

## Marseille Briefing Paper

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### **Introduction:**

France is a republic with Emmanuel Macron as the president. He founded and ran for president as a part of La République En Marche party. Jean-Claude Gaudin has been the mayor of Marseilles since 1995 and is a french politician for the republicans. Marseilles is the second largest city in France and is located in region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. It is the largest port for French business and was named the European Capital of Culture in 2013.

Marseilles is not in a position to cope with the influx of immigrants coming into their city. 40% of citizens on the outskirts and 26% of citizens in the city live below the poverty line. This is why Marseille must reduce the number of immigrants coming into the city and focus on a long term plan for them. To make Marseilles a better city for those living in it now, they need to direct resources towards rebuilding and improving infrastructure. Many buildings are currently falling apart and have become a danger to the people around them. They have many integration programs and must also better integrate immigrants into the city.

Ultimately, Marseilles wants those in the city to feel welcomed and thrive. They value their differences and want to be a place where ideas are exchanged from all cultures. We've always been a melting pot and plan to stay that way. There are many opportunities for migrants to prosper but they aren't aware of it. It is imperative that they publicize the job prospects and offer free healthcare to migrants in this city. Not enough immigrants know about their universal healthcare system that also protects undocumented immigrants. Immigrants have always played a large part in their economy and one of the first steps in stabilizing Marseilles is to create a sustainable economy. They look to see more emphasis on the importance of education, so the future generations can break the poverty cycle they were born into..

### **Demographics:**

Marseille, the second largest city in France, houses over 855,000 people, as well as 1.58 million in its surrounding urban area and 1.62 million people in the surrounding metropolitan area. With over 9,200 people per square mile, Marseille acts as a major port allowing waves of immigration. In 2014 an estimated 40% of the country was reported as muslim and it is believed that marseille may become the first muslim majority city in france. Marseille has a diverse religious community, with the third largest urban jewish population in Europe. Marseille is 52.6 % female and 47.4% percent male. 21.8% of the population are under 17 59.6% of the population are between 18 and 65 and 18.5% of the population are over 65. 85.8% of residents of Marseille were born in france while 14.2% of the country is immigrant. 10 years ago the majority population in Marseille was Roman Catholic and the secondary population was Muslim 150,000. As a multicultural port, Marseille has large populations of groups from all over the world. Some of the largest groups of foreign residents include 37,000 from Algeria, 32,000 from Tunisia, 30,000 from Morocco, and other large groups from Turkey, Italy, Poland, Spain, and so on. Marseille faces a large percentage of its population below the poverty line. With almost 26% of population below the poverty line, causing Marseille many problems. The nation's richest 10 percent have a standard of living more than 3.5 times higher than the poorest tenth. In France, the median post tax income in 2013 is 20,000 euros a year, or 1,667 euros a month. For a family of two adults and two children younger than fourteen, the median after-tax income was 3,500 euros a month.

**Key Points:**

- Before economic steps can be made, the city must be safer for its citizens and able to support the local economy to allow expansion.
- Increased spending for local services in order to provide more programs for incoming immigrants
- Harder reforms on illegal immigration and deporting more illegal immigrants.
- Rebuild or Fix crumbling structures throughout Marseille in order to provide safe housing for everyone currently living in the city.
- Increase support for groups that aid integration for youth immigrants in schools

- Conduct and maintain a more efficient system of providing immigrants with healthcare
- Increase housing programs and resources dedicated to immigrants.
- Slow incoming immigrants to further reinforce the strong bonds that were shown between government and certain cultural groups

**Background:**

The city of Marseille is the oldest city in France and has been known as a melting pot for hundreds of years, but the population is constantly changing and reflecting the world's migration patterns as a whole. Marseille, being located on the Mediterranean Sea gives it a unique opportunity to be the commercial capital of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. Being the commercial capital of the region gives Marseille the influence of different cultures and causes immigration to Marseille. One important part of the migration into Marseille has been the unrest in surrounding countries, driving people to move and find a better, more stable life. Since Marseille opened itself up to the world, it has become a hidden migration capital in the seemingly secluded country of France.

While Marseille had originally found that mostly Roman Catholic migrants were interested in joining their community, this has recently changed to become more Muslim. In sight of recent events in the Middle East and towards Asia, it does not seem surprising that they might be looking for an escape from the inner turmoil in their countries. It's shown that Muslims make up approximately 20% of Marseilles total population. This spike in Muslims has also developed to create more political and cultural Muslim groups, as well as over 70 prayer spaces and Mosques in the city.

