

Suarez/Reuters, B. (2020). *More than 100 migrants are rescued by a Spanish coast guard vessel, off the island Gran Canaria on Nov. 2, 2020.* . The Christian Science Monitor. Retrieved from https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2020/1116/No-tourists-but-many-migrants-Canary-Islands-face-a-new-reality.

Link to article:

<https://globalvoices.org/2021/04/29/the-canary-islands-face-tensions-over-migrants-arrival/>

Nick Baker

Immigration Struggles in the Canary Islands

In this article the author, Laura Carrasco Alvarez, discusses the influx of migrants and its effect on one of Spain’s territories, the Canary Islands. The islands are home to 2 million people and in 2020 were flooded with 23,000 immigrants seeking asylum. The media portrays most of these asylum seekers as Africans fleeing turmoil in their lesser developed countries. But about 90 percent of the newcomers are Latinos getting to the islands by plane. The author discusses the unfortunate situations that result from migration, particularly how the immigrants are treated. The article comes from more of an informative perspective. Highlighting migrant stories, government procedure, and outside organizations and their goals.

The article also goes into detail on the involvement of the Red Cross and how they have been controversial in their decision making. There was an incident where the Red Cross ejected 64 migrants from one of their camps for being violent or refusing the help of the organization. The migrants stated that they didn’t want to share living quarters with another group since it would go against Spain’s covid protocols. This resulted in citizen led groups in support of solidarity with the migrants. And residents that live near the Red Cross began to give resources such as food and blankets to migrants. Other Spanish communities have begun taking in unaccompanied minors.

There is a mix of evidence that the article uses to cover the topic. They have various statistics regarding the numbers of migrants. And it discusses the bottleneck in terms of government resources. For example, out of the 23,000 people, 3,984 filed international protection claims. And in 2020 Spain only approved 5% of all international protection claims filed. They have examples of migrant deaths including one of a 2-year-old girl and another of an overturned boat during a rescue attempt.