



Telling Our Stories, Finding Our Roots

Interview with Ingrid Estevez

Interviewer: Rose Young-French

Interviewer 00:00:01

And it's recording? Okay, fantastic. Yep, it's recording. So, hello, everyone. This is Rose Young-French, the coordinator for Bideford and today I'm interview - interviewing Ingrid Estevez. And Ingrid is going to share parts of her story for the project. So welcome, Ingrid. And it's nice to see you again. Obviously, I haven't seen you for months because of the lockdown restrictions and [Ingrid hums] not being involved with volunteers. So it's lovely to see you, Ingrid. So thank you for agreeing to share your story today. Ingrid,

Ingrid 00:00:44

[Yeah no problem]

Interviewer 00:00:44

[I hope you] will find this fun and relaxing. And just to say, Ingrid, again, if at anytime that you would like me to pause the recording, then please, you can just say that and, you know, probably give me a sign to say that I want to stop the recording. But hopefully you'll - it'll be an enjoyable experience for you. So if I may start then, Ingrid, by -- Have you brought with you any significant photos or special objects that you would like to talk about?

Ingrid 00:01:18

Yes, I, yes I did. [laughter]

Interviewer 00:01:20

Okay, I can see a -- Wow, I can see a picture there. That looks like your children.

Ingrid 00:01:27

Yep.

Interviewer 00:01:27

Yeah. So if you'd like to talk about that today, Ingrid while [you -]



Ingrid 00:01:33

[Yeah.]

Interviewer 00:01:33

Whilst you're talking, Ingrid, I will probably take a few notes. Is that okay?

Ingrid 00:01:37

Yeah, that's fine, yeah.

Interviewer 00:01:38

Yeah. Okay. If you'd like to talk about your photo.

Ingrid 00:01:42

Yeah, in fact, I wanted to participate in in the project as an interviewee because I wanted to leave like a record about my family and especially all this for my children. And the fact that we came here to Devon was for them, especially, and and then I want to make sure that they have got some kind of reminder of why did we came here. It is very important as well for them to know about their background. I cannot speak about their dad's side but I will speak about mine?

Interviewer 00:02:41

That's lovely.

Ingrid 00:02:42

Mhmm. [laughter] I I have got in in my ancestors, have been had there are some immigration status coming from from Spain. For somebody, one person in my family, went to Italy and they marry someone in Italy and they came back to Spain with - and they have children with a Spanish surname. And the Italian surname. So that means that the immigration impacts in families. The the fact that they, when they immigrate the people, you get to learn new cultures and you get to to mix your culture with another people, which is very interesting, and get you to have like a richer sense of humanity. And the fact that for example, I, my mum before me, she came to London, when she was young, she was working in a museum and to get a better grasp of English, she came to London to learn English. My parents both of, both of them when they were together. And they did went because of their work. They went to live two years in France. So they both learn to speak French. I've been very lucky that both my parents they knew English and French. In 2002 I came with my sister to London. Both of us with the - that we wanted to experience the life in London, who was to learn to improve our English and then it was a really nice experience. Then, when I was in the university I studied Fine Arts, in Spain, in the university Polytechnic of Valencia. And in my last year - no, the year before - I had the chance to go as Erasmus. But I was not very comfortable with what I - with the things that I was doing was right. But I wanted to improve my skills in film and animation that was - they, they, what I wanted to really do was my passion. Then I, what I did is, I spent

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one whole year - I convinced all my teachers in the university [laughter] to - my faculty to be able to do one project of animation and the focus every subject towards the project. There was a Cineography [?], there was Film Studies, there was Animation, there was even Anatomy. There was so many subjects, I try to focus all of them, there was then [unintelligible] Erasmus.

When I pass the exams - you had to pass language exams to see your strength in different languages - and I've been lucky enough that from the people that was going from my faculty, there were two spaces in its country option. Me and my friends, we were three of us, we had the chance to choose first. I had good marks and I've been able to choose the first one of them I've been very lucky. [laughter] Me and another friend, we've chosen UK in between - sorry - Czech Republic, Belgium and UK. We were choosing in between those three options, because we were interested in animation. And I'd chosen first and I'd chosen UK, base in what I knew about the the place where I was going. And I went to Southampton Solent University to do my last year and I focus in the subjects of animation and film studies. When I graduated from my university from Spain - when you are Erasmus, you graduate to from your your own your own university, I mean if you pass one year, in in a host country.

