

A GUIDE TO WATCHING 'STORIES TOO BIG FOR A CASE FILE'

WHO ARE WE?

We are a team of young researchers with migration experiences and university-based researchers. Since 2019, we have worked together on the [Children Caring on the Move \(CCoM\)](#) project. We are using participatory research approaches to find out about unaccompanied young people's experiences of care in England.

We are exploring:

- What does care mean to unaccompanied young people?
- Who cares for them?
- Who should care but doesn't?
- How do they care for others?
- How does the UK's hostile immigration environment shape care?

WHY DID WE MAKE THIS FILM?

- Because we care about asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant young people and want them to know they are not alone.
- To amplify unaccompanied young people's voices.
- As part of our commitment to improving how unaccompanied young people are treated and to challenge systemic injustice.

WHAT IS THE FILM ALL ABOUT?

Stories too big for a case file:

Unaccompanied young people confront the hostile environment is a short film that showcases the testimonies of unaccompanied refugee and migrant young people. We wanted the film to show some of the common experiences of unaccompanied young people as they confront the injustices of 'the system' in the UK. We also wanted to show that each young person is unique

and has their own story. The words in the film come from the young people we have spoken to as part of our research. We chose these stories to highlight emerging themes. With the help of film maker Louis Brown, we 'revoiced' these words and created images on our phones for the film. We hope that viewers feel like they are walking alongside the young people when they watch this film.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2019, 3580 children and young people applied to the UK for protection as 'unaccompanied asylum-seeking children'.
- The UK has a 'hostile environment' policy towards migrants and a culture of disbelief. In 2020, 31% of children who applied for asylum had their age disputed and others have their country of origin contested.
- In 2020, 2,792 young people had been waiting for decisions on their asylum claims between 1-3 years. 168 had been waiting 3-5 years and 11 young people had been waiting for over 5 years.
- All of this means that unaccompanied children and young people struggle to access support, care, appropriate accommodation, and education and generally do not have the right to work whilst they wait for a decision on their case.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- Why does the care system feel like it is causing more problems for young people? How can it be different? What kind of care would you like to receive?
- What impact has the pandemic had on you and how do you think it has felt for unaccompanied young people already stuck in limbo?
- How do you think planning for the future is affected by precarious immigration status?
- Why do you think we don't show any young people's faces in the film? How does it feel as a viewer?
- Can you think of at least five ways this film shows individual or collective strength?
- How has this film made you think differently about people who are migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers?