

# Winter Hope

Rafea does not have big projects or plans and that is fine with him. He will wait and see what comes his way. For now, he enjoys the smell of the soil after rain in winter or the feeling of water spray on his face in the soft rain of spring. "Life is short", he says. "You have to be hopeful, there is no other way." He finds hope in small things. If hope had a colour Rafea thinks it would be 'white', the universal colour of peace. For him, hope is a feeling inside, not something tangible that happens or might happen.

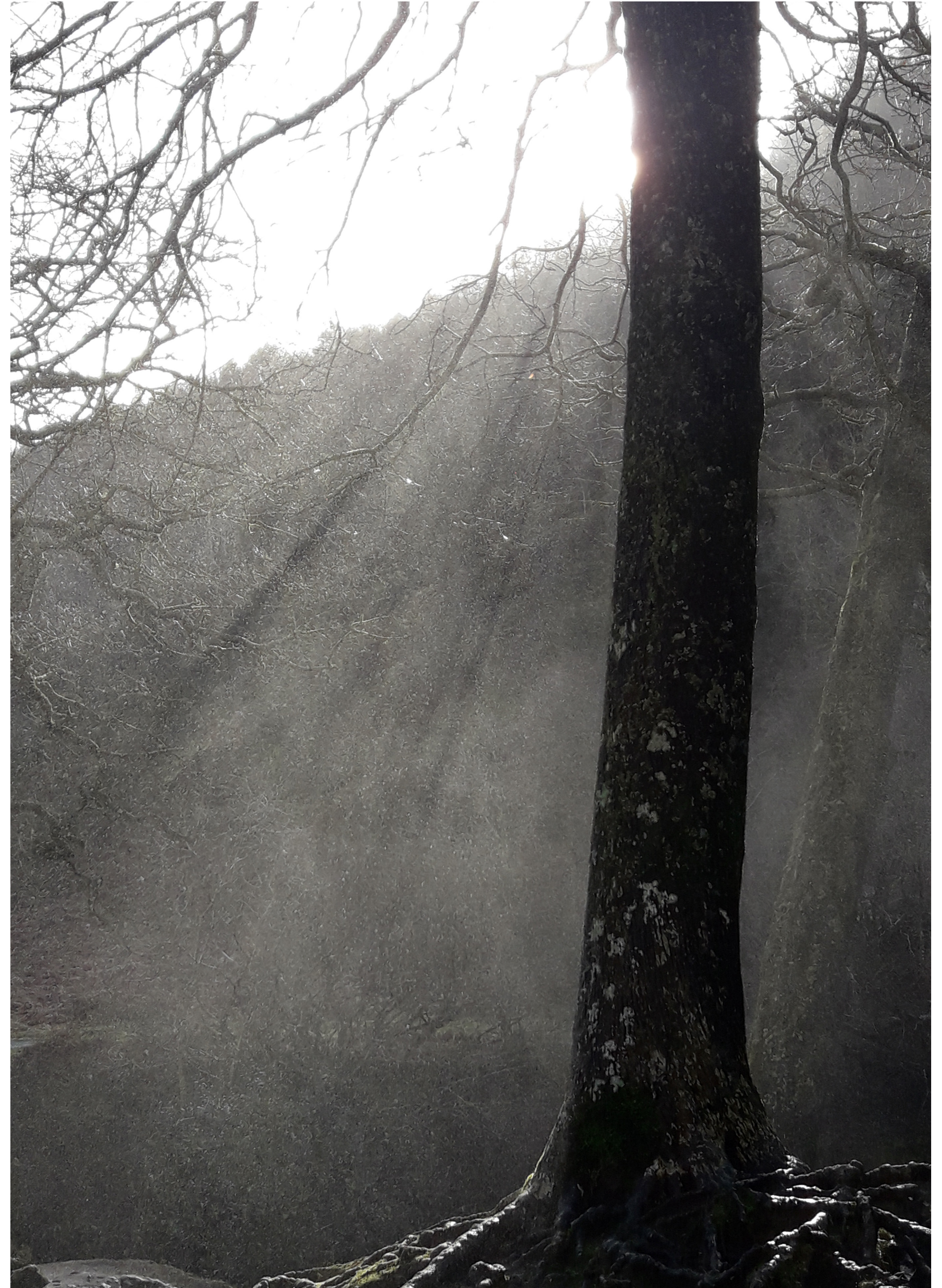
That is why he chose the photo of the tree with the white light behind it. The photo is almost black and white and he liked the contrast between the dark and the white and the feeling it gave him. He likes the faint colour of dark green moss on the bark of the second tree in the background of the photo. Despite the moss, the roots keep the tree upright, they do not allow it to fall down.

When he thinks about the past, he remembers that he has survived. "Everything changes, we just have to accept it. Everything that happened has made me who I am now".

Collaborators:

Text by **Fiona Gallagher**

Photo by **Rafea Marouf**





# Spring Flowers

“Spring means that life begins again with many coloured flowers, energy and movement, and being outside.” This is what Fiona said when I asked her why she chose primroses for her photo about hope.

Fiona lost her younger brother who was diagnosed with cancer six years ago. It was a big shock that he wouldn't live for many more years, so he was depressed and couldn't enjoy his life.

One day in the spring, Fiona and her brother were walking in a park, surrounded by primroses, and she asked him if the flowers made him feel that the world was against him. After three weeks he made the decision that he wouldn't go back to feeling black again. He was going to embrace life from now on. And he really enjoyed it for two and a half years.

If hope had a colour, Fiona would like it to be pale yellow, exactly like the colour of primrose petals, which are struggling with weeds to rise up towards the light in Fiona's photo.

Collaborators:  
Text by **Rafea Marouf**  
Photo by **Fiona Gallagher**





# Hospitality Mirrors Homesickness



The fact of being given hospitality or treated as a guest always makes Boyi think of his home, which is his parents' house in Xiangyang, China.

Boyi has a ritual of taking a photo of the sunset, if there is one. This is taken on the rooftop of his parents' place, the day before he leaves home. This photo was taken the day before he left for Dublin in September 2019. It captures the trains (*the journey*), the sunset (*the destination*), and the interchange between light and darkness (*the end and start of another chapter of his life*).

