respite, but the operations were severe:

\*On 5<sup>th</sup> November, the convoy was spotted at 8 a.m. (15 police vans, 2 vans and a cleaning dump truck, a backhoe). There were about a hundred people evicted, including a child, 20 left on their own, more than 40 tents were seized, according to the testimony of the exiles.

From 11:30 am, a security perimeter was established at the distribution site, the occupants of the stalls were kicked out and 18 to 20 stalls were destroyed.



\*on 12<sup>th</sup> November, a rather short operation (between 9:56am and 11:37 a.m.) took place only at Total, apparently targeting people who wanted to resettle this week, where they were before the evacuation of 28<sup>th</sup> October.

\*The next day, another operation stalled for a long time... A big machine is on the way, the role of which is unclear... Earthworks? The information arrived that tents had been taken near the "Transfo" around 10am. In fact, the **HRO** saw a large machine dumping tents and saw a dump truck full of tents.

\*On 20<sup>th</sup> November, at least 13 CRS vans left the hotel at 8 am, it was not really day light yet. They cut off the Route de l'Helle with a sign "road closed".

The police prevent a woman from going to a control for her pregnancy.

In Dunkirk, as in Calais, the shelter places offered in CAES are insufficient: refusals are reported to us by exiles by SMS on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> (several families), Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> the AFEJI bus did not come... These are just examples...



**The construction of the walls continues along the railway tracks.** It had begun on 29<sup>th</sup> October, the day after the major evacuation of the Total site. By 5<sup>th</sup> November, it had made good progress:



On 12<sup>th</sup> November, since 7 a.m., trucks have been bringing in new concrete blocks.

On 20<sup>th</sup> November, the construction of the wall along the road progressed. Under the pretext of protecting the exiles from the passage of trains, they are prevented from circulating by complicating access to the distribution site and water points.

We read in the press ("Voix du Nord" of 3<sup>rd</sup> November) that other walls were being built in Gravelines, in the Parc du Polder, to keep the exile camps away...

## **WHAT SCARES US:**

### **Hatred:**

#### **The one that is developing on the part of our fellow citizens:**

We know her well since the meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> April in the town hall of Loon-Plage (see our newsletter of this month, April 2025).

Things are getting worse: a man was shot in the legs on 4<sup>th</sup> November. We understand, from an article in "La Voix du Nord" of 11<sup>th</sup> November, that the cause would be a pilfering of ducks by exiles. The "calling" ducks that belong to hunters are, it seems, very expensive... The risk of escalation is great and very worrying.

#### **The one that comes to us from the United Kingdom:**

"Punch" operations, by right-wing extremists who quickly landed from England to frighten exiles, to try to discourage them from crossing the sea, are not new. The Salam team from Calais was confronted with it at the beginning of June. These incursions are multiplying in Calais and Gravelines.

There was one for the first time at the Loon-Plage camp on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> November. The English were chased away with stones, but we can fear more deadly fire on both sides next time...

#### **The means of combating the departure of small boats.**

The police are not allowed to intervene once the boat or migrants are in the water. We all knew this, even if we also knew that this rule is not always respected...

Unfortunately, things are changing:

In the newsletter of last June, we published the new policy for intervention in the 300m coastal strip, proposed by Mr Retailleau on 27<sup>th</sup> February and applied at least on 14<sup>th</sup> June on our coast. We had the impression that this practice had not become habitual ..

This is another proposal that has just come out...

The press ("Le Monde" of 19<sup>th</sup> November and "La Voix du Nord" of 22<sup>nd</sup> November) echoed it: it was a question of blocking the propellers of boats by nets thrown over them.

The British made their payment from the Sandhurst fund (to pay for the barbed wire !!) conditional on these new techniques to prevent the departure of the canoes.

Why is the France so keen to build barriers?... We just have to stop and let the British fend for themselves...

This process is very likely to cause the capsizing of the boat at sea...

An opportunity for our friends: the criminal risk incurred by the police in the event of the death of exiles, explains the article in "Le Monde"...

## **OUR COMMITMENTS IN LITIGATION AGAINST THE STATE.**

### **The appeal against the United Kingdom/France agreement (known as "1 in 1 out").**

It was submitted on 10<sup>th</sup> October by sixteen associations, including Salam. We are waiting for the hearing.

