

AVOUB



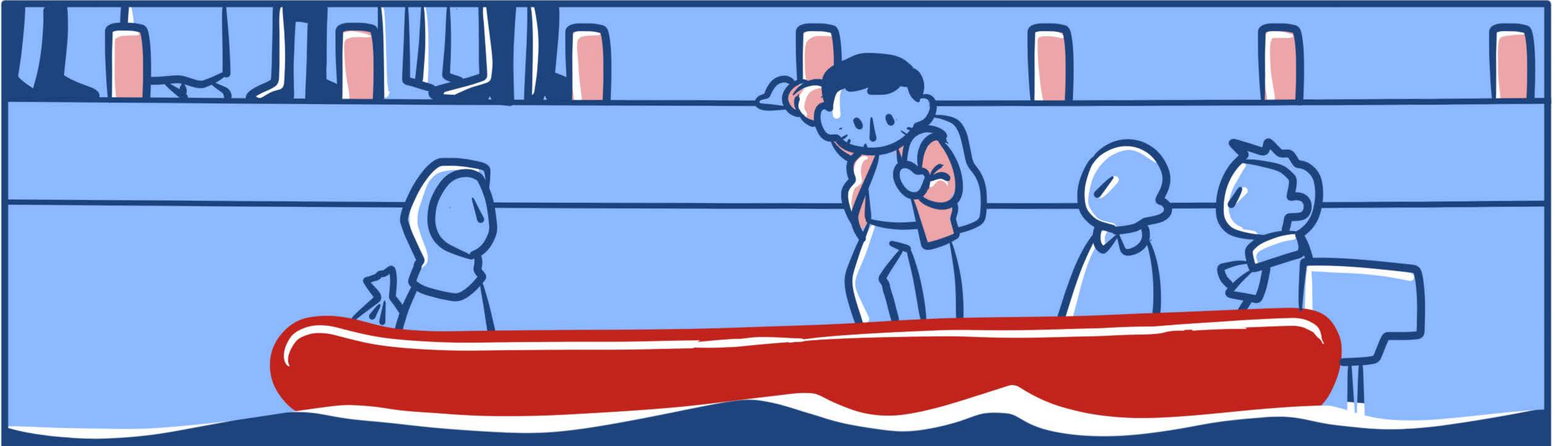
Ever since I was little, I dreamt of going to Europe to meet new people and improve my life, to help my family and my friends.

As I grew up, it just made more and more sense.

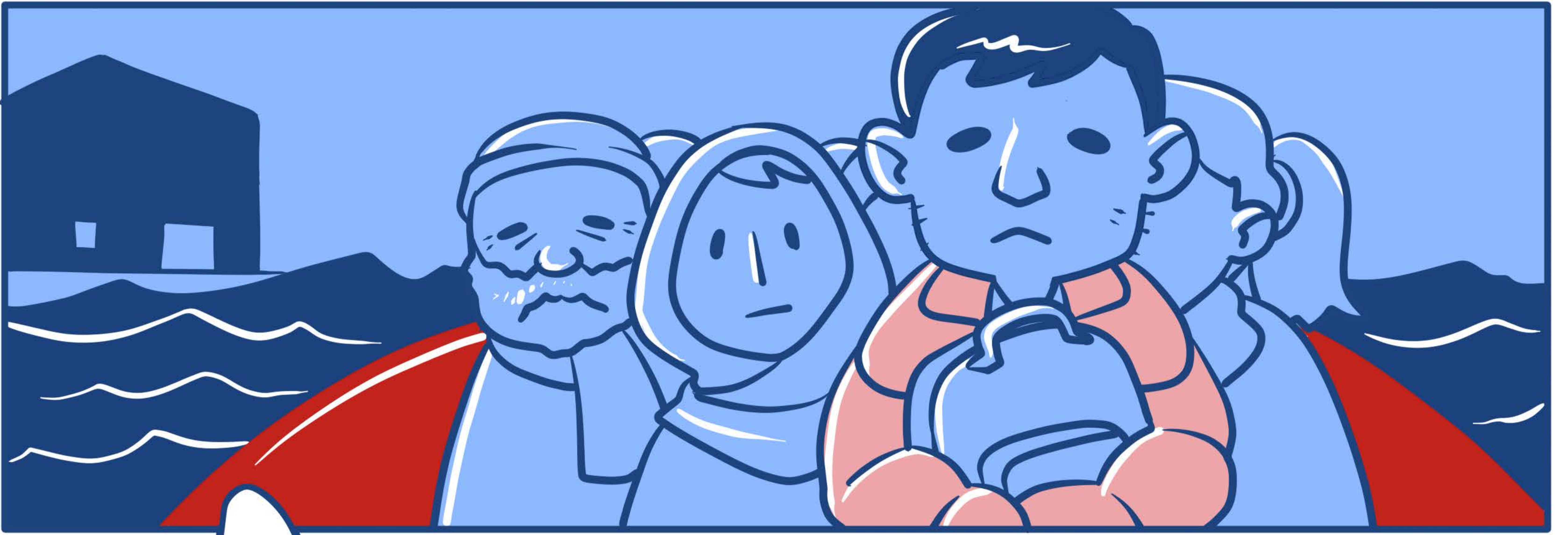
There are no jobs in Morocco, and it's hard to get decent healthcare unless you have lots of money.



