



WHO DO YOU THINK IS THE MIGRANT ?

ABOU TAGOURLA / MAURITANIA - FRANCE

Who do you think is the migrant?

- ▶ WHO I AM ?
- ▶ Abou TAGOURLA, Mauritanian refugee in France since 2011.
- ▶ I arrived in Paris in February 2011 and I obtained the refugee status in May 2012.
- ▶ after which I took computer training to update my skills (I was a technician in my contry) a worked for big companys in Paris since 2013.
- ▶ I'm Art lover, I Founded Kingz.fr (since August 2018).

Migrant life steps

- ▶ 1 - arrival
- ▶ 2 - An address in order to be able to apply for asylum. and receive mails: France Terre d'Asile for all the process.
- ▶ 3 - **Applying** for asylum at the "Prefecture de Police".
- ▶ 4 - convocation at OFRA (Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides) for interview.
- ▶ 5 - Result
- ▶ 6 - Finding work/training and an accomodation.
- ▶ 7 - trying to be happy

The most important support : France Terre d'Asile

- ▶ first reception and information :

reception of migrants and a detailed explanation of the process.



The most important support: **France Terre d'Asile**

- ▶ **Necessary** : an address at the filing of the Asylum application:

France Terre d'Asile is the first point of contact for refugees. For example, when I arrived in Paris. It was France Terre d'Asile who provided me with an address, so that I could receive my mails from the institutions for all the rest of asylum process. Without address, it is impossible to apply for Asylum.



The most important support : France Terre d'Asile

- ▶ Reception center for asylum seekers :

the reception center is the place where we come to collect our mails, ask questions, make appointments with social workers and FTDA agents.

I will never forget this place !



The most important support : France Terre d'Asile

► integration program

the integration program allows migrants to learn French. In my case it was not necessary but many migrants need it. This program also allowed me to benefit from accommodation in a social hotel for 6 months at the end of the process when I obtained refugee status. Before I was at Maison des Journalistes.



My experience with integration

- ▶ integration is an important point. Among the blocking points there is loneliness, isolation (no voluntary isolation). Migrants even when they speak the language of the host country usually live in loneliness, or between migrants. One of the causes of loneliness is age and social condition. Migrants usually arrive adults. People of their generation are usually way ahead of them. They must start all over again



My experience with integration

- ▶ In my case, I arrived in France at 33 old. The Frenchs of my generation are as you imagine advanced in their lives at this age. It was hard to make friends of my generation.



My experience with integration

- ▶ I remember integrating association that help migrants in integration by organizing cultural outings, picnics or games. Finally I was uncomfortable because I wanted to forget about my migrant status. But I had the impression that these activities plunged me into my condition of migrant for 1 reason:
 - ▶ - the feeling of a pity for me in the eyes of the people I met.



My experience with integration

- ▶ It was during my training and my first work that I started to integrate. It was during my training that I really began to meet the Frenchs, to have lunch with them, to discuss with them and understand how they think.



My experience with integration

- ▶ Then, when I got a job, I made friends !



My experience with integration

- ▶ Integration is done only through work.

1 - social status

2 - proud of yourself

3 - self-confidence



Migrants needs (from my experience)

► For newcomers

A clear informations of the steps to follow for the Asile deposit upon arrival

Access to information: phone and Internet (very blocking point)

Better logistic support during the process
presentation of the rules of the living-together of the host country

The right to work before obtaining refugee status, even if it is a supervised work, with limited number of hours



Migrants needs (from my experience)

- ▶ For refugee status

Informations about training possibilities...

SUPPORT for finding housing even when they have work (I started working in 2013 and did not get housing until December 2017)

Support for migrants who want to start a business



Thank you

I would like to thank Ivano Magazzu and the Interact Programme for giving me the opportunity to testify in the conference.

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Abou Tagourla



**THANK
YOU!**

