

The lives of the descendants of immigrants and the Juvenile Justice system in France

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Introduction: contents

- Description of the reality, rootlessness and lack of integration that the descendants of immigrants, living in deprived French inner-city areas (*banlieues*), suffer in their everyday life.
- Brief approach to the Juvenile Justice system in France.

Explaining the terminology

- Second/ third generation immigrants vs. ethnic minority members or persons of ethnic/ foreign origin.
- These terms apply regardless of the juvenile's nationality being that of the destination/ residence country or not.

The lives of the descendants of immigrants in France

- Approach to life in France's deprived inner-city areas using Yazid Kherfi's front-line testimony as a person who grew up under these circumstances.
- Nowadays, Yazid's Kherfy is an urban security consultant (check www.yazidkherfi.com)
- He works and continues to fight towards improving the living conditions of the descendants of immigrants and to aid them in their integration in French society.

Territories of exclusion

- Living in the deprived inner-city areas: different perceptions.
- Boredom and the neighbourhood role models.
- Obstacles for having success at school.
- Comments: French policy on low-income housing projects as a segregation tool.
- Significant concentration of immigrant descendants at certain schools (*zones d'éducation prioritaire.*)

Violence and delinquency

- The unchanging environment of violence in the deprived inner-city areas. The appealing effect of this violence on immigrants descendants' from their early days.
- Delinquency as a fast and easy way of getting peers' recognition.

French immigrants' descendants double identity

- Non acceptance of the same living and working conditions as their immigrant parents.
- “*Ni d’ici ni de là-bas*”: The feeling of being between two opposing worlds without belonging to either of them.
- The lack of integration of the descendants of North-African immigrant (“*beurs*”) in France.

Juvenile Justice system in France: Competent jurisdictions

- Juvenile Court Judge (*Juge des mineurs*) assumes both care protection and juvenile justice competences for minor infractions and offences.
- Juvenile Court deals with of serious offences and crimes when the suspect is under 16 years old.
- Criminal Court has competence jurisdiction to examine crimes when the suspect is over 16 years old.

Juvenile Justice system in France: Type of infractions

- Contraventions (aggressions not resulting in the victim's inability, night uproar, driving a car without a license, etc.)
- Offences (serious aggressions, theft, attempt or complicity of robbery, fraud, etc.)
- Crimes (rape, voluntary homicide, attempt of murder, drug trafficking, aggravated robbery, etc.)

Type of educational measures

- Educational probation (prior to sentence)
- Restitution
- Placement:
 - Centres for educational action (*Foyers d'action éducative*)
 - Centres for immediate placement (*Centres de placement immédiat*)
 - Reinforced educational centres (*Centres éducatifs renforcés*)
 - Enclosed educational centres (*Centres éducatifs fermés*)

Control measures and penalties

- Judicial review (*Contrôle judiciaire*)
- Probation (*Sursis avec mise à l'épreuve*)
- Compulsory community work (*Travail d'intérêt général*)
- Citizenship training (*Stage de citoyenneté*)
- Prison (Principle of penalty reduction)

Educational sanctions

Some statistics: delinquent minors and types of measures passed during 2004 (Source: DPJJ)

Minors under Courts' placement (total)	1.819
Minors placed at Centres for Educational Action	854
Minors placed at Centres for immediate placement	229
Minors placed at Enforced Educational centres	172
Minors placed at Enclosed Educational Centres	68
Others (foster families, return to former placements)	496

Some statistics: delinquent minors and types of measures passed during 2004 (Source: DPJJ)

Minors staying in open custody (total)	28.292
Probation (as educational measure)	10.410
Restitution	7.493
Judicial review	3.948
Probation (as a penalty)	6.657
Compulsory community work	2.440
Educational sanctions	37
Others	1.600