**Transcription of Interview with Woman from Iraq (IQ)**

**I = Interviewer**

**IQ = Interviewee from Iraq**

**R = Regine from the Bridges Programmes**

**I: So here we go. Just talk normally because it’s…**

IQ: I know, I did that before.

**I: Ok. So first of all I’m just gonna ask you some basic questions and then we’ll go more into…**

IQ: Ok.

**I: Ok, so where are you originally from?**

IQ: From Iraq.

**I: Iraq. Ok, and what’s your native language?**

IQ: Arabic.

**I: Arabic. How long have you been in the UK?**

IQ: On July, it will be four years. So almost four years.

**I: And how long have you been in Glasgow?**

IQ: It is all in Glasgow.

**I: Okay, all in Glasgow yeah. So you just came to Glasgow immediately. Did you go to London first and then?**

IQ: There is a place at the south of… it’s just one day.

**I: It’s Croydon?**

IQ: No, I don’t know. I don’t remember. It is small name. I don’t know. It’s just in a restaurant and – hotel, spent one night and then came here.

**I: Ok, that’s fine. What’s your status now?**

IQ: I finish classroom assistant course and applied for another course next year. Actually this year, I will begin a course. Because I studies language in Iraq.

**I: You studied English in Iraq?**

IQ: Yeah, English language. So I don’t think it is necessary to do another course for English here. So I decided to find another things to help me find a job here. That’s why I applied for classroom assistant, because I was a teacher in Iraq.

**I: Ok, yeah. And you finished that last year?**

IQ: Yeah. No, 2010.

**I: 2010. Okay. I was actually thinking about your refugee status. You have leave to remain?**

IQ: Yes

**I: Indefinite or?**

IQ: Yes, indefinite.

**I: And when did you get that?**

IQ: The first day we came here?

**I: The first year you came here?**

IQ: The first day.

**I: The first day? Okay. Right. Can I ask you how old you are?**

IQ: I think I will be, not I will be, because this is my birthday day…

**I: Today?**

IQ: No, it is 5th of April.

**I: Okay, well, congratulations.**

IQ: I think I am 57 now.

**I: 57 ok.**

IQ: Or 56, I don’t remember.

**I: Ok, it’s just… And how many children do you have?**

IQ: Three.

**I: Three. Daughters, is that correct?**

IQ: Yeah.

**I: I thought I remembered that. What age are they?**

IQ: 14, 10 and 5.

**I: Are you single parent?**

IQ: No, I have a husband.

**I: Ok, and you live with your husband?**

IQ: Yes.

**I: Where do you live?**

IQ: In Knightswood?

**I: Knightswood. In what type of accommodation?**

IQ: It’s private one.

**I: Private. Is it a house?**

IQ: Yeah.

**I: Do you receive any benefits?**

IQ: Yes, housing benefits.

**I: Housing benefits.**

IQ: And child benefits. Child tax credit. That’s all.

**I: So not job seekers allowance or anything like that?**

IQ: No, actually I was having - last year I have this [unclear] my lower back and they changed my benefits to the illness and – ESA [Emotional Support and Advice].

**I: So you don’t have a job right now?**

IQ: Unfortunately. But I’m on what you call it – it is work programme.

**I: Work programme?**

IQ: Yes, and they try to find me a part time job.

**I: Is that with the job centre? Or is that Glasgow…**

IQ: No, it is part from ESA. They send - when people get better and they’re longing to find a job, they send them to – it’s called Angus. Actually it’s specialized for find a job for people as part time, because they still can’t do full time job.

**I: Ok. Have you had a job in Glasgow at some point?**

IQ: No.

**I: But you like to?**

IQ: I would like to. I’m doing a voluntary job now. One of them it is in a school with Regine [Editor’s note: employee with the Bridges Programmes]. She find me a placement as a pupil supporter, classroom assistant. It is in [mentions name of school but it is unclear] Primary School. And one in the Red Cross as an interpreter.