When I stayed in - when I pass - when I graduated, I did work in Southampton, Southampton University as a learning multimedia designer. It was really rewarding and it give me the -- It made me feel that that I really knew what I was doing. And I did work there about nine months. It was very difficult because I was at the same time with a little baby. I had my daughter in 2007, and I start working in Southampton University in 2009. And it was very complicated because I was working full time and my girl was very little. But I was feeling rewarded. I've been able to work lay down in Winchester University as a digital media -- a digital - part time Digital Media Design lecturer and there I I had the opportunity to learn a little bit more about virtual reality about because I have learned a little bit of all that in in Southampton University. But in Winchester University, there was the direction of how to - about teaching. So I have at Southampton University the knowledge of how to create e-learning material. And then when I worked in Winchester University, I had to teach. I had to show another student.

It was very hard and the fact that I was foreign, that sometimes was a little bit on the way before - will have not understanding my accent. In fact, I remember talking with another teacher in the university, which was in - was also professor in Oxford, I asked him about it was possible to change the accent. I, it was a point that I say, well, should I really do that? Is it possible? He told me that it was possible. That you had to relearn the pronunciation. I decided to not go for it. Because I thought that, you know, I will lose my sense of identity. And, while I try always to be understood, and I try always that everybody understand me, I'm aware, sometimes I speak very quickly. [laughter] And my accent might come in the way, I really try to make myself understood with others. And the same I do with other people, I try to understand them. I try to understand - I mean, if I don't understand their accent, I will ask again. Or I will -- Yeah, I think that to have your, to preserve your own identity is important. And that's also one of the things why I believe this grant is awesome. To be honest. And, well, yeah. So that happened over there. But, give me the grant [?] thing, look, is true. I'm, I'm not I did not born here in UK. But I can do something about it here, I can, I can help I, I can do something.

In Southampton, I've been working as self employed as well, online. And at some point, when you - the two babies, it was very difficult. And was not so easy, when I had my daughter Aysleen in 2011. The



situation was not as easy. Towards the - well when she born I was, I think that I is when finished work in Winchester University. In 2013 we moved to Spain during few months. Then I leave there with my parents and my two daughters. In 2014, in July 2014, I came back and we - I reunited with my my ex and and and we we continue living in Southampton. For me it's feels like I have like kind of three three lives. My life in Spain. My life in Southampton and my life in Devon. When I stayed in Southampton was purely I stayed for my ex. I was, yeah. It's something that obviously you don't think how things will progress. [Interviewer hums] But, I don't want to speak much about -

Interviewer 00:14:09

That's absolutely fine, Ingrid. Yeah, we'll move on, yeah?

Ingrid 00:14:12

Probably I don't want to touch -- I want to jump on time. And - well after, after all this happen, we we move to Devon. And initially I wanted to go to London. I was passionate about going to London to see if I could get the another job. Before I say that I wanted to comment as well that in the time that we was travelling. I did work in a McDonald's. I'd been working there 3 years. When - in 2015 I started, when I had my son. My son born in 2015 and we, I stay working there for 3 years. In that time, I was not happy about it. [laughter] I wanted to do something in my skills. It was really hard, in a sense. I did get to do some volunteering work in a community hub, teaching watercolours to elderly people. And, I get fascinated about the fact that each one of them, they have their own story.

For example, there was a lady that she was the first manager in Hampshire, in the Co Op. There was, there was a story that was amazing. I was like, this is nuts and we're in a [unintelligible]. [laughter] I don't know. So that's another other things like this from I find it so amazing. I don't know what to - how to go it's incredible. [laughter]

And so when I when I came here in Devon was really a fresh start. From scratch. In fact, literally, I came - we came with what we were wearing. That's all. Mmm. We were with what we're wearing, a toy for my son, and our papers, that's all we have. [Crying] Sorry. It's very emotional enough for me. I Would you like me to stop the recording for a second? No, it's alright.