### **The liberty summary on the living conditions in the Dunkirk camp.**





The motion was filed on 18<sup>th</sup> November.  
We learned the next day that she would be  
judged in collegiate formation by three judges,  
and that they would come to the site on Friday,  
21<sup>st</sup> November at 9:30 a.m.  
These are signs that at least our demands are  
being taken seriously.  
Of course, the site visit started late but ended at 4  
pm





There was a crazy crowd: the judges, the applicant associations, the lawyers, the opposing party (prefecture, sub-prefecture, CUD, town halls...) an AFP journalist. More than thirty people, not counting an army of CRS (Republican Security Corps) to protect (!) all these authorities...

The judges listened attentively and asked all the questions. The representative of the State for sheltering showed incredible nerve, saying that anyone who wanted to be sheltered was sheltered and that all those who were outside, it was because they wanted to, even though we had the testimonies of people left homeless that morning...

At the hearing (which lasted two and a half hours), our lawyers clearly highlighted the need for dignity for all these people who sleep - and live - outside, a dignity to which they are entitled "regardless of occupation without right or title".

The court decision will be communicated to us the following week.

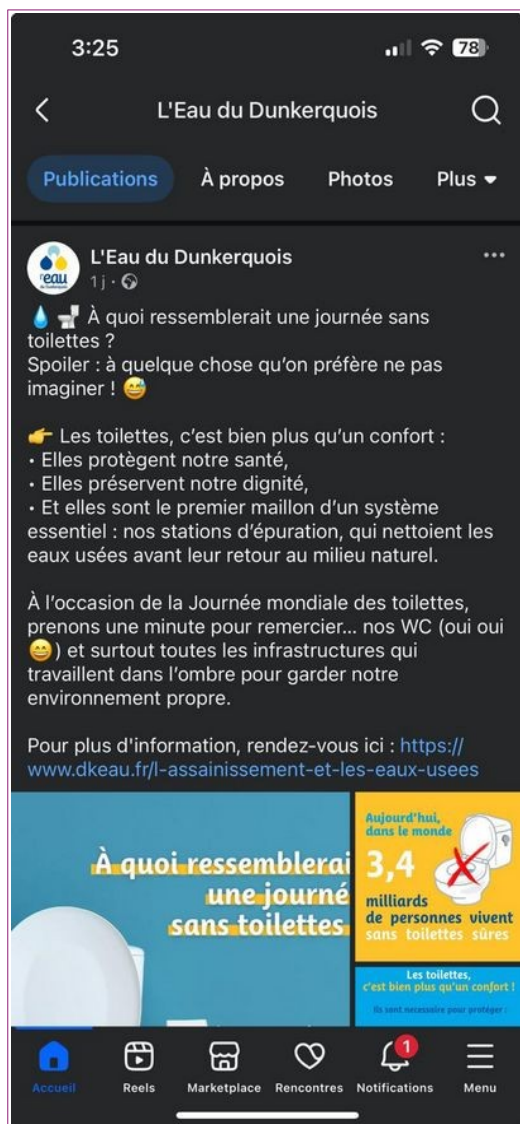
The lack of toilets (zero in the whole area) is particularly scandalous...

Was the man who wrote the Facebook page of the Dunkirk Water Syndicate on 24<sup>th</sup> November aware of the support he could give to people in exile in this territory that we share?

"What would a day without a toilet look like?"

*Claire Millot*

On the day of the hearing (26<sup>th</sup> November 2025), the "Canard enchaîné" published a very telling commentary.







## IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE VIOLATION OF RIGHTS AT THE BORDERS:

On our coast and in support from afar to friends at the other end of France.

## AT THE PALAIS DU LITTORAL, BEHIND THE COUNTER, FOR THE REFRESHMENT BAR OF THE LOWLAND BROTHERS CONCERT, on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

We brought back a good sum of money that will help feed and keep warm our friends exiled in the Loon-Plage camp. Thank you to Nicolas Duportail who gave us this great opportunity!



## IN INTERVENTION IN SCHOOLS.

- At the Anne Franck middle school on 14th November,
- At the LP de l'Yser on 19th November.