**I: So you’re doing two volunteer jobs?**

IQ: Yes.

**I: Ok. So do you – how come you don’t have a real job besides your medical problem?**

IQ: Yeah, you know. Last year I can’t move at all. After I see my physiotherapist I feel better. He give me some exercises and I’m doing well. I can move now. I can do things. But he warned me from bending or holding some heavy things.

**I: Ok, right. Did you have a – you said you had a job in your home country?**

IQ: Yes, I was a teacher.

**I: You were a teacher. For how long?**

IQ: For 15 years.

**I: 15 years, right. And here you got an education as a classroom assistant, here in Glasgow?**

IQ: Yes.

**I: Yeah, and…**

IQ: I have opportunity to study and be a teacher, but in this age I don’t think I’m ready to study more, because I need to go to university or something like that. It’s not easy I think for me.

**I: No, ok. Thank you. So could you just tell me about yourself? How do you see yourself?**

IQ: Sometimes I feel I’m not happy at all, because you know homesick, and leaving your mum and all your family there. I didn’t see them [unclear] to four years now. Just phone call and that’s not enough for me. I find my children begin to change and they all the time speaking English at home. They don’t know about their culture, their history. Just, I think sometime bring me some pain. Yeah, because when I stay at my country, I know everything about Iraq, the history of Iraq and the culture and everything – even religion. They don’t know anything about their religion now. They are Muslim just in the name. Yeah, it is not easy to come to another country. You will lose something.

*[Regine enters]*

*R: Oh, sorry girls.*

**I: It’s okay. No, it must be hard for you to teach them about…**

IQ: It’s not easy at all, because they are thinking about – most of teenagers and children here [unclear] [7.50]. They are talking about you know celebrating these things, which is foreign, which is very silly things. And they are very [unclear] anyone.

**I: So how would you describe yourself as a person? How would you talk about yourself?**

IQ: See although it is a big challenge for me to come here, but I’m still – I feel I’m strong enough for this challenge – I can do. I can… but the only thing I feel sometimes it is unfair the way they look to the people or women with scarf. I see it is a big barrier for me, big barrier really. Because when I first go to the school, I feel all these children whispering with each other, talking – I’m sure they are talking about me and even the adult people, they try to avoid me, not to talk with me. I don’t know why. It is maybe the attitude about Islam now. Or I’m not sure. I really want to know what is the reason behind this. I though this is a free country, but in fact, they still have this bad things about Islam and people maybe they think we are forced to put the scarf, but in fact no – we are believe that our religion want this.

**I: So when you say ‘they’, who do you think about?**

IQ: I’m not talking about all people here, no. Most of them are friendly, smile on your face and… but I feel some others have this bad things. Sorry, I can’t – I wish I’m not describe a bad things, but it is a bad things.

**I: Yeah yeah. No, I just want to hear everything you have to say so that’s good. So have you experienced anything particular in this way – any particular incident or?**

IQ: I think, if I find a job and apply for it – why did they put ‘are you – what is your ethnic background? What is your religion?’ Sometimes it give me the feeling that this is some kind of discrimination.

**I: Yeah.**

IQ: But I write everything. I write… But when I go to the interview, I’m sure if I have my scarf, they will not accept me.

**I: Ok, that’s how you feel?**

IQ: I’m sure. Because I have friend and they suffered from this for a long time. They couldn’t find a job. I have a friend, she is hairdresser, and she couldn’t find a place accept her – you know it is a business and you know it is shop and should be beauty, and if someone with scarf, it is not good reaction for other people to come inside the shop. So after all, because she has argued with the boss at job centre she get rid of the benefit, because there is some argue with… so she is without benefits, only child benefit, and she find it difficult to live. So after all, she take off her scarf and finally she find a job.

**I: Would you consider doing that?**

IQ: No.

**I: No, but you think it’s your religion that’s the problem?**

IQ: No, it is not a problem. It is our religion, our Islam said the women should be like this. The only thing should be seen the face and hand, and that’s why I do this because I believe.