Although many times in its history Marseille has been occupied and bombed by other countries or forces, they have mostly retained their original government groups and standings. Even in the 1940s when being occupied by German troops, Marseille waited out their fate, evolving only with the subtle changes of society and acceptance of new ideas and positions. Something else that has also evolved in Marseille is their twinning with other countries and agreements with more acceptance and stability following.

The 20th century was seen as a turning point for immigration in Marseille as many ethnic groups started to come into France from all corners of the world. These immigrants were coming from all parts of Northern Africa, Asia, and other parts of Europe all during different decades. With multiple years of immigration, the population looked quite different with “Greeks and Italians ... arriving at the end of the 19th century and in the first half of the 20th century, up to 40% of the city's population was of Italian origin; Russians in 1917; Armenians in 1915 and 1923; Vietnamese in the 1920s, 1954 and after 1975; Corsicans during the 1920s and 1930s; Spanish after 1936; North Africans (both Arab and Berber) in the inter-war period; Sub-Saharan Africans after 1945; the  *pieds-noirs*  from the former French Algeria in 1962; and then from Comoros. In 2006, it was reported that 70,000 city residents were considered to be of Maghrebi origin, mostly from Algeria. The second largest group in Marseille in terms of single nationalities were from the Comoros, amounting to some 45,000 people.” This period of immigration was largely caused by a need for jobs on the coast of France. Industrialized areas with factory owners were looking for workers to do hard jobs for them, and so the cycle continues as new workers replace the old ones.

Large amounts of Algerians and other Northern Africans have been the largest group of immigrants that have traveled to France to search for work in the 20th century. In the 1980s 1990s, a large amount of these African workers were not allowed to have a job in the country because of government reforms. The government of that time created heavy pushback on immigration and especially those coming to the country for labor opportunities. This was undone in 1997 when the more conservative government switched to socialist leadership. The socialist government eliminated many of the roadblocks for immigrants in the past to get into the country and to find work. This created a sudden influx of immigrants who could get citizenship for work and also use their “ *jus soli* .” The  *jus soli*  is one's right to live in the country that they are born in, this principle comes from the same idea that all children born on American soil despite their parents' nationality are granted U.S. citizenship. As liberal and conservative leaders go in and out of power, they continue to reform and change these laws that deal with immigration. This is why France's immigration numbers have generally gone up, but have still varied based on the party of the leader in the country.

During the early 2000s, the French government had to deal with revolts and riots from immigrants, even causing the country to go into a state of emergency. This incident happened in 2005 when two teens were hiding from the police and they both died from electrocution. This caused outrage in the country because the Minister of Interiors' statements about the area were seen to have been threatening these boys, and motivated by racism. Cars were lit on fire, and people rioted about these boys, causing Marseille to fall into unrest. This incident was eventually resolved but caused so much damage that relations between government, law enforcement, and immigrants have been shaky, to say the least.

Marseille has been a crossroad for Mediterranean cultures as they travel in and out of the city's popular port. Marseille has been known for its intense Jewish and Muslim population, accounting to a total of 30% of the city's overall population. Despite this ethnic mix in Marseille, the neighborhoods are fairly calm when it comes to crime rates and disputes compared to other regions of the country. This is because the people of Marseille are so friendly and everyone gets along. It is said that "a study found that French children of North African parentage in Marseille three times as likely to have friends of a different ethnic backgrounds as anywhere else in France"(Laurence). This shows how the people of Marseille are disregarding their differences of their ethnicity and focusing on how they all relate to one another as a community. This bonding of cultures is what has helped immigration in Marseille to the way it is today; although it's not 100% perfect, there's always things they can improve because there's still lots of improvement to come.

### **Leadership and Governance:**

As the country of France grows increasingly divided and moving towards crackdowns on immigration, there are still some leaders fighting for migrants and the positives of immigration. The Mayor of the 15th and 16th arrondissements was raised here by Algerian grandparents who migrated to Marseille before she was born. Her name is Samia Ghali and is a controversial figure in the Marseillaise government (The Guardian). She is opposed to the decisions of the current mayor of all of Marseille Jean-Claude Gaudin. He has made many contradicting statements in the past in support of immigration and not in support of immigration in order to swing votes in