Interviewer 00:16:41

Okay.

Ingrid 00:16:42

This has been a huge journey for me, and still is. It's not ending yet. But. Yeah, and there is a lot over there. Then we stay in a refuge, living about six months. It was really hard, and you had to to live with another families. And they sometimes there were issues. There was so many things that, yeah, collide when you live with another people. It's not easy. But it also makes you learn a lot about others and about yourself. And the fact that all what was happening to us, or what have happened to us, impacted a lot in our relationship and with me and my children. And we've been working ever since, very hard about that.



In my side as well, I've had to improve some things that that was not alright, and I'm trying to do my best to make it up to what was before. But my my children are my priority. And even if I want to have a life and be happy, they are my absolutely priority. And yeah, when when we came here wasn't a thank you to my daughter, Aislinn [?], she's just brilliant. And we... Yeah, we learn a lot in the refuge. I will learn, that they all this have impacted in them very much. And I had to learn about different needs that I didn't know they had. Still challenging, but it's something that I'm learning and I'm trying to get more information, I'm trying to be proactive and also have impacted in in my mental health but -- I don't think that's an issue for me to say I cannot do things.

I think that to have mental illness is not something that stop you to to do really the things that you you want to do. And you can care about your family. And I think it's very important to know that we can surpass our limited - our limits and we can really, we can really do what is necessary. I think that is something that's should be should be overview. As that people give too much importance. To - the idea of mental illness as a barrier as a limit, when in reality is to be, yes, okay, that's part of yourself. It's like, look, I got - I don't know - I got like, my, my foot is - I don't know, again - is not an illness from the foot or something like that. It's to be taken like that in the sense that, okay, they well there are challenges but that no means you cannot deal with it. Is - you need help, maybe you will need help at some point, but I think that to ask for help is not a weakness. It's a strength, it's a strength. So yeah, I think that I have learned a lot about myself as well, I have learned about - whole self care helps a lot. A lot. It's something that should be, I don't know, between the school, I don't know should be everybody should know that is very important to care about themselves. And when I say care about themself, I'm not saying just to go to the doctors. Just to do something that you enjoy, something that you're passionate about, that is self care. To go to take a coffee with your friends, to go on holiday with your children to go -- To to do things that - there is that self preservation and that that meaning that something that give meaning about your life, give you give you meaning.

And I don't know if it's because I felt like I did not have that before when I was in Southampton. But when I came here in in Devon, it strike me, like, this is what is all about. It's about loving yourself, love each other, help each other, we are here to help one another. And the in the pandemic, it was the right timing for everybody to know that that's what we have to do to help each other. I'm passionate about trying to help others, about the fact that we need to be to give hope to one another. We are too caught up in ourselves. And we don't think about the general society, about what everybody else is -- I do understand it's personal when you're talking about yourself, but it's not only about us, it's about everybody else too. And I kind of feel like even if this is an interview, that is an interview to me, it feels like I'm part of something. And I really, I really like this.

Interviewer 00:23:16

Fantastic. Ingrid, that's amazing. Thank you for sharing, you know, your journey so far. But you, you've answered quite a lot of my questions without me asking them.

Ingrid 00:23:27

Brilliant.



Interviewer 00:23:28

Fantastic. I just wanted to go back to when you came to Devon, and if you could sort of share some ideas about - share some of your experiences, for example. How the community, how you fitted into the community when you came to Devon, you know, what sort of so, for example, what you thought of the place, what you thought of the people, what the people thought of you. Those sort of experiences, that would be lovely, thank you.

Ingrid 00:24:00

All right. And well, it strike me, that it's very different. Southampton from North Devon. Very, very different. People in in Southampton they're not so friendly like they are here. When I came here, it was very friendly. Very approachable. In fact, when I get here, I felt more like in home because in Spain people is very friendly and very approachable. And when they told me to come here, I was not happy because I wanted to go to London. But I so very much - now it's like thanks God we came here.