**I: What I meant was, do you think that if you took off your headscarf, you wouldn’t experience discrimination?**

IQ: Yeah

**I: Yeah? Ok. So it’s mainly to do with your religion?**

IQ: Yeah, but not because of a job I will do this. Because if you are believe in God and believe there is another life, you shouldn’t do that.

**I: No, ok.**

IQ: It is hard, you see, to make this balance. Really. That’s why Muslim people it is not easy for them to move from their country to America or European countries. I think more UK better than other European. I heard some people in France – they are suffering more than us, because now we have Mosque, we have – we can move in the street with scarf. But in France for example or in Germany, it is not easy at all. Most people spit and swearing sometime.

**I: Ok, you haven’t experienced that here?**

IQ: No, no.

**I: No, okay.**

IQ: It’s fine.

**I: I’m glad to hear that. So if you had to put some – I don’t know how to say this – if you had to put some categories on yourself, what would they be?**

IQ: Particularly to find a job, you mean?

**I: No, more like if you had to say that you had to describe yourself in four words or something like that. What would that be?**

IQ: It’s…

**I: I know it’s a difficult question.**

IQ: It is difficult. I can’t.

**I: You can’t?**

IQ: No.

**I: So what if I give you – would you for instance… What is more important to you, is it being a mother or is it being a woman? Is it being a Muslim or? Which of these?**

IQ: Being a mother.

**I: Being a mother, yeah.**

IQ: And it is not easy. It’s like a soldier in a battle. Yeah, it is – because you know, we come again to the balance – how to make your children believe in Islam and how can they act here as ordinary people? They are – most of people here thinking about enjoying life and… I think this is the most important things for people here – enjoying the life. And for us, for Muslim people, it is not enjoying life – it is just to live this life, because it is very short and there is a long life, endless life after that. People here not believe in that. They say this is the only life, we should enjoy it, we should live it and having everything and for people there is boundaries for everything. Life for us is like a test.

**I: Ok, right. So would you ever describe yourself as a refugee?**

IQ: Yes.

**I: Yes? When would you do that?**

IQ: When?

**I: Yeah**

IQ: Since I came here I’m a refugee.

**I: Yeah, so would you say that to people if you talk to them?**

IQ: Yeah, you know, everything you – even in your GP you have to write you are asylum seeker or refugee. I always tick refugee. I’m a refugee.

**I: So you have to write that in all forms?**

IQ: Yes

**I: Yes, so it’s actually a big part of…?**

IQ: Yeah, we are refugee.

**I: Yeah.**

IQ: Why can we deny this? We are refugee. Because since we came here we are looking for safe place so that we are refugee in fact.

**I: Ok. Good. So do you think your – the way you think of yourself has changed from your home country to here?**

IQ: Yes. See when you are in your home country and living with this big group, you can’t see the bad things of this group. But when you go away from this, you can see the big action and the other and the bad things of this. So when I move, I see these – this is healthy and this is not a bad society. This is very – I can’t explain it – sometimes… it’s not easy for me to describe, but I think they are opposite to aggressive sometime with each other. So when you go for example to the hospital, they treated you very welcomed and they treated in a good way and you can feel there is no difficulty to live here and they are nice people in fact. What you say – this merci – you know what it is – merci, merci?

**I: Oh, mercy?**

IQ: Mercy

**I: Yes okay.**

IQ: What – when I think to go back to my country, I can see most people are aggressive with each other. It is opposite to here. It is a bad thing. They are believe, they are – the first thing in the list for the Muslim people is to be nice with each other and kind, but in fact, this point is the last on the list for Muslims. I find this here, in this society. I couldn’t find it in my society.

**I: Right, you see it now, you didn’t see it then?**

IQ: Yes.