his favor. Gaudin cannot be named as the prime politician who is using their power in government to gain votes from their people. Leaders like Gaudin aren't necessarily in favor of migration. People can see the politicians true colors when Gaudin has poured funding into other projects that don't benefit the Marseillaise population and especially not the migrant population. When "Ghali, and others standing for the city's outsiders, have been accused of similar things [as has Gaudin]. A football club ran by her cousin at Campagne Lévêque, the estate she moved to as a teenager, received nearly a million euros in subsidies between 2004 (when she started as vice-president of the regional assembly) and 2010; it had received no more than €4,000 annually prior" (The Guardian). Leaders in the Marseillaise government over the past ten years have made it hard for decisions to be made about migrants and asylum seekers when their own leaders some of which are immigrants are just trying to vote to please the people. Current president Emmanuel Macron also has promised immigration reform. He has remained stagnant on this issue ever since he brought it up while he was running for president. Last year, Macron looked to pass an immigration law that would please the right, with losing some popularity from the left. Per Bloomberg, "The law promises to streamline the processing of asylum applications while introducing tough penalties, including detention, for undocumented immigrants" (Bloomberg). The French government seems to currently be taking a less authoritarian stance on immigration with many illegal people entering the country and taking long periods of time for them to be deported, leaving these people chances to apply for citizenship later. This process is making it harder for both migrants and officials to manage the current situation

In the past year, France has struggled to manage an influx of migrants and how to deal with non-profit groups that are looking for a place for their asylum seekers. One year ago, a migrant ship, Aquarius, was circling the Mediterranean with Africans searching for a place to take them in. Countries continually turned them down due to their already large populations that have been added to in recent years by migrants. This boat was denied by all countries who have had immigration in the past, so they decided to try and dock the boat in France. The NGO's headquarters are in Marseille so they were going to attempt to dock in the small coastal city. Macron went ahead and told the organization that they could not dock their since it would go against what their country is trying to do in order to limit migration. In response to this incident,

Italy claimed that incoming migrants should have to enter France and then go to other countries. This is because France has let so many immigrants into their country in the past few years. This has caused many Italy to take further action to try to make a case against France's immigration policies in front of the EU. Ambassador Teresa Castaldo of Italy has requested that the EU place sanctions on countries, especially France due to an influx of Africans pouring into French ports. Movements in the 90s caused this large influx of Africans and other nation's migrants to go to France. Most of them came for jobs since France made it accessible for those to come into the country and work hard jobs that most French citizens preferred not to work.

Although France has quite a great healthcare program for its incoming citizens, it is hard for most of these foreigners to access. A healthcare program for migrants was introduced in "2000 [and] the Universal Health Cover (Couverture Maladie Universelle) was created as health coverage for all residents of France. At the same time, the State Medical Assistance (Aide Médicale de l'Etat) was created as health protection for undocumented migrants" (Public Health Reviews). Last recorded, only 10.2% of migrants choose to use this as their healthcare provider. This further proves that France is not giving enough outreach to incoming citizens so that they can further improve from where they are coming from. Although some data has been collected for migrants, it is hard for more to be utilized by the government when most data recorded is from private groups, not government agencies themselves. It proves to still be an uphill battle for migrants when they enter France with little support from its government and aid that is available, yet not easily accessible.

### **Urban Planning: Nolan Sayer**

Marseille is the third largest city in France. The main city covers 93 square miles and the metropolitan area covers 1,225 square miles. There are 9,200 people per square mile living in Marseille. Marseille has an urban population of more than 1.58 million and a metropolitan population of 1.62 million. Marseille was once home to a thriving shipping industry which has slowly declined. Because of this Marseille is one of Europe's poorest cities. ¼ of the population in the city is below the official poverty line. 40% of the population in the outskirts of the city are below the poverty line. There is no large section of Marseille that could be classified as a slum.

Individual areas in the city, especially those around the main train station and on the outskirts, are known to be unsafe to pass through at night and are the locations of most of the unsafe buildings in Marseille. The main beach serves as the main social area in Marseille bringing together many people from different social and economic backgrounds. The city center itself has been heavily gentrified and made into a tourist hub and the suburbs are where most of the wealthier residents live with the city containing the poorer citizens. This organization is the opposite of organization in the rest of France's cities. Marseilles public transportation outside of the city center is largely nonexistent. Taxis are the main option for travel around the city. People living in areas known to be unsafe have limited options for public transport.

