



**A zine created by young people who migrated  
to the UK as unaccompanied/ separated  
asylum seekers**

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## We are the Hope Group.

The Hope Group is a programme run by The Children's Society since 2016.

We are a group of young people from Greater Manchester who migrated to the UK as unaccompanied/separated asylum seekers. We come from different countries and speak different languages. Some of us have lived here for years; some of us have just arrived.

We meet weekly to gain skills and confidence, to improve our English, to learn about our rights and entitlements, to advocate for ourselves, to raise awareness, and to support each other through transitions. We also train social work students, contribute to research, and volunteer for charities. We meet so we are not alone.

We are making a difference for ourselves and for others. We are more than our migration status. We are young people with skills and passions and hope.

We are a family.

## We created this zine:

- **To make our voices heard**
- **To show people who we are**
- **To highlight the effects of the asylum process**
- **To present an alternative to what is shown in the media**

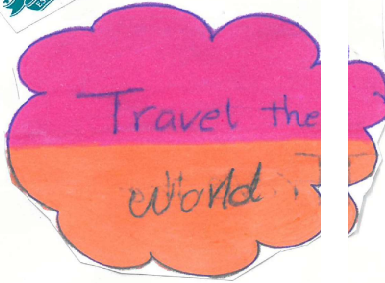


انا ميرستلونه  
واقتر

I AM A HAPPY PERSON

اصرفاتي  
ميرستل

My friends are  
the family:



peace.

Happyness.

Education.



PEACE

AND



I WANT TO BE A PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL PLAYER!!

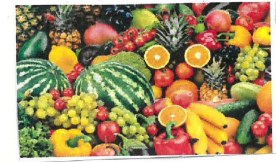
I like an adventure!

UNITY



I want to be a pilot

FAMILY



Healthy Food

LOVE



Interested in  
the after life of  
the different  
chosen forces  
around us.



Never owned  
an umbrella ☹️



Life's makeup



Observant



### Asylum seekers: 'They didn't believe I was a child'

By Jake Morris and James Clayton  
BBC Newsnight

© 25 June 2019

f t e Share



Rude  
depress

~~addition~~  
worry

~~addition~~

was left out

low key

lack of trust

not respected



He is thinking and worry  
about his father

Worry  
Sad  
Refuge  
This is inside lorry.  
They move to other coun  
Some body took them.

HOW WE ARE SEEN

nowhere to go  
stressed  
a lot of things going on  
lazy



Helpless  
Dangerous

Not been respected.  
feel makes men Bad  
worried  
most of them  
are the future



Can't help himself  
No one can help him

They think the  
young people arrive  
to the UK they're  
harmful for the  
society.

they describ like  
the spend all theirs  
time in street they  
lost theirs futur.

poorvety  
suffering  
under pressure



Always negative thought  
about them.

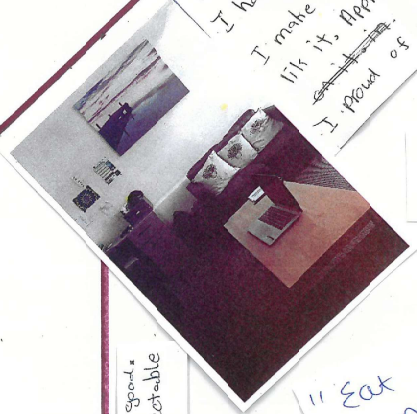
Treated like criminals  
not trusted.

# WHERE WE

# LIVE

I love where I live.

This photo make my feel - that I have a beautiful living room I make my home the way I like it. Appreciate what I have it in I proud of myself the way I ticked.



live Near the Bus stop - many Buses near my house

Office, revising english, Sometimes read books!!



"Eat together, conversation like a family!!"

"Keys" - lose my door I know it's safe!!

Can lock my own door

"playstation, booboo!!"

Am woken up my cockerel every morning! (it nice)

The people I live with them are good. The always say hello and a respectable



This a picture just make me feel that I can see anything on the road from my window. Sometime I can drink a coffee and think about the trees. Gives me a beautiful view.

I don't like where I live

No activities for young people



Too far from transport

"couldn't go to the corner shop!"

Social workers assume being placed with a family is better. We don't always agree.

Too many rules without explanation why!!



Have damaged houses 3 times

"house freezing"

Feeling forced to adapt to family placed in



"neighbour scream, loud voices"

I don't know my neighbours

"Drunk people"

"loud music"

It took six months for me to be moved from an unsuitable home.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT  
SOURCE: UNESCO DATA, WHICH DATA



I miss three years school.

I went to school for 9 years in my country and I missed school for 1 year because we came to England (UK)

Facing the challenges and waiting 6 months until college open

Access to University programme.

Erga baganner biyya kana dhafee ammaaf yannoota hin egallec garuu gaba jalduratti akkan jalqabu abdeen gaba?