**I: So how do you think you have changed personally?**

IQ: Erm, it’s – I can see Islam now and Muslim countries is not perfect. It should be. When I live in this society, I can take the good things in this society. And maybe I can sometime change my society to be like this.

**I: Yeah. Now I would like to talk a bit about equality and inequality. Can you try to explain to me what equality means to you?**

IQ: Quality

**I: Equality. Do you know what I mean about equality?**

IQ: Yeah, I hear this, but sometimes similar to quality and equality means everyone is equal. Yeah, there is equality here, but I think because of what’s happened – political things happened – it’s making some people have this attitude about Western and Eastern people. See? And I think before that – before 11th of September there is not – I don’t think there is this idea about Muslim people and see, I think it is a bad scenery and some people put it to make all the world thinking these people is bad.

**I: Ok, so you think that happened on the 11th of September?**

IQ: Yes. I don’t think all this scenery of the airplanes and it is doing bad this Al-Qaeda – or Taleban or Al-Qaeda – I don’t remember who did that, but I don’t think they did this. They are not able at all to do this.

**I: Ok, so you actually think it’s a conspiracy – you think that someone planned it and?**

IQ: Yes.

**I: Ok. And you think that changed – has that changed equality here?**

IQ: Yeah. Not here, in all the world. They think they are bad people doing these things and [unclear] people and they are aggressive people. That’s making all the people think to get away from them – they are danger – they can give you harm. Sometime I feel when I – specially in the, in the school – when I talk to some children, I see all the teachers looking at me, I give harm to this child. Why? Why I can’t help? I’m a mum. But I think all this because what’s happened in the world. I can maybe explain more – my English, I can’t say [unclear].

**I: I know what you mean. Do you know what is meant by equal opportunities?**

IQ: Being a good… Hmm… I read this in the school, it’s part of curriculum I think.

**I: Yeah? Ok.**

IQ: Yeah, how to love you country and how to serve the country, and how to be a good part of the country. Is it like this? Do you mean this?

**I: I’m just looking to see what you mean, what you say about it. But yeah, equal opportunities is also that everyone should have the same opportunities no matter what religion they have, no matter what they look like, no matter what age they are. Do you think there are equal opportunities in Glasgow?**

IQ: Er, there is no more thinking about the colour of people, because I can see many white people married of black women or the opposite. I think this idea it was very in the past, but no more here in this country. The only thing is about religion things.

**I: Right. So do you think you have better opportunities here than you did in your home country?**

IQ: Erm. No, in my country it’s better. For me, because I’m part of this country and I – maybe after 2003, there is something happened that made people think about Sunni or Shia or… but before that there is no – nothing about, nobody think about this idea. All people are together. Some Shia people married from Sunni people and – but after 2003, I think there is some little consequence.

**I: Ok, so after the war started?**

IQ: Yes.

**I: Ok. So, excuse me for asking this, so there was no problems because you were a woman in your home country? Before then?**

IQ: This is a big problem. You know, even the idea of women. I didn’t recognize that the women is in a bad situation in my country – yes, I know, but I didn’t think it is so bad like this after I move here. I see women here are living a good life. They have more right, because there is law here support them. There is no rules that support women in my country. That’s why all the women are living a bad life there. Even sometime they are educated, they are working, they are dealing with life in a good way. But see their husband or the family treat them very badly.

**I: Ok.**

IQ: But here it is the opposite. Women in a good situation.

**I: A good situation, yeah. So you think women and men have the same opportunities here or they are equal here?**

IQ: Yeah, equal.

**I: Yeah, okay. I want to ask you, have you ever heard about the Equality Act or the Public Sector Equality Duty? Have you ever heard of these words or these things? [shaking her head] No, okay. Do you know what rights you have in this country?**

IQ: Yes. I think the right for women here is in a good manner.

**I: Yeah, ok.**

IQ: That’s why many Arabic men thought they lose their power when they come here. They try to push on the women more to see if they can ask for their rights or not. I have many friends here – women – they are suffering more because they think here they say ‘hey, you think the rule is helping you here? No, I can punish you, I can do anything and you can do nothing’. And they can’t do anything you know, because they are thinking about their family. They for example not expect them to report that they are being abused by their husband.