Marseille is facing a major housing crisis. In the last month, two apartment buildings that had both been declared unsafe by an inspector collapsed killing eight people. Since then 1,511 people have been evacuated from 111 unsafe buildings (Nossiter). This is only a small portion of the 40,000 dwellings in Marseille that have been declared unsafe by Frances minister of housing in a 2015 report (Nossiter). This problem affects 100,000 of the cities inhabitants(Nossiter). Even university dorms have been declared unsafe and as a result of this many students are choosing to sleep elsewhere (Nossiter). A hashtag (#ShowYourSlum) started after the collapses for citizens of Marseille to share pictures of their poor living conditions. The hashtag has been used to share photos of buildings with massive cracks in their exteriors, Schools with collapsed roofs, houses with exposed electrical wires, and buildings that seem to be held up by nothing more than pieces of wood. Migrants have been found living in condemned buildings in tents. 13 French citizens and 141 French migrants were discovered living in a condemned building and now are

The main issue in Marseille is the extensive gap between those who have access to safe housing (often in the more expensive suburbs), good jobs, transportation, welfare programs, safe water, and healthy food options and those who have to live without these things. There have been 2 building collapses in the last month and 11 people died. Among the casualties were “an immigrant mother of eight, a student, a painter and an out-of-work African migrant with no papers.(Nossiter)” There is a large gap in what resources those with money and those without



money receive in Marseille. People without money like the ones mentioned above often move to an illegal career seeing it as the only way to make enough money to move up. Governmental programs to help poorer citizens people are notoriously terrible. As a result of this many migrants who have limited funds have tough decisions on what they will spend their money on. Because of that migrants are going without power and clean water in order to rent an apartment and be able to purchase food. Permission to anchor, a website where recent immigrants to Marseille have an open forum to help them move into the new city is full of negative experiences that both legal and illegal migrants have had to attempt to deal with these organizations. Most migrants have to rely on local charities to help them start a new life in Marseille. These charities although very helpful to the migrants do not have the money or resources to help every migrant and do not have the ability to provide a safe place to live, water, internet, schooling, food, and power to new immigrants like other governments that are accepting migrants do. Since the government in Marseille has no system set up to provide these things to new migrants and charities don't have the resources to provide them migrants have to find these things on their own.

One of the main tests for a city housing large groups of migrants is how the city accommodates the religious practices of all the new migrants. Marseille has struggled because the city only contains 70 mosques and they are all very overcrowded. Large groups of people spill out into the streets during services and occasionally block traffic. Plans to build a central mosque failed several times due to funding issues and complaints.

There is not enough open or existing housing to provide migrants with any sort of government-sponsored housing. Currently, our major focus should be on replacing and/or repairing the crumbling buildings in the city. We do not have the infrastructure or money to provide safe housing for migrants. We don't even have the resources to provide our current citizens with safe housing.

### **Economic Integration:**

Marseille a southern French multicultural port city, holds people and culture from areas all over the world. The city houses over 1.6 million people..... Immigrant pop. stats... Although a growing economy in sectors such as petroleum refining, shipbuilding, and other principal industries, the question that Marseille faces every day is, is economic integration possible?

Marseille's economy is characterized by its role as a center for trade and industry and a major element of the social and economic structure of France. Marseille's geographical position and commercial importance have made a major impact on all of France. Marseille acts as a large port for France and a center of food, people, and culture although Marseille has never been much of an industrial center. The GDP of Marseille is 60.3 billion dollars, as a port for commercial traffic at the port complex, exceeding 90 million tons annually. Marseille due to its position is able to attract foreign capital. Historically participating in shipbuilding, food processing, clothing, precision, and engineering, Marseille's ever changing economy begins to modernize and switch to a cultural high tech economy.

Marseille faces many problems economically today. With over 26% of its population below the poverty line, Marseille is considered one of the most dangerous cities in Europe and depicted a "drug smuggling hub" (WPR). To really display how problematic Marseille is, thinkers and debaters look to Flix Pyat- Third Arrondissement. Nordine Moussa, a 54- year old native youth educator accounts that "Politicians don't come here very often, and they're shocked when they do. But nothing changes" (Guard). Historically, immigrants have aided France economically in times of need. In 30 years after World War II, the country's economy needed foreign workers for factories, so the French cities started housing projects for immigrants. However after helping rebuild France, these immigrants were never fully integrated, and now their descendants are marginalized, living in ghettos. A large number of people in minority communities remain in "Fiche S" status, under police scrutiny. Today according to Le Parisien, a news source in France said that France overall has struggled to find workers due to 130,000 job vacancies and is pleading to the government to give work permits to illegal immigrants. In areas of high poverty in most French cities, men out of work in 2006 was 36%. (CNTFC). Many immigrants have low income, labor-oriented jobs. The immigrant population is woven into cities and streets, creating a sense of identity differed from the rest of France. However, the drug

stricken city sees very little change, with many citizens believing that France is unwilling to accommodate minorities differences or aid in immigration. In some cases, of the immigrant communities that live in ghettos of violence, drugs, and unemployment, public authorities have refused to intervene. These communities have little to no police or medical assistance, a complete neglect from the state.