[laughter] [unintelligible]

Yeah, you know, when I get here was hard. We were coming from a bigger city. It's felt like it was a little village for us. The children were like oh my God we are here in the middle of the countryside. [laughter] We were not used to these kind of elements that in Southampton was more like a city, we did not have the things that we were expected, or that we thought we needed. But while we thought like that initially, I think that we have learned to pace out, to well live a little bit slowly, and one of the things is that when you live in a city, you kind of go like go go go go you had to go always with the dream. And then when we came here we have to adapt and we had to adapt our dream of life and -- I'm - myself I'm always get very excited about things like I want to do this I want to do that. And here at the start it was really like oh my God, there is nothing to do. [laughter]

I find out that there is more things of what you probably think about. There is that the happens and is all concentrated in some areas, like it's all about the countries - I do go to the outdoors, I love the outdoors. I love it. I cannot, did not get that much touch of outdoors before, here in UK. In Spain, yes, but not over here. And and I love it. I love it. I did have the chance to go to a few places I went to Dawlish. Now, there's a bit beautiful bit over there. Where I came, I went to Instow, I went to Saunton Sands, I went to several places. I love the beach. I love it. This I still love to learn, I would like to do some activities.

In fact, I kind of make myself a kind of of bucket list. I I want to do lots of stuff. And, I don't know it is from when my mum passed away during the lockdown, it was really sad for me. She died of lung cancer. It was really hard but made me realise that you have to live your life. And, yeah, and I did a bucket list because of that. I did start them to do activities before the lockdown. But I, and I, I but I kind of realised that what happened is about my mum. When I came here in 2018 I kind of wanted to do something as well, like I want to do as much things as I can. But you don't need to to say I got few months to live to be able to do things that you like. And this new learn skill about self care that I had is something that help me a lot and the fact that you socialise with another people, you understand that



everybody's got problems. Nobody is problemless. It's about dealing with each other, to learn about each other, and to find the way to, to live. Life. [laughter]

Interviewer 00:29:09

That's lovely, Ingrid. And I'm sorry to hear about your mother - passing away. I'm sorry, I send my condolences on behalf of myself and the project. I'm really sorry to hear about that. So thank you for sharing that. That's lovely. Have you -- Did you bring any more objects or photos that you [unintelligible]?

Ingrid 00:29:14

Yeah Yeah, I brought the - I brought a picture that - the last picture my mum - the last picture my mum draw for me.

Interviewer 00:29:39

Oh, fantastic. Who drew that? Who did that?

Ingrid 00:29:43

I'm not sure what what it is. I believe it's a park that there is in in Japan.

Interviewer 00:29:51

Okay.

Ingrid 00:29:53

Because mainly it's because we're talking about the Japanese culture. My mum did a dissertation in Taoism in the oil painting, and I thought that was very interesting about Japanese culture. Don't know I suppose it's something that been there some time. And I also brought two books.

Interviewer 00:30:23

Okay.

Ingrid 00:30:25

One is this book is from a friend of mine, a Tanya Allan. And the - you can see it, I don't know if you can see it?

Interviewer 00:30:35

I can see that.

Ingrid 00:30:36

This this is my company. It's it's me who designed the the back and the covers. That's one of the things I do in my business.



Interviewer 00:30:49

Okay.

Ingrid 00:30:52

Because I'm working as a self employed from last year, and, even if I specialise myself in animation and film studies, I did also fine arts and I can do illustration. I can do -- well so many things I can do, to be honest. I'm passionate about any art possible. [laughter] Everything that is creative, I probably put my hands there. [laughter] Also I want to show this book that helped me a lot when my mum passed. In fact, I went to give her the one for Mother's Day that is the day that she died. And I gave a copy to my sister and I kept a copy myself. It's from my Charlie Mackesy.

Interviewer 00:31:41

Okay. Charlie who?

Ingrid 00:31:42

Mackesy

Interviewer 00:31:44

Yeah.

Ingrid 00:31:47

The book is called The Boy, The Mole, The Fox, And The Horse.

Interviewer 00:31:52

Oh ok.

