**Transcription of Interview with Woman from Somalia (SO)**

**I = Interviewer**

**SO = Interviewee from Somalia**

**I: Here we go. Yeah, just to say, if there’s something you don’t want to answer, then just let me know. Okay? Yeah. Right, so where are you originally from?**

SO: Somalia.

**I: Somalia. And what’s your native language?**

SO: Somali.

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

SO: Since 2008.

**I: 2008. And how long have you been in Glasgow?**

SO: I’ve been since I come here first. In June 2008 I came here.

**I: Ok, so you came directly to Glasgow?**

SO: No, it’s – I don’t know where I’ve been before, but I remember I was in Liverpool and they sent me here Glasgow next day.

**I: Okay, right. What is your status now?**

SO: Staying here in Glasgow in… my address?

**I: No, your status. Your… do you have leave to remain?**

SO: Yeah, I’ve got – I’ve got leave to remain.

**I: Is it indefinite or just?**

SO: Yeah, indefinite.

**I: Indefinite leave to remain. And when did you get that?**

SO: I arrive in here in UK in 25 of June and 27 I was in Liverpool. 28 they transfer me here in Glasgow. 1st July I did interview and 9th of July there is I got my status.

**I: Right. Can I ask you how old you are?**

SO: I think now it’s 36.

**I: 36?**

SO: Yeah.

**I: Ok. And how many children do you have?**

SO: Six.

**I: Six!**

SO: Five is my, my own and one is my sister, but I – first when they born I adopted her.

**I: Ok, so it’s six.**

SO: Six yeah.

**I: And how old are they?**

SO: 14 till 6. 14 till 6.

**I: Ok, right. And you’re a single parent, right?**

SO: Yeah.

**I: And where do you live right now?**

SO: Now?

**I: Yeah.**

SO: I live in Glasgow in West End.

**I: In the West End?**

SO: Yeah, it’s Dumbarton Road.

**I: Oh, this is pretty close to where I live.**

SO: Hm? You live there?

**I: I live just off Crow Road. Do you know where Crow Road is?**

SO: No.

**I: No. It’s next to Dumbarton Road, so.**

SO: Yeah, the other is Partick?

**I: Yeah.**

SO: Yeah yeah, I don’t know that place very well.

**I: Ah okay.**

SO: And even if I see I forget straight away.

**I: Ok. What type of accommodation is it?**

SO: Temporary accommodation.

**I: Ok, it’s temporary?**

SO: It’s GCC.

**I: OK, do you receive any benefits?**

SO: Yeah.

**I: What kind?**

SO: Income support.

**I: Income support, yeah. Do you have a job?**

SO: At the moment no.

**I: No.**

SO: Yeah.

**I: But you’ve had a job in Glasgow?**

SO: Yeah, yeah and I back soon, but the matter is just children. I just wait if they can do themselves anything. Like take care of and be ready while I was at work, school and this.

**I: Ok, so you need to find out if they can take care of themselves?**

SO: I just – not as much, because it’s my shift it all day shift or night shift. If it’s a night shift they will be go back early and wake up and I come make things finish to make ready school and taking. If I have day shift they will be ready, I make ready, and they have to go there selves to school.

**I: Yeah, ok. And where is it you work or worked?**

SO: Notting[unclear], it’s kind of in health care, social care.

**I: Ok. Did you have a job in your home country?**

SO: No, but just you know, when you get a chance to work or to get peace, to get something to do, that’s only.

**I: So let me just get this straight. I already know some of your story, but just to get it on tape as well. You** **got here first and then you got a job?**

SO: Yeah.

**I: Can you just tell me your story?**

SO: I come here and I really one year I struggle because I don’t know nothing in English and while I come here Bridges everything become open you know. I get a job, I get any study qualification, I get work placement, I get job, I get my children and that all I needed.

**I: Ok, that’s great. So you got an education here in Glasgow as well?**

SO: Yeah, in here with Bridges.

**I: Oh, with Bridges?**

SO: Yeah, and ESOL English and social health care and the women empowerment and work placement and that’s me.