Looking at this picture now casts some bittersweetness and makes him miss home. Boyi asks himself: “*Can we really make another place our home?*” It is a question that generations of expats, migrants and travellers have had to face.

Collaborators:

Text by **Hammad (Aliza) Husan**

Photo by **Boyi Huang**



# To Hospitality, to Herself

The person in the picture is called Aliza. She is from Lahore, Pakistan. Aliza's story about hospitality almost goes hand-in-hand with her experience as a transgendered person.

Born biologically male, Aliza always feels that she is a female inside. As far as she can remember, she liked to play with dolls when she was a child. She also liked to put on her mom's dresses and makeup when her mom was not at home. However, she felt she had to hide almost everything she enjoyed doing. In Pakistan, transgendered people, among other sexual minorities, live very difficult lives as they are situated in a society that is quite hostile to them.

Aliza's story has changed since she came to Dublin, to her immense relief. She understands Ireland is a much more friendly place for transgender people. She even found welcoming communities in various organizations and groups, such as Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI), that support transgender rights, where she feels very much at home. The hospitality she feels here in Ireland from society, particularly from her own communities, makes her feel the unprecedented freedom of being able to be and express herself.

Things are getting even better for Aliza. She now has obtained medical support from a local hospital to start her transgender process. For Aliza, the 'hospitalization' she receives now is like a dream coming true for her.

Collaborators:

Text by **Boyi Huang**

Photo by **Hammad (Aliza) Husan**





# An In-between Home

Thembie took this photo of the vibrant green grass that surrounds the patio at Baleskin Reception Centre.

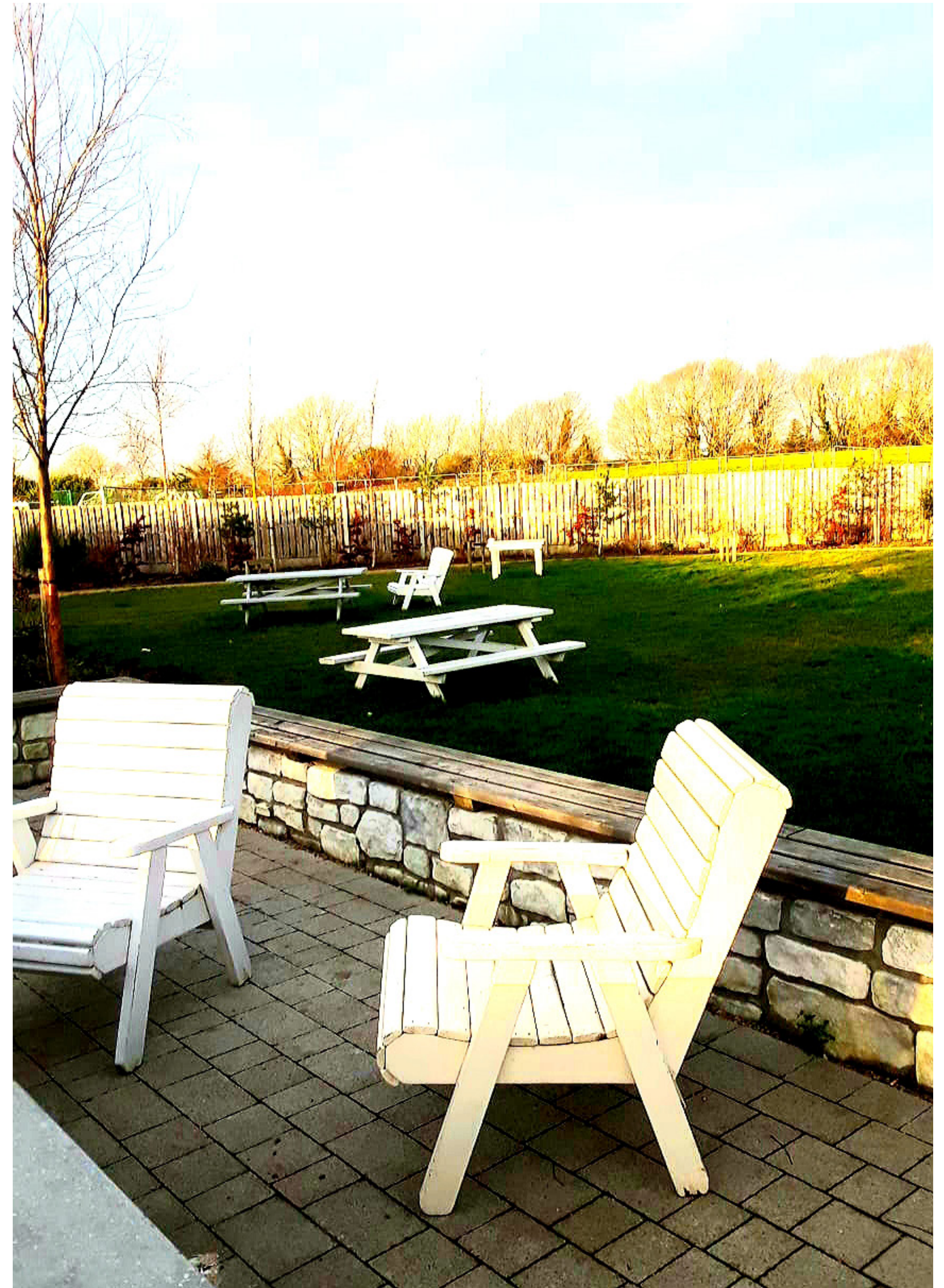
She sees reception centres like this as welcoming places which host vulnerable people fleeing a myriad of circumstances and she thinks of hospitality as a feeling of warmth brought on by helping others.

While she is not yet where she wants to be, she feels welcomed in this temporary home.

Collaborators:

Text by **Briana Sicard**

Photo by **Thembinkosi Malisa**





# A Ray of Hope

Collaborators:  
Text by **Briana Sicard** and  
**Thembinkosi Malisa**  
Photo by **Amanda Nyoni**

Amanda loves the bright and beautiful colours flowing from this photo. To her, flowers signify hope. These are blooming independently, they are not part of a garden and remind her that beautiful things can come from nowhere. They remind her of a verse in the Bible describing how God provides for all nature, which gives her hope that He will also see her through.





