



Icons
of
Mosney



Icons Mosney and Youth Work Ireland Meath would like to thank the following for their help in making this project the success it is:

**Department of Justice and Equality
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Minister David Stanton

Reuben Hambakachere, Cultúr

Pat McKenna, Mosney

Patrycja Skuza, YouthQuake

Trim Castle Hotel

OPW Staff at Trim Castle

Dearbhail McDonnell, MakeUp

Inglot Ireland Cosmetics

John Grant, Kells Dramatic Society

JP, Docuflow

Pat Lenihan Transport

And most importantly the Icons of Mosney themselves. Not everyone is found within the pages of this book but your contribution has helped create this wonderful legacy. There are no small parts.



Foreword

The book you are holding represents the first major project Youth Work Ireland Meath has undertaken with some of the Young People in Mosney. Like every good story, it tells of a journey; a journey for the participants involved, for the Youth Workers, for the organisations and partners. These journeys are all different for each person and some have had further to come than others. All the various paths we have followed however, crossed together almost a year ago. An introduction from Reuben, a meeting with enthusiastic Young People, a funding grant from the Department of Justice and a collective sense of wanting to tell a story. The pictures and words found within this book are the voices of people who have journeyed the most. From different lands, cultures and societies to a new world where hopes and aspirations became significantly different.

The overarching theme everyone wanted to get across was that no matter where you are from, where you have come to, your address code or where you live, this does not define the person you are or the person you can be. The enthusiasm and energy, heart and soul, that you will find between the pages has been a privilege to witness and work with. You hold a legacy piece that will be a blueprint for any young person, who in the future may find themselves displaced and lost with no sense of community or belonging.

We stand on the shoulders of those who came before. By acknowledging and honouring their success and sacrifices, only then are we able to support those who come after us.

Nicky McDonnell
Lisa Moroney
July 2019



Mosney Icons Participants

Amanda T. Gaca
Ana Isabel Kiala
Benjamin Contreiras
Chantelle Chifamba
Esther Tyam
Fadi Mohammed
Faith Mzemba
Fátima Contreiras
Gugulethu Maphosa
Joseph Adjayi
Mary Adjayi
Mika Oppu
Precious Shamiso Matumba
Sameer Ali
Sithembinkosi Percy Mpofu
Tando Maphosa
Tracy Zinyama

Amanda



The Queen and the Princess



Fadi



Everything can happen in this world,
all we need is to dream big and make things happen.

In Trim Castle I represent a historical monument

Ana



Wherever you go, no matter the weather,
always bring your own sunshine.

Esther



1 feel like God has given me
a second chance to live my life.
1 feel like an African Queen

Chantelle



Being proud of who I am is one of the things that life has taught me.



Faith



"These photos remind me of Malawi. The modest attire has not left me. It is me most of the time. I am proud of my Malawian heritage."



Fatima

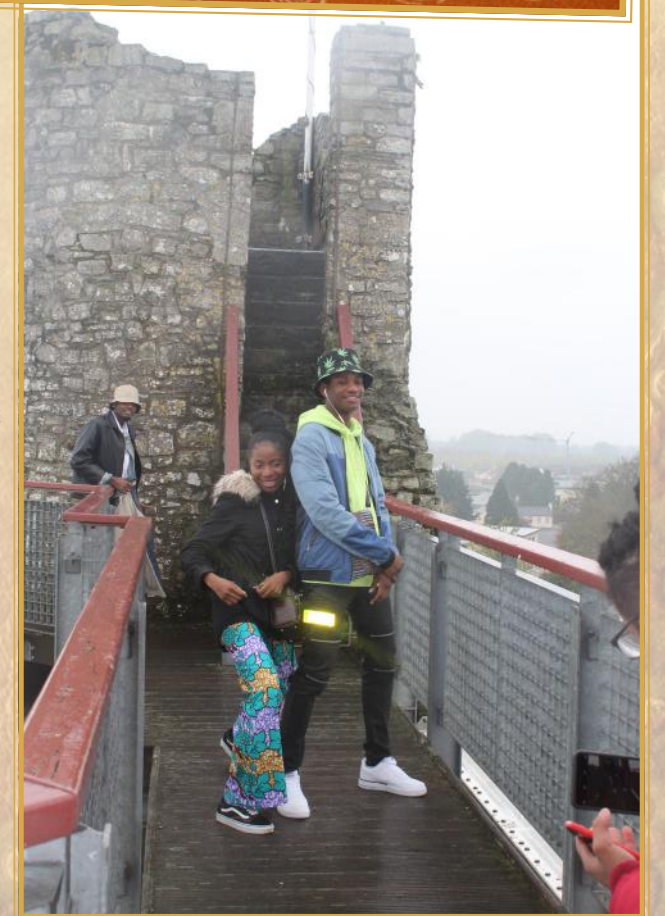


My past is a story, my future is being written by a God who takes care of me with much love. I'm just a young girl, but I had to leave my country to change the course of my life. I've been through things in life. Today, I look up at the sky and receive a strong power, I'll live the supernatural even after something I've been through. Understand that you are not more or less than anyone by being where you are or by having or not having something. Everyone can move forward to get where they want or acquire what they want to have. Make a difference having a good heart having an incredible mindset and this world spreading blessings success comes from the mind Give your best at your worst Fatima Contreiras "The Warrior"