**I: Ok, right. So did you have any education in Somalia?**

SO: See in education, we got lot of education but we don’t have chance to cope because there’s no peace and it’s civil war all the time and we were lucky to be graduated, but we don’t have got chance to get that. And then my family is not very powerment in there.

**I: They’re not very?**

SO: They are not in power, there warlord and that stuff. I just, we educated – my mum she’s educated, in our luck we don’t have got chance to be educated.

**I: No, ok. Ok, can you just tell me a bit about yourself then? How would you describe yourself?**

SO: This, I don’t know. I know I am kind and so empowerment and motivate and I like to achieve things. To get – if I got a chance I want [unclear]. I don’t know why, really I don’t know how I’d describe myself, but people they can describe me – who I am.

**I: Yeah. So how do you think other people would describe you?**

SO: Really good compliment, but I’m not sure I’m all of that.

**I: No. Ok. So what is most important in your life? Is it being a woman, is it being a mother, is it being a** **worker, is it being…?**

SO: Say again?

**I: What is most important in your life? Is it – you’re also a Muslim, right?**

SO: Yeah

**I: So what is most important in your life? Is it your religion or your children or your work or just?**

SO: See every person getting something you know. Me it’s, it’s most important thing is my life - most important thing is my life. If my life is not safe, it’s not well, I can’t manage any other people you know. I can’t look after even my children if I no look after myself. Yeah, the most important thing is myself and I’m happy I’m a woman.

**I: You’re happy**

SO: I am a woman, yeah.

**I: you’re a woman. Ok**

SO: I’m not be a man.

**I: You wouldn’t want to be a man?**

SO: No, I’m not and I don’t like.

**I: Why not, if I may ask?**

SO: Because you know…

**I: It’s okay if you don’t want to.**

SO: No, he’s man he’s ok, but I’m not – I’ve never been man, because that’s why I don’t know the situation.

**I: So it’s an important part of you to be a woman?**

SO: Yeah

**I: Yeah, ok. How much does your religion mean to you?**

SO: Everybody believes. You know, I believe. I respect others. I respect others, I respect myself and that’s the main things you know. And what you believe, you believe. It’s ok. What I believe is what I believe. That’s the main things. And it’s not very hard our religion. We are Muslim, but I think it’s kind and to help each other and to be respect, live in peace and know each other everyone. But the people now they [unclear] this terrible chance very hard and fighting and… that is not right things. He’s never forgive us God if I make even se… even [unclear] to people, even if they don’t hurt me I’m not allowed to hu.. to kill him. [unclear], if they no catch me, I just give a piece of whatever I got [Editor’s note: She showed with her hands how she ripped something off her clothes. Not entirely sure what she meant] That is what I believe.

**I: Ok, so try to imagine if you were a white Scottish person, how do you think that person would look at you, [interviewee’s name]? If you…**

SO: Explain to me.

**I: Yeah, if**

SO: If I am a white Scottish?

**I: Yeah, if you were a white Scot, how would you describe [interviewee’s name]? What would be the things** **that you would see?**

SO: I think I am same person, same the way I am now. Because I just – that is the main things, she can’t cover the way I cover you know. And I will [unclear] and I will be beautiful and I will be go anywhere.

**I: Ok. Right. Erm, do you think your… the way you would have described yourself in Somalia has changed** **now. Do you think you describe yourself differently now?**

SO: Yeah, definitely. In Somalia, I don’t have got time to get education, to get... to do whatever I want. And [unclear] [11.19] I want. But there’s somebody always tell us what we can do.

**I: Yeah.**

SO: Yeah, whatever it’s family or brother or husband or whatever. But her I’m free, I do whatever I want to. No one ask me how to here to dress, how and how I eat and how can I – where can I go, who can I meet. I’m free, that’s why I like it.

**I: Ok, you feel more free here?**

SO: I feel more freedom, more free.

**I: Yeah, that’s good. Can you tell me what equality means to you?**

SO: Equality?

**I: Yeah.**

SO: Who, wh.. what equality mean?

