

Hello! We are Audrey and Justine, we come from France and we are going to talk about the jungle of Calais, an important and topical subject which has been given a lot of coverage by the media in our country. We chose it because we think it corresponds very well to the subject of immigration and it doesn't concern only France but all of Europe. Everybody must be informed about it, feel concerned and we think governments have to act to deal with this important problem.

Calais is a French city situated near the English Channel, in the North France. The jungle was the name of a refugees' camp which was in the forest, not far from the city. The refugees lived in tents and makeshift shelters. They had very bad living conditions (no electricity, no tap water, no food...)

Most migrants come from Afghanistan, a country where there's a war, and come to Calais because they want to reach the UK where they think they'll have a better life. A lot of them are very young and there are no women, or just a few.

Their journey from their countries to France is very long and dangerous. They cross several countries like Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Greece, and Italy...until they reach Calais by hitchhiking, by car, coach or transported in the back of lorries. They have to hide themselves and they are frightened of being arrested by the police because they travel illegally. Among the migrants there are a lot of children often sent by their parents who have paid some traffickers so that their children are smuggled across borders to Calais.

Sometimes, migrants have got family in the UK and they try to join them because they are convinced in England, they will have well paid jobs, better living conditions and they will find happiness.

In the camp, some French charities help these people by giving them some food, milk, blankets and water.

But on the 22th of September this year, the jungle was destroyed by bulldozers. The French government decided to close the camp because they considered that it caused lots of problems and that it acted as a magnet attracting more and more immigrants. All the migrants were evacuated, the migrants were frightened and wondered where they could go after that. Many of them were arrested. The others live in the streets today, in Calais, where they are very cold and live in terrible conditions. They are waiting for something to happen so that they will be able to reach their Eldorado. It's really hard for them to be alone in a city they don't know, with arrogant people and a new language difficult to learn. The minors are sometimes welcomed by French families and sent to school. The others live on their own, in parks, near the port of Calais or in the railway station at night because it's too cold outside.

So this problem will probably get worse because of wars, economic problems. It shows that the refugees are stripped and isolated. They want a better life but often all they obtain is a worse life. What can be done to help them?