

A Migrant's Covid Journal

A reflection on selected pieces
of covid art from young
migrants.

BRIGHTER
FUTURES

ABOUT THE COLLECTION

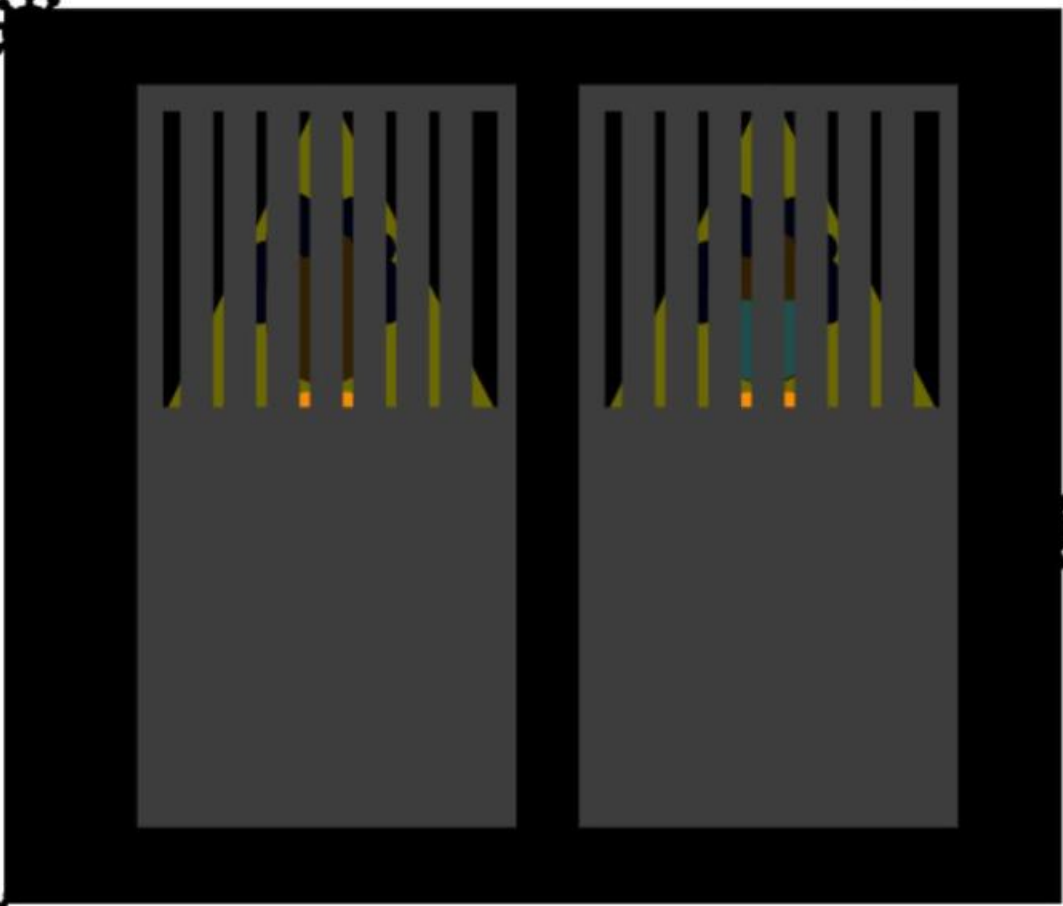
This collection of lockdown art and reflections has been collaboratively created by members of Brighter Futures, a group of young people standing up for young migrants like themselves. Using creativity as a tool to challenge negative perceptions of migration in the UK, this collection is the summation of a series of workshops focussing on the impact of COVID19 on the world from a young migrants' perspective, and how the world needs to change for the better

INTRODUCTION

The policies have imprisoned us, we have been restricted from living normal lives like our peers whom we grew up with, went to school with and played with when we were younger. As a young migrant this is my sad and hellish reality.

Covid invited the rest of the world into this imprisonment, the only difference is that with covid, you're restricted for your safety and there is hope for a release date.

For a young migrant like me, someone who arrived in Britain as a young child and knows no other home than Britain, the barriers against me are enormous and imprisoning...



There's a riot for freedom but we were
never free

What are your thoughts?

Reason for photograph;

My image isn't a photograph in the regular sense because I felt, nothing could reflect how I really feel so I made this. This is my reality, and the reality of several young migrants across Britain.

The policies have imprisoned us, we have been restricted from living normal lives like our peers whom we grew up with, went to school with and played with when we were younger. As a young migrant this is my sad and hellish reality.

Covid invited the rest of the world into this imprisonment, the only difference is that with covid, you're restricted for your safety and there is hope for a release date.

For a young migrant like me, someone who arrived in Britain as a young child and knows no other home than Britain, the barriers against me are enormous and imprisoning.