**I: Yeah, what equali… do you know what equality is?**

SO: Yeah, equality, I know. The measurement, same here.

**I: Yeah, being the same. What does that mean to you?**

SO: It mean to me it something is very very big because in… they don’t make us like foreign, like refugee, like any African people, no, they make us equal, you know. Same what you got Briti – Scottish people and British people we got that stuff. And I really feel like I am at this country now.

**I: You are what sorry?**

SO: I was people of this community, this country, like I was one of them.

**I: Ok, right. Yeah. So do you think you have equal opportunities here?**

SO: Yeah.

**I: Yeah, ok.**

SO: Equal opportunity and I’m so happy to have them.

**I: Yeah. And you think you have better opportunities here than you did in Somalia?**

SO: Yes.

**I: Would you mind telling me a bit about your everyday life in Somalia? Would that be ok?**

SO: Yeah, it’s ok. See there, when the country is peace and [unclear] and that time is 80s still, 1980 – 89, 88, 87. That time I’m teenage but I’m not big, like 18 or I’m 17 or 16 that time and problem is why I was teenage and I want get life and everything. That what happened and if things bad and it’s very, very hard life in there. It’s 1994, 91 it started the hard life since [Editor’s note: until] 2008.

**I: Ok.**

SO: Yeah 18 years, we are so, so suffering, you know. It was lot of suffering. I wish if that gap forget and that time is back the life, you know.

**I: So was everyone suffering or?**

SO: A lot of people suffering, most of us. The peoples we from country, they are ok. The people in there they are suffering [unclear] No family, no one die, no – it’s, you don’t find family Somali no one died in that time or kind of time. They are dying people and everyone dying this one time. I’m talking about the people died for the fire or gun or warlord or they kidnap them or… Yeah, you don’t find family not infected that.

**I: Ok. Do you think it was more difficult for you as a woman?**

SO: Oh yes. Very, very difficult.

**I: How come?**

SO: It’s, anything is very, very difficult. Even the people in there now is very difficult and very hard for them. They don’t know where to go, they don’t have food. You run away from the gunman, ok? You go other place, you think it’s safe that place. But it’s not safe. There’s other things to kidnap, they raped you and they take everything and you don’t got anything or…

**I: Right, yeah. I’ll leave if there because I can see it’s a difficult memory. Could you tell me a bit about your** **everyday life here in Glasgow instead?**

SO: What you say?

**I: Your everyday life in Glasgow. Can you tell me about that?**

SO: Everyday life here in Glasgow is as usual now. Why… you want to know or?

**I: Yeah, just tell me a bit about your life here?**

SO: My life here now when my children arrive or before children?

**I: Erm, both. Yeah, you can maybe start before children.**

SO: Before my children in there, I was first of all I was in homeless and was stressed and depressed and my children. And when my – I got house, my own house, then I come here get this study and get everything, the job and that’s ok. And in the morning I wake up six or five, get ready to go school or whatever or get job – go job, you know. Every day I was working in five days, sometimes six 8-20. Finish eight o’clock. I come nine o’clock house, get shower, coffee. I eat – when I want to eat I remember my children and I’m not eating. I just drink coffee and I lay down sofa, watch TV, I sleep, wake up, do work. That’s my routinely day while they are out. Even if it’s not my shift, I asked if they got overtime, they got any I cover. I asked once and they already, every time they want cover a shift, I can cover it.

**I: Ok, so you basically just worked all the time?**

SO: I want because I know when I stay at home, I just thinking and sick, I can’t eat. If I want eat or if I want clean house I have to go and get drink and be drunk and do everything – I forget everything. That’s good I can go back every day and I help other. Instead I make damage myself I’d be happy with any of my staff colleague going, and we talk, we meet, we do our job, we finish, I come home, I’m very tired.

**I: Yeah, so it’s better that way? Yeah. And what about now that you have your children?**

SO: Now, children, go bed, wake up, make them breakfast and make ready everyone. Two big one they go themselves, two wee one I take in school, come back, clean house, make lunch, whatever, the washing and I go course, go college.