# A Hopeful Path



This is Briana's workspace which she has been using very frequently since the lockdown. As this is a time of relative stagnation, being able to sit in a bright window continuing her studies surrounded by the comforts of plants and candles represents a hopeful path forward.

Collaborators:

Text by **Amanda Nyoini** and **Thembinkosi Malisa**

Photo by **Briana Sicard**



# Warmth of Company



This was Bod's first time celebrating Christmas. He invited others to his room to share in the festivities and good will. He provided entertainment from his computer to help create a good atmosphere and a spirit of hospitality.

This photo is taken in a temporary residence in a Direct Provision centre and shows that the will to offer hospitality and share positive human experiences transcends place, time and culture.

Collaborators:  
Text by **Gavan Flinter**  
Photo by **Abdulrahman Abdulhamid**



Níl aon tinteán mar  
do thinteán féin.  
There's no hearth  
like your own hearth.



On the theme of welcoming others, Gavan shared a photo with me in which he lined up a set of plants around his fireplace to represent guests gathering around a fireplace, to share the warmth of both the fire and friendship. The plants are of different varieties and species, representing the differences in the backgrounds that guests may come from, yet all sharing that same dimmed soft floor light which represents the external element guests enjoy together, such as food or entertainment.

I found the picture very soothing and expressive of the inner good nature of Gavan. It also immediately reminded me of the good times back home when I was able to host my friends on my rooftop and get a movie set up on a TV screen with some snacks and sodas, a thing I never get to enjoy while seeking asylum in Direct Provision centers in Ireland.

#end\_direct\_provision

Collaborators:  
Text by **Abdulrahman Abdulhamid**  
Photo by **Gavan Flinter**



# Light in the Dark Night



Muhammad took this picture because he imagines hope to be just like this light. His room in Mosney is never either completely dark or bright but there are always signs of life in this room. When he switches the light on, Muhammad feels that he is making a first step toward the future, it helps him to see more clearly where he wants to take his life next. People like me, he says, who live in Direct Provision, hope for a better life in Ireland. Everybody should have hope in their life because without hope life is meaningless.

Collaborators:

Text by **Slavka Madarova**

Photo by **Muhammad Saqib Riaz**



# Mobrdzandi (Welcome)

For Rusudan, happiness is two steaming mugs of black coffee on the table, some tasty snacks and, most importantly, a chat with a friend. Talking to friends from her home country presents Rusudan with a way of relating to her Georgian heritage while she is getting used to her new life in her new home, which can be very overwhelming at times.

She likes to sit down with her friends and discuss their problems - the news from Georgian newspapers, their life in Mosney, the differences between both cultures (Irish and Georgian). And sometimes it's not even that, sometimes it is just a simple chat about their kids. Rusudan and her friends find this helpful and relaxing. There are seven Georgian families in Mosney and all of them keep in touch. They meet and support each other and this makes time pass faster.

Rusudan hopes that in the near future she will be able to extend her hospitality to her friends in her own home - the one she will make for herself with her family here in Ireland.

Collaborators:  
Text by **Slavka Madarova**  
Photo by **Rusudan Paposhvili**





# Coffee Unites Us

Slavka lived in Ireland for eight years between 2004 and 2012, meeting her now husband, who is Spanish, in Dublin in 2012. After two years of long-distance relationship she moved to Spain to be with him, forming another 'home away from home', since she is originally from Slovakia.

When, in 2019, they got an opportunity to spend some time in Ireland, they were both thrilled - after all, this place is very significant to both of them. Moving to their rented flat in Dublin, they worked on making it a home for the two of them.

The kettle and the coffee maker side by side in this photo represent not two, but three concepts of welcome. When someone visits them, they can choose between the Irish cuppa, the herbal tea from Slovakia or a cup of strong Spanish coffee.

After Slavka took the photo, she told me that she spotted the intertwined cables at the back of the picture. Although not consciously arranged, she felt that they represent the concept of hospitality very well. In spite of being from different places, here they are, plugged in side by side, one of them using an adapter as if to remind us that we all need to adapt in some way and embrace new places, cultures and experiences the life brings us.

Collaborators:

Text by **Rusudan Paposhvili**

Photo by **Slavka Madarova**





# Peruvian Family



This photo was taken in Peru, with Emily's 'Peruvian Family'. To Emily, this picture represents home. Home is not a place, it can be made with people in a foreign country so far from what was once thought of as 'home'. It represents love, it represents comfort, and it represents friendship. Everyone from different countries, different cultures and different languages shared a meal together.

Collaborators:  
Text by **Shorena Sepiashvili**  
Photo by **Emily Shultis**

In a foreign place, she felt at peace here with her Peruvian family.



# Somewhere Far

When we worked together, Shorena and I associated the word 'welcome' with other expressions in English. Shorena felt 'welcome' paired with terms such as: 'friends', 'family', 'have a nice time', and 'good day'.

She remembers this day as her husband built this typical Georgian BBQ and grilled food for their family in Mosney, to make them feel 'welcome' in their new home. The sky was light and she felt right in this new place.

We then spoke about 'home'. Her home is here in Mosney, although she says that she has two homes. One in Ireland, her new home, and one in Georgia. When she and her family make Georgian food, it reminds her of her past where she can smell her mother's food, her forever heartland.

Collaborators:  
Text by **Emiliy Shultis**  
Photo by **Shorena Sepiashvilli**





# A Different Family



In the photo we see a diverse family, they are always negotiating between different cultures as each family member plays both the role of guest and host within a third country. The parents and child are very different because of their nationalities, cultures and languages.

Julie is from France, but her husband is from Honduras and has black skin. They have a cute son, born in Ireland and growing up here, with a French mom and Central American dad. They have two cultures in one home.

Speaking about hospitality, Julie talks about her neighbourhood, Ballybough. She has lived there for three years, but the area of North Dublin has a reputation for bad things like violence, drugs and lack of education. Julie finds the community to be very welcoming despite the challenges that they face, and she invites her Irish friends to discover the area.

