FRANCE, TERRE D'ACCUEIL : THE ESSENTIALS

The main points to retain concerning immigration in France in 4 key messages

1. FRANCE, A LONGSTANDING HISTORY OF IMMIGRATION

Immigration has been a structural component of French society for over one and a half centuries. Around 20% of French people have at least one foreign parent or grandparent.

Foreigners represent around 6% of the total population.
Immigration had long been of European origin. Today, 44% of immigrants come from the African continent (of which 30% are from North Africa) and 14% from Asia.

Amongst the foreigners welcomed to France, the proportion of refugees is around 6%. The right to asylum is a tradition dating back to the French revolution but legally recognised by the UN after the Second World War.

2. FOREIGNERS FOUGHT FOR THE FREEDOM OF FRANCE

During the first and second world wars, hundreds of thousands of foreigners fought under the French flag.

Many of them died for France: immigrants (Italians, Greeks, Turkish, Hungarians, Czechs, Polish, Chinese, Spanish, Armenians, Jews from Eastern Europe) but mainly North Africans, Africans, Madagascans, Indochinese… recruited massively in the French colonies.

The Great Mosque in Paris was built in homage to the 70000 muslims who died for France in WW1. It was a place for resistance to nazism and of refuge for the Jewish during the German occupation of France.

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3. DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES, INTEGRATION IS WORKING

63% of French people think there are too many immigrants in France (BVA, 2018).

59% of French people say "they are not at all racist" (CNCDH, 2018).

The children of immigrants have the same success rate at the Baccalauréat and access to higher education as the "natives".

In case of insult or crimes with racist, antireligious or discriminatory intentions discrimination, it is necessary to turn to the police of the Defender of Rights.

4. INTEGRATING ONESELF IN FRANCE IS SHARING THE VALUES OF LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY AND LAICITE

The State is the guardian of individual freedoms and social cohesion. It guarantees **the same equality of rights and responsabilities to each individual.**

In France, it is **the individual**, not the group or community that he belongs to that is subject to law.

That is why, in France, people are never censused on the basis of their ethnic origins or religious beliefs.

The French model of integration is not communitairism, a model that is found in the USA or the United Kingdom, for example.