

"WHAT'S THE PHOTOSTORY?" SYRIA-TIPPERARY

A teaching resource for
youth and community
workers



Youth Work Ireland
Tipperary



Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthai Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

TÚSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

INTRODUCTION

"I would like to say to all of those who have come here, you must make sure that you add your stories and experiences into ours and we will be the richer for it. You are required to forget nothing, the opposite is the case, the more you tell us and the more you bring to us so that we can do something new. Those who arrived here ... they are inheriting the strands not just of two rich cultural heritages that will contribute to their identity but also the remaking of both of the cultures and the emergence of a new one ... we weave new patterns ... in modern Ireland."

- President Michael D Higgins. July 2017.

"أود أن أقول لجميع أولئك الذين يأتون إلى هنا، يجب عليكم ان تتأكدوا من أن تضيفوا خبراتكم وقصصكم في بلدنا، ونحن سوف نكون أكثر ثراء بذلك، يجب عليكم أن لا تنسوا شيئاً من ماضيكم، والعكس هو الصحيح، وكلما قلتم لنا قصصكم وكلما جلبتم لنا اشياء ستجعلنا نتمكن من القيام بشيء جديد. أولئك الذين وصلوا إلى هنا ... وهم يحملون تراث كبير وثقافة اخرى غنية التي من شأنها أن تسهم ليس في تطوير هويتهم وحسب ولكن أيضا إعادة صياغة الثقافات وظهر ثقافات جديدة هنا ... نحن ننسج أنماط جديدة من الثقافات ... في أيرلندا الحديثة. "

الرئيس مارتين د هيجينز , يوليو 2017

At Youth Work Ireland Tipperary, we aim to work through a rights-based, youth-led approach to foster learning, innovation, hope and high expectations in all young people, their families and their community. We work by: Taking a human rights led approach guided by the UN Convention on the rights of the Child; Building relationships of trust, respect and equality; Including and collaborating with our community and partners: Maintaining an attitude of 'what we do, we do well'; Upholding the belief that people – young people, staff, volunteers, are our greatest resource: Operating an integrated model of youth work, empowering young people to participate because they know they matter

WHY

Many young people come to live in a new country with their family, or sometimes on their own, because of circumstances that are out of their control. This movement away from all that is familiar can be very disrupting to a young person's sense of self. Some young people carry painful memories with them. At the same time, moving to and settling in a new country can also be a period of discovery, of learning new things. For some young people, their stories are the stuff of everyday life, familiar to us already.

All of these experiences evoke emotions and feelings that are very relatable to on a human level. With the migration of young people to Ireland in difficult circumstances, we felt it was important to offer a resource that would encourage inquiry and points of connection. We hope this resource will create a bond between the creators and readers of these stories.

WHAT

We asked the young people involved to choose or take photos that had meaning for them, either now or in the recent past, using their phones and occasionally, an ipad. This resource, developed out of that process, comes with activities for guidance on how best to engage with the photographs and stories to encourage a deeper understanding of the experiences of being displaced and in creating connections across community and young people.

HOW

With the PhotoStory process, we worked with three groups over a 10-week period. 7 x 9-12 yr olds, 6 x 13-21 yr. olds, the 'girls group' and 2 boys aged 18 and 19. Of the fifteen young people, twelve were already engaged with the youth service. Key to engagement was a strong bond of trust and relationships that had built up over time, involving the young people and their parents. Drawing on Augusto Boal's methods created a space for the stories to emerge.

The resource is preceded by an exhibition launched at The Source, Thurles, Tipperary on 2nd November 2017. The stories were exhibited in Arabic and English, both of these languages having a strong literary and storytelling tradition. Furthermore, it was important to acknowledge the value of the language of the young storytellers and their families.

لماذا

في بعض الاحيان قد يأتي العديد من الشباب للعيش في بلد جديد مع أسرهم، أو في بعض الأحيان للعيش بمفردهم، بسبب ظروف خارجة عن إرادتهم. هذه الحركة بعيدا عن كل ما هو مألوف يمكن أن يكون عامل عرقلة لشعور الشخص الشاب في العيش بعيدا عن وطنه. بعض الشباب قد يحمل ذكريات مؤلمة معهم. وفي الوقت نفسه، فإن الانتقال إلى بلد جديد والاستقرار فيه يمكن أن يكون أيضا فترة اكتشاف لحياة جديدة، وايضا لتعلم أشياء جديدة. بالنسبة لبعض الشباب، قصصهم من الحياة اليومية هي الأشياء الجديدة للتعلم وقد تكون مألوفة ومفيدة لنا بالفعل.