## IN THE EVENING AT THE SESAME HOUSE WITH ITS INHABITANTS.

A great team, used to working together, gathered that evening for a delicious meal composed by the inhabitants of the house!

## ***DUNKIRK, THE EVENING DISTRIBUTIONS:***

*Since the beginning of April, Pascaline has been giving us a weekly presentation of her actions. Here is a summary for the month of November.*

Pascaline took a few days of vacation, in the first half of November, a well-deserved vacation...

As a result, she only did two weeks in November: five distributions the first week, but only two the second week.

She was often accompanied by volunteers (Will and three others from Stricx /Help 4 Dunkerque, Patrick and Pieter).

Don't hesitate to say if one evening you want to accompany him.

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

"In this period there are many, many needs and people who are very, very cold...

Shoes, jackets, hats, gloves, socks are very popular, and blankets of course.

At the end of this first week, we were at "zero" stock of blankets.

Hoping for good news to fill up (Audotri, Belgium..) and especially that the reception conditions improve a little, following the trial...

The second week was a short week in terms of the stock of both blankets and clothes. Fortunately, there were no dismantling's that took place .

We still managed to do two distributions, one of which was big on Monday.

Stocks filled up well between Friday and Saturday. I didn't dare to count the number of requests pending, for the following week, but there were many, many requests due to the weather, and the fact that people cannot be sheltered (no more space with the AFEJI and no opening of gymnasium!!)...

*In photos, our arrivals on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> November, after the period of shortage.*



### **Special moments**

The first week, a restart on Tuesday with two trucks: Salam and Stricx, and stock from the two organizations...

On Thursday evening (20<sup>th</sup> November), a dismantling had taken place the same day in Ryssen and in the Mardyck forest. The stock came mainly from Maison Sésame.

Distribution on two different camps, one of which has a lot of women (camp very far from the distribution parking lot — I'm not sure if people come to eat there), in Transfo to give a tent and blankets to a 16 year old youth and finally at the bus stop to give blankets and jackets to a small group of Asian women.



## **Relations with the police.**

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>, the gendarmerie/Police were present at the railway track to ensure that there was no one on the railway track until the last train had passed.

## **DISTRIBUTION BALANCE:**

**were given, from 17<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November:**

- 9 tents
- a dozen tarpaulins,
- about 500 blankets/duvets/sleeping bags,
- a few more than 200 jackets / jackets / coats,
- sweaters / sweatshirts: 80 and 9 boxes,
- trousers / tracksuits: 90 and 9 boxes,
- 80 pairs of shoes,
- a little more than half a box of T-shirts,
- Socks/hats/scarves/gloves: loose and 2 bags and 4 cartons.

**THANK YOU** once again to all those who make these distributions possible:  
to the donors, to all those who sort and participate. »

***Text and photos : Pascaline Delaby.***

### ***WELCOME MESSAGES FOR REFUGEES...***

"Dear refugees, welcome to our country.  
I hope you will be treated well and feel safe and happy here. »  
***David***

"To all the refugees in the world, know that you are not alone in your difficulties. I firmly believe that everyone has the right to live a life free from fear, harm, violence and discrimination. "  
***Nisreen***

From the website [www.migranthehelpuk.org](http://www.migranthehelpuk.org)  
11th July 2024

### ***NO, EVEN HERE, I FORGET NOTHING...***

Here I am ten days elsewhere in the land of Teranga.  
Hot sun and red sand dust at the rendezvous.  
The colours and scents of Africa do me good.  
People's smiles warm my heart.  
However, behind these smiles, I know and I see their difficulties in living just on a daily basis.  
I hear young people, almost children, say that they want to go to Europe to have a better life,  
and my heart freezes.  
Because I know all too well the terrible non-welcome that this Europe has preserved for them.  
I think of Calais and Grande-Synthe in the mud and cold.  
Because no, even here, I forget nothing.  
I think of the volunteers involved there and I am proud to be part of it.  
And I think of the thousands of men, women and children who died on the way to their dreams.



Between Africa here and Europe there... between Calais and the UK.

The seas have become cemeteries.

I am here in the land of Teranga where I am welcomed with smiles.

