



Telling Our Stories, Finding Our Voices

Interview with Mrs C, an Okehampton resident of Filipino heritage

Interviewer: Nicole Redfern

Interviewer 00:00:00

So today's date is Tuesday the 22nd of September, and we are here in the Ockment Centre, the interviewer is Nicole Redfern. And I'm interviewing Mrs C. Mrs C, could you start off by telling me your full name and your date of birth?

Mrs C 00:00:14

Yeah. It's Mrs C. It's 25th of June 1976.

Interviewer 00:00:19

Thank you. So Mrs C, I know you've got an object here to show us. Could you tell us a bit about it?

Mrs C 00:00:25

It's a traditional Filipino - for ladies - Filipino, top. And it's made of this, like, I'm not really quite sure sort of the material, actually. It's like, chiffon-y type, I suppose, isn't it? And I actually have to have a tutorial to learn how to put it on. Because I haven't actually got a clue. [laughter] So this is one. Yeah. So so my friends going to show me how to do this. But she bought it. She bought it for me when she she went back to the Philippines. So she brought it back and I thought it was amazing. It's beautiful. With decorated it's these are like, the Philippine National flowers [unintelligible] incorporate it in. Yeah. And [whispers] I just don't know how to put it on. So I was going to show you but I'll just show you like this instead than having it on me. [laughter]

Interviewer 00:01:22

Thank you. And could you just describe the object for us? Because this is an oral account.

Mrs C 00:01:26

[Yes of course].

Interviewer 00:01:26

[So obviously] people can't see it.



Mrs C 00:01:28

Okay, so it's. So the material is is red. And of course they come in different colours and the shape, I suppose if you lay it out, so imagine a tablecloth, a circular table cloth. So you pretty much if you open it out, it's circular, but it's folded in half, but with holes in the kind of sort of like, so I should imagine these two holes are for the arms, but I'm kind of confused as to where the head's supposed to go. And this is where I kind of need the help really. And then there's a belt that comes with it. So I suppose it's a bit - if it did have the head bit, it would look a bit like a poncho. Wouldn't you agree?

Interviewer 00:02:12

Yeah, I think so. Though I agree, I don't know how it goes on without a head, a space for their head.

Mrs C 00:02:18

[laughter]. No. So yeah. I mean, the front is decorated with - it looks like it's painted on, sort of flowers rather than embroidered. There are actually sort of. Yeah, sort of embossed in. So.

Interviewer 00:02:34

Thank you, Mrs C. That's lovely. So I'm going to take you right back to the very beginning of your life. And I know that you were born and you spent the first 12 years of your life in the Philippines?

Mrs C 00:02:44

Yes.

Interviewer 00:02:24

Can you tell us a little bit about the memories that you have of your early life?

Mrs C 00:02:51

Free. Got to just - a lot of cousins, so always playing outside. And I was always filthy. I remember that. And I also remember, sort of, playing and just in in the streets, which so where we lived and I -- Let me start again, let me start again. So yeah, so my early childhood was was very much. It was fun. It was just quite a mixture of things really. So we were quite free, playing and just being as kids do, going to the woods, climbing trees, things that I won't even let my children do too much, actually, [laughter] you know. And but moving, I moved around a lot. So until I was about the age of nine, I think, I was with my grandma. So I was in contact with family, still. And so they kind of like lived with my biological parents, and family. So I had all that, and siblings. And then I moved lived with my grandma. And then I moved again, I was about 10, with my adopted sister. And we moved to the city, Manila, so the the capital of the Philippines. And so there we stayed for about two years. So I kind of sort of moved around a little bit. So even though my childhood was great, I remember a lot of things. Again, sort of, I didn't really have that parent, sort of influence as much really, I suppose you could say, so it was quite, but then you had extended families. So I suppose -- Yeah, it's -- yeah, I mean, I remember a lot of stuff, a lot of



smells. Like if I go to to a restaurant or somewhere I can remember a smell and it will bring me, take me back to where, you know, when I was a kid, or a taste of something, and it's like, oh, yeah, I remember this, kind of, that type of thing. That - yeah, it's just - yeah, so that's, that's my childhood's just kind of like moving and going from - because I have to learn a different language again within the Philippines, because there's loads of different languages. So they, people say dialects but they're not they're quite, you know, if you go to one part of the Philippines, you wouldn't be in this - you know, if you spoke one language, for example, Visayan and then if you went to Manila it's Tagalog. So that's when, that's what I had to then change and learn that language as well and go there. So yeah. Yeah. [whispers] I think that's it.

Interviewer 00:05:55

And can I just ask, what was your your first language that you spoke?

Mrs C 00:05:59

Cebuano, which is Visayan [Interviewer hums] so it's in the middle part of the Philippines. So Philippines is split up. So it's, you've got Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. So mine is Visayas. Yeah. So the middle part.

Interviewer 00:06:15

Thank you. And then, so then I think when you were about 12 years old, that was when the decision was made to move to the UK. Is that right?

Mrs C 00:06:22

Yes. Yeah. Yeah. So um, yes. So when I was 10, I was moved to Manila. Lived with relatives, before coming to this country, and so I went to school there for a couple of years. So that was then I had to learn how to speak Tagalog. And then -- yeah, so so... we had to wait in Manila because the adoption papers and everything had to be sorted out, because it was the only, sort of, that was the British Embassy at the times in Capital City.

Interviewer 00:07:03

And then in terms of moving to the UK, how was, how did that decision come about?

Mrs C 00:07:09

So my dad, who is Caucasian, from Portsmouth, and married my mum, when, I think I must have been about six - not my biological mum - she's my aunt, actually. And then they couldn't have children so they decided to to stay within, sort of like, family, but because my biological family there was so many of us, so a decision was made that I was going to get adopted. And my, my sister, my cousin, adopted sister. So yeah, and then, so it's quite colourful background, really. And then, yeah, so then the decision was, was made that they they were going to adopt two girls. So we started from from then on. So really, from when I was quite young, until, and it took so long for it to actually get all finalised. Yeah. So 12 is



when you put the paperwork or everything got sorted. And yeah and then I came here. So, yeah, strange, it [was strange.]

Interviewer 00:08:19

[And had] your dad been living in the Philippines for a period of time before he met your mum as well?

Mrs C 00:08:25

No, no, they -- no, he, they met through, sort of, what they used to call pen pals. It was like it was that and. And I had a great aunt who lived in London, and she was one of the first Filipino nurses who came to this country. And so Mum was like, oh, you know, then, I can't imagine it now how they managed it, really. Sending photographs and things like that. And Dad then went to London to meet - I don't know - my great, great, great aunt, and and then they kind of sort of, Okay, then she met him and thought, okay, he seems like a nice guy, you know, and that's the thing, and then he went over to the Philippines. And they, they kept going, he kept going back to the Philippines then and, you know, they got, sort of, they got married, decided to get married. Yeah. Yeah. So

Interviewer 00:09:25

Wow, that's an amazing story.