**I: Ok.**

IQ: They can’t do anything.

**I: In your home country?**

IQ: Or here.

**I: Here as well?**

IQ: Even here. Believe me. There is a law, a rule, there is a law, there is many things help women here, but still they are suffering.

**I: Ok, so is that because of your family structure? So because of the husband, the women don’t want to report?**

IQ: Yes. I have a friend here. She had many problem with her husband and she asked for a divorce recently, and he asked her ‘did you tell your family that you are asking for a divorce, because I will call your dad and tell him what you are doing’. She spent about 25 years with him and he has changed to be a monster now. She said since she was living with him he was like that because the structure of the family is there, they ask her to be patient and not thinking about divorce, because our people are [unclear] about divorce you know. You should be patient and be a good wife.

**I: Right.**

IQ: So he tried to challenge more her, because ‘don’t think because you are coming here you can do anything. No, you’re still my wife, you have to obey me and you have to be a good wife. Your dad not accept you reporting the police for me’. And she said ‘yes, I can’t do that, I can’t.’

**I: So she couldn’t – she didn’t do it?**

IQ: [Shakes her head]

**I: No**

IQ: He still hit her, abused her, bad words sometimes. He’s nervous all the time and tense and nobody can talk with him and she accept that. She can’t do anything.

**I: Right.**

IQ: See, the family structure is very, very strange. All – what happened to women it’s very accepted. I don’t know why. Women have to be patient, have to accept everything. Why? I don’t know. Sometimes I go to the website and find some – what is it called – this right of women organisations. I can join them to find some solution for this problem – I couldn’t find it.

**I: You couldn’t find it?**

IQ: No. No one can help women in our countries – even here.

**I: Ok, why do you think is?**

IQ: I don’t know.

**I: You don’t know.**

IQ: Even now it is going to change to democratic people in Iraq and nobody think about women. They think about electricity and so on and women still in the same place.

**I: Right, now we’re talking about your home country, would you mind telling me about your everyday life back then? What was that like?**

IQ: In the past?

**I: Yeah.**

IQ: You want me to remember everything?

**I: I don’t want you to remember the bad things. Just, you know – how was your day to day life?**

IQ: Yeah because I was a teacher, I have to spend about – the work day is different from here because the weather is too hot there. We’re finished almost about 12.30, so I spent all this time in the school, and then when I came home because my mum come to help me with the children, I expect to find her at home. And then I continue cook for my children and then after that I sometime go for shopping because my husband [unclear] [32.18] and he spent most of – it’s about one month – in his work and then he came back. I lived alone – I was a single mum and then I come back and cook for them and so on and sometime my little daughter had to – I had to study with her and give her a help with studying. That’s all.

**I: Ok. So do you think you ever experienced any inequalities in your home country?**

IQ: Yes, sometime when I have struggle with my husband, I had bad experience or problem – nobody can help you – yes, my mum supporting me all the time, but no more than your mum. If it – I all the time want to calm down the problem, because when it becomes big no one can help you, because all the rules with the man, not with you, so that you have to be patient.

**I: Yeah, ok.**

IQ: They taught you from you’re a small girl to be patient when you grow up and married. You have to obey your husband, you have to do everything that make him happy. Even his family, you have to make all the family happy.

**I: That sounds hard. So how did that make you feel?**

IQ: It is terrible. It is terrible. I live with his family for three years and I suffer a lot. Because they treat you very badly. I don’t know why. Even you are a good person, you try to make them happy, they treat you very badly.

**I: Ok. So what made you feel good in your home country?**

IQ: When I live alone in my house. It is better for me. Even still the problems with my husband is less than before and we try to solve all the problem between us and I think it changed to be good after I moved away from them.

