

Connecting Places, Connected Lives

An anti-bullying art project



CONNECTING PLACES, CONNECTED LIVES - AN ANTI-BULLYING ART PROJECT

Led By:

Abdulla (5), **Antonio** (9), **Danielle** (15), **Elisabeth** (11), **Fahad** (7), **Farhat** (10), **James** (9), **Lailay** (9), **Libby** (8), **Lisa** (16), **Mahamoud** (9), **Mansour** (15), **Miller** (10), **Olivia** (15), **Rafaela** (8), **Richard** (14), **Shannon** (12), **Tomazia** (8), **Vania** (11), **Zina** (13)

(young people of African and British heritage from Byker, Newcastle upon Tyne)

Rachel Pain (Durham University) rachel.pain@durham.ac.uk

Kye Askins (Northumbria University) kye.askins@unn.ac.uk

Gaby Kitoko (African Community Advice North East) gkitoko@hotmail.com

This is a Stage 2 project of '**Young people, fear and hope in north east England**', a participatory action research project funded by the British Academy and the Leverhulme Trust. For more information, findings and other publications contact Rachel Pain or see www.geography.dur.ac.uk/Projects/fearsandhopes

With many thanks to Brighter Futures Middlesbrough, CRUNK!, Lorraine Grant and Newcastle Social Services Unaccompanied Minor Team, Mill Lane Youth Centre, Save the Children North East, West End Women and Girls Centre, Cat Alexander, Amelia Lake, Divya Tolia-Kelly and Julia McMillan.

© Rachel Pain, Kye Askins, Gaby Kitoko et al. (2007)

Methodology

In 2006 and 2007, groups of young people in north east England were involved in discussions about hope and fear and decided the areas of focus for the research. They listed, discussed, ranked and evaluated the things they worry about and hope for. You can see the results on the following pages.

Some of the groups then chose methods to investigate the issues which came up in more depth. This report presents findings from one group of young people from African refugee and white British backgrounds who met at ACANE (African Community Advice North East) in Newcastle upon Tyne. The main issues of concern are bullying and racism.

For this project we used participatory art techniques. Hands-on visual activities are useful for expressing feelings, ideas and images of places which are sometimes difficult to put into words. They also help to break down barriers between people in the group.

We used art to explore bullying and racism and to express how they make young people feel. A common theme was the negative ideas that people sometimes have about about places – certain parts of Newcastle and young people's African countries of origin. So we decided to promote some of the good things about Africa and Newcastle and Africa, and the connections that exist between them. We drew sketches, cartoons and diagrams to develop ideas, and paintings in acrylic. You can find some of them later in this report.

The group also suggested some recommendations to address these issues. You can find these at the end of the report. Since this project ended, we have been involved in producing a public artwork for Next Stop Byker with the artist Fiona Gray, and have developed a website of our own:

www.geography.dur.ac.uk/Projects/Acanart

What do young people worry about and hope for?

Wherever they come from, young people in the research voice similar concerns.

Bullying and racism are the number one fears.

Young people are most likely to hope for happy and secure futures and an end to global conflict.

Young people worry about:

Racism

Bullying

Rape / sexual assault

Charvers

Poverty

Anti-social behaviour

The area they live in

Drugs / smoking / drinking



Young people hope for:

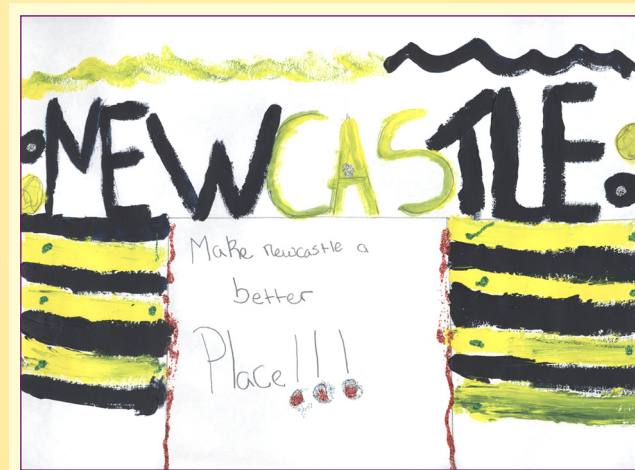
Less racism

Being happy

Getting a good job

Peace

Going to college / university



(Sample: 70+ young people aged 4-21 from different ethnic backgrounds in Newcastle and Middlesbrough)

Bullying and racism - an issue for all young people

All of the groups of young people who have so far taken part in this research said that bullying is common.