كل هذه التجارب ربما تثير المشاعر والاحاسيس لحامليها التي يمكن أن تكون متصلة جدا بمشاعرنا على المستوى البشري للاحساس. ومع هجرة الشباب إلى أيرلندا في ظل الظروف الصعبة التي مروا بها، شعرنا أنه من المهم تقديم مورد عملي يشجع المعرفة ويشجع الاتصال فيما بيننا وبينهم. ونأمل أن يخلق هذا المورد العملي رابطة بين كتاب هذه القصص وقراء هذه القصص.

ماذا

و لقد طلبنا من الشباب المشاركين في اختيار أو التقاط صور التي لها معنى بالنسبة لهم، الصور تكون إما بتاريخ الآن أو في الماضي القريب، وذلك باستخدام هواتفهم وأحيانا باستخدام جهاز اليباد الخاص بهم. هذا العمل، الذي تم تطويره من خلال هذا البرنامج يأتي مع نشاطنا للتوجيه حول أفضل السبل للتعامل مع الصور والقصص لتشجيع فهم أعمق لتجارب النزوح وخلق صلات وتواصل عبر المجتمع المحلي والشباب.

كيف

مع برنامج قصة الصورة، عملنا مع ثلاث مجموعات على مدى 10 أسابيع. 7 × 9-12 سنة من العمر، 6 × 13-21 سنة. و "مجموعة البنات"، و 2 من الأولاد الذين كانت تتراوح أعمارهم بين 18 و 19 عاما. وكان اثنا عشر من الشباب من أصل 15 شابا يعملون بالفعل في خدمة الشباب. وكان مفتاح المشاركة بهذا العمل هو الرابطة القوية من الثقة بيننا وبين الأشخاص وايضا العلاقة التي تراكمت مع مرور الوقت فيما بيننا، والتي تتطوي على الشباب وأولياء أمورهم. وبالاستناد إلى أساليب أوغوستو بوال، لافساح المجال أمام ظهور القصص في الصور.

وقد تم عرض هذا المورد في معرض لقصص الصور أطلق في مدينه "ثورلس"، مقاطعة "تيبيراري" في 2 نوفمبر 2017. وقد عرضت القصص باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية، وكلاهما كان لهما تقليد قوي في عالمي الأدب والرواية. وعلاوة على ذلك، نعتقد أنه من المهم الاعتراف بأهمية لغة التراث للناس ومن من رواة القصص من الشباب وأسره في اثناء مجتمعا.

Photographs are central to our day-by-day understanding of the world around us and of civic, social and political life. Photographs can be very powerful avenues to exploring young peoples' deeper understanding of other cultures as well as concepts such as justice/injustice and importantly, creating empathy. Getting young people to observe and describe what they see in photographs introduces and opens up a variety of subjects and issues. At the same time, photographs taken by young people and the stories created by them can be a powerful means of giving voice to experiences that might otherwise remain unheard and unseen. It is our hope with this resource that people will find commonality of experience in the images and stories that young people from Syria have created. It is also an opportunity to learn about the new patterns that we weave in Ireland in 2017.

Because of the weight of negative imagery associated with people coming from conflict regions the youth worker/facilitator needs to be especially sensitive to encouraging respectful engagement with these images. Exploring the code developed by Dóchas is important. This code is based on:

- Respect for the dignity of the people concerned.
- Belief in the equality of all people.
- Acceptance of the need to promote fairness, solidarity and justice.

See <http://www.dochas.ie/code/>

The resource was developed through the generosity of fifteen young people from Syria and their parents. Twelve of the young people came with their families to Ireland under a Refugee Resettlement Programme in late 2014/early 2015. Three have arrived more recently. All of the young people here are involved in ongoing youth work process with Youth Work Ireland Tipperary.

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Resource design and development: Sally Daly and Paul Keating. With special thanks to Donal Kelly, Laura Ryan, Olayinka Seriki and Podge Cooke, as well as the participants at the Erasmus Plus Migration and Integration Conference at Youthwork Ireland Tipperary (YWIT, Nov 2017). Participants from the YWIT 2020 Activation programme and European participants workshopped this resource during the conference. Thanks also to Cora Horgan, Shirley Byrnes, Janet Doyle, Tipperary Comhairle and all other paid and voluntary staff at YWIT.