Mrs C 00:09:27

[laughter] Yeah. Can you imagine, like, now? You know, it's so easy now for people to meet though, isn't it? You know. But yeah, yeah. The dedication, then. [laughter]

Interviewer 00:09:38

Absolutely. So, so then when you moved to the UK, where did your family move to first of all?

Mrs C 00:09:45

We moved to Paignton, so South Devon, and this was in 1988. So we arrived in the October, and I remember it actually it's really - I remember it clearly. There was just - everything was just so overwhelming, I was just, in awe of everything. And I had this vision when you're a kid, that this that English people are tall, and really, you know, pale complexion and blue eyes and, you know, even though dad had hazel eyes, but you know you have the majority - and then turned [laughing] up in Heathrow and everything's like, oh my gosh, you know, every -- there's different cultures, of course. You see all types of, you know, cultures and all from different heritage. And it was for me, it was like, Oh wow, I didn't realise, you know. And then we went to Paignton, there is hardly any. Yeah, so I didn't have I didn't have many, I didn't have any Filipino friends when I was there, but, but then, you know, I had great English friends. I made English friends, so. So that's alright. [laughter]

Interviewer 00:10:57

And was there any kind of a Filipino community in Paignton or in South Devon at that time?



Mrs C 00:11:03

Yeah, there was actually yeah, I mean, somehow, then. Because, I suppose, the population, Filipino population, in Devon wasn't, you know, obviously it wasn't as big as it is now. So they kind of knew everyone they kind of knew, sort of, like they did different Filipinos who live nearby. So we used to go to Bristol or and there used to be like, what they call the Barrio Fiesta. So Barrio means like a town. Fiesta, sort of held in London. So it's a massive community. London is obviously the main bit. But yeah, so in Devon, there were actually, I mean, not for, like, not my age. And there were a lot of half, you know, mixed. Mixed kids. But they were younger, or there were some that were sort of my age, but it was, again, it was, like, different, I mean, we never -- But yeah, so we used to meet up, sort of, Mum used to encourage the seeing and meeting up with with the community. So it was lovely, you know, everyone would have - it was big parties, food, you know, real Filipino food everywhere. And you know, and that was when I was sort of younger, but when I turned kind of like my teens, it changed cause obviously I turned pretty much like English, because all my friends are English and from school and everything. So it kind of went, kind of, yeah, kind of lost that. Really? Yeah. A little bit.

Interviewer 00:12:43

And what was that process like for you? So coming and arriving in a country where you didn't speak the language at all and had never experienced an English culture of any kind, I imagine? And then moving to a point where by the middle of your teens or later in your teens, you felt like you were becoming very English? How did that process happen?

Mrs C 00:13:02

I think it was trying to fit in. I mean, that's the main thing was trying to fit in. It's, you know, I I could have shown you a photo if I my mum if I might find it. But at school. Yeah, so the process. Yeah, so basically, when you're here, I suppose when, you know, you're trying to, sort of, fit in with your peers, and but you, but you can't because, you know, obviously, visually, you're not like them. And there's not many obviously in the area where I, where I grew up. Sort of that I think I remember there was one, sort of, [unintelligible] sort of about five coloured kids in the whole school. I don't know if you can say that. You're not supposed to say that. [suppressed laughter] Sorry. But the, yeah, the -- I think it was either sticking up more like, you know, sticking out more or just trying to to fit into everything, you know, and then I think when you're so impressionable at that age, you know like that, sort of, it was a strange age to - because Dad was worried about it, because obviously 12 and it's that cusp of when you're just, you know, and and you're growing up and, you know, preteen and teen teen years are just so difficult anyway. So yeah, so there was a lot of turmoil within me to try and kind of sort of okay do you know I need to, to fit in here. If I want to actually survive this, I've got to. And it was a lot of it was basically immersion, you know. Learning, there was so much learning to - to do, really. The way I saw things and the way I held myself, I suppose, and everything, you know I had to -- but my sister is a young, a lot younger, she's 8 years younger than me, and at home, we spoke English a lot as well. So that was,



Dad thought it would help us to actually to get the language, faster, you know, to actually get used to it. Which, yeah, it worked. But my sister can't speak any Filipino at all now. But did that answer that?

Interviewer 00:15:42

And did your - did your mum continue to speak? So would she have spoken Visaya as well? And did she continue to speak that at all when you came to the UK?

Mrs C 00:15:50

She stopped. She didn't. Because it was English was, you know, it was the language at home. And then that's what we had to to speak and, I say had to. But. Yeah, Mum. Sometimes she spoke Filipino, but mostly, we spoke English at home. Yeah, so we didn't have family sort of Philippine family around either. So and we suppose, at the time, Dad thought that was the best thing to do. And to - because cousins, English cousins, as well, and to try and get us get used to the language and actually pick up the language quicker. So that that's obviously what he thought was the right thing. Yeah.

Interviewer 00:16:37

And how was that for you? Do you have any memories?

Mrs C 00:16:43

It was - it was quite funny. Because pronunciation-wise in the Philippines you are taught the American English. So pronunciation was very much, like, and all my friends found it hilarious. But not in a in - I mean, in those days, we made fun of each other really. It wasn't, there was no malice in it. D'you know what I mean? And I'm still friends with with a good friend since since we were 12, you know. And she remembered what it was like, you know, and it's funny, because she said, oh you were so quiet. I was so quiet because I was just trying to take everything in. And, but for me, was the the English language is so so many idioms and just expressions that you can't translate. You know, it just, there's just no, it doesn't make sense. So, so that was one of - that was one of my [laughter] challenge for me was, was understanding that, and a lot of , I suppose, the tone and everything. So you kind of have to put that into into perspective as well. But yeah, it was my friends one of my, the first things they did was actually trying to get me to swear, they wanted to learn the swear words in Filipino and then they'd actually get me to, to say the swear words as well in English. And, of course, I had this accent, which, which is like, Oh, this is great. And, you know it was, [laughter] yeah, it was just yeah, we had we had fun with it. You know, as kids, you just yeah. And the great thing was, they didn't even -- Yeah I didn't really - Dad was worried I was gonna get picked on. But in that sense, it was like they were experimenting with the language as well. And they sort of, you know, and understanding. Yeah, yeah, that's it really.

Interviewer 00:18:37

Thank you, that's great. And were there other aspects of perhaps the culture or the traditions that that you did bring with you that your family brought with you? So that could be something like food or music or just different ways of doing things?