Most young people have been bullied.

For young people from refugee, asylum seeking, black or minority ethnic backgrounds, racist bullying can be a common problem.

Bullying can take the form of violence, harassment, hurtful comments or just being left out.

How do bullying and racism make young people feel?

Inconsolable...

Stressed...

Unloved...

Sad...

Humiliated...



"Racism makes everyone feel unhappy, left out, bad tempered, angry, upset, miserable!"

"It affects people in different ways but it always affects you some ways. Not just for the time it's going on, but all your life if you've been bullied."

"This city is nice but some people...there was this boy in school and they put him in a bin and the teachers do nothing. I feel bad about this. Everyone is the same, it doesn't matter about skin colour, everyone should just have respect."

Stereotypes about young people and the places they come from

What causes bullying and racism? This is very complicated, but...

Stereotypes about young people and the places they come from sometimes lead to bullying.

Sometimes bullying happens because other people make assumptions about you because of the way you look.

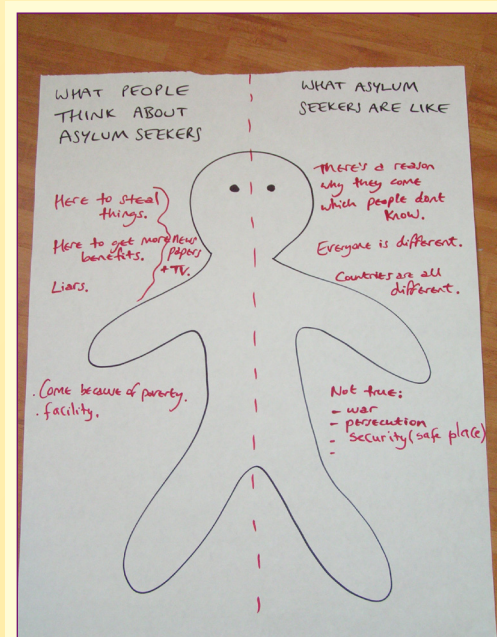
Sometimes bullying happens because other people don't know much about the country you come from.

For example...

...if you dress a certain way...

...if you come from a certain country,
or a certain neighbourhood...

...you can be judged wrongly



"Some people call me a charver when I'm wearing Nike gear and trackies."

"They think Africans have no houses and run around with no shoes on."

"Most people think asylum seekers are people who came to take advantage of the country... it's kind of painful sometimes when you know it's not true."

STEREOTYPES

"When you speak to people they say anyone that lives in the west end is a charver, everybody that lives in Lemington's a charver..."

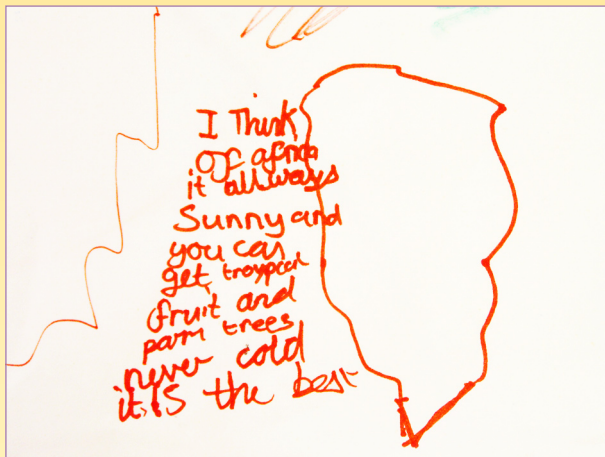
"Why do people think Africans are poor; Africans are here to take their jobs?"

"It's always someone else is a charver."

We thought about more positive images of the places we come from and how they are connected

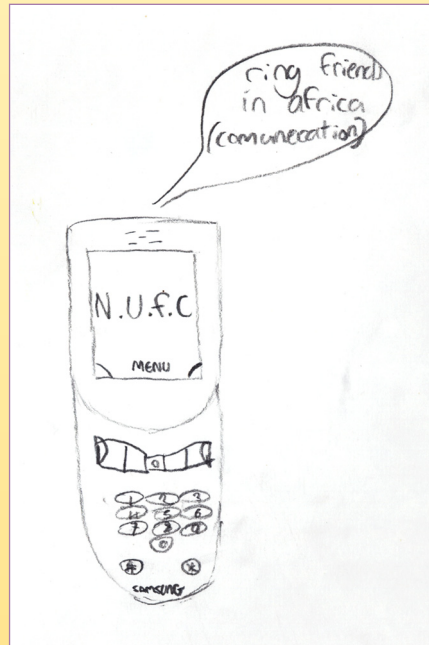
Good things about African countries

Nice Sunny Water
Palm trees Shops Pools
Fruit People Animals



What have they got in common?