Immigrants play a large role in Marseille's economy. The New York Times claimed that "the city had become Europe's busiest port, a thronging refuge for immigrants from everywhere, exchanging mountains of merchandise and armies for the riches of Africa, the Americas, and Asia" (NYT). Noailles is crowded with Lebanese bakeries, Moroccan spice marts, African wig shops, Caribbean eateries and filled with people from all over. (NYT). The common term for Marseille is a melting pot of cultures. Many immigrants live and work in central neighborhoods, however many still struggle. Marseille's streets are filled with artists, merchants, students, and tourists from all over the world. For example, in Belsunce, a neighborhood in a central zone of the historical area of the city is primarily Algerian vendors and Sephardic wholesalers.

Katharyne Mitchell, of the University of Washington, talks of Marseilles ethnicity based capitalism, as an inclusive city of urban citizenship. She argues that Moroccans and Tunisians with extensive nomadic links propelled the economic system from localized trading to globalized southern regional entrepot. She also talked about how the unequal access to housing and separated living, contribute to Marseilles problems. Some efforts have been made to improve the economic status of immigrants in Marseille, the recent Talent Passport, an initiative, can result in more qualified working immigrants from North Africa. In addition, there is a program providing tax breaks to companies that hire locally, which has reduced unemployment rates from 36% to 16% in two of Marseille's poorest immigrant neighborhood. (smith). However, the city attempts to solve these economic problems by "trying to move the poor out and become more bourgeois. But Marseille resists become bourgeois by its nature" argued Minna Sif, Marseille writer. It is argued that there is injustice in the labor market in its policies and practices with large unemployment rates. French unemployment between 15-24 reached 21.6%, and for university graduates of North African descent almost 27%. (Kathryn Mitchell). In France as a whole, 8.6 million people live in poverty (Local).The nation's richest 10 percent have a standard of living

more than 3.5 times higher than the poorest tenth (Local). The government has attempted to solve Marseille's economic problems through the regulation of immigrants, but could other methods help solve these problems?

Before economic steps can be made, the city must be safer for its citizens and able to support the local economy to allow expansion. The country has turned to data to plan a safer city investing about 30 million euros since 2008, in high-tech policing equipment, while taking many steps to halt the crime ridden streets of Marseille (Forbes). Economic integration is an adjustment process regardless of who or how immigrants enter a country. There needs to be an adjustment for both the host country and the immigrants entering. The country must first pay for welfares, which allows fiscal expansion. Providing housing, flexible labor markets, language skills, and education, can allow immigrants to find work easier. In the long run, it can help a host country/city greatly. Once the city is safe and stable, steps can be made to allow immigrants to integrate while contributing to the growing economy. The addition of immigrants if thought out thoroughly, can benefit the city immensely.

### **Social Cohesion: Sierra Devine**

One of the many key things that is important to understand about migrants today is the way that they socially assimilate, integrate, adapt, or are excluded from the general population. With Marseille, we understand that with a large number of migrants coming in, this is a deciding factor on how we might change our policies, or reinforce ones that are already making a positive change in our society. Seeing that our country is very accepting and modernized in the world of migration, it doesn't seem like much of a jump that Marseille is the same, but with a large Muslim migrant population, there is a little variation with our area in particular.

In Marseille, an important thing to understand is that the migrant population is changing, later in the 20th Century, the migrants were mainly Roman Catholic, but are now mostly Muslim faith, with even more Jewish as well. As said in *National Geographic* "sizable immigrant influx has been largely of Muslim origin" (NATIONAL). We also know that many of the immigrant families live in the working class housing blocks, with stable but lower-class jobs. While this does seem like a stereotype for migrants, they really have come into our city hoping for certain

things. One thing that motivates migrants to come to our city is our stability in both government and economics. This is very important especially to displaced peoples or people from areas of instability (such as war-torn countries). Others might see Marseille as a place of acceptance, fleeing from persecution and poverty.