People return for the summer holidays all the time. I figured it'd be easy to move to Spain, find a job, and come back like they did.



But the moment I left, nothing went as expected.







On the Spanish coast,
I felt like I was born again.



I can't describe what it was like seeing people die.



I couldn't do that trip again.



If you don't have family here, it's very hard to start out. With everything you hear about European riches, you don't expect to see people sleeping on the street - or to end up like that yourself.

Thankfully, in Loiolaetxea (a Jesuit association in San Sebastian), I met some very kind people who started to turn things around for me.

That's when I made ties with people at Alboan, my foster family,* and my new friends.



I started to learn more about life in Spain.

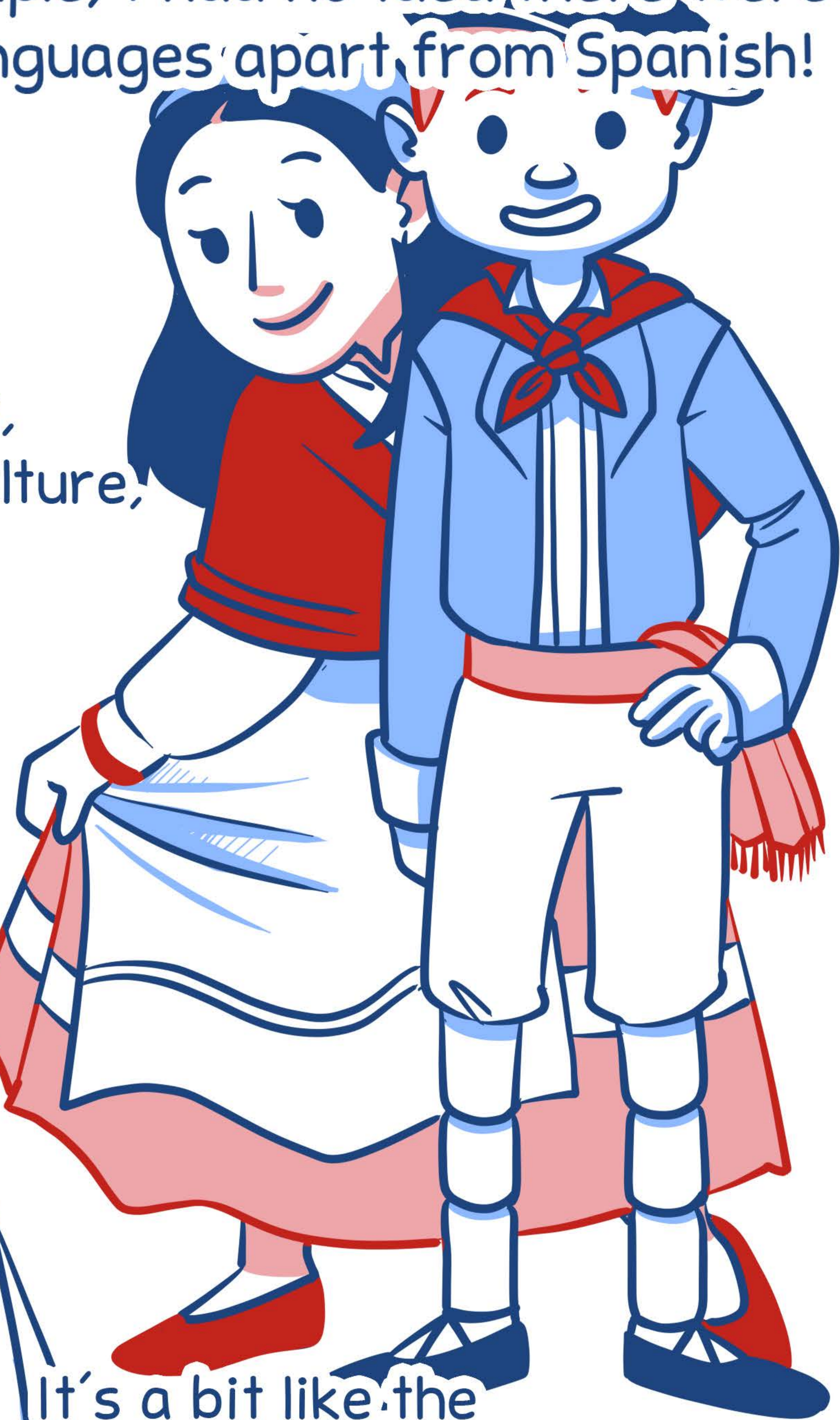
*Foster Family is a program from Loiolaetxea that links young migrants to families here, so they can celebrate special occasions, meet up, have someone to go with them to the doctor, etc.





