

Participatory Video for Integration

Working in partnership with Learning Unlimited, InsightShare developed the use of participatory video as part of their 3-year multi-stranded programme *Welcome to the UK*, supporting the integration of women from non-EU countries to the UK – as well as women in Bangladesh preparing to join families and settle in the UK.

The projects enabled the women to reflect on their situations, share their stories with each other, and work as a team to produce films about their experiences of leaving their countries and settling in the UK. The films have been used to raise awareness within a wider UK audience of the issues faced by the women and the importance of ESOL provision for their integration. The films have also been used to share learning at conferences for European providers working with migrants and on integration projects.

Welcome to the UK

A participatory video project was embedded into an ESOL classes of women who had come from 11 different countries around the world. They worked as a team to produce a participatory video exploring their experiences of leaving their home countries, journeying to and settling in the UK and learning English through the 'Welcome to the UK' project. The resulting video gives advice to others about living in the UK, with sections on registering at the doctor, and some important aspects of being a parent in the UK. You can watch the learners' video [here](#). As an extra activity, the women participated in a demonstration against cuts to ESOL funding, and made this [short video](#). It was reposted and taken up by ActionforESOL.

Feedback from learners

"Now I am more confident", "I will not forget this"

"When I took the microphone and I was interviewing someone in the street, I felt like real reporter"

"When I watch this I feel fantastic, this is a very, very special experience for all of us"



The project had a major impact on the learners' confidence to speak out and interact with others. Screening events were organised inviting multiple stakeholders, including service users and funders, where the women presented their film.

Preparing for Life in the UK

The UK learners' video was sent to Bangladesh as a resource for women attending workshops in 'Preparing for Life in the UK' through Learning Unlimited's partner UKBET. A follow-up project took place with a group of Bangladeshi women who made a participatory video about their hopes and fears about moving to the UK, and what learning English meant to them. Their [video](#) 'Goodbye Bangladesh' was screened in the UK to help service providers gain a sense of the backgrounds people come from and the challenges that life in the UK might present, having grown up in a different country.



Welcome to the UK – Impact Assessment

Early in 2013, we carried out an evaluation process for ‘Welcome to the UK’ project using Participatory Video and the Most Significant Change technique. Learners and volunteer befrienders shared and recorded their stories of change. You can watch the video [here](#). As well as providing data for the evaluation, the participants benefitted from sharing their stories with each other, for inspiration, learning and a sense of solidarity. Screenings of the Most Significant Change stories inspired other learners to take up the Befriending support offered by the project. This work was presented at the NATECLA 2013 conference to help teachers consider ways of using video as a tool for classroom learning and evaluation.



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Participatory Video for the London Refugee Women’s Forum Supported by Women for Refugee Women

InsightShare carried out a [participatory video](#) project initiated by HP-MOS with the London Refugee Women’s Forum, to help them develop their campaign for a fairer asylum system.

Women from the newly formed forum came together to learn basic camera skills, share their stories and ideas, plan and make a film recording their situation and about their campaign against destitution amongst asylum seekers. Over the sessions the women built up the confidence to share their stories. The process facilitated friendships and teamwork, and allowed them to share stories and their situations, which built solidarity in the group. Through filming themselves and watching back, making mistakes and trying again, they built the confidence to be represent themselves and their campaign against destitution to parliamentarians, some speaking out who had never spoken before. The film has been shown by the London Refugee Women’s Forum to other women’s groups. A [short version](#) of the video footage was edited for Women for Refugee Women’s campaigns, such as lobbying at the Labour Party Conference.



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