But I don't forget... Over there...

**Text and photo: Ferri Matheeuwssen** (Facebook, 22 November 2025)

(Ferri, volunteer in Salam is Dutch)

### ***DISINFORMATION AND EMOTIONS -WEAPONS AGAINST EXILES.***

The elections in Europe (1) see extremist parties instrumentalizing migration and exiles, which are said to be the source of all the ills from which Western society suffers - employment (unfair competition with nationals), housing (refugees would take the place of nationals), or crime (exiles, and particularly in an irregular situation, would be potential criminals)... It is common on social networks to hype up a terrible news item, committed by a foreigner and/or in an irregular situation, in order to draw categorical and general conclusions (2). This is a well-known strategy – the "diversionary fact" described by Pierre Bourdieu (3). The scientific test of the facts contradicts these outrageous and fallacious analyses, but the damage is done - bad information runs faster than good information. Negative emotions (anger, hatred, etc.) blind people's minds and cause confusion.

Immigrants are vital to the economy, society and cultural identity in Europe as well as in the United States, a very telling example in difficult times for foreigners with a very aggressive anti-migration police policy intended to strike people's minds. Migration is an essential component of the "American Dream" – a melting pot of people from different countries who have contributed for centuries to the building and growth of the United States. As of June 2025, 51.9 million immigrants lived in the United States, representing 15.4% of the country's population. The United States is the world's top migrant destination, accounting for 17.2% of all migrants in 2024, despite making up only about 4.2% of the world's population (4).

Most migrants choose to go to high-income countries such as the United States, Canada or countries in Europe for their high economic and social stability. Migrants' reasons for immigrating are usually classified according to their motivations for leaving their country - pull factors and push factors. In both cases, the demanding migration journey they have had to overcome explains why they respect the rules of the host country and do not belong to a group "at risk" for crime. Their expectations are high when they arrive in the United States and they want to build a new personal, social and professional life.



In 2023, irregular immigrants accounted for 27% of all immigrants in the United States, up from 22% in 2021 (5). Their number reached a record high of 14 million in 2023 after two consecutive years of growth. Since January 2025, the population of illegal immigrants has begun to decline, with deportations and the reduction of protections decided by the Trump administration. The "unauthorized immigrants" label encompasses a complex array of statuses, including immigrants who entered the United States legally (the vast majority) and whose visas have expired. A minority entered the United States illegally. The number of "illegal" immigrants in the U.S. workforce has risen from 7.8 million in 2021 to a record 9.7 million in 2023. They accounted for 5.6% of the U.S. workforce in 2023, a new high after a previous peak of 5.4% in 2007.

Based on crime data released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Immigration Council (6) studied the relationship between total crime rates and the share of immigrants in the population between 2017 and 2022. There is no statistically significant correlation between the share of immigrants in the population and the total crime rate in any state. The AIC compared crime data to demographic data from 1980 to 2022 (the most recent data available). As the share of immigrants in the population increased, the crime rate decreased. In 1980, immigrants made up 6.2% of the U.S. population, and the total crime rate was 5,900 crimes per 100,000 people. By 2022, the share of immigrants had more than doubled, to 13.9 per cent, while the total crime rate had dropped by 60.4 per cent, to 2,335 crimes per 100,000 population. The violent crime rate decreased by 34.5% and the property crime rate decreased by 63.3%. Immigrants to the United States commit fewer crimes than the U.S.-born population (8). This is true for all immigrant groups, including "illegal" immigrants. Research and results obtained in the only state in the United States - Texas - that tracks criminal arrests and convictions by immigration status confirm this. Immigration can even reduce criminal activity, especially violent ones, with inclusive policies and social environments with well-established immigrant populations (7).