For example, I had no idea there were other languages apart from Spanish!

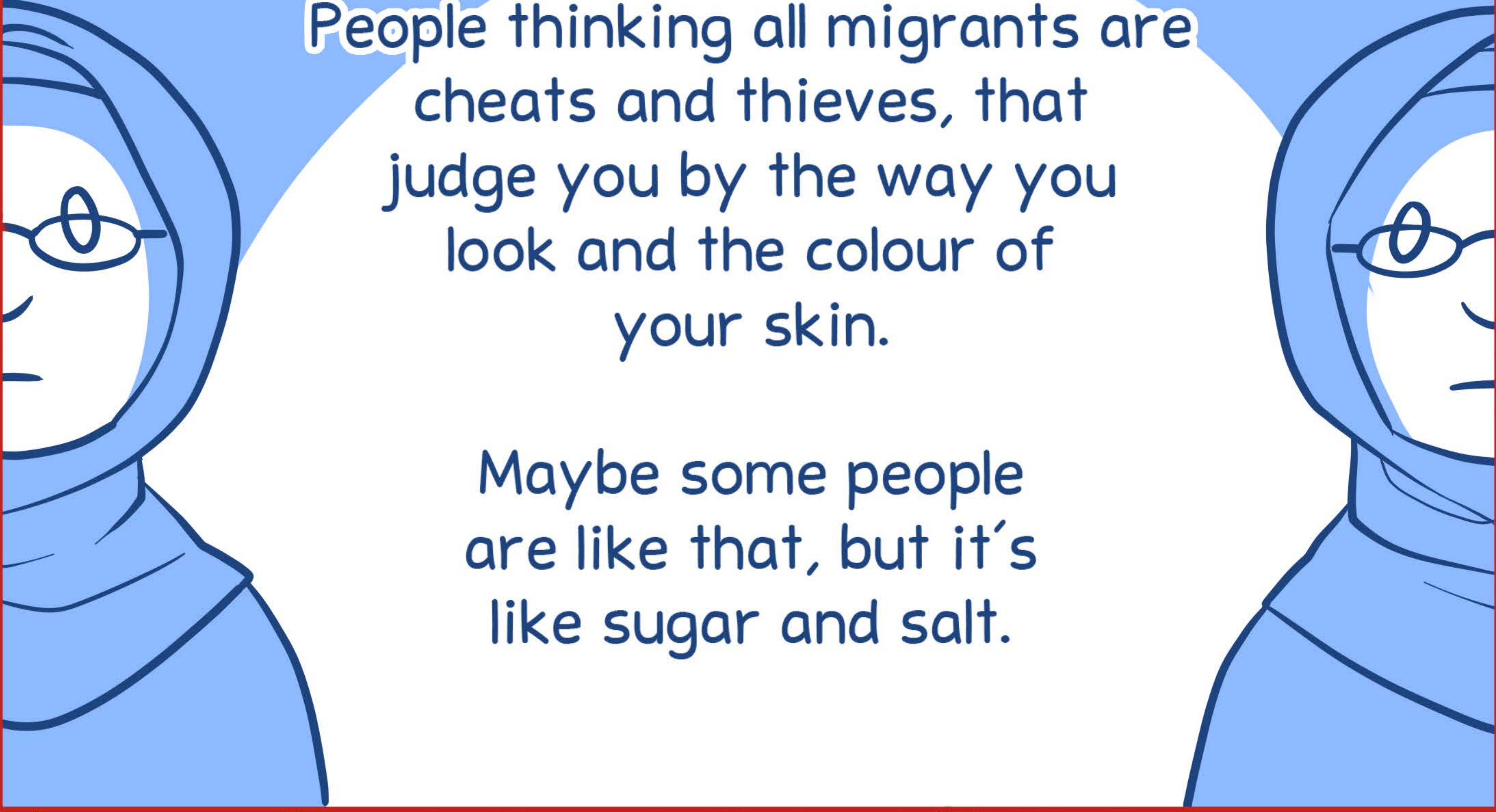
Here in the Basque country, they have a whole other culture, and people have special traditional outfits they wear on festive days.