They feel happy in this Irish community and they are part of this community. I like her family and I think that hospitality sometimes means taking different cultures and making one home.

Collaborators:  
Text by **Dalal**  
Photo by **Julie Moyne**



# A Friendly Time

Dalal likes to share nice moments with her friends or family around a cup of coffee, biscuits, fruit and shisha. They listen to music and dance, laugh and chat. "Simple things are more friendly than important ones" for Dalal.

In Mosney, Dalal spends most of her time with her best friend, Sama, and her mother. In this picture, Dalal prepared the table and the shisha for Sama to spend a nice moment as it is one of the few opportunities to socialise.

If Dalal were still in Syria or Jordan, she would have taken a similar picture, except there would be more cups, more food and more friends. She used to study law and to hang out with all her friends. But it can be lonely and quiet at times in Mosney. That is why those precious moments shared with our friends around a coffee and cakes are so important.

Collaborators:  
Text by **Julie Moyne**  
Photo by **Dalal**





# The Other Side of the Door

When Lacie took this photo, she was at the airport waiting for her partner who was moving to Ireland. She thought about when she first arrived in Dublin, and the other places that she has lived abroad. She always travelled alone, and nobody was ever there to meet her.

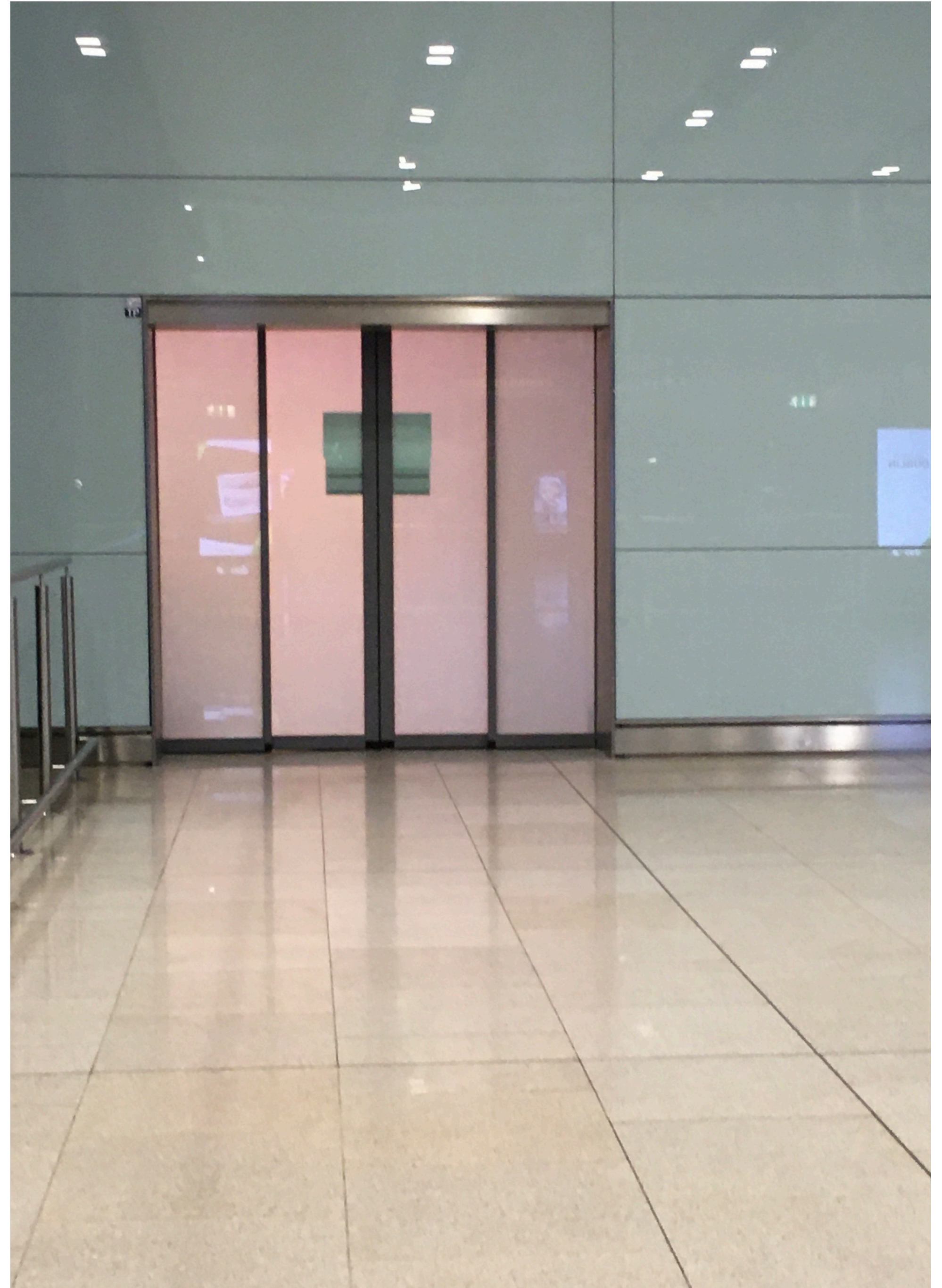
How we welcome somebody is an important part of hospitality. The first moments that someone is in a new place can be difficult, especially when they don't know what lies ahead. The manner in which you are greeted may seem like a small detail, but it really matters.

After taking the photo, she realized that she was in the wrong terminal, outside the wrong door. She said that even with the best intentions, we aren't always successful in making others feel welcome.

Collaborators:

Text by **Teona Tskhakaia**

Photo by **Lacie Raymond**





# Coffee with Teona

For Teona, hosting friends in her home and making them feel comfortable with nice decorations, cups and atmosphere make her happy. She doesn't like having coffee alone and her country, Georgia, is known for its hospitality and values community. In Ireland, her friends come to visit often and she likes cooking Georgian foods for them. Sometimes they have dinner together, other times she bakes something for them to take home while they are having coffee. Georgia has many national foods and she makes them well.

