

# Introduction to verbatim theatre

Drama - 'The Journey'  
A verbatim theatre project

Mr Bateson



# Dalia’s story

Dalia was just 16 when conflict forced her to flee her home in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

“I didn’t know where I was going when I left Congo,” Dalia said.

“I was living my life normally, like every child, and my life changed suddenly.”

“My uncle said ‘you just have to go, just go’ - Arriving in the UK was so scary”

“It was difficult because I don’t know the country, I don’t know the city, I don’t know which language to speak.”

“At the police station I just said *asil* [asylum] in French because I couldn’t even say that in English.”

“I stayed for many hours waiting at the police station . I didn’t know what they would do with me.”

The Red Cross began providing life and leadership skills, asylum advice and mental health support to Dalia

“The first time I went to the group was difficult and strange for me because when I arrived it was all new people to me and only boys.

“Being the only girl was quite tough and frustrating, but I started to talk and be a little bit more open and I started to make friends.

“I’ve made good friends and everybody has been welcoming and the project has helped me with my confidence.”

Although Dalia has been waiting nearly two years for a decision on her asylum claim, she still plans for the future.

“My dream is to stay in the UK to finish my college course, go to university and do nursing. I want to be a nurse. It’s in me.”

“My auntie was a nurse in my country and I grew up watching her and saw how she worked, how she was kind. She inspired me because she cared about people and I feel I am like her.”

“I <sup>2</sup>care for people, and I want to give this love to people who are suffering. I know I have a lot to give.”