Ingrid 00:31:52

It's beautiful. It's not only beautiful because of the drawings, it's also very meaningful in the [unintelligible] situation. Looks like I'm doing advertisement. You probably will not allow me for that. [unintelligible Interviewer response beneath Ingrid's speech] But if I'm passionate about this book. It did talk to me when I was so low, and it does cheer you up. There is so many so many things. And I suppose that because I'm passionate about art as well the fact that it's very -- the - and it's like lessons learn, which is amazing. And because - being like it is that it may look like a children's book, but it's for everyone. And he give you really a sense of how that inside it's - it's so wise. I I love it. I love this book. It's my favourite book.

Interviewer 00:32:56

I've not heard of that book before, but it looks and sounds very interesting. So [thank you for that.]



Ingrid 00:33:01

[It's really nice.]

Interviewer 00:33:03

Yeah, yeah. And it means a lot to you obviously.

Ingrid 00:33:05

It does, yeah.

Interviewer 00:33:06

Yeah, yeah.

Ingrid 00:33:07

I've been interested in reading - I always like reading. My, one of my favourite books is The Pillar of The Earth, which -

Interviewer 00:33:19

Sorry?

Ingrid 00:33:19

The Pillars of the Earth.

Interviewer 00:33:21

Oh okay.

Ingrid 00:33:23

Which, so the the main, the importance of that book is the cathedral of the Win- it was Winchester's Cathedral. And it's all around the story of how it's built up and there's like two or three stories that's called building up about who is building the building, and the whole the impact of the people in the society. And I always like things about history, about community, about art. Yeah. [laughter] I'm fascinated about those things. So, so yes, but but this book is not like that. It's not a novel, but it drags you in with all the the affirmations, and [Interviewer hums]. Yeah, it's very, yeah, it did help me a lot. I would recommend it.

Interviewer 00:34:31

Yeah. Sounds like it's very inspiring for you.

Ingrid 00:34:33

Yeah, it did inspire me a lot.



Interviewer 00:34:36

Ingrid, I wonder if you could just touch on your family. I wanted to just -

Ingrid 00:34:41

[Yeah].

Interviewer 00:34:41

[-ask you] about the relationship with your parents and any siblings, if you wanted to talk a little bit about your family, please?

Ingrid 00:34:49

Yeah, of course. Yeah. We are very close. In Spain, family is normally - we are very close. Here I find it -- When I came here the - in UK it was very strange for me that there was lots of people separated, and with people with second families and things like that. For me, was strange because my parents, they've been married maybe - I don't know, all the, like, maybe 40 years or I, I cannot remember to be honest. I will -- But, but they've been long time married. And, for me, I always wanted to have something like, like that. And when I met my ex, I will have expected that but life, how, you know, it happens. So after you realise the things you had to be open up and it's -- you had to have the important of what is really important. That sounds a little bit weird now. [laughter] But you have to know what is really important. For me, my kids is the more important thing in this world. Family is the more important thing. They're more important. Even if I meet someone, I always say that, I will separate that and I will make sure that he's the right person before I met my kids. Yeah, definitely. It's something that..

Interviewer 00:36:53

Really important to you, if that? Yeah, I understand.

Ingrid 00:36:55

Yeah.

Interviewer 00:36:57

So another question then. When you

Ingrid 00:37:01

Yeah.

Interviewer 00:37:01

- first came to Devon -- You said you were excited and then you realised it's quite different from what you were expecting because it's not the hustle and bustle of a city like Southampton. So -

Ingrid 00:37:15



Yeah.

Interviewer 00:37:16

In terms of the first sort of people that you met, how did they react to you and how did you react to them? How do - how did you start making friends for example?

Ingrid 00:37:27

AWhen I came here, it was the fact that there was -- Everything was quiet. [laughter] That's one of the things I impact the most. The people is very friendly which, that's really nice. And I discover in met-up - there is an online - I think that it's called MeetUp, where they advertise like activities and things like that. That helped me a lot to do new friendships. I, in fact, I'm gonna comment this I don't know if it's allowed -- I did get interested in one MeetUp group that was Barnstaple short films. So a films MeetUp, and the the person the was - that was organising it stepped down. So I was like, ay, this is so sad, I really like it. Then I stepped up. And I'm now the organiser of the MeetUpII right, well, I did not even say nothing about my sister before. [laughter] I got a little sister, she is one year or less than me. We were always like best friends. Even if, there is some time we will not talk that much like we should, but but now we are coming back to that extreme that we are very very close. Well now answering to your question.

