Report from the November 2018 census of Calais

Headcount: 495
Estimated total population: 600 plus

On Friday 30th November 2018, 13 volunteers from l’Auberge des Migrants, Refugee Info Bus, Help Refugees and Utopia 56 conducted a census across 6 points in Calais. In total, we counted 495 people across all distributions between 18.00 and 20.00. Out of this population we obtained data on 416, speaking to 64% directly.

Refugee Youth Service is currently in contact with over 70 minors in Calais.

Country of Origin

In total we spoke to people from 28 different nationalities. The biggest population change observed since the last census in August 2018 has been the large increase of Iranians in Calais. An estimated 70% of this population come from the North of Iran and speak Turkish as a first language at home. Limitations in our methodology have resulted in the Afghan population being slightly under represented in particular. Whilst the community remains small, there has been a visible increase in people arriving from west african countries such as Mali, Guinea and Senegal. The small community from Yemen have also arrived in the last month. Despite an influx of new Eritreans at the end of summer, the population is slightly smaller than August, which may be due to people choosing to go to Belgium and other places as temperatures drop. This is true also for the Ethiopian population.
Time in France

Based on the people we obtained information from directly, we see the following patterns in time spent in France.

Adding estimated data that we were unable to obtain in person, based on our head count and reflecting the recent arrival of certain populations, the data looks more accurately like this.

The majority of people now in Calais have been here for less than 2 months. 35 people have been in Calais for one year or more, 12 out of them for 2 years or more.