It's a bit like the Berber/Amazigh people in Morocco, who have their own language apart from Arabic.

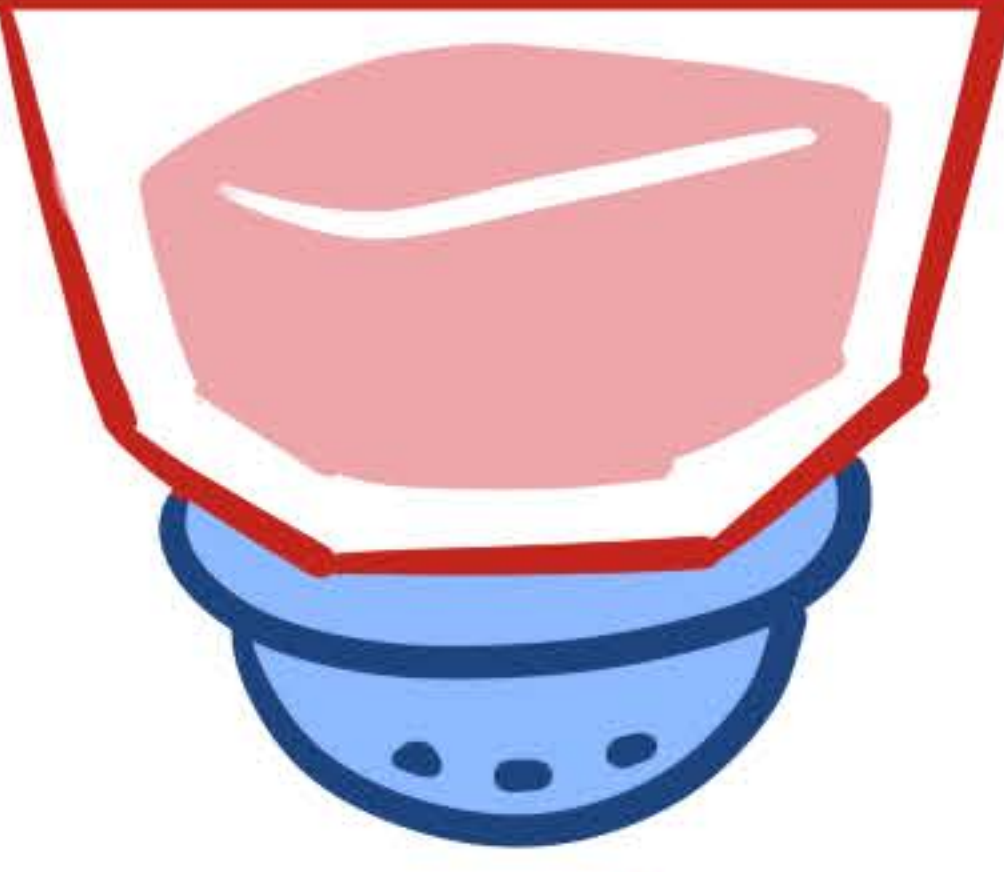


Then, there are things that are hard to stomach...