The history of the social patterns of migrants in Marseille is one that varies going from section to section of our changing city. Many of our politicians want to understand more about our migrant population and how we can help to improve our city to better accommodate the migrants we already have. Many times in Marseille's history, ripples of fear have been sent through the population because of conflict in the Middle East. This fear added to tension for the Muslim population, but because of the government and religious Muslim groups, these issues were able to be solved quickly and without much conflict. This also connects into the current relations between the local population and migrants coming into our city. Mostly these groups are very easily assimilated because of the fact that Marseille is such a diverse city with a dense population that it is easy for new migrants to adapt and grow to become a part of the everyday flow, and quickly. But, on the outskirts of the city, where the population is more spread out and different ethnic and religious groups are separated, tensions grow and it becomes a bit more difficult to say that they are adapting as quickly. Obviously there are many different areas and each area will have a different role but generally, the less dense the population is, the lesser the relations between the new and old inhabitants of Marseille.

When thinking about Marseille, one thing to denote is that our policies do not work exactly the same as all of France, especially because we are known as the black sheep of our country. Our biggest problem is not that the policy itself is wrong, but that it just might not work as well on our city as it does on others. We are trying to allow everyone to get the same opportunities, but first, we have to get involved. *National Geographic's* Christopher Dickey understands this, writing that Marseille is trying to get more involved in different religious groups, "by blurring the official lines of church and state"(NATIONAL). It is a very hard task to make practical ways to work with different groups, so by involving ourselves in a variety of different and prevalent religious groups, we are understanding and working with groups that might have otherwise been seen as isolated from our community. This being said we do not see

recurring discrimination in Marseille to be a large scale problem. As quoted in the *Smithsonian Magazine*, "'If France is a very racist country,' says Susanne Stemmler, a French studies expert at the Center for Metropolitan Studies in Berlin who has focused on youth culture in the port city, 'Marseille is its liberated zone.'" (SMITHSONIAN). This is a very good way to be for Marseille and it seems like that is yet another reason that we stand out as a city of such high rates of migration. Having understood that we are a fairly "liberated zone" we do see a small amount more of discrimination in the less densely populated areas of our city - as we said above - because the religious and ethnic groups are more spread out. But it does not seem likely that we will be able to stop *all* of the prejudice and indifference in our city, it seems that we have a good balance now.

The media in our city rarely talks of the cohesion of our migrants, this is something that we take to be a good sign. When seeing nothing in the news about this topic, our government understands that the media has no problems with the migrants and their adaptation into their new environment. This is a wonderful sign that 12.9% of our population that is migrants does not seem to be having any outstanding problems that could be raised to the attention of the media. This also attributes to the fact that many of our migrants feel welcome because of our diverse population and accommodations for many of their different religious or cultural beliefs.

### **Youth and Education: Olivia Smith**

Marseille, France, considered the "Melting Pot" of France is a popular city in the southwest of France with big amounts of cultural diversity and immigration. As Marseille is a major city on the Mediterranean, imports and exports in the city are a priority out of their ports. Their ports are also the key entrance for immigrants seeking asylum. They receive many ships with immigrants each year into Marseille alone. With all these immigrants coming in, one of the many questions asked is how do young immigrants affect education and everyday life in the workplace? Although there isn't much evidence to support this question, it is evident that the immigrants are disregarded and are in need of better ways to integrate into Marseilles society through education and employment.

Education for youth in Marseille is struggling. It is stated that 12.62% of youth in Marseille don't go to High School at all, 33.13% complete only some of high school, and 27.8% complete at least some college (9). In one of the public schools in Marseille, Ecole Tour-Sainte, 75% of students were Muslim as of 2015; and 42% of students were from low-income families and were on a bursary. The Lycée Saint-Exupéry has recorded 80 female students would take off their hijabs before going to class and only poor families attended school because rich families don't want their children attending a public school (2).. In Marseille, the public schools are overburdened to the point that most rich families don't send their kids to public schools in the area because they don't believe that the school can provide the needed education that their kids will need. For immigrants however, it is much more difficult to integrate into these schools as most cases have to learn French entirely before they can even continue to learn other subjects.