**I: You go to college now?**

SO: Yeah, Stow College.

**I: To do ESOL or you do?**

SO: No no. I’m doing NHS socialisation [Editor’s note: unclear which study she meant], yeah. Go college, I come back, I go woman club, they are a Monday week only woman, sorry, woman only. We talk, we drink something, we… just meeting womans. Then end of the week I take in afternoon in children park.

**I: So do you think you… or have you ever experienced any inequalities here in Glasgow?**

SO: Noo.

**I: No? Okay. Have you ever experienced any kind of discrimination?**

SO: It is teenage kind of thing discrimination, but you don’t… I’m not saying that in all is bad and all is good, but 70 % is good, 30 %, you know counted that is normal people – it’s not normal people, it’s people drunk and are teenage and…

**I: Ok, right. So what wou… would they something to you or?**

SO: Yeah.

**I: Yeah, ok. Right.**

SO: Lot of stuff is bad and police knows and they [unclear] CCTV, see the concierge and phone the police. And then say it’s teenagers, just leave it.

**I: Just leave it?**

SO: Yeah.

**I: Yeah, ok. Right, so what do the… what do they say? Is it because of your headscarf or your colour?**

SO: I don’t know, I don’t know. But they say ‘you fucking black bastard. What you doing here?’

**I: Ok. Right. Yeah, well unfortunately that goes on. So does that – how does that make you feel?**

SO: I feel so angry.

**I: Yeah.**

SO: You see, you know if we’re arguing together, it’s ok, whatever you want to say. But you never know me – I just sit here or stand here and you come and you shout and you say ‘fucking black bastard, I kill you. What you doing here? Bastard!’ I was so shocked.

**I: Yeah. Does that make you feel like you’re not a part of Glasgow in some way?**

SO: Yeah, it feel like why I move to that area. It’s very bad, I’m so sick. But I deal with that.

**I: You deal with it? How do you deal with it?**

SO: I just ignore. Just ignore. I see the other people is good, you know.

**I: Yeah. Ok. Yeah. Erm.**

SO: I don’t know, my phone.

**I: It’s singing.**

SO: *[finds her phone which is playing music and takes out the battery]* Sometime it just sing. I just do that.

**I: Yeah, that’s always a way.**

SO: [mumbling] I know my phone is silent, but touch screen I don’t like. If you touch the [unclear]

**I: Yeah, yeah, I just have a really old phone so I don’t know these touch things.**

SO: I don’t…

*[An employee from the Bridges Programmes walks in to talk to the interviewee, so I turn off the recorder while they talk].*

**I: Okay, we start again. Erm, right I just wanted to ask you, have you ever heard about something called the** **Equality Act or the Public Sector Equality Duty?**

SO: What, I don’t understand that?

**I: No, so you haven’t heard of it. It’s like an act saying that everyone should have right to, you know, get a job and**

SO: Yeah

**I: Yeah, so you know about this?**

SO: I know that yeah.

**I: Yeah, so do you know in general what rights you have?**

SO: No

**I: No?**

SO: I don’t know. I’ve never make think that things very big. But I know I have got everything like any health, if you need to go to treatment, to get a job, they got everything this country. Education and children is same. That’s what I know and benefit and everything.

**I: Ok, right. So you feel like you have…**

SO: I have everything yeah.

**I: Ok, that’s good. So you got help from Bridges to find a job?**

SO: Yeah, all the time yeah.

**I: Right. Have you gotten help from anyone else or any other organisation?**

SO: The British Red Cross and here.

**I: And how did they help you exactly?**

SO: Here or British Red Cross?

**I: Both.**

SO: British Red Cross they helped me to research, find my children, where are they. And Bridges find me everything to help me, you know, whatever I want I can ask and they do for me. They are everything for me.

**I: Ok. So you feel like they understand your needs?**

SO: Yeah, they do for me if they can.

**I: Ok, that’s good. Do you think you have different needs from for example a white woman, a Scottish woman?**

SO: Yeah.