Trees Foods Beaches
Hotels Football
Same languages Same minds
Both places have different cultures

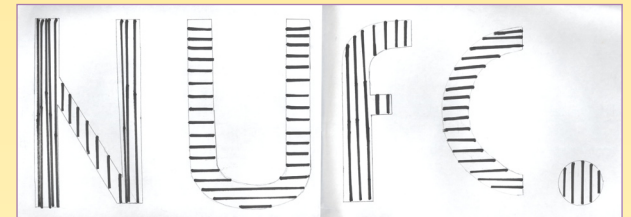


How are they connected?

Aeroplanes Boats
Things bought and sold
Websites Mobile phones
Our families and friends

Good things about Newcastle

School Football Friends
Families Shops Safe
Friendly people Fun things to do



Newcastle United Football Club

We used art to show positive images of Africa and Newcastle



Newcastle United F.C. badge



Rainbow in Africa

Houses on the Ouseburn





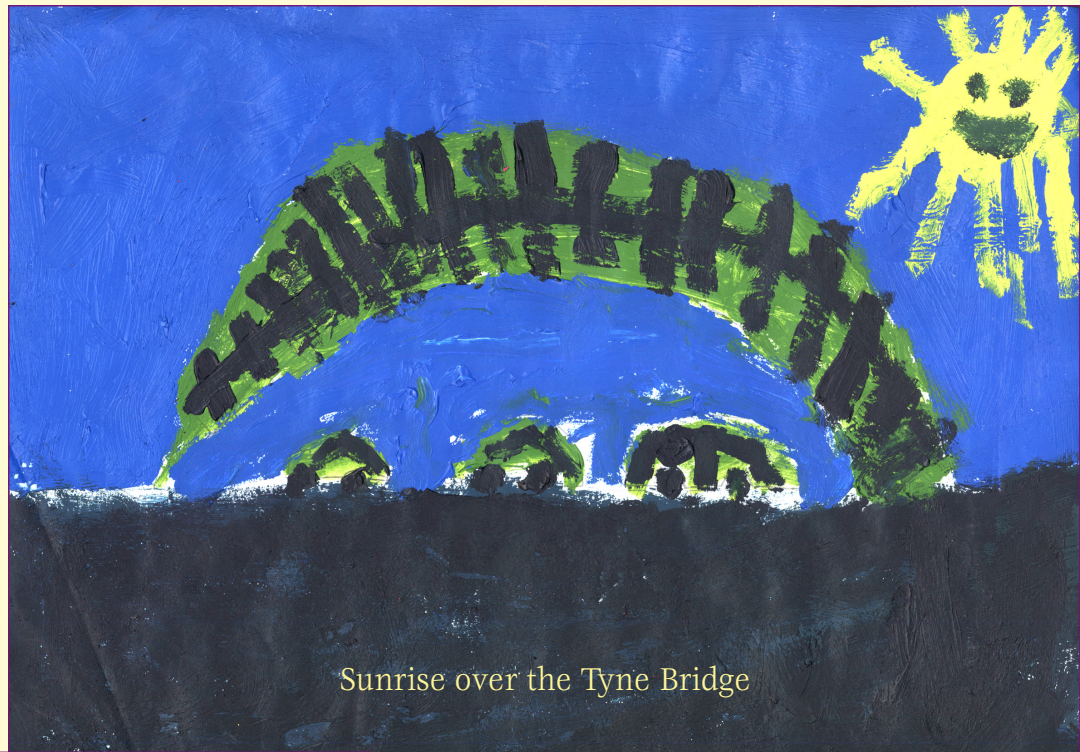
Hills and houses in Mozambique



Bungee-jumping over the Tyne



Travelling into Newcastle



Sunrise over the Tyne Bridge

Leaving South Africa

Welcome to Africa





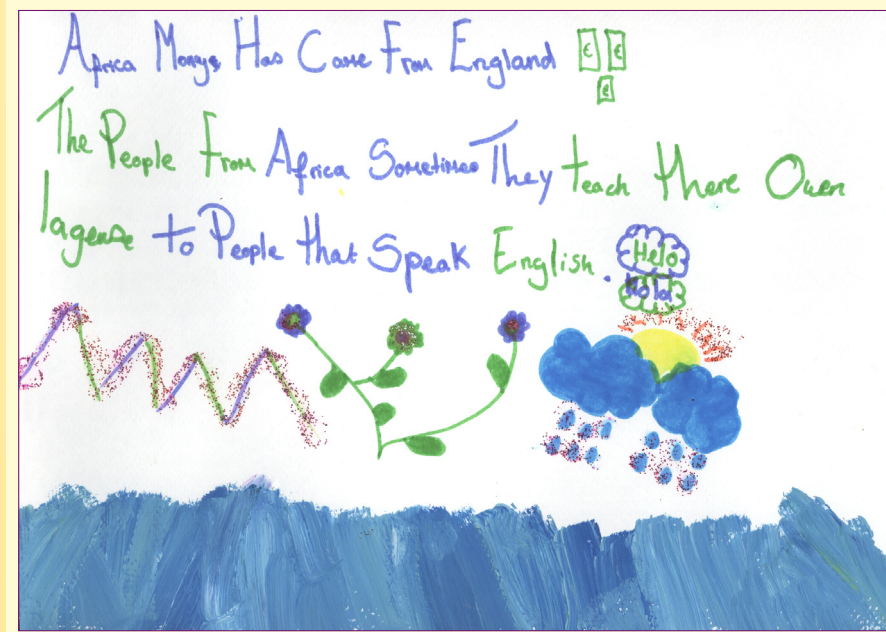
Welcome to Zambia



Egypt



Flowers in England



Connecting places

Fashion is the best!!!



Miller is in
Town fashion
for passion



Shopping in Newcastle

Recommendations

Young people in the research suggest:

“Bullying - people should stop - respect young people.”

“People should get judged for their behaviour not their colour.”

“Adults need to work with young children to stop bullying and racism.”

For young people:

- Be nice to others
- Protect others from bullying
- Tell someone if it happens to you! Don't keep the bullying inside.

For schools:

- Do more to stop bullying – put your anti-bullying policies into practice. Take more steps to protect young people who are bullied and to punish young people who bully. Young people feel teachers don't always listen to them, especially with racist bullying.
- Anti-racist teaching: promote positive images of the countries that refugees and asylum-seekers come from. Teach about normal, everyday aspects of life there, not just the problems. Focus on the connections and similarities between places not just the differences.

For the police:

- In serious cases, victims would like you to charge bullies, don't just caution them.