In France, the Observatory of Immigration and Demography (OID) enjoys a certain media notoriety acquired by certain opinion media (CNews, Europe 1, etc.). According to a researcher at the Centre for Prospective Studies and International Information (CEPII), the OID uses the good figures published by public organisations (INSEE, OECD, etc.) but its members do not publish in scientific journals; their work is not recognized by the academic community (8). The director of the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII) praised the "original" angle of study of the OID, which would insist on "the social effects of immigration". However, many specialists and experts such as demographer François Héran, who held the Chair of Migration at the Collège de France, point to "methodological biases that make it possible to magnify the orders of magnitude". For example, quoting absolute figures on the number of migrants makes no sense if we do not relate to the population of the host country. France is not "overwhelmed by immigration" as the OID warns - according to OECD and UN data, France is ranked 35th in the world for the proportion of immigrants and 17th in Western Europe. A CEPII economist also points out surprising approximations and calculations, such as the impact of immigration on the French economy. According to the OECD, foreigners contribute 86% of public spending, for the OID the ratio is only 45.3% - 40 points difference that changes everything.

When the message is emotional and passionate, it is no longer objective, especially on a subject as conflictual and political as migration. From the ability of the rags to betrayal – the more sensitive the subject, the more formidable the weapon.

**Bénédicte Halba**, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

Bénédicte Halba is president of iriv ([www.iriv.net](http://www.iriv.net)) and author of a blog on migration - <https://actions-migration.blogspot.com/>

- 1) The parliamentary elections in the Netherlands in October 2025 where Geert Wilders' far-right, anti-European and anti-migration Freedom Party (PVV) was defeated by a new liberal party; pro-European
- 2) A Sudanese refugee who had killed and assaulted passers-by during a knife attack in Romans sur Inserte in 2020, tried in October 2025 - he suffered from a psychotic state and a delirium of persecution, a passage to action during a period of confinement that aggravated his paranoia, Sore Seelow "Le Monde" Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2005
- 3) Pierre Bourdieu (1996), "Sur la télévision", BNF-  
<https://essentiels.bnf.fr/fr/extrait/c2daf9d1-f010-4c49-926f-fb7593648529-sur-television>
- 4) Migration Policy Institute et données des Nations Unies ( 2024) analysées par [Stephanie Kramer](#) and [Jeffrey S. Passel](#), "**What the data says about immigrants in the U.S.**", Pew Research Center, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025-  
<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2025/08/21/key-findings-about-us-immigrants/>
- 5) [Jeffrey S. Passel](#) and [Jens Manuel Krogstad](#) "U.S. Unauthorized Immigrant Population Reached a Record 14 Million in 2023"- 21 Aug 2025-  
<https://www.pewresearch.org/race-and-ethnicity/2025/08/21/u-s-unauthorized-immigrant-population-reached-a-record-14-million-in-2023/>
- 6) Hannah Boyke and Yared Avalos Iniguez , "Immigrants Do Not Commit More Crimes in the US, Despite Fearmongering", 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 , American Immigration Council (AIC)  
<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/blog/immigrants-do-not-commit-more-crimes-in-the-us-despite-fearmongering/>
- 7) Matthew T. Lee & Ramiro Martinez Junior "Immigration reduces crime, an emerging scholarly consensus", in Sociology of Crime, Law and Deviance, Volume 13, 3-16, Esmerald Group Publishing-  
<https://www.umass.edu/preferen/You%20Must%20Read%20This/Lee%20Immigration%20and%20Crime.pdf>
- 8) Julia Pascual "The think tank that manufactures the fear of immigration", Le Monde, Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025

### WHAT EXILE IS...

*Victor Hugo, who was fleeing from Napoleon III's police, was exiled to Guernsey. He returned to France in 1870 on the occasion of the proclamation of the Republic.*

Exile is the nakedness of the law. Nothing could be more terrible. For whom? For the one who suffers exile? No. For the one who inflicts it. The torture turns around and bites the executioner. [...] Whatever the momentary almighty do, the eternal bottom resists them. They have only the surface of certainty, the underside belongs to the thinkers. You exile a man. Either. And then? You can pluck a tree from its roots, but you will not pluck the day from heaven. Tomorrow, dawn. Yet let us do justice to the proscriptions; they are logical, perfect, abominable. They do everything they can to annihilate the proscribed. Do they achieve their goal? Are they successful? Probably. A man so ruined that he has nothing left but his honour, so despoiled that he has only his conscience, so isolated that he has nothing near him but equity, so denied that he has nothing left with him but the truth, so thrown into darkness that nothing remains to him but the sun, that is what an outlaw is.