People thinking all migrants are
cheats and thieves, that
judge you by the way you
look and the colour of
your skin.

Maybe some people
are like that, but it's
like sugar and salt.



They look the same on
the outside, but if
you try them,
the flavour is different.

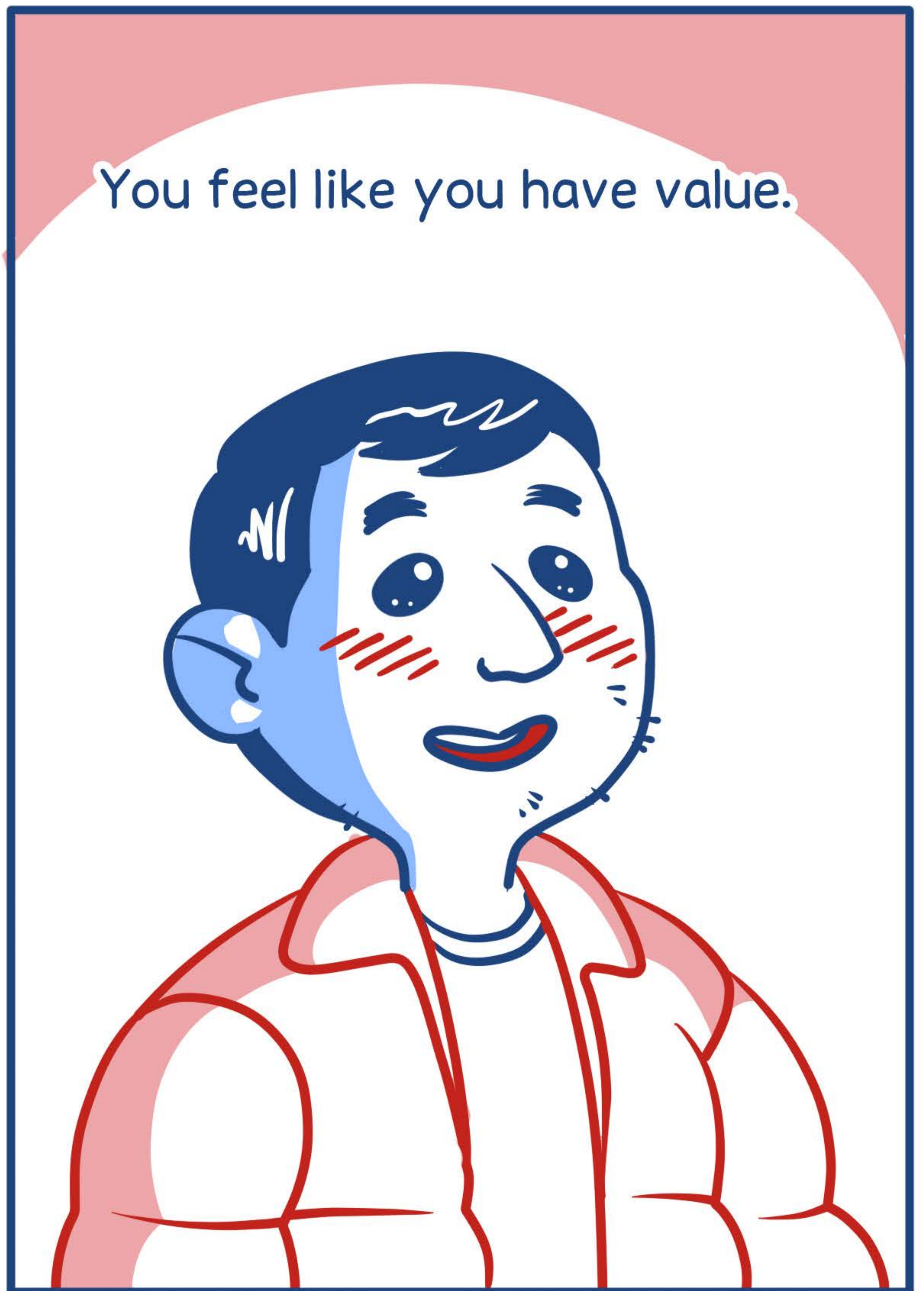
And you
need a lot of sugar
to make a great cake.