ACTIVITIES

TWO ACTIVITIES; 90 MINUTES

Activity One: 30 minutes

Activity Two: 60 minutes



WHAT WOULD I DO? A WALKING DEBATE

Aims

- To share thoughts and ideas about reasons why we make the decisions we do.
- To think through how choices can depend on different realities.
- To recognise what influences decision-making.

Inputs:

- Space: A large room.
- Time: 20-25 mins.
- Equipment: Post-its and markers.

Activity: This game should help participants to reflect on decisions that young people may have to make on everyday issues. It also gives them an opportunity to think about the kind of decisions that people are forced to make in exceptional situations. This activity is trying to bring home the extent to which young people can't always influence decisions that affect their lives. Some of the statements relate directly to the stories in this resource.

1. Facilitator should place post-its with Remain/Truth or Go/Lie on either side of room.
2. Inform the group that they will hear statements and that they will respond to the statements by **moving to one or other side of the room.**
3. Read the statements from the next page and facilitate the moving debate in response. Start by reading: "Imagine yourself as your 17 yr. old self". Then, encourage participants to imagine all of these statements as taking place in Ireland.
4. Draw an imagined circle in the middle into which the participants move between the reading of the statements. In this way they are less inclined to stay in the same position and must keep moving.

Highlight: *Decision-making can be complicated* We often do not know the reasons or full circumstances that other people make the decisions they do* As a young person, sometimes you have limited influence in big life decisions*

<p>You are 17 and you have a full license but you can't afford a car yet. Your mother allows you to borrow her car sometimes. On the last trip, you scraped the side of the car against a wall in a car park. Do you tell her and risk not getting the car again ever or pretend that you know nothing about it?</p>	<p>You are at a party and one of your friends is drunk. There was a fight and they may have been involved. The police have been called. Do you stay or leave?</p>	<p>You're at a party and the person you've been dating has gone off with someone else. Do you stay or leave the party?</p>
<p>Your parents are going on holidays to a sunny destination. They offer to pay for you to join them. You have lots going on yourself, do you go with them or stay put?</p>	<p>You've been wanting to ask someone out for ages and then someone else does it first! Do you tell them the truth about how you feel or say nothing?</p>	
<p>Your parents are both engineers and they have been offered a chance to double their earnings by working on a project in the Middle East for 2 years. Do you go with them or stay?</p>	<p>The rumours are that because the town near yours was an old army town, it is going to be hit in an air raid. Do you stay or leave with your family?</p>	
<p>You know that there was war in your country before. There are stories from your older relatives and you know that some political parties in your country were formed during this time. You hear that war has broken out in a distant part of your country. Your parents want the family to leave. You like your life. Do you stay or do you go?</p>	<p>The war has started and so far, it is okay in that you can still get food and water and the bombings have not hit your area too badly yet. Someone said that food supplies will soon be affected because it will become too dangerous for the delivery lorries. Do you stay or go with your family?</p>	

This activity takes inspiration from 'Should I Stay or Should I go' in 'Global Rights, Noble Goals: Refugees, Migration, The Sustainable Development Goals and YOUth. NYCI: http://www.youth.ie/Global_Rights_Resource

FINDING MY OWN STORY

AIM:

- To create connection with other lives through each participants own life story
 - To invoke memory form personal experience
 - To encourage self-awareness and reflection
 - To open to other peoples' lived experiences
 - To challenge assumptions
-

INPUTS:

- Space: A large room
- Time: 60 minutes and time to clean up
- Equipment: Chairs, flipchart, markers, colour photocopies of photos from resource

Note: It is vital that facilitators read the introduction to this resource before proceeding with any exercise. Given the nature of this resource, it is important that the people who created the photos get the respect and compassion that they deserve.

ACTIVITY:

Part 1:

- Arrange chairs in a circle and place all photos in a circle on the ground
- Explain to the group how you came to have the photographs and to remember that the amateur photographers are real people and deserve the groups' respect.
- Ask each young person to form a pair with another person.
- The pair should pick two photographs.
- Ask each pair to take some time to think of a personal story that their chosen photo invokes. Share this story with partner.
- **Note: It is essential here that the pairs use personal stories from their own lived experience.**
- Bring the group back together and ask each of the pair to share the story.