Mrs C 00:18:51

Right. Let me think. I've got to try and think now. So I'm the age of 12... I suppose it's that sort of sense of in the Philippines when you've - I suppose it happened here years ago in this country, but as a sign of respect to elders, you would call them Tita or Tito, you know, which is you don't just call them by their names. So, that was something that we kind of sort of, like, brought here. So whenever we met anyone that, so even if they had nothing to do with - no relation, it was saying auntie this or uncle whatever and it was that sort of showing that you are you know, respectful of your elders. Do you see, do you see what I mean? And food-wise. This -- I can't cook Filipino food. My mum was horrendous at cooking Filipino food. And my friends now and it's not until I've got sort of adult age, and sort of much later in my 30s maybe that I [unintelligible] got involved with that side of it, so the cooking and they do laugh. My friends, my good friends. They say, oh what kind of Filipino are you? You know, I can't you can't cook - I'm good at eating them. I know I can eat really well, but I cannot - yeah they're just so good at just the preparations and everything else, whereas I kind of just want to just put everything in, you know. I don't have the patience for for a lot of that. But yeah, food I suppose. So I go to parties. There's always these, you know, huge Filipino - the festivities, I suppose, the sort of the feast, yeah. And I brought with me - What else can I say? I suppose I kind of sort of like, just keep an open mind in a lot of stuff. Now, yeah. Having all the experiences with different backgrounds. Yeah.

Interviewer 00:20:58

Great. Thank you. So you just mentioned the big the big festivities, the big feasts. Can you describe one of those to us? So a typical Filipino feast?

Mrs C 00:21:06

Okay, so, the recent one. I say recent. It was in November. A relative - so a Filipino cousin, so she's biological cousin - a nurse in Bradford. She was - her daughter's 18th. Massive things in the Philippines, 18th, you know, 18th birthday. It was at this hotel. Honestly. It was amazing. It was just so much food. And I mean, just it was just, it was like a wedding. It was like a wedding. And it was just a buffet. So you've got, there was just different - don't ask me the names of Filipino food, cause I am rubbish. Other than the main one, lechon, which is this whole pig, you know. But they didn't have that there, but the food, honestly, everyone is it's just - there's just so much there. You know, from from your, your starters and the fruit from it just just so it's such a mixture of things. And Filipino food is kind of it's a mixture of Malaysian, Chinese, and, you know, and it's just such a mixture of different spices in it as well that you just - I can't, I can't explain it. But yeah, a lot. There's just so much. Yeah, there's just so much. [unintelligible whispering]

Interviewer 00:22:36

Thank you. That's fantastic. And you mentioned that was a cousin in Bradford. Yes. Did you have a big, big, extended family in the UK? Filipino family?



Mrs C 00:22:48

Yes, I do now. The last sort of I say I'd say probably the last 15 years. She's, the one in Bradford, like second second cousin. And so my biological dad and her dad were cousins, so that's sort of that. And then in Newton Abbott I've got another cousin. And that cousin in Bradford, she came from Singapore actually because she was a nurse and then she moved to the UK with her family. So she'd already got family. And then another cousin in Newton Abbott. So she's again, I think she's a first cousin. Yeah. So that, so my father and her mum, brother and sister. So my real dad. So I think - I think - is that it? Yeah, I think that's it. Yes. It just got a couple, sort of, up North and down here, close by.

Interviewer 00:23:45

But it sounds like you're quite connected to them?

Mrs C 00:23:47

Yes. Yeah, definitely, I think it helps to - cause when I was 18, I decided to because I forgot the language, actually. I had to relearn the language when I was - because we spoke English all the time. And even with my - the Filipino community, the children within that community were obviously children from English and Filipino, so Anglo-Filipino families, and they spoke mainly English. So we were speaking English constantly and all the time. And, and it's not like now we've got so easy social media, get in contact, FaceTime, you know, anywhere around the world. But then obviously, we didn't have that. So, when I was 18, I kept I travelled back to the Philippines. And actually did I kept going back like three, about three years in a row. So just kind of trying to get the language back. And it helped having my cousin's near. And we can talk. And we could actually, that that's, yeah, that's kind of sort of all the part of it that sort of just the language. Yeah. Yeah

Interviewer 00:24:58

And so now do you speak both languages on a regular basis, [or-?]

Mrs C 00:25:02

[Yes]. Yeah, I do now. Yeah.

Interviewer 00:25:04

And how do you -- I always like to ask this question - how do you feel when you use each language?

Mrs C 00:25:12

Before when I was younger, I felt sort of, I stood out even more, and I didn't want to stand out. I just I didn't want to. I wanted to, like I said earlier on, I wanted to fit in. And I think a lot of kids probably feel that way. Because it's just that, you know, you just want to be part of the herd, I suppose, you know, so [laughter] so it's such an immature sort of way of looking at it, but. Now I think it's great now, you know. I think I think it's, yeah, I don't, it doesn't bother me at all. Yeah, for a few years now, for a while now really, it doesn't bother me at all. I think it's, I think it's brilliant. You should be. I think the kids and



people should hear.. hear that out there. I think. Just gives that, again, that diversity. And it makes people sort of think, you know, there's there's so much more out there, and so much more to explore, I think. Yeah.

Interviewer 00:26:19

And I know you have a daughter. Is that your -?

Mrs C 00:26:21

It's two.

Interviewer 00:26:21

Two two daughters?

Mrs C 00:26:22

Yes.

Interviewer 00:26:22

So do your daughters speak as well?

Mrs C 00:26:24

No, they don't actually, it's really bad of me. But, yeah, when they - it's a funny story, because you were just asking me about how I felt about speaking that language now. My eldest, who is now 17, she, when she was little when she was a baby and toddler and teaching her to speak, I would speak to her in Filipino as well. And, but I found that even then my Filipino, I didn't quite - for me English was like my first language it - automatically I will just say English straightaway. Whereas whereas the last, sort of, 10 years maybe, I can, I can sort of flit between the two and it doesn't really [unintelligible]. Then I used to speak to her, so when she started preschool, at 3, she actually told me off. She told me not to speak to her in Filipino. Because she, I think she realised that Daddy doesn't speak it. Preschool, they - all she heard was English in preschool. So she thought, I think, you know, she, from that age, she felt like, oh, nobody else in his town - this is this is a different language altogether. And she kind of like didn't, I don't know, she said, No, Mummy. No Mummy, English. And she was three at the time. But, obviously, now she's sort of they're embracing it more, but they can't - no they're not very good at it. They're very English, their way in their pronunciation, which is a real shame. But they love going to the Philippines. And they just yeah, so they do like listening Filipino and actually trying to, and they're trying to speak it as well. Yeah. Yeah. The younger one is more so, I think. She wants to learn she wants to actually, yeah, but they're embracing that heritage as well. So the language is a bit difficult.

Interviewer 00:28:16

And so thinking about your heritage, and the language and the identity, if you were to describe your sense of yourself, your identity now, how would you - how would you describe it?