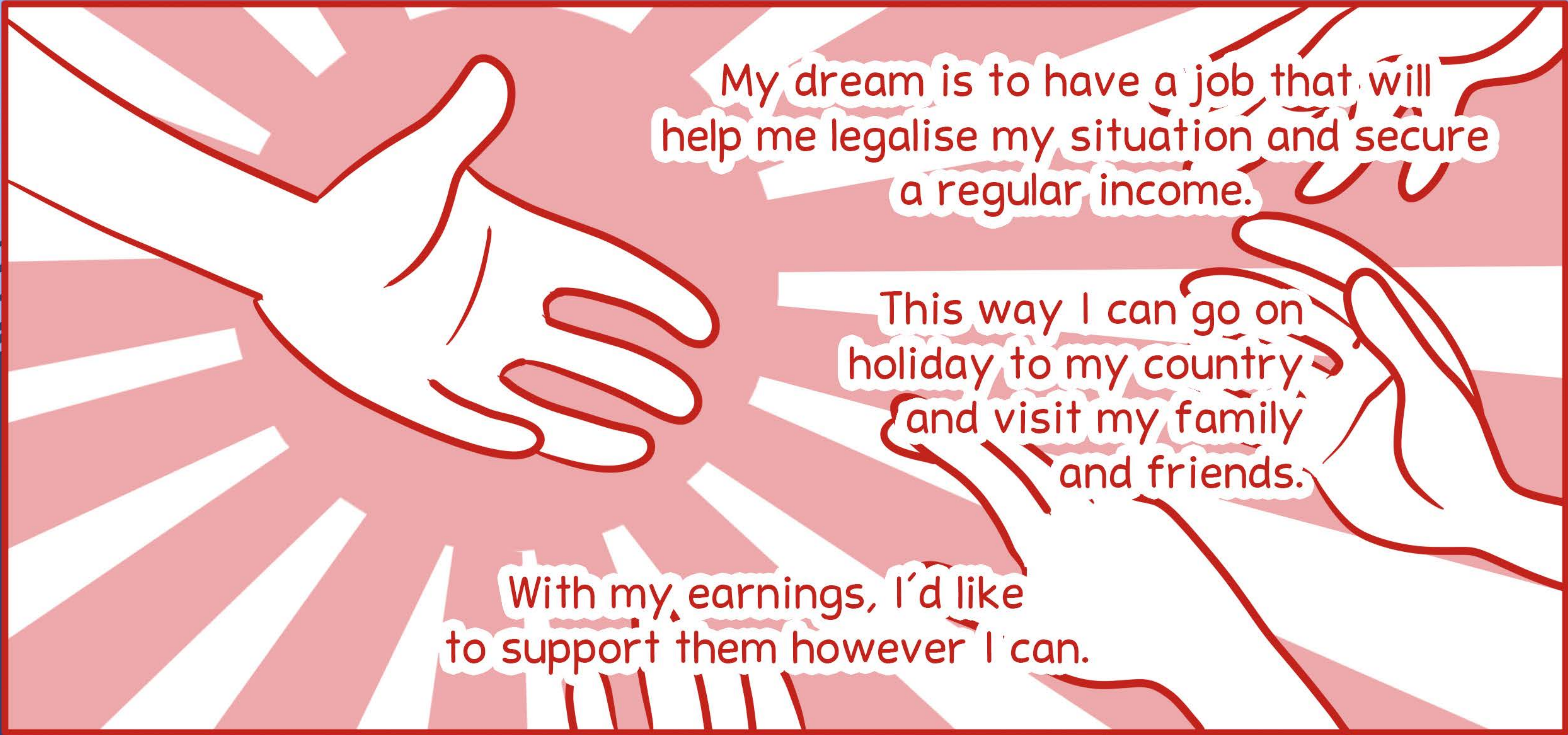
You can't just leave it out
because you're scared to
taste a little salt.

Bad people kill, but so does racism.

If we help one another,
live together, share what
we have... I think we'd
all be a lot better off.







I'd like to stay here and work until I retire.

I have a life in Spain.

I wouldn't like to leave it behind.