When covid is over, I will not be able to walk freely like everyone else because my prison sentence will not be over by then. Me and thousands of others will only take off our masks because sadly, in our reality normality is a luxury.

More reflections on the photograph

Hello world! welcome to my world

We have moved from detention to prison

I've been imprisoned by myself but now I'm imprisoned with the whole world



Reason for photograph;

The reason I took this picture was because we feel trapped, like we are in a box but you can just about see the light. I had a box and I switched on the timer on my phone to 10 seconds and just put it in the box facing up. I did it twice, and I think it expresses how I feel and how a lot of people feel too.

You look outside, you want to go outside but you're scared. But something gives you hope that things are not always going to be the way they are. That's why I took it.

Time waits for no one-a lot of people procrastinate and say oh I'll do it tomorrow, but what's the guarantee we are going to be around next year? Lots of people had plans- to get married, have children, but anything can happen. We should just live our lives.

More reflections on the photograph

The sun always shines through

As dark as it gets, there's always light at the end

I'm stuck in the four corners of the world with no one to talk to but at the end of the day I know my voice will be heard

The darkness acquired a visitor

What are your thoughts?



Reason for photograph;

I took this picture when I was on the train and I'm wearing the mask and I'm just free. Nobody was there so I didn't have to sit near anyone- there was more space than usual. I know I'm not alone with my depression because everybody now...they know how we feel when you are stuck in one place. I'm alone in the picture, the situation is hard. I was in detention- and now with lock down it's like you're in prison, but with everybody. Even though I'm alone I'm still strong and I can stand.

We have to think more about migrants and what they face. Now people lose their jobs, they can't go anywhere, they have to just stay at home. This is how we live every day. They have to consider us like everybody else. Now they see it's not easy to stay at home- they can't go out, they can't work, it's frustrating. We want to work, we want to go out and have a life but we are blocked. Maybe now people will understand how that feels.

More reflections on the photograph

Even though my voice is silent, I still stand for freedom

Freedom is me, I am free but safety is key

What are your thoughts?

Reason for photograph;



This picture was actually for my assignment, 'service in society', as part of my nursing degree. For this module we had to volunteer somewhere and then write about what you learnt and what you gained from the experience. So when we started it was Corona time so we couldn't really do the normal types of volunteering, we ended up helping older people in the community during lockdown. As a young, responsible person I can go help them and buy groceries so I did that. In Brighter Futures we got support as well-things through the post to keep us busy, someone to talk to if you need it. I guess it's all a kind of volunteering as well, the support we got through Brighter Futures and the work I was doing to support elderly people who couldn't go out. Corona affected everyone, but elderly people a lot more. They couldn't go out, move, meet their families and friends. When we give them groceries I know how they felt by seeing somebody coming to their home, that they can talk to somebody. Some people don't have internet and mobile phones- imagine their lives in lockdown. For some people it changed society to a lonely place. So many people were scared, they went to the shops and bought everything for 3 or 6 months without thinking about other people. I understand people's fear but some of us have a passion to help and we should arrange in advance, be organised and ready to help straight away if this ever happens again.

In solidarity this time we all are human beings

What are your thoughts?

More reflections on the photograph

Charity begins at home



Reason for photograph;

This photo was taken at the height of lockdown. We were allowed out for a single hour of exercise. One of such days we decided to take a walk up into town, along the river. It was striking to see the city dead quiet, the silence like it was the end of the world. It showed me how fragile our current system is, how quickly change can happen and in a way it was a time filled with fear and hope. Fear in the uncertain but also hope that perhaps something would change when we returned. This photo captures my partner on Pimlico walking in the middle of road something we may never do again

More reflections on the photograph

Welcome to the new normal

I'm walking with all my problems in my head by myself with no one standing by me or with me

I used to go out with the hope of seeing people but now I have no one to smile to

What are your thoughts?



My name is Why. Why? Because I fit the profile

What are your thoughts?

Reason for photograph;

I just saw this book cover in a magazine so I took a photo of it. I chose it because of the environment I was in before it all happened. I was thinking 'why me?', just like the book. When the lock-down happened I was feeling lonely-it was a really difficult time, just staying at home without doing anything. Before I used to go do volunteering, see people, just keeping myself busy, and when the lock down came I couldn't do anything.

The picture also spoke to me about Black Lives Matter during the lock down- the children on the book cover- one is black and one is white, but they have been brought together. We didn't choose to be like this, we are just born this way. They shouldn't judge each other based on your skin colour or your culture. We didn't create ourselves.

The lockdown did bring people together, and people they looked after each other, asking if you need anything, asking how are you feeling. If you feel down you can call someone just to speak about how you're feeling. I think now people check on their friends and keep them happy. When you make your friend happy, it makes you happy as well, not just them. That's what lots of people learnt.