Mrs C 00:28:30

I think I've got quite an a diverse identity, I think I'm more -- I'm happier with myself, I'm happy with with the different experiences that I - from, from a very young age. Whereas before you were kind of sort of like, oh I really don't want to talk about that. But now, I mean, you know, as an adult and since I've had children, I realise it is actually really important for them to understand that, you know, when you've got just to find out about your - where you've come from. And, and I think embracing that is really important, because it does, it helps you understand who you are. And so, yeah, I think it's important to, and to have an open mind about things as well. Not to be stereotypical, not to have, you know, and straightaway sort of have this idea about somebody before you even got to know them. And yeah, I'd like to see the good in people as well. Instead of - Yeah, you would just be open minded. Yeah. Because we've all had different experiences in life and it's just, yeah, And how are you? Yeah, so it doesn't, seeing somebody how they are they - I can't explain it, but so you know what I mean? Yeah.

Interviewer 00:29:59

That's great, thank you. And then, for your daughters, how do you think they think of themselves? How would they describe themselves?

Mrs C 00:30:08

They love the fact that they are half Filipino. And they have that other family, you know, I suppose. You could say they just, they - you know, it's Oh, well, I'm part Filipino, you know? And no, they they are I, they have no they have no issues about it. They're quite they're embracing the fact that they, you know, Mum's, Mum's Filipino, Dad's English. And you know, they like my eldest is actually quite pale. She doesn't tan very well. Whereas my young [laughter] younger one does. And it's quite funny because she's like Oh well I can tan, you know? And the other one's, like, she just goes just like her father. She just, she just goes really red, and then it disappears, you know? [laughter] Bless her. But she has got the dark hair and everything. But no, they are, they are absolutely just yeah. No qualms about it. They don't really, you know, I think they are happy. I like to think they're quite well rounded individuals.

Interviewer 00:31:26

Thank you. So, just moving on a little bit. So we talked up until school and then can you tell us a little bit about what happened next? What came next for you, once you left school?

Mrs C 00:31:36

Once I left school, I, I actually sort of I, I left home when I was 18. And trying to find my own way really. Always been quite independent but I think that was because of how I was how I grew up, you know, from the Philippines, moving around from a young age, not really having suppose a parent figure as such, and just well being quite strong, I suppose, person and independent, that - yeah so, I left home at 18, decided to go out there on my own, and lived, shared house with - you know, I went to college, shared a house with other students. And decided to go - I wanted to be an air stewardess. Alright? This



is a real sort of, because I wanted to travel, you know. And so I went to London, at the age of I think it was about 19, decided to go and apply for this thing, to be an air stewardess and was told to go to apply for Japan, Japan Airways or whatever, and I wanted British Airways. And they said, oh I'm not tall enough. So at the time they used a height restriction. [Laughter]. So. So I was like, Oh okay, but I could actually so already that's like, Okay, do you know what, you're discriminating me for this. [laughter] So, and then, oh, you could go and be just the ground staff, or something. And I wanna fly, I wanna fly. And I was like, well, fine. I'm not going to do that then. It's like rubbing salt to the wound cause I wanna fly, and I'm just going to stay on the ground? I don't think so. So, so yeah, so I decided to live in Exeter for a few years. And in fact, I met my husband in Exeter. And we were quite young, got married quite young, actually. And going out there, I think I think I've said to you earlier on, it was during that time, I think in my 20s where I felt more - that sort of - I can't say discrimination, that's really bad, but. Alright. Well, basically. Okay, so my name is very English, even my maiden names. My Dad was - my maiden name's [name redacted]. So, I would apply for jobs. And this was before you had all these lists of different things that you had to - the, you know, the ethnicity. Anyway, so I remember going to this applying for this job. And I got shortlisted and I was in, and - I can't, I've gone, my head's gone now - an invite into an interview. I turned up and the shock on the interviewer's face when they realised. My name, [name redacted], and then seeing this, five foot one Filipino girl walk to the door. It was, it was - I could say - classic. [laughter] You know, you can't say that about -- Honestly, it wasn't until really, because when I was at college, you didn't really have, you know, I didn't really feel that and when you're out with your mates and you're, you know, in town or whatever. But when you have to - when you're going to this place of work and being an adult, it wasn't then I kind of sort of, oh hand on a minute - just because I forgot, sometimes you do forget - and I forgot how I appear physically. What - to how other people see me. Do you know what I mean?

So yeah, so that was quite, it was quite - yeah, it was a strange sort of experience. So that was something else, then, you know, that stage, my life, there was something else. But then I great, you know, circle of friends. And, and just, you know, so it was fine. But yeah finding finding my way and. And the other thing as well, that I found. I didn't used to catch the bus a lot. And this particular time I had to meet friends in town, and I thought, oh I'm running late, I'm gonna have to catch the bus. And not knowing which bus, I was hesitant to whether to, you know, kind of, wave the bus stop or not. So I was sort of, at the bus stop, and couldn't see what it you know which bus it was, and I thought right I'm gonna - in the end, I put my hand out. And the driver obviously saw that I was hesitant. So I got on the bus. And the bus driver said, [she begins to speak deliberately very slowly] you have to put your hand up. And literally like that. And I just went, Yeah cheers mate and [laughter] I just answered him like that and sat down and his face. And I just thought, Oh, God, you know. Imagine how -- Yeah, so that sort of thing. So it was kind of made you feel like you're not all there, if you know what I mean. I mean, being being spoken to like that. By that, but then I suppose that's why we thought, you know, if you speak slowly, then somebody who's, who doesn't speak English, then you know, then you'll be understood better. But to make that assumption, isn't it? That's the Yeah. So it wasn't until I got to that sort of age really, that I felt, Okay. I have to see how I'm gonna deal with this now. [laughter]



Interviewer 00:37:37

And and as you started noticing that in your 20s -- two questions. The first is, how did it make you feel? And the second is, how did you respond? What sort of responses did you start to take?

Mrs C 00:37:50

Yeah, so I felt kinda, I felt angry, I suppose. But at the same time, I just felt pity for them. Because I just think, obviously you have not been [laughter]. Obviously you have not, you know, been around, you know, not experienced much in life. And that's, that's how I that's how I looked at it really. And. And my response is just basically making them feel like, oh, darn I've just made a real sort of, you know, just make myself look stupid. And yeah, but not not to be, sort of, you know, well I can't think now. Because they make you feel, somebody makes you -- I suppose sometimes you feel like you retaliate, you know, you could retaliate, but I've learnt that actually, that's not, that's not the best way to do it. So it's just, there's a different way of dealing with it. And, and they're kind of short, snappy, and that's it, and they kind of sort of, like leave it at that. And leave them to think about it. And, you know, so kind of like food for thought [laughter] in a way. But yeah, yeah. And kind of sort of like face adversity, I suppose, and not shy away from it. And that's, that's that I my aunt always said and I get I get I -- my dad's, my adopted dad's sister. And she's always she said, she's, that she's amazed by how I've kind of like dealt with things and and the different adversities that I've had to deal with. Growing up. She's never really, you know, she's -- but I said to her, you just have to, you have to just learn to to deal with it and just not let it eat you up. And there's just -- Because there's, there's so much more out there and there's so many other people, there's so many people that actually don't think the same as those. They just need to, you know, kind of, yeah. Yeah just have to rise above it, really, I think. Does that answer your question? [laughter] Is that okay?