Part 2:

- Then, ask each pair to pick one new photo between them.
- The pair should examine this and create a story that they can tell together with a main character (a hero/heroine), and a side character. It should be a fantasy type story.
- Ask the pairs to share their fantasy story to the group.

Part 3:

- Distribute the story to each pair that matches their photo.
 - Ask pair to reflect on the written story between them.
 - Ask one person from each pair to read the story to the group.
 - Ideally, the story should be read in the **first person**, as is written in the story
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DEBRIEF:

- Have a discussion about the activity. Ask young people questions:
 - What was the first thing you thought about when you saw the photos?
 - How hard was it to create your own personal story using the photos?
 - How did you feel when you read the stories?
 - How did you feel when others read their stories?
- Use the flip chart to record key words and messages young people bring up.
- Open up conversations with young people about what it has brought up.

OUTCOME:

- Young people have explored self-awareness through connecting with visual images and story.
- Young people have become more conscious of how they make judgements of others based on limited information about their lives.
- Young people have a greater sense of the difficult decisions faced by ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances.



THE PICTURES



1





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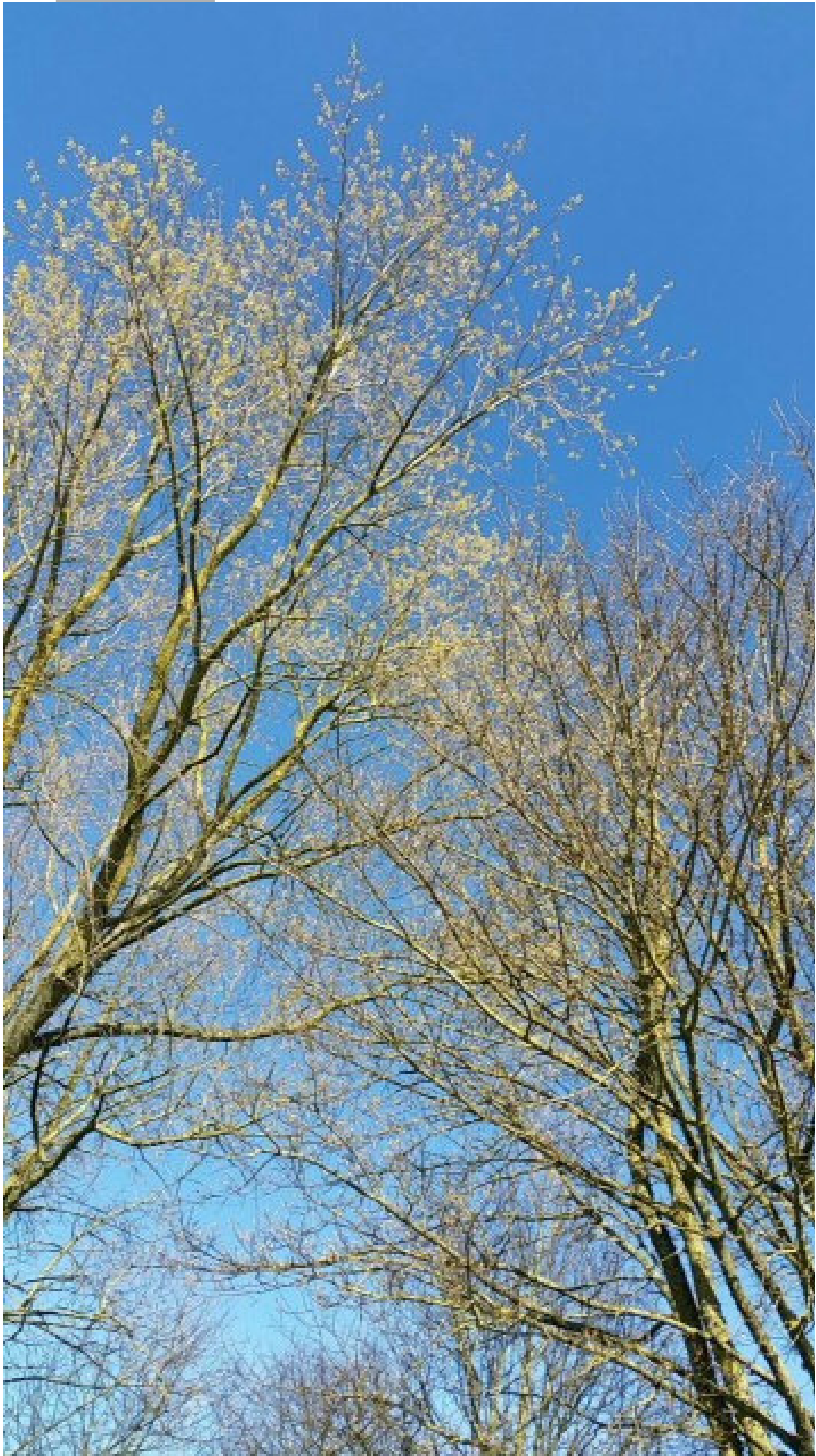






