

A Selection of Poetry Curated from HopeTowns `Past, Present and Future: From Sudan and Syria to London With Love' Publication.

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Abstract

A curated selection of eight poems taken from [Hopetowns](#) - a community of refugees and volunteers. [Hopetowns](#) have recently undertaken a creative writing project and included here are a curated collection of poems, stories and memories as part of our creative writing project, which formed part of the [Hopetowns](#) `Past, Present and Future: From Sudan and Syria to London With Love' Publication.

The full `Past, Present and Future: From Sudan and Syria to London With Love' publication along with the individual poems and stories are also available as part of a curated exhibition on the [Living Refugee Archive](#), available at [this link](#).

Poems

My Homeland Syria Through My Five Senses by Aby Michel.

Every morning I have homemade fowl and drink coffee with Arabic sweets

I see a busy marketplace outside my house, where people go to work and children go to school.

There are beautiful trees and parked cars.

I kiss my mother's and father's hand every morning before going to work.

I hear the sounds of water from the pond, the flowers drink this water.

I also hear the sounds of birds signing in my garden.

I smell the scent of flowers from my balcony, beautiful roses, orange carrots, cloves and jasmines.

By Abu Michel.

Home by Marwa.

My name is Marwa. I lived in Kasti. I lived

with my family. I had three sisters. There is a

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large market in our city, and 10 mosques.

The White Nile was there.

There were many people in the big fish market. I would go to holiday every 6 months.

By Marwa.

My World Turned Upside Down by Mohammad Abdallah.

One day my whole world turned upside down and from there my crazy life started, because from then everything has been going downwards. There are times when I ended up homeless with no food. I did not know where to go; we started moving from one place to another. I felt like I lost my mind and moved from one country to another, everywhere I went I faced crazy people like the police and politicians. They took me to prisons and detention centres; I travelled through 5 countries, 6 police stations, 7 detention centres and eventually I ended up in the United Kingdom.

I didn't know what to do, even still – to this day – I do not know what I am doing.

By Mohammad Abdallah.

What Is My Name by Mohammad Abdallah.

What is my name?

Who am I?

Where did I come from?

I was born in the middle of nowhere, some people call it a village but I call it a little paradise because there are so many things and so many places like mountains, forests, rivers and many wild animals and farms.

A lot of fields with different kinds of fruits that belong to no one but belong to everyone around there.

I used to jump in the trees like a little monkey, I was an extremely happy little boy but suddenly everything blurred and I found myself somewhere – I don't know where.

Can someone explain to me where I am?

By Mohammad Abdallah.

London Life by Mohamad Sami.

I live in London, in the mornings I see a lot of street lights and a lot of transport like trains and taxis, people also use bikes for transport too.

My house is not far from the train station, it's very busy all day, lots of people use the train because it's faster than the buses. It comes near my house, so it's very noisy.

On the weekends I sometimes go to visit my friend and make some Sudanese food, I like the library to go to read and use the internet, and do exercise in the gym.

I went to Big Ben and The London Eye, the first time I saw the London eye I thought it was BIG. I went inside and it's beautiful. I've seen a lot of London and I'm very happy.

There are a lot of universities and colleges here, when I came to London my English was very bad but now it's better than before. I want to go to College to study English more.

I go to Hopetown's English Class every Sunday, it's a very good class and the teachers are very good, and the staff are nice and friendly.

In London there is free health care, this is very nice.

There are GP's, Hospitals and Ambulances and the staff are friendly. Healthcare is good.

In the future I want to improve my language and study more. Try and be good at everything.

Thank you to all the staff and teachers at Hopetowns class.

By Mohamed Sami.

I Feel Like Someone Else by Siddig.

When I first came to London, I didn't speak any English, because I didn't finish studying at school. I started college to learn the English language.

When I started college, I couldn't talk with the students because my English wasn't good and they spoke well. I started ESOL from beginner's level and now I am on Entry 2.

In college the students are so funny because we all make a lot of mistakes but they are friendly. After two years, my English is better and I understand when people are talking. I feel like someone else when people are talking and alone because I don't speak English and I don't know anyone here.

In London there is a smell that is different from my country, and a lot of types of drugs and alcohol.

I hope I get a good education and a job in the future.

By Siddig.

Until My Dream Come True by Mohammad Sa'id.

Life over here is safe and that makes me feel confident to continue my dreams until they come true.

There are opportunities to study here, you can study whatever you would like to study and you can be successful as well, if you work hard, nothing is impossible.

In the UK you have the freedom to practice your religion and your culture as well.

I continue my dreams until they come true.

By Mohammad Sa'id.

Earth Poem by Nagat.

There are lots of animals and above in the sky
there are lots of stars, like the sun.

Earth is where we all live.

Lots and lots of countries and continents.

There are people, cars
in a beautiful down town.

Lots of angels looking down on us.

There are trees, bees.

Humans are all the same.

By Nagat, 8 years old.

Online Archive

An online archive containing all the poems and creative writing from the Hopetowns publications *Past, Present and Future: From Sudan and Syria to London* With Love is available on the Living Refugee Archive. Please visit: <http://www.livingrefugeearchive.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Past-present-future-poetry-pdf.pdf>

About Hopetowns

Hopetowns provides an oasis of hope and friendship for refugees during difficult times, bringing an end to the isolation and encourage self-empowerment and leadership.

The London-based Hopetowns project emerged from the solidarity and support structures of the Calais 'Jungle' camp in northern France. Spearheaded by one of the former Calais camp community leaders, Hopetowns aims to support the successful integration and well-being of refugees into British society, by starting at the early stage of an individual's asylum process.

Since February 2018, Hopetowns has been working to achieve its aims through concrete solutions to everyday problems intertwined with a welcoming atmosphere and emotional support. Our current programme has seen great success and widespread interest among refugees in London, with many of our classes having been attended by up to twenty-five students at a time.