**Victor Hugo, in « Actes et paroles », 1875**



## THANK YOU

### THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS.

They are coming to us younger and younger, thanks to them and their parents.



A. G. au milk shake



### They come or come back from far away:

- of Bailleul (and its surroundings): our friends from FTS,
- of Herzele (the guests of the Sesame House),
- de Beauvais (Catherine and Adriana),
- from Belgium: Ruben, Joséphine and Hasbia (the mother of the blankets!) and Pieter (photo-journalist, who will come to the camps for several months),
- de Maisons-Laffite (Bélinda, with her husband Chris, her harp and her friend Christine); His usual warm review will appear in the next issue.
- de Bergerac (Soline, with her friend Nadia),

### Thank you to those who prepare the meal:





**Thank you to those who distribute:**



**Thanks to those who tidy up and clean:**

A special thank you to Christine who sorts and cleans faster than her shadow. In the photo, Ali Baba's cave, restored by him.



**Thanks to the handymen:**

Henri who, at the beginning of November, fixed and then reattached the license plate of our Dunkirk truck, and who inflated and then re-inflated the front right tyre of the same truck: there was 2.5kg of pressure instead of 4.



To the handymen (professional quality) who installed, on 12th November, a competition sink (capable of holding our insulated boxes) and a hot water tank for comfortable dishes in the basement: Philippe and Henri. Thank you also to the diocese for the donation of the sink and to Jean-Paul for the balloon.



The team on Saturday, 22nd November who placed a “chute” to extend the evacuation of the sink. You just need to remember to slip it inside before closing the shutter, Arnaud reminds us.



Joseph who installed a foam tube on the bottom of the sliding door in the basement. The aim is twofold: to protect our skulls from too frequent collisions and to prevent the bulk of the mud from entering the room on days of heavy rain.

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

#### **Food donations:**

- a gentleman brought us a box of bananas from Fanny and David,
- Patrick's daughter offered fruit, which was quickly transformed into a tub of compote... preserved fruit,
- a gentleman has deposited a gift from Mrs. W., in various foods,

#### **Textile donations:**

- Catherine had just arrived from Beauvais with a friend: they brought back a case full of clothes distributed in the afternoon after washing up at the bus stop in front of the Sudanese camp with Pascaline.
- Ruben and his friend brought us a whole car full of blankets (they were there on 31st December for the distribution of fries and will come back for the same party on 1st January ),
- Mrs. F. has left duvets and a mattress,
- Clara brought a large bag of clothes and other things from the market. Everything is new,
- Hafid made us a donation from a destocking of major brands,



The two sisters: one lives in the Nièvre region and sent two parcels by Mondial Relay. She is the one who told the other, who lives in Grande-Synthe, about the existence of associations that help exiles. Both of them spoiled us with duvets and pillows,

- My little sister bought a few pairs of new socks for our friends at the market.
- Mr B. donated women's clothes and shoes,
- an anonymous person left blankets, clothes and shoes,
- a lady from Roubaix had prepared several large bags of clothes with her daughter, she calls us, we chat, she understands that she has also put things unsuitable for life in a migrant camp... Then, a very moving moment, I hear her daughter's voice behind: "But Mom, we're going to sort everything out!" And, that is what they did...

## And the rest!

A donation of two pots and a frying pan to donate to the camp...

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

- **Our sister association in Bailleul, FTS**, every week to reinforce one team or another in Calais or Dunkirk, the permanent staff and those who pass by.

- **Our other sister association, Maison Sésame**, often also in support of our teams and, again this month, behind frying pans to offer pancakes on the camp during our distribution (if the weather doesn't prevent it!), the permanent staff and those who pass by. They don't arrive empty-handed: tents, blankets, clothes... and bananas as well, on several occasions...

- **The Emmaus community of Saint-Omer**, spoils us on Saturdays through Ursula: Every Saturday, fruit, vegetables, potatoes and bread...

- **The Emmaus communities from elsewhere**, sent to us by the "Maison Sésame" to help and share their collections, in the camps of Calais and Dunkirk.