As for diversity in the schools, it looks like the staff at both schools is for the most part diverse, although there are definitely more women than men as teachers. The public school system doesn't rely on that often because most kids that go there are not from wealthy families, wealthy families in Marseille send their kids to private school instead. For public schools in Marseille, there is an option for a bus to get to all schools (St Exupery has a bus station right next to school, Tour Sainte's bus station is down the street) so it's fairly easy to get to school although it might cost a lot of money to get to school by bus. Religious forms of education in not only Marseille but France, in general, is a sensitive subject, however, the national education minister has allowed the slow incorporation of the secular teaching of religious facts in schools. As for college in Marseille, enrolled in Aix-Marseille University there are 72,000 students, 2,800 of them being doctoral students as of 2015. That shows that there are low numbers of students enrolled in high educational programs throughout Marseille at all levels that are eager to continue their success beyond high school/college.

The rights of immigrants and youth in France are being disrupted as one of the main issues facing France is unemployment. Many youths in France and Marseille are unemployed, and it should be a mission of Emmanuel Macron to change this. From 5% of youths (16-24) being unemployed in 1970, the number has increased by 20% as opportunities for work are slowly diminishing. There was a bill being processed in April 2018 that could undermine the

protection of rights for asylum seekers, as there is a lack of fairness in accelerated procedures. The bill will reduce the period of time for asylum seekers to file their applications from 120 days to 90, causing border control to have to process more examinations in less time giving less time to consider cases. Also, a shortened deadline for appealing rejections, reducing from one month to 15 days for filing appeals of negative decisions. Removals would no longer be suspended pending appeal and risk of being removed from France before an appeal is decided to cause an increased maximum detention period. The bill, however, does not address migrant children in detention, thus not addressing the issue of the abolishment of the practice of detention of migrant children.

Education in France is a wavering subject, although it is accessible to all, the quality isn't quite as high as some other developed countries in the world. Accessibility for schools is free for all youth French citizens. According to the French constitution, it is a duty of the state to provide a free, compulsory, and secular form of education at all levels; however, this does not apply to immigrants and youth descendants of immigrants. Migrant youth are granted access to compulsory education from ages 6-16, however from 16-18 public schools are not required to accept them. Recently it was found that 52,000 migrant children in France go to school, however, special education kids are far more limited to these types of opportunities because of lack of resources. If they wish to continue on to a secondary school they can be assigned based on where they live. This is all based on their comprehension of the French language, in which the DAIC (Direction de l'accueil) provides language courses for immigrant children to get familiar in the schools. France developed a UPE2A program to help integration in the Aix-Marseille University, and other colleges throughout France for immigrant youth.

### **Health:**

In Marseille, France, the healthcare system is strong and progressive, however, immigrants have a harder time accessing it without documentation. With reform, it would allow them to gain insurance and better quality service.

For undocumented migrants in Marseille, it is more difficult for migrants/refugees to gain access to healthcare. Because of this, it weakens social cohesion since there is a large gap



between classes and groups of people. Studies show that only 10.2 % of undocumented migrants have access to what is known as the Universal Health Coverage. This scheme creates a universal health coverage for all of France, but it is also supposed to protect migrants who are undocumented. Anyone who makes the required social security payments is allowed access to healthcare and treatments. Expatriates who are of retirement age (in their own country) get access to healthcare for free. It is quite easy for them, as the system makes it simple to register for appointments, as well as make payments. In order to avoid any large fees for special treatments, some people French citizens will use a private insurance company rather than the healthcare system. The public healthcare system in France is ranked number one in the world, and the country prides itself in having excellent facilities and doctors. Because Marseille is a port city, many of the doctors speak English and other languages, which can benefit the immigrants. The EHIC card lasts up to five years and covers any treatments one might need during that time period.

It is clear that food is put in a hierarchy, like social class. The quality of diet affects people of all ages, sexes, genders, occupation, education, and especially income levels. The more nutritious food options appeal more to the higher class citizens because they can afford the jacked up prices. Saying that ALL citizens have “easy” access to nutritional food would be a stretch because multiple factors play into it. There is also quite a large garbage crisis, which produces toxic waste. ”Marseille, by the end of the decade, will have to find somewhere else to roll 60 rail cars filled with 15 tons each of garbage daily, said Jean St. Martin, a technical adviser at the Entressen dump 30 miles northwest of the Mediterranean port.” Migrant communities have faced some struggles when it comes to buying and being able to access food in Marseille. The system is flawed, as it states that it has coverage for migrants, however, most of them experience food insecurities.

