

# Southern Shilha Berbers in France



The Southern Shilha Berbers in France are similar to other Berber groups. Employment opportunities were limited in North Africa, so they sought opportunities in France. Like other Muslim minorities, the Berber people in France live in run-down neighborhoods in Paris and Marseilles. Like other Muslim minorities, the Berbers believe the French look down upon them, much like the ancient Romans who called them "Barbarians." While some living in France become more secularized like the French majority, others cling to Islam as part of their identity and culture.

## Ministry Obstacles

Shilha Berbers identify Europeans and Christianity as a polar opposite of their Berber Islamic identity. They are torn between blending in with the French or self-isolating to protect their Muslim Berber identity. If they chose Christ over the Islamic religious system, that would present another cultural conflict.

## Outreach Ideas

The women are the most isolated members of Shilha Berber society. The men are working and acculturating, and in some ways, the children are doing the same at school. Ministries that offer Berber women hospitality and the ability to learn the French language would go a long way in reaching wives and mothers.



**SHIL-huh**

**POPULATION: 147,000**

**LANGUAGE: Tachelhit**

**RELIGION: Islam**

**BIBLE: New Testament**

**STATUS: Unreached**

## Prayer Focus

Pray for a people movement to Christ among the Shilha Berbers in France in the 21st century. Pray for Christian women in France to seek out the immigrant women and start a prayer ministry for them that will culminate in opportunities for hospitality and sharing the Savior.

**SCRIPTURE** This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! Hag 1:7

**PRAY** *that this people group consider their ways and turn to the Lord.*