Reflecting on this image, Teona reminds me that relationships are important and going to each others' homes is a moment to talk and tell stories about one's family. For her, it is more important now than ever because it is difficult for her to be on her own with her husband and daughter. Her friends at Mosney have become her family. They try to be close, to help each other and to be spiritual. They don't know what the future holds, and they don't know the local language well, so for this they don't always feel good. However, when they are together, cooking, talking and drinking coffee, they can sometimes forget about their problems.

Collaborators:

Text by **Lacie Raymond**

Photo by **Teona Tskhakaia**





# Home is Where the Heart is

In September 2019, Rosa's girlfriend moved to Dublin to live with her. They had a very tough time looking for a place for the two of them due to the current housing crisis. Everything was so hostile. They were very much afraid of not saying/doing the right thing with these agents, even of saying that they were a couple, in case the landlord/letting agents were homophobic.

She couldn't sleep because the fear of being homeless has stayed with her since she experienced the 2010 earthquake in Chile, which struck three days after she arrived.

Rosa and her partner were very lucky to meet their current landlady through a mutual friend. When they arrived, she had prepared a nice tea for them, with mint and lemon and they chatted for hours about many different things. Rosa feels relaxed and at home there because they have things in common in a way that is almost uncanny. Their new landlady was very sweet and made them feel safe and, as she liked them immediately, she invited them to live there. The teapot and lovely wee glasses in the picture are the ones she put on the table to welcome them into her house.

Collaborators:

Text by **Halimat Babalola**

Photo by **Rosa Senent Julián**





# Gratitude

This was an event organised by *Akina Dada wa Africa*, or AkiDWA, a national network that highlights the issues faced by migrant women in Ireland and helps create bonds among them. *Akina Dada wa Africa* means sisterhood in Swahili. Halimat thought this was a good example of hospitality because the atmosphere was friendly and generous. Everybody was treated really well and the people from AkiDWA had ways of making them feel really welcomed. They had nice food and drinks ready for them. There was music to dance to, which is very nice for Halimat because she loves music and dancing. Dancing has a very special meaning for her because it allows her to relax and feel happy.

Something very important for her on this day was having her sons there, because it is important for her to spend time with her loved ones. She was also enjoying some fun time with women involved with the organisation who she gets along really well with.

Collaborators:

Text by **Rosa Senent Julián**

Photo by **Halimat Babalola**





# Daisy Hospitality



The daisy was the first thing Chayla saw when she entered the guest room. She liked it and it gave her a lot of ideas about sisterhood and considerateness. Chayla thinks about things a lot, even if it is something small like a flower. That's what makes me think she is a kind person.

It was 'just' a flower but the story behind it is one of welcome and sisterhood. Chayla and her mom were staying with a couple they had never met before. The couple gave tips on local attractions and

shared food and stories. It made Chayla and her mom feel more at home. A bond was created. They have since stayed in touch.

The daisy flower represents Freya the goddess of love and beauty. But it is also the symbol of the group Chayla is in, called 'Philanthropic Education Organization' (P.E.O.). P.E.O. helps women who need support and money for education. It is a sisterhood, and that is how Chayla found the nice couple. All because of a daisy.

زهرة الاقحوان

Collaborators:  
Text by **Sama Aljbooriy**  
Photo by **Chayla Rowley**



# “Feast” Your Eyes on This!

Sama and I talk about food a lot, and why wouldn't we? Everyone has to eat, and learning about different dishes in other countries is interesting. We have shared stories of times we tried foods that surprised us, sometimes pleasantly and other times...not so pleasantly.

The fact is, food holds a big place in our lives, and not just because of how it tastes. Yes, it literally keeps us alive, but more than that, it connects us and helps us feel welcomed.

I noticed in Sama's photo that she split her salad between two bowls on either end of the table so it could be easily reached by everyone - a thoughtful gesture. She commented on the amount of time and effort her mother put into making the rest of the food and that it was done not out of obligation but out of a desire to make their friends feel at home.

In fact, Sama and I both agree that we prefer it when we feel so comfortable in someone's house that we can just grab a snack or glass of water on our own. It truly feels more like an extension of our own home. There are versions of this 'make-yourself-at-home' sentiment across the globe. I am now happy to know that the Arabic expression which captures this feeling is *bet betek*.

Collaborators:  
Text by **Chayla Rowley**  
Photo by **Sama Aljbooriy**





# Best Friend



Helen is my good friend. She is a very nice lady. She is my partner in the Mellie Project in DCU. Helen comes from Australia. She has one daughter and two sons. She is a children's nurse in a hospital in Newry which is in Northern Ireland. Her husband works in the Hydraulics industry.

I like Helen very much. She always helps me with the DCU project. She explains things to me and listens and tries to understand. I am very happy my partner Helen respects me. When I see Helen in DCU I am very happy.

I think Helen is working very hard in the hospital. My friend also has information about Ireland. She is also happy to meet me. She tells me about Irish culture I didn't know before. My friend also helps me to speak English. I love learning with my friend.

She likes swimming, walking and meeting new people. She is very helpful.

Collaborators:  
Text by **Nadeen Akhtar**  
Photo by **Veronica Crosbie**



# Nadeem Hopes



Nadeem comes from Lahore in Pakistan and is in Ireland with his wife, Musawar, and their three children Tayyaba, Ahmed and Aqsa. He likes Ireland and Irish people and wishes to be an Irish citizen in the future. In Pakistan he had a bed and mattress business with his brother which was successful but corruption made life difficult. Nadeem is finding it hard to wait for the permission required to work as he misses it. He works voluntarily in a charity shop twice a week which he likes but would like to do something that suits his own skills more.

He hates to waste food and thinks we should feed animals rather than throw food away. He believes this would be pleasing to God.

Nadeem is a very respectful man and is concerned that his guests would always feel welcome. I love the fact that he always finds a chair for me for our classes every week. It is a small but very thoughtful thing to do which makes me feel cared for. Nadeem's photo radiates hope and warmth, like himself.

Collaborators:  
Text by **Helen Fitzpatrick**  
Photo by **Nadeem Akhtar**



# Fáilte (Welcome)

Joss's photo, of a fire stove with tea brewing in their home on a cold Monday, represents a very Irish and British tradition. The photo also exemplifies a cultural mix.