Joseph



It's the little things that make up the bigger pictures, so my happiness does not come from money and fame My happiness comes from seeing life without struggle



Mary



There's nothing more beautiful
than a smile that has struggled
through tears!

Mika



Why chose darkness? When only
a smile can brighten your day



Irish Youth Music Awards

Tracey



Croke Park: May 2019



Tracey performing acapella versions of 2 songs at the LYMA's:

Beyonce's - Running,
and her own piece - Survive



Percy



“My greatest fear is the fear of an ordinary life. It’s the fear of not actually living, of my life being cut short but having never actually painted the colours my mind is full of. The fear of not having my stories to tell and the fear of lying on my death bed and not having used the gift of life wisely. I fear being defined by one career or by one place. People always tell you to face your fears but I have a hard time believing that this is a fear I should set aside. It is the fear that motivates me and I hope it’s here to stay.”



Precious



My life might not be perfect, but I wouldn't take away any bit from my journey.
My struggles have sharpened me into this rare gem of a woman I am, I rise!
I am right where I'm supposed to be and if there is anything I have discovered
about myself in my journey, it is that I matter, and self love is the beginning of
all healing.

Samir



I like to transform the places where I always go. I receive a little of what the place can offer me and I leave the best part of me. Trim Castle was just like that, It showed me its history and I left my shine and my identity.



Tando



Tracey



Trim Castle



Preparations for Trim Castle photo shoot:



Dearbhail McDonell from Inglot Ireland
in charge of make-up

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."



Our first planning meeting: Feb 2019



"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."



...Getting to grips with photography



...Percy striking a pose

Photos by Nicky

SKIN DEEP!

By Fátima Contreiras

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Fatima. I am from Angola and I am a student of English Language in Plunkett College of Further Education.

I am here today to speak to you about a man who has made a vast contribution to human rights in South Africa. He fought against apartheid in South Africa and was an advocate for human rights all over the world. He was and still is an icon for me.

Ladies and Gentleman, sometimes ordinary people can take extraordinary steps to help improve the lot of their fellow human beings.

Of course I am speaking of Nelson Mandela, the Nobel Peace Prize winner. He was the first democratically elected black President of South Africa in 1994 after having spent four decades in prison since 1964.

Fellow students you and I know that most people would be crushed having spent decades in prison, however this didn't destroy Mandela's spirits. I bring to mind his famous speech from the Dock before he went to prison for life in 1964.

He said
"I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

Mandela taught us:
"education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world".
He believed that it didn't matter if you are black or white, rich or poor, everyone should have the opportunity to achieve their goal in life through education.

His exact words which should ring in our ears forever were as follows:
"It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the President of a great nation."

Mandela remained a champion for peace and social justice in his own nation and around the world until his death in 2013 at the age of 95. Mandela is an example of how an ordinary man could become someone great. He has contributed, like so many great heroes, to making this world a better place in which to live.

Mandela was a charismatic leader with exceptional qualities, a man who was prepared to take risks and make sacrifices for other human beings.

We should not be defined by our race, our colour because where there is division, there will be conflict. White and black are just labels. During our lives we accept labels. These labels will forever blind us from seeing a person for who they are. Fellow students! That is something we all really need to think about.

As Richard Williams, a poet, known by his stage name Prince Ea said in his poem:

"I'm not black, you are not white,
Who would you be if the world never gave you a label?
Never gave you a box to check.
Would you be white? Black? Mexican? Asian? Native American? Middle Eastern? Indian?
No. We would be one; we would be together."

Ladies and Gentlemen

As I said before we should not be defined by labels. We need to look beneath the skin and see each other for what we truly are. This is something we all really need to think about deeply. We depend on heroes to change the world but one day I fear that there won't be any heroes.

Still I Rise BY MAYA ANGELOU

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise

I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise

Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise

Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.

I rise
I rise. I rise.



"Flawless"



Thando



"Queens of the Castle"



Precious Moments



Chantelle





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AN ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