- **The Tabgha solidarity grocery store in Dunkirk**,  
Thanks to Nathalie, who was there, and also, to Marie-Christine who made the transfer and wrote to us on 4th November:

"This morning I had a car full of packages containing cups and packets of dehydrated noodles. We stored them in the basement on the shelves. I also brought back four large crates of fruit that were distributed today. »



- **Le Secours Populaire / Copains du Monde,.... Popular Helpers / Friends of the World**

*Our message of thanks from 19th November:*

Hello Friends of the World, our favourite friends,

Thank you for the avalanche of gifts to our exiled Buddies from all over the world,

Thank you for the bread and pastries brought last week,

Thank you for last Saturday's delivery with peanut butter and instant coffee, in addition to bread and pastries again: how, in France, can you imagine a breakfast without coffee???

Thank you for the crates of clementines brought by Bruno,

And thank you for the new batch of bread and pastries brought again this morning...

All this week we have provided more than 900 breakfasts in our distributions in Calais and we do not know how we would have done without your help.

In a nutshell:

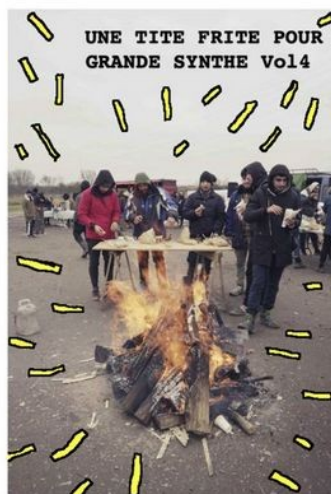
From the whole team, volunteers and hungry stomachs. THANK YOU!

- **The Bethlehem association of Saint-Omer** often sends us a donation on Saturdays, always breads from Audomarois bakers, brought back by Philippe.

**The Tadmoon association, from Le Mans**, once again mobilized to help us: Brigitte was there, in Calais, on 15<sup>th</sup> November, with us and with more than 200 kg of flour, more than 400 jars of jam, and lentils, and white beans...







#### APPEL AUX DONS

Chaque année depuis 2022 nous avons RDV avec l'asso Salam sur le camp de personnes en situations d'exil à Grande Synthe (Dunkerque).

Nous y organisons une **distribution de frites pour 400 à 600 personnes**.

Cette action est couplée avec l'acheminement / tri / distribution de la collecte de vêtements organisée à Nancy via l'association Michô Solidaire.

Nous avons besoin de 650 euros minim

100€ PDT

170€ gaz (4 bouteilles)

100€ huile (2X 25L)

60€ sauces (5kg)

220€ merguez (environ 440 merguez)

On fait un feu, on envoie de la musique, on essaye de mettre un peu de soleil pour les jeunes et les familles qui vivent sur le camp, dans le froid, quotidiennement traqués, privés de leur tente, de leur petit bout de bâche, couvertures et affaires persos...

Cette journée est aussi une manière de remercier l'asso Salam, qui nourrit le camp au quotidien, sans relâche, dans des conditions parfois très tendues, en équipe de plus en plus réduite.

MERCI à Salam d'être TOUJOURS LÀ

<https://www.associationsalam.org/>

MERCI à VOUS de rendre cette action possible.

<https://www.helloasso.com/.../bonjour-desordre/formulaires/4>



#### - "Bonjour Désordre", the smallest chip shop in the world:

Not only do they pay with their own person to distribute with us, not only do they collect for us, but in addition, on their way through France, they sow ideas for collections, and in all discretion... For example, we discovered that a anonymous association was collecting in Nantes...

Curious phone call... No, they are not homonyms... It's good for us!

"These are people who make fries... I'll put you in touch with them... »

"Thank you, don't bother, we know each other well!" And again, they will be with us for the leap into the year 2026.

- **Nacer, and his small association** (sorry, I've lost the name), brought us two boxes of bananas and bread, because generosity is not measured by the size of the association.

- **The parishioners of the Petite Chapelle Notre-Dame des Dunes in Dunkirk**, who collect the blankets. And thanks to Eric who watches over them and brings them back to us before the premises explode under the number... in particular on 11<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November.

- **The friends of Arques who had invited us in May to the concert of the choirs of the Aa**, Isabelle and Jean-Pierre brought back pasta, lentils and tomatoes..