Interviewer 00:40:07

No, Brilliant. Thank you. And have you noticed things change? So you were talking about those experiences in your 20s. And then as time has gone on, and there has been more migration and more diversity introduced into Devon as a county, have you noticed that attitudes have changed? Or have they stayed the same?

Mrs C 00:40:26

Okay. I think -- I think it all, in Devon. No, this -- how can I say? I don't know, I suppose they've, they've changed. I think there's - there. Yeah, I think that definitely. I mean, for example, looking at Exeter, there's the The Respect, which I think is a great, you know, it's, it's a great venue. And I think -- [whispered] venue, is that the word? -- but it's, but at the same time, I don't know whether it's - I gotta be careful how I say this, I suppose, but - I think it definitely has changed, and it's opened those people who - people who are actually [zipping noise] are kind of open to diversity. And they've been educated, I suppose, by having and their views have changed. But you're always going to get those that actually kind of go against it. See what I mean? Yeah, so it's really difficult to, but I think they're trying -- I don't know how to answer that one, actually. In a way, it has been a people's they get it has changed,



because there's more... around. But what I found, actually, is the, sometimes not necessarily -- So for example, my husband is only three years older than me. But when there's more they they -- Okay, there's there's, there's there's two things. I'm going to start with one. The the some Filipinos that I have met, when they see my husband and I together, they then ask the question how we met because he's young. So there is like that flip -- do you see what I mean? Because obviously they they've met their husbands - and not saying all, I'm not saying all, but this particular time, I mean it happened a few times actually for us. And because sometimes they marry gentlemen who are older. So there is there's that side, so we get that and then we get look - we used, we used to get looked at quite a lot [unintelligible] now. Now I'm older, and my face has changed. I'm not so young looking anymore. But that that way. And then, and the other side of that is, I greet people, and then they greet - they ask what I, if I, if I was a, if I'm a nurse. Because obviously the majority that have come to this country, obviously are nurses and whatever, and or carers and whatnot. And I get that stereotype. So I get the, yeah, I've seen both sides to it. Where people sort of think, like oh how did you get, you know, oh, they find that and also because I still speak Filipino, if I see a Filipino I will speak Filipino. And because I'm proud of it. And then some Filipinos actually find that you've been here since you were 12? But you're speaking Filipino not speaking English. And you know that this there is that - a bit like both sides of the coin kind of thing. Yeah, yeah, it's. I think it has changed. It's made me, made, made people more aware. But also, it's open more to stereo- stereotyping as well. I think. Probably more so, I'm noticing it more as I'm older because when you're a kid nobody really, doesn't really, you're not, you know, and I know it's different when you're a kid or a child, so it's obviously, you know. But when you're older people, are more interested about how you got here, and what's your, you know.

Interviewer 00:45:09

And it sounds like there's maybe an assumption as well, that you, you have come recently for a reason rather than that you have lived here since you were a young person?

Mrs C 00:45:17

Yeah. Yeah. And I don't tend to, to say that either, that I've I've lived here and I've gone to school here. And yeah, so I don't tend to openly say that because I just sometimes maybe, it's, I find it quite interesting the way people how people react and like you say there's that assumption, and it is just, and I just watch and the reactions and stuff when they do end up finding out or when they hear me speak English, they sort of. Yeah, that side.

Interviewer 00:45:51

And and what are their reactions? What reaction do you see happen?

Mrs C 00:45:55

Yeah. So it's, it's oh, well your, your, your English is not -- [laughter]. They realise that the, you know, maybe an accent, and the things like that, you know, they notice the difference. And then they sort of think, oh, so how long have you been here? [laughter] Then that question comes in. Yeah. [laughter]



Interviewer 00:46:18

Thank you. It's really, really interesting reflections. So I'm just thinking about that phrase used with regards to being a young person and wanting to fit in. Do you feel now like you fit in more than you did that?

Mrs C 00:46:39

It's, I think, then, when you're a kid, you get away with more, I think. And I think in the -- Even though, I think it was mainly because the I was the only Filipino kid in the whole school, when I was, you know, I mean I was in school, I was a kid. So I wanted to just not stand out, like a sore thumb. That's how I saw it. And that's that, you know, but my friends actually, at school, they, they embraced the fact that I was different. You know, although they, you know, they loved the fact that they had me as a friend. It was kind of like this, you know, it was, it was great. And, and I never had that sort of feeling sort of, I suppose it was, I fitted in, I suppose, You could say it like that. So I was being accepted by them, even though I felt like oh I need to do - but in fact, I was actually accepted, but as a as a grown-up. I think, yeah, people are more, because I they're more aware of it. But at the same time, I don't know whether that aware - that awareness is genuine or not. Do you know, do you get my meaning by that? All - people are just, maybe they're thinking oh this is because we have to be inclusive. Do you get the general - I don't know how genuine they actually are. Do you know what I mean? [Interviewer hums] I mean, I'm not saying that, you know, I mean, I've got great friends, you know, English friends, and, you know, a mixture of, you know, Brazilian friends, you know, friends from all over the world, I'm not -- Even just saying, like the public, those that you don't, I don't know. Am I making sense? [laughter]

Interviewer 00:48:30

Yes, you are. Yeah. And, and I wonder how that leaves you feeling? That sense of perhaps uncertainty about how authentic -

Mrs C 00:48:38

Yes.

Interviewer 00:48:39

- that is?

Mrs C 00:48:40

Yeah. It's that feeling that's sort of, and again, with the, you know, the -- I have mixed mixed feelings about the, you know, the gender, you know, your gender, your ethnicity. And you've got to say on this form, I know you've got option, whether to do it or not, that side of things. I don't know. Sometimes I feel like oh, are you just - is it there to just try and tick the box that you, you know, invited, somebody for interview that's actually of this ethnicity, you know. I don't know whether that's - yeah so.



Interviewer 00:49:24

Thank you. That's a really interesting reflection. [Mrs C hums] So I think let's move to talk about Okehampton. Could you tell me a little bit about how you and your husband ended up moving here?