The photo reminds Joss of that cold Monday evening when his wife was due to get home from work. Joss prepared the tea as a warm welcome to his beloved family. The word hospitality makes him think of friendliness, tea and warmth, especially at this time of the year when it is cold and a cup of coffee or tea means a lot.

Personally, I have discovered that Joss makes really nice coffee. Before I met him, I never liked drinking coffee but when I tasted the one he made on the second week of our meetings, I started to love drinking coffee everyday. On tea/coffee break, he makes sure that I am well looked after with a cup of coffee and it really means that Joss is hospitable, friendly and welcoming. In these few weeks I have known Joss to be friendly, helpful, understanding, kind, accommodating and cheerful. The photo and his character really define him very well.

Collaborators:  
Text by **Winnie Chisomo Mwale**  
Photo **Joss Moorkens**





# Takulandilani (Welcome)

When Winnie thought of hospitality, it reminded her of the hotel industry where she would like to work. For her, hospitality is not just something to receive, but also something to extend to others, and she is naturally warm and hospitable. She likes to share, and every week it's been great to share coffee, biscuits, thoughts, experiences, and for me to learn a couple of words of Chichewa. 'Home' to Winnie is now half Ireland and half Malawi. The Malawian half says that being a good host means providing lots of food, like the men have in this photo.

For Winnie and her husband it is important to see an example — in this case a Malawian friend — of someone who has found their place in the hospitality industry in Ireland, as they look to establish their life and their family here.

They too hope for a warm and generous reception.

Collaborators:  
Text by **Joss Moorkens**  
Photo by **Winnie Chisomo Mwale**





# A Friendly Christmas Greeting



This photo represents a new home together with a new family, when Ruby left her family for the first time. She feels at home with these people who have been her friends for a very long time and who all like to welcome people into their home.

Ruby and her friends took this photo to make a Christmas card to send to their friends and family to keep memories and extend their hospitality. Behind them is a Christmas tree with lights, which adds to the warm atmosphere. The photo was taken by a friend who was visiting; she took a lot of photos, almost a hundred and sixteen,

because the girls wanted more photos to compare and they chose this one as their favourite one.

I relate to this photo, of treasuring the memories of old friends. I feel it important to do so as sometimes they may not be all together. This photo acts as a reminder of their friendship and hospitality.

Collaborators:  
Text by **Ferry S. Ediabonya**  
Photo by **Ruby Muller**



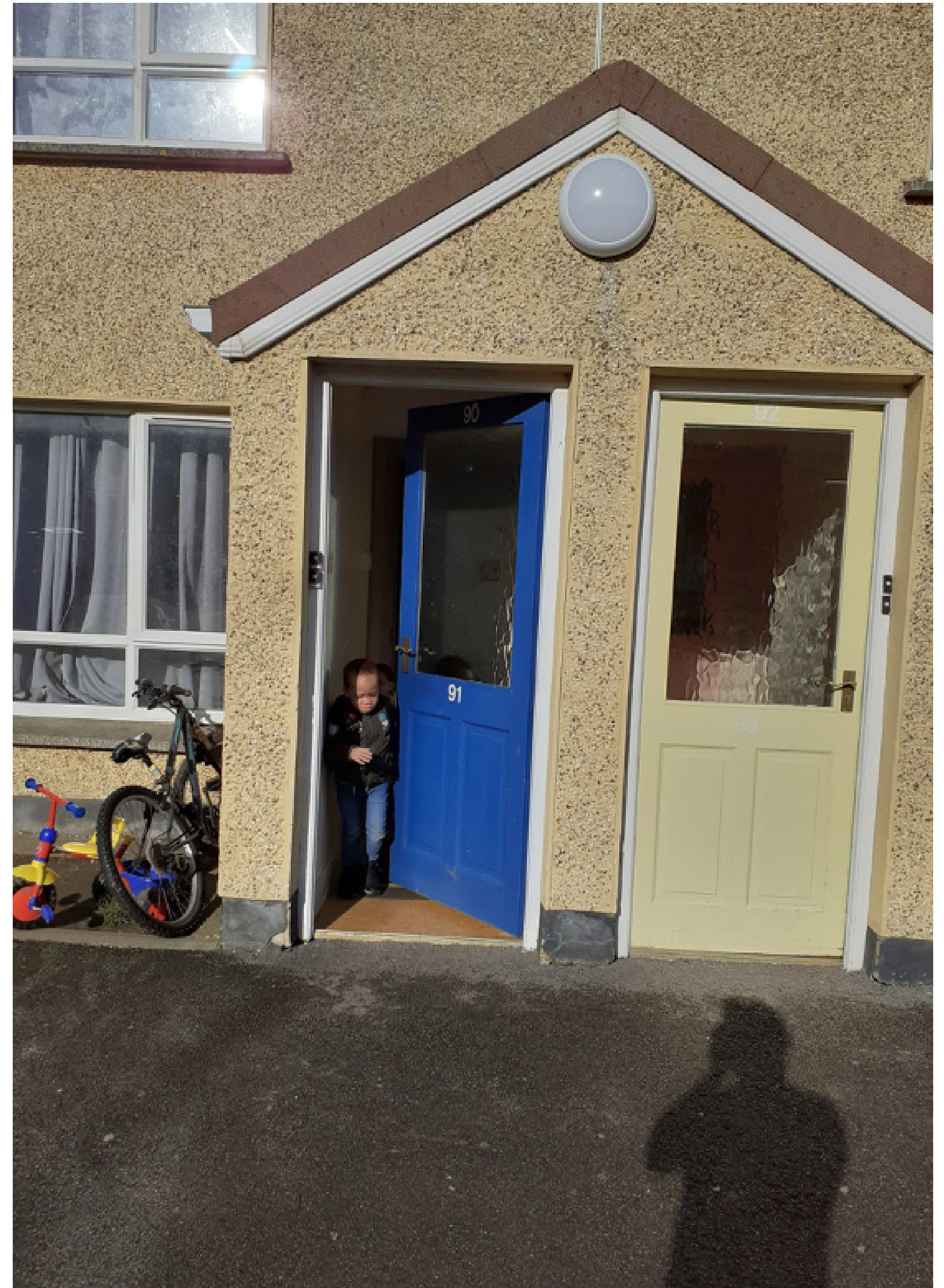
# One Door Closes, Another Door Opens

This photo is important to Ferry as it represents his early days in Ireland. He wanted to preserve this photograph of their first home in Ireland and keep it as a memory to show his children when they grow older so that they do not forget where they come from or their beginnings in a new life.