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THE STORIES



No. 1

Learning to Hurl

Jana, aged 13

I remember my dad got me my first hurley, he also got one for my brother. I had seen it on TV but I didn't know how to use it and so I learned how to play from watching TV. At first, I just started hitting it around with my brother, (he says he was better than me... I agree) and then I started playing it at school, one of my teachers loves hurling. It was fun, I really liked it, scooping up the ball with the sliotar. After a while I learned that when you do this, it is called a 'jab-lift' (although it sounds like 'jazz-lift' when people say it). Hitting it out feels a bit scary, in case you hit someone but it's exciting too, especially if it goes far out.

No. 2

My Own Private Bicycle

Omar, aged 10

I remember the day we went to Tayto Park (my mum says it was September 2016), even my uncle came with us. It was raining, we even got wet on the roller coaster but I really liked it because it goes so fast. The kite ride is fun too, well, it's not really a kite but it is like one. You sit on it and you fly, kind of. Actually, the first ride we went on was the rocket, it's really nice, you go upside down and even though it made me feel a little bit sick, I liked it so much! My uncle came on it with us to hold my little sister, she loved it. Then we went to Mosney (Accommodation Centre) and it was weird being back there because that was where we first lived in Ireland and my dad got me and my older sister the pink bicycle to share and it was a really good place to cycle as there were not too many cars. We used to share a bicycle Syria too but now, my dad got me a new bicycle and I gave the pink bike to my little sister. Now I have my own private bicycle!!

No. 3

Memories of Damascus

Amani, aged 21

I chose this picture because it speaks of a depth of grief when I see it, I feel I am lonely and sad to know the taste of joy in the present as I live here in this country. I feel that I am alone and empty, nothing to do. Here I am sitting and sleeping. I have no friends and I can't get out of my house because I do not know how to speak English. When I see this picture, I feel a painful reminder of a happy day with friends. It was the last Saturday I spent in Damascus with my friends, just hanging out. I miss my smile. I miss my friends. I miss my country. I miss feeling the company of my friends.

No. 4

One Day can Change Everything

Ghassan, aged 19

I took this photo because it gives me a strong memory of what life was like in Homs. It has a river running through it too, just like this, and was a beautiful city. In Homs, there was a strong sense of community; people would lend a hand to each other, help each other out. One day can change everything. My uncle got engaged on a Wednesday and that Friday he called me to come over to play PlayStation with him. We were playing for a while and he felt hungry so he went to check with his sister who was making dinner. He passed by the balcony on the way to the kitchen and his parents were there. They said there were snipers shooting on the road but we were not used to this. It was the first time we had seen or heard snipers in the war. It was a quiet neighbourhood. His mother was leaning over the balcony and he moved forward to pull her back, to move her out of danger. In that action, leaning forward, the sniper bullet went into his head and killed him. They didn't know that he was dead because there was no blood. His mother couldn't understand why he was lying on the ground.

We had to take him to the hospital along the streets. The sniper fire was all around us. The bullet sounds were like a video game. It was the 1st October 2011. I was 15.

No. 5

My Dream

Saeid, aged 11

My dream is to play soccer for Man United. I was only four when we left Syria (for Jordan) but I do remember kicking a ball in Syria. Now I have friends on my estate and I play soccer with them. The aunt of my friend has brought me to play soccer in a club with him, it is not far from here.