Mrs C 00:49:35

We were we fell in love with Dartmoor. And, and we, first of all, we wanted to leave the city. We wanted to leave Exeter when our daughter was born, but we waited until you know, she was two. We thought, you know, it's time that we move out of the city. So we hunted around looking and of course Dartmoor and Okehampton. We just love the - where it is, you know, the, the position of the town, you know, it's just you know, not too far from from Exeter, so you, so pretty much like you know in Cornwall and it was just just great. So that's how we came about coming to Okehampton. In fact, the first time I've actually set foot Okehampton was when my husband had a motorbike accident in Torrington and he was brought to the hospital here to get seen to. So I was heavily pregnant and my mother in law drove to Okehampton. So we came to Okehampton to see make sure that he was okay. And that was the first time I'd actually been to Okehampton. So yeah. And then two years after that we moved here so yeah, yeah. So we kind of - that's how we came about it really, we just liked the town and thought, oh it's nice. And, you know, everything so you've got your own, you know, you've got your own supermarkets there, and the school's got really good view. You've got the lovely villages around and, of course, the National Park. So that's how we kind of yeah, you know, came to move to Okehampton.

Interviewer 00:51:14

And what was the early days, the early process of settling into a new town like?

Mrs C 00:51:22

It was really strange. It took a long time to for us to settle. Because I have, we both worked in Exeter at the time. And so we put, so I thought it would - Nursery in Exeter. So we just came here to sleep, really. And then the weekends because obviously our friends were in Exeter as well, and family. So we just kept going to Exeter. And it wasn't really until I gave birth to or I went on maternity leave for the - yeah - the second time that I got to know that town a lot more. So it wasn't just the the the scenery anymore. You know, it was actually the town itself. So we got to know some people in the town. And that's how I got to know one of my good friends here in Okehampton. She works in Waitrose actually. And she sort of just tells me, what kind of Filipino are you? She's just, you know, she says it how it is. I mean, she's great. She's lovely. And she's a great cook. She's a lovely cook. And so it wasn't until then that, so that was like three years on from living in Okehampton that I, actually, we felt like it's home. And yeah, so it just, it took a long, long time. And we found that, yes. Everybody kind of, like, I suppose they know each other, and then you're coming in, you're completely new. And it's like, Oh, you got to try and fit in now. And there wasn't that many Filipinos in Okehampton then at the time actually either. So it was like, I suppose, one day it feels like maybe going back to school. [laughter] I don't know, it like that. Yeah.

Interviewer 00:53:20



And and how did people respond to you? What was what was their response?

Mrs C 00:53:27

I'm quite, I think from from an early age, I've learned to just be quite friendly and open and be the first one and confidently be the first one to say hello or whatever. So I've, I've, I've learned that from a young age. So I suppose I didn't just shy away to things. So I went to the library and joined the groups that were there and and stuff. And people actually generally they were, you know, really nice and accepting. And yeah, and it was it was absolutely, yeah, it was absolutely fine. And we just and I got to - I got to meet some really nice people and then I stopped working in Exeter. So I became a childminder for a little while, for a couple of years while while my second child was still a baby until she got to a toddler. And and then I got to know so many people through through that. So it was lovely. Yeah, so it just, yeah, so it felt like home then.

Interviewer 00:54:29

And would you consider yourself a local now?

Mrs C 00:54:32

Oh, you can never be a local in Okehampton. You've got to live here for - I don't know - I mean, you know, it's -- 15 years and in Okehampton is not local. [laughter] I have to say. But absolutely fine though. The amount of people, actually, who live in Okehampton that's not from Okehampton is actually quite, yeah, it's huge and -- But there is that sense for a town this size. There is there is still that sense of community as well. Yeah, it's really nice and they're, they're really embracing the diversity. So I don't know if you've heard of, they have the cultural sort of feast. So they, yeah, from different different countries. And it's just, it's amazing. Yeah, it's really nice.

Interviewer 00:55:17

Thanks, Mrs C. And I know that you mentioned you, you when your when your daughter was at primary school, you went in quite often to do cultural experience days for the school. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

Mrs C 00:55:28

Yeah. I loved that. It was just it was it was great. And the kids, there's so - they want to sort of, like get in and join in? Yeah, so the school, which was [name redacted], they held this sort of from different from different cultures, so from different parents, because there were some German families as well, and there's Thai, there's, you know, there's just quite a mixture. And it was lovely, because it - from that age, you know, kind of sort of like opening children's, like widening the, broadening their, the, their expectations and everything, I think it's great, you know, so inspiring them. I think, and, and opening their mind, their mind to to other cultures. I think it's really important. And it was great. And it was really nice. I think, part of why I think my daughters are actually so, they have the, they're really happy with who they are is because I've never really hidden the fact or trying to change where I'm from, you know,



or trying to sort of ignore where I'm from. So I think there's, I think that's that has made a huge difference to them, I think. So yeah. So it was it was great. It was a lovely experience. And the kids all did it. And they did the I'm a Little Teapot, but in Filipino. And they, Oh, I wish I'd brought the picture because the teachers actually made this massive card with all the little photos of it. And all the kids were doing all the actions and everything, but actually saying it in, you know, singing it in Filipino. But that was great. It's great fun. Yeah. [laugh]

Interviewer 00:57:19

And I know you you work as a teacher as well. Do you think there's a place for more diversity learning and multicultural learning within the curriculum?

Mrs C 00:57:27

Definitely. I think so. I think that that should be the curriculum. So the government should really think about making more use of that because I mean, I know the thing is now is the Britishness, isn't it? But in English - because I'm an English teacher - in English, we have encompassed that and kind of sort of put that in with with poetry and the power and conflict side of things where they've got - that teaching kids really, that Britishness has just so many different other strings to it from the past. And all it's - that's really good. But I think more could be added to it really, and could be done. Because I think especially now, you know, what, with with, there's just so many different problems, and there's so many - you know, with the pandemic as well. But, you know, I think definitely they should be, they should be open more to it, I think the children this, they're quite impressionable at this age as well, I think, to broadening their horizons a little bit, I think it would be it would actually really help. Like, the literature instead of, I think it's a shame that they took the, the other other literature away from that. It's, it's a shame, I think, it's a shame, because you can actually just get so much more from from books as well, you know, and encouraging kids to learn a bit more about other cultures. And through through that that work that is in school. And I think teachers getting quite hard - I think teachers are getting quite hard time about it, which is just unfair. It's sometimes out of their control, isn't it? But I think, yeah definitely they need to have some diversity, but it can be incorporated in other things, you know, activities for the school. All that sort of, you know. Yeah, so, I think so definitely. There's just -- I suppose it's it's hard but like at primary, you know, they have different different cultures going into the school. I think they could do something, something like that in secondary, I think, as well. And some -- Because there's especially, you know, here in Okehampton, you think oh yeah there isn't. But it's actually extremely diverse. There's so many people that live in this town that are actually from - all round the world, you know, different places in the world, which is, you know, which is fascinating. Yeah.