**I: How is that different?**

SO: Because I need to explain and to get someone to explain me what I want and where I go and what I can do. But you you know where you go around here. But me I don’t know where I go, that is the main things.

**I: You don’t where you go in what way?**

SO: Like when I want something like I want to go in housing. How I can go? I need direction, I can do or how I can manage.

**I: Ok. And do you think it’s important that organisations like this also knows what it’s like to be a refugee.**

SO: Yeah.

**I: Yeah? How did that help you?**

SO: You see the refugee they don’t know this country. They no born and grown up in this country and at the same time the language, you know? Really, we get lot of help and that’s good. I’m happy to get that.

**I: Ok. Does it mean a lot in your life that you are a refugee?**

SO: Not really. The situation make us say we are refugee, but no one need to be refugee, no one, no one.

**I: So you wouldn’t tell people that you are a refugee or?**

SO: No, no I tell, I tell I’m refugee, but what can I do? The situation make us refugee. I don’t like to be a refugee, honest.

**I: Right.**

SO: I’m happy everything I got, you know.

**I: Yeah. Ok. So what do you think the future holds for you?**

SO: I think the future of me is bright and shine and we are no more refugee. We are be British.

**I: You want to be British citizens?**

SO: Mm

**I: Yeah. Have you**

SO: That is the main things here.

**I: Yeah ok. Have you applied for it or?**

SO: Not now, next year.

**I: Next year? Ok.**

SO: Next year and we are not anymore refugee.

**I: So how come you want to be a British citizen? Why do you want to be a British citizen?**

SO: Because I live this community, and I want be part of them. Part of them and I want to do whatever they do. Like I have to vote and I have to do whatever I want. I have to got my own house if I want. I have to… I got everything, I got my house, I got my education, I got everything and my kids they got money, everything. At the same time, we want full British [unclear]. Because we no move anywhere. We don’t want even to go anywhere. Why not, we have all we can get.

**I: Yeah. So you don’t feel like you’re giving anything up by becoming a British citizen? You don’t feel like** **you’re giving Somalia up by becoming a British citizen?**

SO: How Somalia?

**I: How do you say that? You…**

SO: I give up Somalia, yeah, you mean that?

**I: Yeah.**

SO: Yeah, I give up Somalia the day I left there I give up totally. Because see the here, if somebody hurt me or somebody burn my house where we are, or kill us or really we die if you burn my house, everything burned become like grey – you kill us if you know that, you kill us already. How I can stay that area? And how… I mean, I don’t want even to remember. I don’t want.

**I: Ok. Right. Well**

SO: It’s really hard to forget your originally you know, but it’s very hard as well to remember who you are.

**I: It’s hard to remember sorry?**

SO: It’s hard to forget who you are but at the same time it’s very hard when you remember what you have been.

**I: So it’s still – it’s really important for the person you are, what you came from?**

SO: No. If I can afford to remove I come from Somalia, I do, but I can’t. You know, I can’t.

**I: Ok. Right. Well, I don’t think I have anymore**

SO: questions

**I: questions. I just, a little bit, so you work in health care now or social care. Is that**

SO: I want, you see there, I want, I just want in Caledonian University to do nursing. Complete nursing to work NHS.

**I: So that’s what you’d like to do?**

SO: That’s what I like if I got a chance to have – if I pass exam. I’m no – I’m happy with the work I’m doing.

**I: Ok. So do you think you would be able to get a job in nursing afterwards?**

SO: I did an application form for the Glasgow City Council in carer job course, it’s [unclear] weekends and night shift and I just waiting to answer me.

**I: Right, so do you think, I’m just gonna ask out straight. Do you think that when the person who looks at** **your application sees that you have a foreign name, do you think that affects your chances to get the job?**

SO: Oh no. They see as much as you are hard-working and got good history and you go hard worker because and you got qualification, you got experience, no one. Yeah, you don’t have to have that stuff. Do you want who is good worker and they employ straight away, whoever you are, even your daughter and me. You choose me who is better. That is the good things here.

**I: Yeah. Right. That’s it. Thank you very much.**

SO: You’re welcome.