### **Resilience:**

France has made many decisions regarding the short term and long term well-being of migrants. France has immediate housing programs such as CADA which are reception centers

for asylum seekers. In Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur, the region where Marseilles is located, CADA has 2,551 housing facilities and there are a total of 40,450 general reception centers in France. To help more asylum seekers in Marseilles, there are “524 places centrally managed emergency centres (AT-SA), 1,142 places in decentralised emergency shelters (HUDA), 297 places in the reception and accommodation programme for asylum seekers (PRAHDA), 780 places in reception and orientation centres (CAO)” (aida). ALOTRA, housing management has a program for asylum seekers that allow families to stay for a month depending on the administrative situation. Although there are immediate housing facilities, illegal immigrant struggle to find shelter and end up either at shelters or on the street. Recently, at least a hundred migrants have moved into an abandoned building set for demolition (Carretero). Many of these migrants are from Nigeria, Sudan, and the Ivory Coast. The majority of immigrants coming into Marseilles are muslims and need places to pray. In 2014, an estimated 40% of Marseillans were muslim and the city is projected to be the first muslim majority city in Europe (Dickey). Although there are more than 70 mosques and prayer rooms in the city, there are hundreds of people spilling out onto the streets and blocking traffic (Dickey).

As a first world country, France also has OFPRA, a specialized institution in asylum. It stands for L'Office Français de Protection des Réfugiés et Apatrides or The French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons. In 2017, on average, it took 114 days to process each asylee, an improvement since 2015 when it took an average of 216 days (aida). OFPRA and The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) signed an agreement to establish quality controls and an evaluation grid with criteria on three main stages of interview, investigation, decision to improve the quality of decisions (aida). The conservative President Macron wants “a complete overhaul” of the current immigration policy since facing pressures of being too lenient by the right, and too harsh by the left. The new, proposed legislation is similar to that of the German model. The French Minister of the Interior has agreed to a census which supplies migrant information in emergency housing. Mobile teams have been sent to emergency shelters to gather information on migrants. If undocumented immigrants are caught there, they will be deported. Homeless organizations are unhappy with this since their mission is to help everyone, no matter their citizenship status. This will also

increase the number of illegal immigrants on the street so they won't risk asking for shelter (FEANTSA).

It is nearly impossible to ensure the safety of migrants in Marseilles since it has trouble protecting its own people. Marseilles has been deemed the most dangerous city in Europe with many drugs rings and violence. Due to it being a port on the Mediterranean Sea, many drugs and illegal immigrants can be smuggled into the city. It has as many drug-related murders as New York proportionally (marseilles population review). Not only is the city dangerous, but right-wing politicians are encouraging racism towards Muslims. Eric Zemmour, an influential political journalist blames all troubles on French Muslim communities even though that is only 2.4% of the French population. Conservative politicians are spreading fear that puritanism will take control and French culture will be lost forever (Semotiuk). In 2011, France banned women from wearing niqabs to engender assimilation and decrease fear of Muslims. To fight this in Marseilles, the municipality works with religious leaders to quell anger and violence that stems from Islam (Weaver).

France has angered many humanitarian organizations since they're decisions have reflected a more strict outlook on migrants. A controversial bill was passed last August that human rights groups say are too extreme since it treats immigrants like criminals. It doubles the amount of time illegal immigrants can be detained and jails anyone entering France illegally for one year. The Human Rights Watch believes by shortening deadlines, the most vulnerable refugees are unable to get the help they need since they are the most likely to miss the deadline (BBC). In Paris, a 59-year-old woman was arrested and interrogated for three hours before being freed just because she charged the phones of a few illegal immigrants. Humanitarian associations believe this is harassment and should not be allowed. They planned demonstrations on April 8. The police did this because they have been cracking down on illegal immigration and want to send a message (NBC). The most blatant disregards of human rights are at refugee camps. It wasn't until 2016 that the first ever refugee camp to meet international humanitarian standards was built in Grande-Synthe. Before, the Jungle refugee camp in Calais was described as the "worst in Europe" since they used to have to live in tents and huts without electricity (Local.fr). The camp was built with the help of Doctors Without Borders and although it meets standards,

most families there don't plan on staying there permanently. The government was in opposition to its construction since they want to move immigrants from the North more into the center where they have more control (Davis). Although refugee camps in France are in poor condition, Marseilles has internet in the city with four main providers: Orange, SFR, Bouygues Telecom, and Free (Local.fr). There are 51.4 million cellphones in France out of a population of 67.1 million (Statista).

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