. I did organise two online screenings that been provided by someone in the South West. And also I'm trying to think about how to bring more cinema here in North Devon. I realised that we have got a nice cinema here, but it doesn't look like the film industry is in this area. It's all towards the end down and I would love to bring some of that. I will I will really like to do some event, some activities, some something related to that. I am passionate about film and about everything artistic and I think that will be really nice, if people, you know, come in, help out, and.

One of the things as well at I realised that is very difficult to get like a proper salary in this area. They say if you don't work in a charity or, or something like that it's quite difficult. For example my skills here looks like they are a little bit overlooked. And I can I could use maybe my skills in in arts and pitch art for example. But the digital site doesn't look like like it's so intrinsic to the area. It's all a little bit, like, old school, [laughter] so. Yeah, so in that sense I had to adapt myself and and try to see what I could do and try to bring digital things as well, but not everybody is up for it, not everybody's up for - yeah.

For example, this book, I've been very lucky she is probably the best client I ever have. [laughter] She, she designed this - she designed the whole thing. I did the, I did the design for her. She was interested in something more artistic so I designed this I went to the museum in Exeter to do the research about - she wanted a butterfly. Which I don't blame her - for me it's a symbol that means change and freedom at the same time. And when I went to Exeter there was an exhibition in in a museum over there. And they did some pictures, let me sell and then after that I did some digital work in my pictures. And then I came back with the the illustration for the book cover. [Rustling paper] And she had different different options and she was happy with this and now we've been working in each one of the things, so this has happened with the lettering and with everything.

But probably this should be more about my family, but this is kind of important as well. If someone see about my skills skills maybe I can make steps on improving as well things for my family. We came here



with nothing, we've been helped by the refuge. And then now I'm I'm starting to touch base and do things for myself and trying to learn as much as I can of the environment. Who my business could help in the area. And yeah, even if I need to, sometimes I look for more work. I just want the best for my kids. That's that's what it is. [laughter] Yeah, I am passionate about them. The fact that my -- Yeah, my family helped me, my parents helped me, as well. Thanks to them I did not struggle as much. A lot people that I know that my habit style much more. I've been very, very lucky. And my parents they've been always there supporting me. And so has my sister. So yeah, family first. [laughter] To be honest.

Interviewer 00:43:52

So, again, going back to - you've been living in Devon, and your experiences of Devon, do you feel that, you know, have you had any negative experiences in terms of your culture? You know, how have people received you?

Ingrid 00:44:16

I don't know if it's because I been very lucky. And I met some more Spanish people and and and I met the Spanish community over here. Which - it did help me a lot to integrate myself. One of the things that people tend to think is that because you are in your own community, you don't integrate yourself. And we did make the the the opposite everything myself when I came here, and it was very hard. I didn't know anybody and the Spanish community, they introduced me to different people and it helped me to touch base and say, let's, let's see this area let's see how you're gonna be able to to establish myself and to make the things better for my kids. And that's all it matter for me. So the fact that you are in a minority community, it does not make like you are only in the Spanish community. When I came, in fact, to UK - in Southampton - I was with with everybody was Spanish. We were trying to go, we were like maybe 30, 30 kids, [laughter] kids. Young people they were all Spanish things and it was great but but I thought we are not really learning that much English. This is not - maybe it's not that okay?

Then me and another friend, we separated from the group and we started to go with people from everywhere. From South Africa, from Oslo, there was people from Holland, people from everywhere and I loved it. I loved it. It was great to meet people from different cultures, from different places. That was in that time that I met my ex.