COLLEGE

Ani biyya King Kessa Li Kuta 3 baradhee  
Ani bazumsaa heduu jalqaha garu biyya King Kessa Li  
baradhuu hin danda'eeni

Right to go to school in my country and I'm waiting for colleges

SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT



when I came to UK I was sitting three months in year 11 and this time very difficult because of language

I started school in my country. I stop working in the UK. I started college in the UK. Learn English

I am learning English more and more  
I want to be a pilot in the future

If you don't have status it's almost impossible to go to university.

To get to University I need work hard.

I wish to go to university also I want to be Doctor of Dentist

HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLMENT



University - Currently studying Business Management

1. My level of school was only until grade 3. Even though I like and want to continue in my school I could not at that time because the situation of the country was not stable.
2. After I left the country and arrived here (UK) I didn't start school, but I hope I will start in the future

E D U C A T I O N

# How IT IS...

**HOW CAN YOU CLAIM A RIGHT YOU DON'T KNOW YOU HAVE?**

**WE HAVE TO CLAIM OUR RIGHTS FOR OURSELVES.**

When you are newly arrived, it can be scary to ask for things.

We have a lot of people coming into our lives. Sometimes we don't know who does what at.

There is not always good interpreting provided.

I didn't know my social worker's phone number. I had to ask for it more than once.

It took nine months to get a phone. I couldn't talk to my parents.

Sometimes there is no notice of social worker visits.

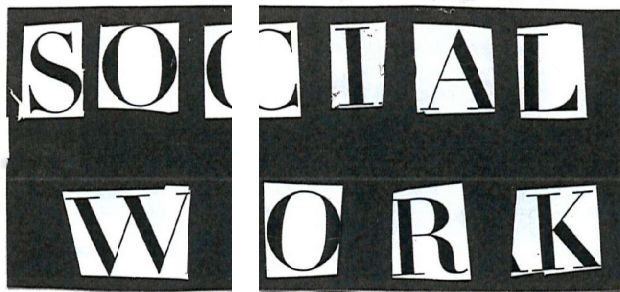
We have to change our plans at the last minute.

We're not just looked after children. We should also get to have fun!

There is a lot of pressure on social workers.

More people need help, but there have been cuts to services.

**YOU HAVE RIGHTS BUT YOU DON'T HAVE RIGHTS.**



# How IT SHOULD BE...

**FROM THE FIRST MEETING, SOCIAL WORKERS SHOULD TELL US OUR RIGHTS.**

**THIS SHOULD BE REPEATED EVERY SESSION.**

'Relationship-based practice' Social workers should know us and we should know them. There needs to be trust.

**Social workers need to listen to the child's voice.**

We should have a say in our care plan.

We should know who to contact and how.

Sometimes there is a problem or things take a long time.

Social workers need to help us understand why.

Just 'checking in' is not good enough. Social workers need to talk to us and find out how we're going and what we need.

We should know who our Independent Reviewing Officer is. They review our care.

We should be able to meet our social worker somewhere we feel comfortable.

**We are working hard to build positive futures and contribute to the UK, but navigating the asylum process is complicated. It makes life difficult for young people. It needs to change.**

Now that you've read this zine  
**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

1. We need more diverse and more positive representations of asylum seeking young people in the media
2. We need more education support for young people with disrupted schooling
3. We need more information about and support to access pathways to university - for those with and without leave to remain
4. We need to be provided with information about our rights in ways that we can understand
5. We need our social workers to engage in relationship-based practice and to include our voices in our care plans
6. We need to live in homes where we are supported to thrive
7. We need a guardian who can provide continuity of care and support through the asylum process and beyond\*
8. We need people to recognise the contribution we are making to UK society

\* In light of our experiences, The Children's Society are currently campaigning for all unaccompanied and separated children to be provided with an independent guardian. For more information:  
<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-you-can-do/campaign-for-change/distress-signals>

Please take time to think about these issues and write or draw your response on this page.

We would love to know what you think. If you are happy to share it with us, take a photo of the completed page and email it to us at **2019hopegroup@gmail.com**. Your response to our zine will help us understand public perceptions of young people from asylum seeking backgrounds, and whether our zine is making an impact.

We would like to draw on your responses in our research and advocacy work. By sending us an image of your completed page, you are consenting to us using it in this way. We will delete your email address so your anonymity is protected.

This project has ethics approval from Manchester Metropolitan University and The Children's Society. If you have any queries, please contact Dr Caitlin Nunn: **c.nunn@mmu.ac.uk**.



امجد Abdii



HOPE

سيروا

Amal

ESPÉRER

#### Acknowledgements

This zine was created by more than fourteen members of The Children's Society Hope Group including Abdullah, Ali, Anas, Kristy, Mohammed, and Mo, in collaboration with Hope Group Coordinator Hilda Higirow and Dr Caitlin Nunn from the Manchester Centre for Youth Studies, Manchester Metropolitan University. It was produced with support from The Children's Society, MMU's Research Centre for Applied Social Sciences, and Manchester Centre for Youth Studies. We would also like to thank Mobeen, Chloe, Janet Batsleer, Ffion Evans, Bini Araia and translators from The Other Perspective CIC, Harriette Forfar and Helena Hunt for their assistance.