**I: Ok. And you also talked about before that it was a bit easier or a lot easier with your religion when you were back…?**

IQ: Yeah.

**I: Because everyone…**

IQ: All the women wearing a scarf and do the same things as you. But here you look as strange person from the others because… I sometime when I - it’s a strange thing – I was sitting in the bus and looking – all the people are equal for me. Then a lady come and is wearing a scarf like me and I fell ‘oh what is that? That one is strange’. And I remember I am the same.

**I: That’s interesting. So even you start to think of the headscarf as different?**

IQ: Yeah, because they are equally and she’s different from them because she’s wearing a scarf. That’s why maybe it is – some people look at you this way.

**I: Right. So can you tell me a bit about your everyday life here in Glasgow?**

IQ: Here I’m busy now interpreting with the Red Cross, so it is – I expect every day they call me and say ‘[interviewee’s name], please come – come to the Red Cross Office’. So it is not fixed things to do, but normally I wake up and help the children to go to school. I take the two little girl to school and then cooking, tidying the house, and then I – after that I’ll be busy, maybe go to Red Cross or to my school or sometimes go for shopping or I have appointment with work programme. And if not, I put on BBC and hear about the news around the world, so… Afternoon I have my lunch and then ready to help the children with their homework so.

**I: Okay, yeah. What does your husband do? Does he work or?**

IQ: No, he’s studying you know.

**I: He’s studying.**

IQ: It is business – not NC.

**I: Probably HN…**

IQ: HNC and D. HD…

**I: Yeah, HND.**

IQ: HND

**I: Yeah, I think that might… I’m not sure. So he comes home in the afternoon or?**

IQ: Yeah. He’s busy all the time because he missed – missed a part from his studying because he went to Iraq on March, so he’s very busy now doing his missing assessments.

**I: Ok. So do you sometimes feel that you experience inequalities here in Glasgow?**

IQ: In my family or?

**I: In general.**

IQ: Yes, the only thing is that what I told you before. It is wearing scarf and I think it is some sort of – sometimes it is give me bad feeling. I think sometimes seriously to go back to my country because of this. But then I remember the bad things about women, and I really didn’t have this bad experience about my husband – he’s not that bad, but I have friends, they are suffering from their husbands and nobody help them. That make me think I don’t want my children to have the same experience. I… you know my daughters, because they heard about the Arabic people and the way they deal with their wives, they say we don’t want to marry Arabic people.

**I: And how does that make you feel?**

IQ: They have the right to say this.

**I: So do you think it’s easier for your husband to be Muslim than it is for you to be Muslim? Do you know what I mean?**

IQ: Yes. Women have… more pressure on women because of the scarf. Because if you walking in the street and see many men, you can’t see this is a Muslim or this is not, you know. But you can easily see, this is a Muslim lady because she’s wearing a scarf. I think the mission is on the women more than on the man.

**I: Right. What makes you feel good here in Glasgow then?**

IQ: Yeah you know, the way they’re dealing with the women and – I think the rights for everyone here to live and to have… Sometime when they said about talking about the freedom and it makes me feel great and the service to everyone here is good.

**I: What kind of service?**

IQ: Everything. Because I think the government have give everyone equal dealing with everyone. Like benefit for everyone even they are not working and this is a good things. If these things happened to my country, I think everyone will be happy. Because that make you feel happy with your government because of this. You have the right to housing, the housing view, the help and there is a benefit for everyone and there is no one suffering because of this. This is a good things and women as well, because they are having good rights here and they are living in a good situation – better than the other countries. You can see even Chinese people and many Asian and European people come to live here because of the good things here. See when, I think sometimes ‘why Chinese people come to live here? What is the reason?’ And I find because they have no rights to have more than one child for example. Sometime you need two children for example, what makes you think about moving? It’s the only thing I think because it’s not easy to have just one child sometimes.

**I: No, that must be difficult.**

IQ: Do you have children?