Interviewer 01:00:17

Thank you. So I think I just have a few more questions before we finish. So the first -- no, it's fine. Time flies, I think when when you're just busy listening and talking. So my first question is thinking in a reflective way about the whole of your life here in the UK in the time that you've spent here. Do you think you've changed? And if so, how?



Mrs C 01:00:45

I sometimes think what my life would have been like if I stayed in the Philippines. I used to think that a lot before I had the kids. And I think I am glad I was adopted, because I have, because the idea was really adopted was that I could have opportunities. And cause my parents couldn't obviously provide that and they thought it would be, I would be a better life for me. Yeah, I think I think it has broadened my horizons more. And I think more -- I can't imagine not, not have the - yeah, not being here, really. I think. I've had a I've just been very fortunate. That's how I that's, yeah, that's how I see it. It's just having. And it's probably changed me. And I think the experiences that I went through, I think it's changed me as a person in a way that I've I think I'm stronger. And not I -- yeah, I don't I don't know, you know, how some people would would think if something goes bad with them, that they, you know, it's like a victim? I don't know. I try not to see things in a negative way, you know, kind of sort of, and I think that way there's always something. I think but, yeah, I'd like to think that I have. I think I have it has changed. It has changed me in a way that. I don't know, who can say, really? I'd like to think that even if I wasn't here that I'd still be that strong person, but I don't know. I don't know. More confident - I've no idea but I I can't imagine, yeah. Although I do feel sometimes I don't - sometimes I don't feel at home here and in the Philippines sometimes I sort of, yeah, trying to fit in there sometimes as well. It's just really strange. Yeah. Yeah.

Interviewer 01:02:55

So if you don't feel at home here or in the Philippines, where is home?

Mrs C 01:02:59

Yeah, exactly. Yeah, no. Home will be where my family. Yeah, where, my family is. Yeah. Although when I talk to Filipino, my Filipino friends. Home would be Philippines. You know, we you you just talk about home. And obviously here. Yeah. So it's just both both would have to be my, both, yeah, both countries. My home.

Interviewer 01:03:23

Thanks, Mrs C. And I think maybe my last question will be if you could speak to yourself on the day that you - well you can choose - the day either that you left the Philippines or the day you arrived in the UK? Do you have a message that younger self?

Mrs C 01:03:44

I suppose to that younger self is to just - just take everything and learn from - just just open your mind and to to all the possibilities and make the most of, make the most of those experiences and and, yeah, just enjoy yourself. Don't let things get you down, really. And just put on - go with Go for it. [laughter] And yeah, and not not, not think about the -- try not to worry about fitting in too much. Definitely, I think. Yeah.



Interviewer 01:04:36

Brilliant, thank you, Mrs C. So do you have anything else you'd like to add before we finish?

Mrs C 01:04:42

No I'd just like to say thanks for - I think it's a really interesting study. And I can't wait to to to hear all of it, really. Okay, thank you. Thank you for this opportunity to share my story.

Interviewer 01:05:02

You are so welcome. It's been wonderful to listen to it. Thanks, Mrs C. I'm gonna end the recording there.

Mrs C Interview - Part 2

Interviewer 00:00:02

Great. So today is the - I'll just check the date - the Friday, the ninth of October. And we're just doing a short additional interview with Mrs C, because there's been a few more things that you've been thinking about since we had our interview a couple of weeks ago. So I think the first thing we were going to talk about was some of the Filipino festivals and parties and this spirit of welcome and hospitality, which is so apparent in the culture. Is there something you'd like to share about that?

Mrs C 00:00:31

Yes definitely. I think, Filipinos love a good party. And I rememb- no, I mentioned about food before, and there's always just an array of food. It's just fantastic. But it's entertainment. They just - Filipinos, generally. And I would say this love entertaining. And, and this this typical stereotype that you would hear about them loving karaoke, it's actually true. It's not, you know, they do. They love singing. But the the entertainment side of things is something that Filipinos, they can always find something to, to, you know, always have fun, [unintelligible] How you think, oh, gosh, you know, it's a poor country, maybe so but it's, it's, they just love entertaining, and, and the hospitality side of things, it's just seems to be part of the culture. You know, they're really good at, and just making you feel welcome. So even if you went to somebody's house, who may not have much, but they would just offer you whatever, and everything that they have got. You know, that's how accommodating they are, and has hospitable they are. So it's just, it seems to be like part of that sort of culture, really. And they're grateful that we would go and visit them, and you know, and stuff like that, but yeah. At the festivals, it's just, it's colourful, in visually and,



you know, sort of, in, in spirit to, you know, when you go when you go, so yeah. Angle[?]-Filipino festivals are just, it's just, just amazing. There's just so much on offer there. Yeah. Yeah.

Interviewer 00:02:14

And do you have a particular either a memory or an example of one of these festivals, which sticks in your mind?

Mrs C 00:02:21

Yeah, the one in London, near - it's the Barrio Fiesta, they would call it. And it's every year is to be held in London every year. And near Hons - it's in Hounslow. And they would be massive, they were just - so much would be -- So Philippine artists would be, you know, we would be there and there'd be sort of different stalls of different foods, but then at the same time, there'd be entertainment. So there'd be dances from, like traditional dances. And it just -- And it's just this the way that -- How, you know, people could actually come from all over England, and would actually go to these, to these festivals, and it's just just massive. And you don't realise just that -- Until I went, and when I was younger, I was like, early teens, that I realised that there was just so many actually, there's so many Filipinos around from all over - Britain even, you know, not just England. But, you know, Britain, they were just just so many. And, and it's just amazing. Yeah, it's a great experience, actually. My husband was actually overwhelmed. It was the first time he went, it was a few years ago, must have been about 15 years ago, and he was he just couldn't believe the extent you know, this, this, so much effort has gone into this these festivals, you know. And if I remember rightly, it wasn't even, I don't think we even had to pay to go in. It was just, yeah, and -- But I felt a little bit lost, when I went, I have to say, because, like I said, there would be like Philippine National Philippines, sort of actors or actresses would be there. And I wouldn't have a clue. So all these people these fellow Filipinos who were going 'Ahhh' screaming their heads off when they when they get introduced and I'm going what? What? Who is it? [laughter] Had no idea. But yeah, no, it's great fun. Yeah, I just take, you know, the children. I'd like to take the kids, my girls to to, to those that they've not been to, other than the one in Exeter - Respect - where they've had some dances. Some Filipino performers, dancing on stage and stuff at Respect. That's really that's really good: introducing people to the different cultures. I think that's great. But yeah. Yeah. That's it really.

Interviewer 00:05:05

Thanks, Mrs C. And just before we started the recording, you shared a story about your family messaging group and the the offers, the offers of chickens to some of the work men back in the Philippines? Would you be happy to share that story here?