More reflections on the photograph

2020- The year of whys



Reason for photograph;

Even though the situation is not easy I try to relax, and just try to learn and have knowledge through reading. When you have depression you feel like you don't want to do anything but even apart from that I just try to be strong and do something else, to change, to free my mind. I think other people should do this too- it helps to not think about your situation for a while and learn something else. And tea makes you feel relaxed!

More reflections on the photograph

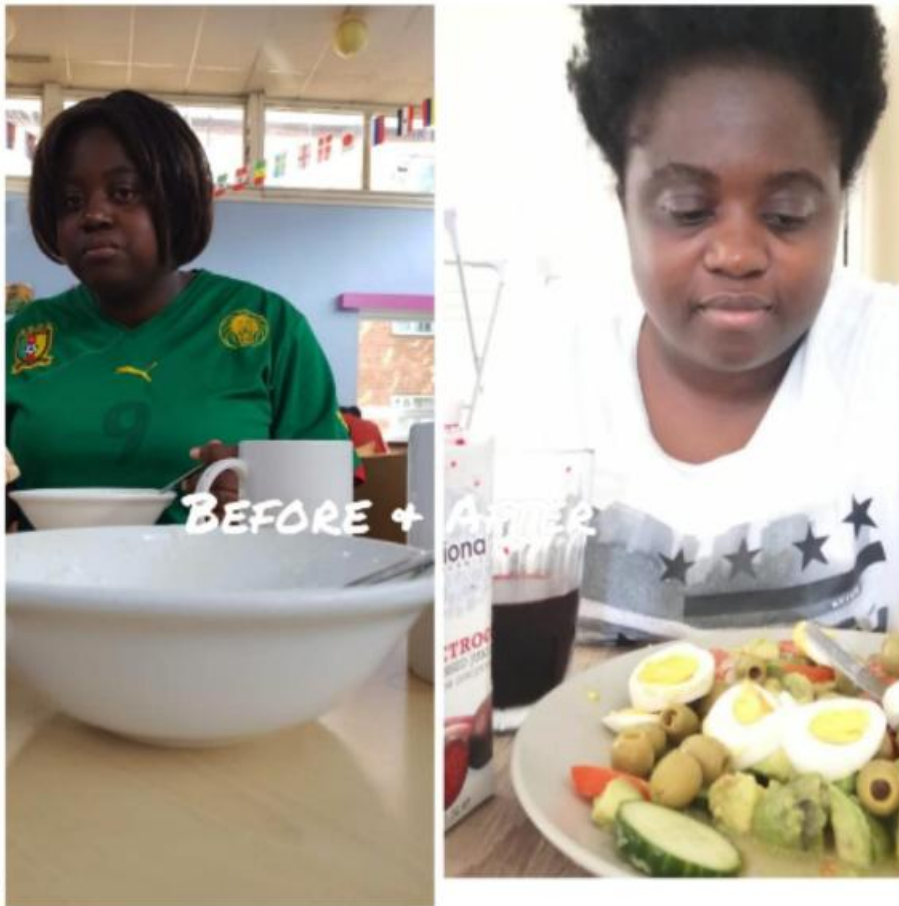
One life to live

Food for the mind

Deep breath, just rest

When a simple cuppa became a gift

What are your thoughts?



Reason for photograph;

I chose this picture because we always talk about the negatives of lockdown so I didn't want to focus on that.

I was thinking of something positive that I've gained. I've lost a lot of weight and it's because of lockdown. It has really helped me as you can see I think! Now I have time to plan during the day and eat what I want to eat, not just grabbing something unhealthy outside. I have my time to cook and do my shopping. Before, I was always out, sometimes having two meetings a day. I was always grabbing something in the shop to eat but now I think it's something positive that has happened to me.

No matter the situation, you can always take care of yourself- even before the lockdown I could have done so. We've had time to think about a lot of things and I have started to think of myself.

More reflections on the photograph

Slowly we progress and only time will tell

Seasons come and go and chaos doesn't last

What are your thoughts?



Good vibes only

Reason for photograph;

During the lockdown everyone has been looking for things that have kept them going. These are the things that kept me going. If I'm not on my mood cards, I'll be on the gratitude, if not that then I'll be colouring. Those 3 things have got me through. I found out that I like little things like that to spend time on-not doing much but just a little bit, bit by bit.

I think we've all got something that keeps us going. For me those books kept me going. For other people it might be different. Don't give up on your happiness. During this period everybody got bored and we forgot about what could make us happy. We forgot about the things at home that could make us happy.



covid has reminded us that we are all human,
it has showed us that we can all be humane.
Our greatest wishes is that our policies reflect
these values too.

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Brighter Futures are a group of young people who work together to speak up for young migrants and their rights, using creativity as a tool to challenge negative perceptions of migration in the UK. Supported by Praxis Community project and Kazzum Arts.

