

"The better we know each other the better we understand each other, the better we get along with each other." (Wolfgang Thierse)

Equal like me

A photo project.

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Introduction

We want to invite young people from refugee backgrounds, as well as other young migrants, to narrate their everyday experiences about being equal in Australia. During the project, the young participants will take photos and tell their stories about what being equal means and feels like for them.

One of the outcomes of the project is an exhibition, which will be an opportunity to share these experiences. It will be something that participants can be proud of. Additionally their work will be used by others to learn and to think about how young migrants experience their everyday life, the good feelings, as well as the difficulties in their new home country, Australia.

RHRC

Equal like me is being carried out by the Refugee Health Research Centre (RHRC) at La Trobe University and the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (Foundation House) and is part of the Good Starts Arts Study. The RHRC specialises in research that aims to find out how people from refugee backgrounds can best be assisted after they have come to Australia.

For more information about RHRC:

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The Idea

The core idea of *Equal like me* came from *Imagine*, a photo project of young people worldwide. *Imagine* asked children in 45 countries to take pictures of 'one day of their lives'. Five hundred young people participated in the project and took a treasure of 12,000 photos.

The outcome was an incredible experience for those involved as well as for those who saw the photos. The public feedback and the subsequent exhibition has travelled around the world.

The idea for *Imagine* was conceived by German journalist Philipp Abresch and was carried out by GTZ. The GTZ is an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations. (www.gtz.de)

The message of *Imagine* was to encourage dialogue via photos. *Equal like me* builds on this message and aims to encourage dialogue between people from diverse cultural backgrounds as well as between different generations.

The Aim

The overall aim of *Equal like me* is to enable young people to capture what being equal in Australia means for them through photos and stories. We will give cameras to young people from refugee backgrounds and other young migrants to record their everyday experiences.

Each participant will use a camera to reflect on issues of equality and discrimination in a creative way. Using these photos, they can discuss their experiences, produce vignettes or photo stories and contribute to the exhibition.

The exhibition will be a public event and will be used as an educational resource. It will inform the wider public about the ways in which the social inclusion of young people of refugee and other migrant backgrounds is experienced, its impact on their identity, their sense of self and their aspirations for their future in Australia.

Funding

The pilot study of *Equal like me* started in September 2007 at Princes Hill Secondary College in Melbourne and is being funded by Andyinc Foundation. Additional support is being provided by La Trobe University, the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (Foundation House), the Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission, McLeod Family Fund, Olympus Australia, teachers at Princes Hill Secondary College and others.

We are looking for further support for this important project. If you can help or know someone who can please contact Kathrin Schmieder on 0448 740 680 or at ka_schmie@yahoo.com. Thank you for your support.



Photo: Hana Mahmud