Ferry never expected to receive such a welcome from Ireland because not all countries would extend the same amount of hospitality and provide this type of accommodation. He says he has been to other places which have not extended the same welcome to him and his family.

Ferry is the photographer and is represented in the photo as a shadow. He captured this photo, depicting his son coming out of the house through an open door, a welcoming symbol which also adds to the atmosphere of welcome and hospitality. It makes me feel happy that Ferry feels welcome in Ireland and I am glad that Ireland has shown him great hospitality.

Collaborators:  
Text by **Ruby Muller**  
Photo by **Ferry S. Edigbonya**





# To Make Something Beautiful

This photo was captured during a jewelry-making activity for women at the library in Mosney.

This is a time that Boggi spends with other women in Mosney, who she has become friends with over time. To her, these friends are a second family.

Much like the beads and individual jewels, the participants in this group come together, all being different and all being valuable, to make something beautiful.

Collaborators:  
Text by **John Kirwan**  
Photo by **Enkhbolor Choijamts**





# A Beautiful Family's Busy Morning



This photo has a homely feel to it. The dining room is the place where John feels most at home. Here, there is a place for everyone, both physically as well as for who they are individually. We can see signs of other family members here. Often, John gets up in the morning alone, and these small signs of the other family members make him feel less alone.

Collaborators:  
Text by **Enkhbolor Chojamts**  
Photo by **John Kirwan**

The love from a family makes life beautiful.



# Building Bridges



Lawal took this photo of the bridge in Drogheda (county Louth) in front of the shopping centre. The image reminds him of Victoria Island in Lagos, Nigeria, where he comes from. It also looks like the place in Tuscany, Italy (provincia di Lucca) where he attended an Italian language school. Lawal spent almost four years in Italy before coming to Ireland. He chose the bridge because it is a popular spot, a place where friends meet, a landmark which everyone in Drogheda recognises. For him, it brings together all the places he holds dear.

Collaborators:

Text by **Theodora Ispas**

Photo by **Wasiu Lawal - L Images Photography**



# Ekabo

Collaborators:  
Text by **Wasiu Lawal**  
Photo by **Theodora Ispas**

Theo took this photo thinking of me, Lawal, and my mother tongue, Yoruba. She wanted to say welcome to me in my language because she feels that speaking in my language is the ultimate gesture of hospitality.

She uses the mirror as a way to describe the world as a reflection of yourself. If you offer hospitality you will receive it as well. I feel this photo is a symbol of love and a welcome.

For me, understanding each other is important.





# Broth of Life



This is *Brodo*. You know you are home and are welcome when you see a pot of this on the stove.

My partner decided to take this photo because it reminds her of home. She explained to me that this is the preparation for broth: very cheap and a 'must have' for any household in her country of origin. It has been used in all cultures and cuisines and has been celebrated for its health properties for thousands of years.

Indeed the word *restaurant* is said to have come from establishments which used to serve these broths or *bouillons* in the late 1800's in France for their restorative properties... hence 'restaurant'. The broth symbolises hospitality as it is universal and invites that feeling of wellbeing extended to all who are welcomed in the home, regardless of where and who you are.

Collaborators:  
Text by **Marcellinus Sedi**  
Photo by **Eva Zaniboni**



# Open Hand

Collaborators:  
Text by **Eva Zaniboni**  
Photo by **Marcellinus Sedi**

Looking at the picture you will see the symbol of hope. The fingers of the hand are placed around the centre circle, which represent the open palm. It symbolizes strength. At the moment, Marcellinus lives in an accommodation centre called Mosney in an environment provided to him by the Direct Provision system. He is hoping to soon leave this environment when his status is granted. He says "I know full well that I am going to collect hope in my hand, enabling me to create an environment for myself that will reflect my true thinking. All my expectations are built around hope. I'm also optimistic that very soon my hope will turn into reality."





# قهوة، تمر و الأصدقاء (Coffee, Dates and Friends)

In an early conversation with Muhammad about what he missed from home, he mentioned missing drinking coffee in his garden every morning. "A garden and a kitchen are important for a home", he says. One of the words for welcome in Arabic is "*Tafadal-ealaa-alta-am*", he says, meaning "come inside for food".

Over the last few months since arriving in Ireland, Muhammad has made new friends in Mosney Direct Provision Centre. He says he has lost touch with many of his friends from back home. But he's on a football team in Mosney now with his new friends. This picture is from when he was having tea with his two friends here. "In our culture, we invite people for coffee all the time", he explains to me. "Dates are my favourite. Our religion says they must always be eaten in odd numbers: 1,3,5 or 7."

Muhammad now calls Ireland his home. But the three ornate tea cups he brought with him from Syria remind him of home.

Collaborators:

Text by **S. Harikrishnan**

Photo by **Mohammad Alzoubi**





# A New Culture



Over the last ten years, Hari has lived in many cities and made many friends. Hospitality to him is about being welcome in a different country and culture.

Growing up, Christmas was never a major part of his Hindu family background. In his first year in Ireland, he received these – his first ever Christmas cards. He was invited to friends' homes to celebrate Christmas with them, and it was important in introducing him to and being welcomed into a new country, culture and its people.

Collaborators:

Text by **Mohammad Alzoubi**

Photo by **S. Harikrishnan**



# Warm Home, Lasting Memories

Finding a home as a student coming from overseas is one of the difficulties Jo had to overcome. Jo is very grateful to her host family.

This home represents the concept of hospitality as a warm, serene and welcoming sanctuary. It makes her miss her home country. The beautiful plants and the lawn evoke the essence of nature's beauty. She says the host family takes good care of the plants.