**I: No, not yet. No. Okay, let’s see. So do you think you would be able to get a job here in Glasgow if you didn’t have your medial problem?**

IQ: [long pause] Now it is a big problem to find a job I think because of this commercial problem around the world, but – so there is a good chance for – because when I go for work programme, he find me a good jobs and apply for them. I have applied for five last month and waiting for response from them. It’s not easy but you still think about there is a hope to find – I wish I could find one.

**I: What kind of job do you think you…?**

IQ: I applied for pupil supports one – it is like a classroom assistant. It is similar to admin assistant in schools as well and I… what other things? It’s because it’s the only things I’m qualified for is the teaching. That’s why he think about this. But last time I told him I can do even for example catering assistant.

**I: Er, sorry?**

IQ: Catering.

**I: Catering, yeah.**

IQ: But he think I should be qualified as well for this. And he say this is not easy for your back. It need you to move all the time and support the people in the kitchen. It is a big job actually, so I changed my mind and I’m thinking about nurse. So I applied for health care for next year in Clydebank College.

**I: Ok, so you’re actually thinking about going back to studying?**

IQ: Yes, this is make me think about widening my… what is called? The way you apply for jobs…

**I: Your skills?**

IQ: Skills, yes. He says it is a good thinking to think about another thing to study. To make you applied for health care and childcare at the same time.

**I: Ok, so it’s never been a problem for you to get in to studies here?**

IQ: No.

**I: What about your children? What do you do with them?**

IQ: I think when I go to interview for the college I told them about my time and I’m free from nine to three only, and if my husband have three days for full time course, I can be free for the other two days. So if they can help me with this, it will be great for me.

**I: Ok, did they do that when you did your other education?**

IQ: When I did my classroom assistant he wasn’t studying full time at that time. He helped me with the little one, but now because he’s busy I have to tell them at the interview about this problem. And I think they will help me, because sometime they can find – what it’s called – a club after preschool?

**I: Yeah.**

IQ: They can pay me for this and the problem will be solved.

**I: Ok. So you haven’t had your children in childcare at any point?**

IQ: Yes, when I was in the past – in the past situation, when I was in the classroom assistant course. I put my little one – where? I’m thinking about – it’s a nursery, a private nursery, so the college paid for this.

**I: Oh the college paid for it? If you should have paid for it yourself, could you have done that?**

IQ: No.

**I: No, it would have been too expensive?**

IQ: It’s too much because I think they paid her about 2,000 a year.

**I: Ok**

IQ: I can’t do that.

**I: So is there any special reason why the college pays for it? Is it just a programme they have?**

IQ: Yeah, if you are – it is a programme for them at that time. If you are full time course they pay you for the childcare and the disabursary [Editor’s note: disbursement] as well.

**I: Yeah, have you thought about if you get a job that it would be a problem with childcare?**

IQ: No, no not at all. Because if you are – if you can able to pay for the childcare it is easy for you. And if you are paid, it is okay.

**I: Ok, right.**

IQ: But I’m not thinking to find a full time job. I can’t. It is too much for me I think. I still have – I need the time to rest, I still have this problem and I don’t want to go back to the same problem again.

**I: No no. So do you go to see your GP quite often and get…?**

IQ: Yeah, but I stopped going to my physiotherapy after I finished, but he give me this advice to keep doing this exercise and be aware.

**I: Yeah, that’s probably a good idea. So you’ve had help or obviously you still have help to help to find a job and education from the ESA. Have you had help from anyone else?**

IQ: No

**I: No, okay. Have you ever been on job seeker’s allowance?**

IQ: Yes

**I: Yeah, did they try to help you – the job centre?**

IQ: They sent me to organisation – Regeneration.

**I: Oh yeah.**

IQ: And they want to help me with my CV – no more than this. They would just this one. And finding a job it is your job.

**I: Well, it’s true but…**

IQ: You have to go to the website and to go to the job point and…

**I: Yeah. Have you ever had any help from Bridges?**

IQ: Bridges sent me to course. It is just to give you experience to go to interview or find a job – it is one week.