- Tackle anti-social behaviour where **young people** are the victims. Don't see young people simply as the problem.

For newspapers/TV:

- Counter the current negative or stereotyped portrayal of the countries that refugees and asylum-seekers come from, with positive images and stories about everyday life.

For the UK government:

- Anticipate the negative effects of immigration policies on the young, and do more to tackle racist bullying.
- Prepare newcomers and host communities by educating them about each other.
- Increase funding and opportunities for educational and integration work within local communities, especially involving young people.

For adults:

- Recognise the importance of the emotional as well as physical well-being of **all** the young people in our communities.
- Appreciate the expertise they have on the matters that affect their well-being, their ability to point to solutions, and foster young people's genuine participation in decisions which affect them.

Help, Information and Resources

Integration is a process. I'm happy because they can now even meet, because it used to be that black and white kids were not mixing very much. But I'm happy because we start to have those activities where they can come together and let the community know about the things that are important to them - to try to break this ice between those communities.

Gaby Kitoko, ACANE



Here are some websites that offer more information on racism and bullying, and help and advice for young people. Some have phone numbers you can call for advice:

www.bullying.co.uk

www.childline.org.uk
(0800) 1111

www.there4me.com

www.kidscape.org.uk
(08451) 205 204

www.theredcard.org
(0191) 291 0161

www.archpartnership.org.uk
(08000) 32328

www.savethechildren.org.uk/caris



White British.



Black African



All

We might be different from the outside

WERE All Equal.

Different
Newcastle.

All the same.

It counts what's inside.

Arabic Background.



faces.

Indian B