**The students of the Darius Milhaud College in Sartrouville**, whose donations were brought back on 29th November by Bélinda, our favourite harpist.

She had to ask a friend to accompany her with her car so that she could transport everything. Both vehicles were full.



**The students of the Yser vocational school in Wormhout** : Allan, Timothée, Kallista, Ines, Ninon, Clara, Valentine and Fiona, accompanied by their teachers Mrs. Mamouni Anne and Mrs. Wemeare Gwendoline. After a visit to their class on 16<sup>th</sup> October, all adults, they accompanied us and helped us all day on 27<sup>th</sup> November. They did not come empty-handed: they brought us blankets, some clothes, food and hygiene products.

- **"Les paniers de la Mer"** from Boulogne came on 18<sup>th</sup> November to distribute 200 smoked fish sandwiches to the exiles of Calais.

- **The GAEC of the common clogs of Bourbourg,**

On 10th November, Jacky sent us this message: "This morning I dropped off 300kg of potatoes and two crates of red beets at the local office. It is a gift from Thomas and Marie of the GAEC "des sabots communs de Bourbourg". All their vegetables are grown thanks to animal traction, two magnificent horses, and are organic! »



**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 all those (close friends and strangers) who slipped us a note, sent a check, made a transfer directly or through Helloasso.

A special thank you to the generous person who wrote a big cheque to finance the purchase of equipment to protect our exiled friends from the cold.

**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, to the Maison Sésame who shares with us two mornings a week the surplus fruit and vegetables from the ALDI store on 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 OSE association which gives us a good quantity of clothes every week, to the Calais bakeries and those opposite the Noorderover, "La mie du pain" and "Aux pains du Nord" in Coudekerque. Week after week, they are there to help us.

**Thanks** to the Human Rights Observers, Pieter Robberechts, Dominique Bommel, Benoît from the Maison Sésame and Charles from the Palais du Littoral 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 forgot 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 am) 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). From outside France 00 33 6 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 am at the premises, 13 rue des Fontinettes.

Call Yolaine at 06.83.16.31.61. From outside France 00 33 6 83 16 31 61

**CALL FOR DONATIONS**

To drop off your donations in Calais, meet at 13 rue des Fontinettes, and call 06 83 16 31 61. From outside France 00 33 6 83 16 31 61 And for Dunkirk, drop off your donations in the Salle Guérin, 1 rue Alphonse Daudet, behind the St Jacques church on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**STOMACH IN HEELS?... CALL FOR DONATIONS!  
THIS MONTH, THE NEED FOR FOOD IS STILL ACUTE.**

There are still many exiles in our camps.

It is not easy to satisfy their appetites.

*(see above in "Events of the month")*

People are hungry.

We have trouble preparing enough food and in Calais they ask for flour to make their own pancakes...

**CALL FOR DONATIONS:**

**For Calais:** FLOUR, canned lentils, powdered sugar, jam, mayonnaise.

**For Dunkirk:**

Pasta, canned lentils and tomatoes, tomato paste, oil, cumin, raz el-hanout.

**WITH THE COLD, THE NEED FOR WARM  
CLOTHES HAS ALSO INCREASED...**

**And then... You can also make a cash donation...**

## **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](http://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).

### **CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

The membership form for 2026 is already 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 about 300 members in 2025, help us to keep or even exceed this number.

### **CONTACT US**

<http://www.associationsalam.org>

[salamnordpasdecalais@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.linkedin.com/in/association-salam-nord-pas-de-calais)

and the Instagram account: [salam\\_calais\\_grandesynthe](https://www.instagram.com/salam_calais_grandesynthe)

Association SALAM  
13 rue des Fontinettes, 62100  
CALAIS  
BP 47  
62100 CALAIS

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



## Bulletin d'adhésion 2026



### Principaux objectifs de SALAM :

- Apporter une aide humanitaire aux migrants (soins, hygiène, nourriture, vêtements...)
- Accompagner les migrants dans leur demande d'asile
- Informer et sensibiliser l'opinion publique sur la situation des migrants du littoral Côte d'Opale
- Combattre toutes les formes de racisme et de discrimination
- Agir dans les pays en difficulté
- Soutenir juridiquement les membres de l'association

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 31/12/2026)

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.