**I: So do you think that people in these organisations understand your situation and your needs?**

IQ: Not everything. I didn’t tell them about all my – at that time, I’m different, I don’t have this problem, but I don’t think there’s a right – a right space for me to find a job. It is just they think about my teaching ability and that’s all. They advise me to join a course with the help of this loan for – it’s like a loan to help people. This ELA – ELA?

**I: Ok, a loan while you’re applying for job?**

IQ: You don’t have an idea about this?

**I: Er no, but I’ll try to…**

IQ: They give you account and this when you go to apply for a jo.. a course you give them your number.

**I: Right ok, now I know what you’re talking about.**

IQ: ELA

**I: Yes**

IQ: I have one for this year and they ask me to join a course for for example hygiene food and what else? But I didn’t join anything – after a week I have this problem with my back and I stopped everything.

**I: So they didn’t consider that there might be some issues for you in relation to your religion or something like that?**

IQ: No.

**I: They just considered your CV?**

IQ: Yes.

**I: Ok. So do you think your needs in this area are different from other people’s? Do you think another – would you need other support than for instance a white Scot? Do you know what I mean?**

IQ: Is it because of my religion?

**I: Yes.**

IQ: No one can help you with this, no. I think it is because it is a free country.

**I: I was thinking that maybe they could, you know, make sure for instance that the employers don’t discriminate against you. Or have they ever talked you about these things?**

IQ: No, no one talk to me. Because they never think about this. And I didn’t talk to anyone about this problem.

**I: No, ok.**

IQ: Even though I think it is there in reality, it exists. But no, sometimes maybe people they can’t believe you.

**I: Ok, you don’t think they would believe you?**

IQ: Not all of them, but maybe. Because I think, people think, ‘all these people come from abroad, they are living on benefits and they don’t want…’

**I: Yeah**

IQ: ‘They don’t have this desire for work – they are lazy people’. And if you are going to find a job they say ‘oh, you are coming to take our jobs and we are without a job’. This is a big problem [laughter].

**I: Yeah, it’s not easy. Both ways is wrong – both ways are wrong. Right, one last question.**

IQ: Oh, it’s okay.

**I: What do you think the future holds for you?**

IQ: Not sure. It is the willing of God. We are believing God is doing the good things for you. And sometime there is a bad thing, you never think is bad good for you, but God see it is bad good thing for you, but people thinking about things is different from God thinking. It is the willing of God. You can’t say anything about the future, but optimistic.

**I: Yeah, you’re optimistic?**

IQ: Yeah.

**I: Oh, that’s good. I’m glad to hear that. Right, I think that’s what I have. Do you have anything?**

IQ: It is just a questionnaire? It is not you making a survey or something?

**I: Er, I’m – no, I’m not making a survey. I’m going to about I think nine women and then I’m trying to figure out how you are experiencing inequalities here and why you are experiencing them and maybe, hopefully I’ll be able to suggest some solutions to that you might overcome these inequalities. So that’s what I’m trying to find out, but we’ll see if I succeed.**

IQ: This is a battle. It is not easy to find a solution for everything.

**I: No, it’s not. Definitely not, but I’d like to try.**

IQ: So you are working with the Bridges Programmes or you are working with Glasgow City Centre?

**I: No, it’s for my University at home in Denmark – my Danish University. It’s my last project before I graduate.**

IQ: So it is a project, okay.

**I: Yeah.**

IQ: It is not a research, it is a project?

**I: It is a research – it’s a research project so it is research and it is going to be published, so but your name won’t be anywhere.**

IQ: No, it’s ok.

**I: But thank you, this has been really, really helpful.**

IQ: Thank you so much. Thanks to you because you spent listening a lot of time listening to me.

**I: No, it’s really interesting.**

IQ: Thank you.

**I: I’m gonna turn this thing off now.**