

The booklet 'Happy to be Here' provides us with the opportunity to begin to 'see ourselves as others see us.' For me there were many positive surprises as the women shared their perceptions. The following notes offer a starting point for us to reflect on our situations, understandings and attitudes. The pieces can stand alone, or can be reorganised to create a series of reflections. Knowing your group - the context and interests of the individuals involved - you will decide on the appropriate theme / s for them which might be quite different from mine. The important element is that there are no right and wrong answers to the questions posed, they are there simply to provide a framework for reflective responses.

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### **1. Wan Ying Ho "Things that are important to me"**

Wan Ying Ho, in her piece of writing, identifies a number of things, which are important to her. What are they? List  
Working in twos, list things which are important to you both.  
Gather these lists together, explaining your choices, to create a 'whole group' list.  
Which items on your 'whole group' list appear most often?  
What would be the 'whole groups' four most important things? Why? Discuss.

Follow-up: Bring in an example of something which is important to you, to share with the rest of the group eg photos, memorabilia etc.

### **2. Teresa Rozario "Families"**

Teresa Rozario misses her family back home in Bangladesh. "We are very close and I felt sad at having to leave them," she says.

Recall moments in your family life (either from the past or the present), which are particularly vivid. Share with group.  
Draw your own personal timeline from birth to present day, listing the significant events.  
Who have been the greatest influences on you so far? Why were / are they important?  
What has been the importance of family life for you?  
Is family life important for the world in which we live? If so, why is it important? Discuss.

Follow-up: Explore the drawing up of family trees using the computer, if appropriate. Create your own family coat of arms with motto and sketches of important symbols.

### **3. Goma Aryal "Something lost, something gained"**

Goma has left behind things about her country which she treasures – the high mountains (they don't get much higher than in Nepal!!), her goats and the long rivers full of fish.  
If you had to leave Dundee, either on your own or with your family, are there things you'd be happy to leave behind?

What aspects of your life in Dundee would you miss?  
What gives these things special significance?  
Share and discuss.

Follow-up: During the week consider the things which / people who, make up your life in Dundee. Take some photographs of them. Bring them to show and share with the group. Display.

#### **4. Grazyna Anna Kowalewska “Let’s party!”**

Grazyna vividly describes memories of family celebrations which are particularly linked to her faith. Share with the group a really happy time / celebration which you enjoyed?

What made that celebration special?

What are some of the major celebrations / holidays we observe either in Dundee or within other cultures? What is their purpose?

Can you agree on a list of things which go towards making a good party / celebration?

Follow-up: Organise a party / celebration!!

#### **5. Maria Babenskiene “Women and work”**

Maria has, in coming to Dundee, made changes to her working situation – from chemist to cleaner. How would you describe her attitude to the change? Does it surprise you – discuss?

Have you found yourself in an unhappy / happy working environment? What made it so?

What makes a ‘good’ working environment / job? Group discussion and list.

Is this different from what makes a good relationship? Why

Follow-up: Invite speaker in to discuss a woman’s rights within the work place.

#### **6. Carlota Viana “Interdependence”**

Carlota emphasises the importance of family and the fact that “although we think we are independent, we still need each other”

List the people in your life on whom you depend.

List the people in your life who depend on you.

Our links with each other stretch across the world. List the countries with which you have links and plot on a map of the world creating a web.

Do ‘Global Detector’ Activity (available from the One World Centre) to establish that ‘we are all global citizens’ - whether we like it or not!!

Follow-up: Show CD or invite speaker on Global Interdependence and discuss.

#### **7. Weihong Qian “Going to school”**

Weihong Qian feels strongly about the importance of being able to go to school – “I appreciate my parents giving me the opportunity to finish my education.”

What has been your experience of schooling – the positives and the negatives?

What is schooling for?

Would anything have made your schooling experience more enjoyable / relevant?

What changes, if any, would have made the experience of being at school better for you?

What changes, if any, would make the experience more relevant for the next generation?

Follow-up: Organise a visit to a local primary / secondary schools. Beforehand discuss and note questions which you might want to ask.

## **8. Sharifan Mohammed “A fulfilled life”**

Sharifan Mohammed, after a busy, challenging life, can now say, “I feel fulfilled and very happy with my life now.” What was the experience, which led to her being able to feel this way?

Is there something which you would like to do / achieve / happen, which would make you feel really fulfilled? If you are happy to do so, discuss with the group.

Is there any agreement around the sorts of things, which lead us as human beings to feel fulfilled? How does it feel to be fulfilled? What emotions are involved?

Follow-up: Begin to create your own collage showing things which are important to you.

## **9. Zaity Hafinaz Binti Abdul Hamid “Learning through Living”**

Zaity reminds us that learning is not just something which takes place in school. We are learning all the time, and “especially when we face something new, special and interesting.”

Create three lists:

What things had you already learnt before going to school?

What things did you learn in school?

What things have you learnt outwith school, in the community, family etc.?

Are you surprised at your answers?

Is there a difference between the learning that you do in school and that which happens beyond the school?

Is one more effective than the other? Discuss.

Do you see yourself as an educator / learner?

Follow-up:

Conduct your own piece of research with people you know. Do they see themselves as educators and learners? Report findings to group and discuss.

Complete collage.