Mrs C 00:05:21

Yeah, of course. Yeah, no, I. It's something my sister and I, my sister, as I explained earlier on is - she doesn't speak Filipino at all. She's - she came here when she was four. And I was 12. And I had to translate the, the chat that was that went on. And it was about cousins, thinking about how to feed the



the workmen that were turning up at this land and to do the work. So Uncle So-and-So would provide one chicken, and then the other uncle would ha- would also provide another chicken. They were so concerned about feeding these, you know, the - the workman that it was - my sister, and I like, thought it was quite funny how, how so much effort was going into that, when we wouldn't even think about, about that, you know. In this country, we wouldn't even think about it. So, so my sister's like, Oh, so are they are they, are we are we paying them chickens? You know, and that was quite - That was just that was just - No, so it's that, again, you know, it's that idea, that culture, that has hospitality. That they would have that they just, you know, wanting to wanting to help and just making those people - their, their stay while they're there comfortable. You know, even though they were there for to work, you know. Just they were making -- Yeah, no, that's that was quite, that was something that I I, I find amazing, actually, you know, the idea that they would even think about the people who are actually working for them to do that. Instead of just thinking, oh, well let them get home with it sort of thing, you know. And I think you mentioned about, yeah, in this country say, Oh maybe give them a cup of tea or something. But you know, not to think about giving the whole meal. [laughter] Sounds like they were gonna have a party to be honest. But you know. [laughter] But yeah, but something like that, it's - it's, I think it's lovely. It's really nice. Quite humbling in a way and thinking about I'm part of that, you know. I may have lost that, but [laughs] there is that it's in that, it's there, you know. It's a lovely thing to be to know that Filipinos are like that. Yeah, well, maybe I'm generalising but, you know. [laughs] Yeah.

Interviewer 00:07:56

Thanks, Mrs C. So I also know that we said we were going to speak a little bit about a particular memory that you have of your daughter and her experience at school. I think there was a story about a geography lesson that she wanted to include in our record.

Mrs C 00:08:13

Yeah. Which I found - I was really proud of her and I was like, I explained, I mentioned this to you. Because that for geography, they were given a slideshow of different properties, different houses, and the structures and everything. And they had to guess where - which country, these properties have, you know, come from. And a particular picture came up. And so she recognised the pic- she recognised it and whatev-. So anyway, came up, anyway. Philippines, it said that this particular property, it was like a - quite kind of run down and sort of not well built and, you know, almost what you would find probably in like the squatter area, and stuff, or a sort of really deprived place in the Philippines. So anyway, so she put her hand up, and actually said to the teacher, but Miss, not all houses in the Philippines are like that. And I thought, wow, you know, she's 12. And I was just really impressed by the way that she actually, yeah, do you know what, they're not all like that. And, and I told her how proud I was, and and she sort of, you know, she went sort of like, why? And I explained that the fact that, you know, otherwise it will be some kids who have never been anywhere and never seen - there would be, would have no knowledge of these other countries, they would immediately think that that's what those - that's what it's like over there, you know. Those countries? Yeah, all houses are like that, you know, and, and it was, yeah, it was I thought it was just - And it wasn't until then that the teacher then actually explained



to the rest of the class and everything. So it's just and I just think that we should have moved away from that now, you know, because there's no, it's it's not black or white for things. And it's not about that. And I think it needs to be, yeah, that needs to tweak. [laughter] They need to tweak the way that the sort of teaching actually is delivered, I think. Yeah. So. Yeah, I was quite surprised that did happen. Do you know what I mean? But, yeah. So I was quite proud that she sort of, you know, put her hand up and actually said -- Yeah, and voiced her concerns. [laughs] Yeah, that's good.

Interviewer 00:10:38

And moving to yourself, Mrs C. So I know, we were speaking a little bit about some of the assumptions that you feel have been made about you, not just from British people that you might meet on the streets, but from angry Filipinos or from other Filipinos. Can you share a bit about that?

Mrs C 00:10:56

Yeah. When -- so before I was before, I think I mentioned to you about with my husband and I, so when I was still in my early 20s. So moving on from that, so we've kind of, I got - I was about 28 at the time, 29. So, I had my daughter, then, my eldest, and I was just in Exeter, pushing the pram. And this Filipino lady came up to me, and she thought I was the nanny. She thought my daughter was some child I was looking after, you know, and it's that, again, it's that, sort of, that attitude of some sort. It's not just the that I've come across that the British, white British would come up with, with this type of attitude, and that stereotype that he was but actually Fil- fellow Filipinos would actually come up with, with that, which I found quite -- Yeah. I was [laughs] I was kind of taken aback actually, by that. And so now I've sort -- I was talking with my cousin about it. And, who is Filipino, and she's, she's married to an English, an English man now and that also happened to her actually. [laughs]. That also happened to her. And that's fairly recent. Cause her child is, is six now. So this happened only a couple of years ago. And this was in, I think it happened in Teignmouth. So it's, again, with a fellow Filipino. I don't know what she's thinking, that she's, you know, she was the nanny. And I thought that was quite interesting. Because considering that mine happened all those years ago, about 15 years ago, and then - Oh gosh, I've just told you my age, haven't I? [laughter] And, and for her, it only happened about three, three or four years ago. It's -- Yeah. So there's nothing, no movement from - which is interesting, isn't it?

Interviewer 00:13:10

And when you think about those responses, both then and now, how does that make you feel?

Mrs C 00:13:18

It, kind of, it's -- It's sad. It made me feel sad that, that kind of the the way that a person from, it's really from where you, you know, from your own home, would think that that's as far as that level -- In a way I feel like an old intellect type thing, you know, like the hierarchies. It's like, it's like, Oh Filipinos, it's only down to that. I'm not saying that nannies should be considered down there, but it just seemed like, oh, domestic help, you know, that sort of idea. And - yeah, it was quite, it was quite -- Or maybe she just thought that my daughter is so pretty. And, you know, [laughter], I mean, how could you produce



something like that? Do you know what I mean? I don't know. I don't know. But it was it made me feel sad. The fact that it was just, the assumption that they would come up with. And yeah, yeah. It's upsetting really, isn't it? You know, that, you know.

Interviewer 00:14:34

Thanks, Mrs C. So that's all the questions that she said we would cover in our little extra interview. Is there anything else which you'd like to share today?

Mrs C 00:14:45

Just to really say that as a message to -- Because an incident happened at school with one of my girls and I just sort of said to them, just always be true to yourself, and don't try and - because I suppose I, I did it when I was younger - tried to change and to be accepted and worried about fitting in - is to actually just be yourself and just to be to not to try and, and change for the sake of pleasing other people. You know, it's, it's, it's about that, that's accepting who you are and others will just then then follow, and not to bend to any anyone's sort of idea of who you should be, I think. Yeah, I think that's really important.

Interviewer 00:15:42

Fantastic. Thank you, Mrs C. So I will end our recording there.