Then coming back here - coming back to Devon - when I came here the fact to go with the minority community was more - getting into the community. It did help me a lot because they introduced me to people and they - I met people from different places, different cultures as well. And and in this instance was not just the community, like, it happened to me in Southampton. I've been able to mix with British people as well, because the Spanish community is very friendly and they tend to to meet another people - I don't know if it's innate in us. And also the people over here is very friendly. So I think that there is an easier way to socialise than the than when I was in Southampton. I still remember for example talking with a lady, she told me about her life story. And then next day I saw her, she only did like that! I was like, what's that? She's very rude. And I and yes after - because more people behaved like that - I realised that that was a way to say hello. Something that culturally, for me, was very strange. I took it like it was rude and I did not know about it. It's something that culturally in English they



had. I used to send - giving kisses - the people, here in UK people give one kiss, in Spain we give two kisses. In France they give three kisses and in Paris, they give four, for example. I don't know about Russia. [laughter] I think I will hear something about kissing in the mouth, but I don't know. [laughter] But, yeah, there is different used to's and different kind of things that people might not understand. Like for example, when I came and I starting in UK, I when someone introduced me to someone I I get the used to to give the kiss in two places [?]. One kiss and I was like [?] get in - they are hanging there. [laughter] So is was, yeah, but like you get used to, then you say, okay. But I don't know if the people realise that the differences in culture should be taken as as something to embrace [?] yourself more than a difference.

We are all different. Even in your own culture, nobody nobody's the same, nobody. [laughter] So it's about learn that we can really help each other we can really, yeah, yes, it's like that. And he here in in Devon, I really felt welcome. My kids they had it very more difficult in the sense that they they had their own issues and also the fact that the surroundings they were very different.

And also when we came from the refuge, with other families, it's not easy. It's not easy. It was hard. When we came to the, we get a house - we get a chance to get a house from the council -- They, they get to start it, I think that they were more happy than -- Obviously, they have finally - we're living by ourselves, so was our chance to, to make things for ourselves. I mean, I started to do some kind of decoration. I tried to to make our house ours. And they started to feel much better. And in the lockdown is - it was hard. But I think that we learn, kind of, a sense of family unit. And if it was really nice the fact that we were doing like arts and crafts, and we were doing things. It was at times hard because we could not get outside. And they obviously emotions get out all the time. [laughter]

Yeah, so. But I think that we, kind of, learned - we've learned a lot about each other as well. They help a lot. And even if still things difficult, and sometimes we are dealing with different stuff -- I think that, in the end, if people give us the opportunity, we will be able to, to have our own life. And and to do what - what is, yeah. We'll do what is required from us, and, and be able to to be happy. Yeah, like, I go a stretch and say that I'm happy.

Interviewer 00:51:56

Excellent. Well, I'm just aware, Ingrid, that we're sort of coming towards the end, I just wanted to cover a few more questions with you. You've answered -

Ingrid 00:52:06

Yep.

Interviewer 00:52:06

- lots of what I would have asked you, so thank you for that. It's [just been] -

Ingrid 00:52:10

[You're welcome].



Interviewer 00:52:11

- interesting and nice and flowing. Thank you for that. Do you have any hopes or fears for the next 10, 20 or 50 years?

Ingrid 00:52:21

Well, there is a lot of that. Especially with my society. [laughter] But yeah. Fears? Well, they global warming does not help. [laughter] And I think that during the lockdown, we have learned that - the fact that we close ourselves into our house, the world it started to, to to grow to to get like nature, like overpower themselves was amazing. How there were like dolphins in Italy. Like - so, I don't know - so many things that because we were not there, nature been able to improve. So that shows how much we need to do in terms of recycling and to make sure that the environment is alright. To preserve nature. Where it helps for the outdoors activities, but also because of the animals and the flora, it's it's near -- We are cohabiting with animals and nature. And sometimes we don't realise that we are not the only ones here. We have to to not look only to ourselves and look beyond that.

That's probably one of my fears, as well, for because in the future - that's the the planet we are giving our kids, isn't it? Also another fear that is about, you know, about related to crime and all the things, obviously. You get scared for your kids, what could happen in the future. Or things like that. How all these - all these have impact on them, if that will be something negative in the long run. And that's scary. It's something that I, as a mum, scare me everything. But it is some - it is something that you don't have control over and you cannot do nothing about it in - Myself, I do what my mum always tell me. If you cannot handle it, ask God for help. And this is what I do. If I get myself caught up in in things that I cannot do nothing about it, I'll try to look help out there. It, for me, it's like, my mum stills with - still is with me, somehow, so I always ask her to help me with that. And those are my fear.