I want to play county soccer and also play for England, maybe Turkey. Paul Pogba (he brought the dab to England) is my favourite player (Man U). He is a great player, the best after Suarez and he is a Muslim too, I can play with him on his team. I think I will be scouted from St Kevins to play with County Tipperary or maybe Shamrock Rovers, Dublin or for Galway United. When I am a famous soccer player, and I can live anywhere in the world, I will live at Man United. The scout came to the club and I scored 5 goals in 15-20 mins. He said that it was his first time there but if he came again, I might get scouted with my friend.

No. 6

Chi Chi and Kong

Jodi, aged 9

My dad got me a bird, actually he got me one and one for my brother. Actually, I would like a kitten because I love kittens but my dad doesn't love them. The birds are called Chi Chi and Kong and they are cockatoos. Their face looks like Pikachu and their wings are grey. They were wild but my brother tamed Kong.

My dad brought the birds outside to give them fresh air in their cage but the door was a little bit open and Kong escaped even though he was the tame one! He was calling Chi Chi to follow but she would not go.

No. 7

I Feel my Father in the Air Around Me

Nadeen, aged 18

Today, when I was surfing the Internet, I saw a warning about cancer, and its rate has increased dramatically, but now it is like any disease. Whenever I hear the name of this disease I feel chills in my body. I hate it because I remember my father and how he died of this disease, although he fought hard, but the disease ended his life.

I remember my father and I remember his affection for us despite my young age, I still remember the details of his face accurately. He was good looking, identical to the man of my dreams.

My father was an example of a courageous resistance fighter in my opinion because he carried the disease for ten years and fought it. In the end he lost the battle because medicine did not find a cure for this cruel disease that deprives man of his health and makes him wish for his own death.

I remember my father's wish was for me to become a doctor, but because of my young age, I did not understand what this particular profession was. Now that I am in Ireland, I feel my father's wish is impossible to achieve, that becoming a doctor is too hard. I feel that I am letting him down. I feel him in the air around me. I feel his presence everywhere, he is always with me.

No 8

Sunflowers in Our Garden

Jana, aged 13

My mother planted sunflower seeds with my little sister in March in our garden in Thurles. We planted them because we love their colours and importantly, we love to eat sunflower seeds!! Usually you can harvest them in September but these ones are not ready yet. We eat them all the time after we salt and roast them, they are so delicious.

In Syria, sunflower seeds are everywhere, in every shop, they are the most common snack you will see. The seeds are fresh there, they are different in Ireland. So many people grow sunflowers in Syria, my uncle said that the sunflowers won't grow here because they need hot weather, he was wrong!!

No. 9

The Love Heart

Sarah, aged 15

A beautiful friend is the most beautiful gift from God, someone who is like a sister and someone you can share secrets with. I miss my friend Halema so much. We knew each other since we were young but we lived in different places so we did not see each other often. When my family fled to Jordan, she also moved with her family and we lived near each other. We went to school and we came back together. I slept over in her house and she slept over in my house too and we became the best friend ever. We were sharing clothes and when we had holidays we wore the same clothes. We were in Jordan for a long time, four years and I had a lovely time with my friend but now, the days have separated us.

We travelled to Ireland and her family travelled to America. But I still have her beautiful necklace that she gave me. It had two hearts, she took one and I took the other (in the photo). Half of it is always with me and I can't ever give it up or take it off because we were best friends together, so we keep it all the time with us.

No. 10

Damascus, My Home

Mariam, aged 19

2017/4/6 was the last day I was in Damascus.

I miss a lot of things there.

I miss my sister, my second half.

I miss my friends.

I miss my relatives.

I miss the streets of Damascus and its alleys and every corner of it.

I spent the best days of my life in Damascus and hope to return soon.

And return back to meeting my family and friends and all who I love. A return to my soul and myself. When I left my city, I become devoid of spirit.

The family will go back to being as complete as when we lived every day at the same home.

The smile was always with our faces, now sadness is dwelling in us and everything is sad.

A despicable war kills Princess Syria.

I long for our house, which was destroyed, where I lived. I have memories there.

Suddenly everything was lost and the country lost.

I lost my country, lost my safety and lost my smile and now there is sorrow.

People have become oppressed by destruction.