Metaphorically, the plants remind her of appreciating the diversity of people she has met and continue to meet in Ireland. She thinks of her classmates as 'a small United Nations'. She appreciates the beauty in everyone in a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic Ireland, consciously maintaining respect for diversity.

Collaborators:

Text by **Mishiko Nadibaidze**

Photo by **Jo Maina**





# My Homeland

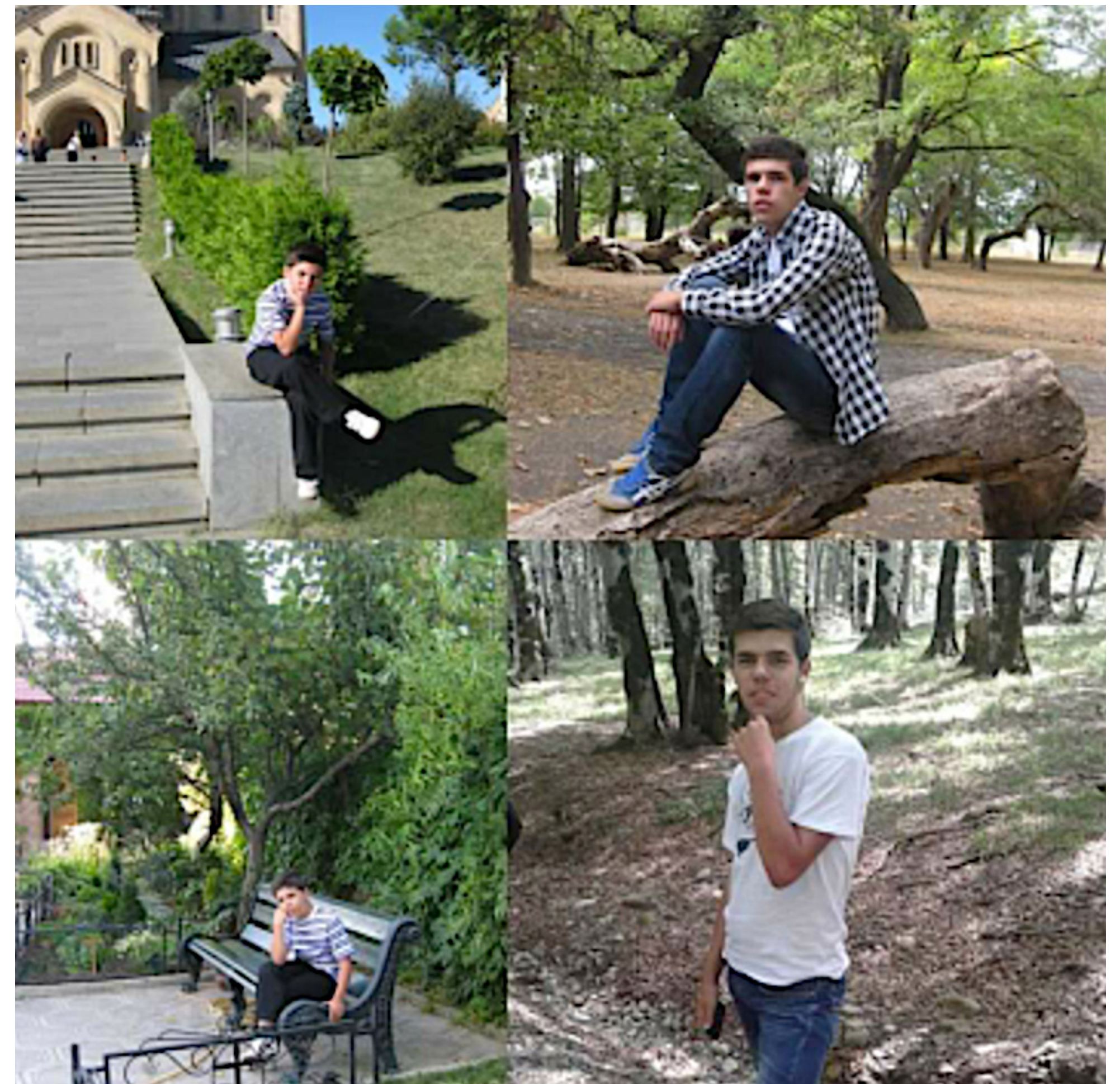
Mishiko goes down memory lane in Georgia to capture thoughts on hospitality. He warmly misses his beautiful country. He remembers its historical Orthodox churches, beautiful botanical gardens, mountains, lakes and rivers. He cites river Mtkvari as a captivating phenomenon.

Tourists are welcome to enjoy ski sports in winter and other water sports like rafting. Beautiful houses are built with stone and wood. There are also statues of famous people erected in various places. He talked with pride about the *300 Aragvians* monument erected to commemorate the 300 war heroes who fought in a war in Georgia.

Grapes are grown in Georgia and Mishiko asked me to visit and try Georgian wine.

Mishiko looks at his photographs which remind him of his grandparents, parents, family holidays in Georgia, and spending time together watching television.

Collaborators:  
Text by **Jo Maina**  
Photo by **Mishiko Nadibaidze**





# At Home in Ireland

Collaborators:  
Text by **Lena Mc Elhron**  
Photo by **Mariam**

Mariam likes when her friends and neighbours come to visit her home in Mosney.

Mariam feels at home here in Ireland, while wishing for love, health, happiness and stability for her children and their future.





# Freedom



Lena took this photo in Mondello when she was travelling around Sicily. She remembers that it was a happy time after a difficult few months. She had moved abroad and was living on her own for the first time and she describes it as a period of hope, excitement and adventure.

The image of the sky is symbolic for her because in many cultures, religious or not, we often look to the sky in search of hope. The image of the birds is symbolic of freedom of movement and freedom of spirit- something we do not all have, but something we all hope for.

She believes the sky is also a reminder of our humanity; we all share the same sky but we all have different perspectives. Hope is the same; we may all hope for different things, but we share this feeling which unites us. The tendency to hope exists in all humans. It is natural to look ahead and hope for a better future for us, and for our family. She thinks it is something natural and something special in humans that gives us motivation and a glint of endless optimism.

Collaborators:

Text by **Mariam** and **Lena Mc Elhron**

Photo by **Lena Mc Elhron**