My hopes? [Interviewer hums]. I've got so much hope. I, I kind of learn how to -- The hope is something that you can, you can learn, you can find and one of the things that give you hope is love. Everything -- And you - the more you, you help people, the more you that comes catch back to you. One of the things that I, after the living in the refuge, I have a sense of that I need to help another people. It, I'm not sure if might have come across like something negative. But, I did try to help some people that was in the streets. Not every everyone wants to be helped. So, yeah, it's it's hard to no, I don't know. You want to help another people, but not always is possible. But the realisation to say like, I want to give something back to the community. That's one of the things that's sort of why I get involved in this project. I wanted to give back, to to do something about all my experiences that self - for they will do a lot of [?] good for for the - yeah, for the right reasons.

And as well I've been surrounded for very good friends. I made a with friendships. I try to surround myself with people with good heart, people that that are intrinsically - they're good natured. For me and my kids, I try to separate for anything that I feel that will harm me or my family. I will try to step away. And in myself, I'm trying to, if there is any so to try to work it out as well, because I think it's very important. So yeah.

Interviewer 00:57:49



Thank you for that.

Ingrid 00:57:50

Those are my hopes.

Interviewer 00:57:51

Yeah,

Ingrid 00:57:52

Yeah? My hopes is that my children, they are able to to be themselves. To do what they are passionate about. And to somehow give back and give their own what they can do. They provide what they can do. And they're amazing. They got really good skills already and they're only kids. [laughter] It's amazing. So that they are happy. I would like them to look back and say, okay, it was a hard time but I had a good childhood. And I, I hope to be part of that. And, yeah, I hope that they - I hope that they know I love them so much and - yeah. And I want to be happy and yeah. Those are my hopes for now and the future. [laughter]

Interviewer 00:59:08

Excellent, Ingrid. Thank you for sharing that. And just one last question before we conclude the interview. This oral history will be kept for people to listen to in the future. Do you have a message you'd like to leave for the people that are listening, that will eventually listen to your interview?

Ingrid 00:59:33

Doesn't matter any difference. Love each other. Try to be understood, to understand one another and we are here to lean to one another, to to get to get us through to each other not to go through each other. We -- it looks so simple, it looks maybe like something that everybody knows, but does people does it? Not really. Here, in Devon, I learn there is people with so many problems, but how they help to each other is what gives this community their strength. It - from outside it might feels like, oh there is so much misery, so much [computer glitch] hardship. But if you see how people support each other, is amazing. Here in this, in their own island, that that people help each other doesn't matter that you got mental health, doesn't matter that you don't - doesn't matter what you've been through. Some people might have and got the different situations and. Even people after they might have had like a fall into the wrong path of life. They can learn how to step out of there. It's not something that everybody understands, or everybody thinks is like this person is a bad person. It's it's easy to say that. I probably will be in some situations thinking ah this person is like that. But if I think about the whole picture, everybody's able to do something about it. So it's about trying to go beyond that. We have to think for the greater good. And as I as I say once and I probably posted in Facebook, post so many stuff. [laughter] I no hear - I not hear the haters, because I'm focused in the people that love and they love me. So well, when you're gonna encounter people that will not like you, or you will encounter people that don't want to be happy with you, what you say, what do you do -- you are strong enough with your



loved ones. And and you, you are surrounded for the people that really matters. That's the only thing that matters at the end.

Interviewer 01:02:40

That's lovely. Ingrid, I want to thank you very much, and so much for sharing your very, very interesting story, today with us for the TosFor projects. I hope that you've got - said as much as you've wanted to say and talked about as much as you wanted to say. Thank you for sharing your books and your photos, and the painting. [Ingrid laughs] They're all lovely,

Ingrid 01:03:03

[Yeah.]

Interviewer 01:03:04

[Very] interesting. And I love I love the stories around them. So thank you for sharing that. At this point, I think I'll stop the recording. And just to say -

Ingrid 01:03:14

Thank you very much

Interviewer 01:03:15

- on behalf of the project and myself, thank you again for sharing. You just stay there a minute and I'll [unintelligible]

Ingrid 01:03:23

Yeah.