What I have spoken of is what I have saved of my story. This image is in my neighbourhood. ❤️

I love you Syria ❤️

No 11

My Childhood Friend

Ruby, aged 16

How much I love my friend, she is the only one that can make me smile in hard time and always listened to me. Shahed is my best friend ever, she was with me from when we were young, she is like my sister. She used to sleep in my house and I slept over in her house too we had lovely and fun times. We were crying together and laughing together. I miss her a lot and I feel lonely without her. In that time when we were told that we're going to Ireland, we were so sad and we wished that the days that remained for me would never end before I travelled.

Five days before I travelled it was my birthday. All my friends came! Then my friend Shahed gave me this bracelet (in the photo). I was so happy with it because it was from my best friend. After five days, we travelled and I was crying a lot until my tears dried up. Shahed is still in Syria and I will go back to you soon my friend and get back to our classes together and our laughter will fill the streets.

No. 12

Katie, My Cat

Soundos, aged 9

Cats are the loveliest and nicest things in the world. My grandmother brought me a lovely little cat. I really love her a lot and was taking care of her and playing with her all the time. She was sleeping in my room. One day I went shopping and left her at home. But when I came back I didn't find her anywhere, I got sad and started looking for her and I said to myself 'If I found her I will never leave her alone'.

Later that night, I saw her white foot peeping out from under the shed!! I felt great happiness and I promised her I will not leave her again.

No. 13

Making New Memories

Sara, aged 13

My story is about when we went to the lake with my friend and her family and my family too, it was a very nice day. We had two cars. It's a lake in Limerick and me and my friend wore the same clothes and the same colour. We set off taking pictures of each other and we stopped at a petrol station, all the adults got out and my brother sat in our car and started playing songs- we knew them all and we sang along.

We went to the lake we got out of the cars and the women started fixing the bbq. My friend and I, who I consider like my sister, went all over the lake, posing and taking photos with a selfie stick. Then we had the BBQ and we finished and we got into the cold water for a swim. After we took pictures of the ducks and swans.

We got out of the water and packed up our stuff and drove back to my house. We went straight up to my room to look at our photos and talked until it was time for her family to go home to Portlaoise, it is 35 minutes from Thurles. It is so nice to share these photos with my friend, we have already made some great memories from these days and hope that we will go to the lake again soon.

No. 14

My Mammy Makes Delicious Food

Najah, aged 9

The photo is at home. I like it because this is yummy food. My mammy makes it. There is meat kebabs with bakdonis (parsley), chicken, onions, mayonnaise and yoghurt. My mammy makes her own yoghurt and it is so delicious. This is the food that I love but we don't have it every day.

Last night I had a wrap and a banana for dinner.

No 15

My Friend, the Barber

Anas, aged 18

We moved to Jordan on 24th May 2012. I was 14. I had never worked as a barber, I had been in school in Syria but now it was necessary to find work. I went to find a job, to help my family and to do stuff. I asked the barber to give me a chance and he took me on, he was also Syrian and 80% of his customers were Syrian. He took me on and it was my first job. We became friends and after two months he gave me a raise. I was earning quite good money, I practised cutting on my dad, not on my brother, he wouldn't let me!!

We had good customers, lots of fun. It was a relaxed place, customers could drink coffee, have a cigarette. Sometimes the customers would just stay and chat. I would get a €1 tip (in Dinars) for every coffee I made. He was a good businessman, lots of people came to him for loans. The barber got a place in Canada and is there now with a jeep! He is my best friend and we talk every week.

No. 16

The Puncture

Marwan, aged 11

My story starts in the shed. Well, I was playing outside and I fell. I was racing with my friend on our bikes. We were cycling sooooooooooooo fast (about 2 miles an hour). There was a brick in my way but I didn't see it (I wasn't wearing my glasses) and the front wheel went over it but the back wheel buckled and punctured. I asked my friend what to do, he said "put it in the shed and never play with it again and say nothing".

I did what he said but I also put a knife beside it to pretend that the knife had punctured it to make people (my dad!!) believe that it was the knife....but those things only happen in movies. I closed the door and walked backwards into the kitchen to get a drink of water. My mum saw my face (with a worried look) and then she saw me going down the street without my bicycle and she called me back and asked me why I didn't have it. I told her about the knife but she didn't believe me. She checked the bike and told my dad at dinner. He was cross but he fixed it anyway.

"What's the PhotoStory? Syria - Tipperary" Launch Night, November 2nd 2017, The Source Arts Centre, Thurles, Co. Tipperary





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