



STIRE Photobook

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November 2020. Balseskin. Landscape photo. Photo by: Cynthia



IMPRESSUM

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PART 1

The photos included in this publication were captured by participants of STIRE programme's Photography Workshop. The participants are refugees and migrants living in Ireland. They all decided to capture different moments in order to highlight their unique experiences. Based on the premise that photography can be seen as a tool for emancipation, the productions portrayed in this resource aim to reflect the experience of settling in a new country. Development Perspectives would like to invite anyone accessing this resource to appreciate the stories and messages behind the pictures.





PHOTO. November 2020, Dublin. "One city to another". Photo by Prema



PHOTO. November 2020. Balseskin. Still life photo. Photo by: Cynthia

"PHOTOGRAPHY IS A REALITY SO SUBTLE THAT IT
BECOMES MORE REAL THAN REALITY"
- ALFRED STIEGLITZ



PHOTO. November 2020. Balseskin Self Portrait. Photo by: Cynthia

"GIFTS ARE
SOMETHING I
HOLD DEARLY, I
RECEIVED THIS
FROM A FRIEND
WITH HIS NAME
ON IT"





PHOTO. March 2020. Castlebar. 'Still Life. Photo by Souad

"THIS NECKLACE WAS GIFTED TO ME BY A FRIEND
BEFORE WE LEFT. IT HAS QUOTES FROM THE QURAN
FOR PROTECTION"



PHOTO. March 2020. Castlebar. Photo by: Safwan

**"THIS PLACE REMINDED ME OF THE NARROW
HOUSES BACK HOME"**



**"IRELAND WILL HELP TO FORGET
ABOUT THE PAIN THAT WE HAVE
BEEN THROUGH"**



PHOTO. November 2020, Carrickmacross. Still Life. Photo by Flutura



PHOTO. March 2020. Castlebar. Photo by Sohad

"THIS QUARAN IS THE ONE THING I BROUGHT WITH
ME FROM BACK HOME. MY FAITH IS SOMETHING
THAT I HOLD ON TO AND WANT TO BE ABLE TO GIVE
TO MY KIDS"



PHOTO. March 2020. Castlebar. Photo by Safwan

**"I WAS GIFTED EACH OF THESE FROM MY
FRIENDS ALL OF DIFFERENT FAITHS"**



**"ITS A CHANGE, BUT
WE ARE SLOWLY
GETTING USED TO IT"**

**"THIS USED TO
BE MY BUSINESS
PHONE. I FOUND
MYSELF PACKING
IT AND HAD NO
IDEA WHY"**





PHOTO. March 2020, Castlebar.

"I CARRY MY KEYS TO MY SYRIA HOME WHEREVER I GO. IT GIVES ME HOPE THAT IT IS STILL THERE"

PART 2

In this section, you will find different ideas of educational activities that can be implemented with the pictures included in section one of this resource.

We invite anyone implementing the following activities to reflect on each unique perspective, share this with others, and learn of how we all see the world differently.

ACTIVITIES

1. USING PHOTOGRAPHY AS A STIMULUS

Photographs can be used in a variety of ways but especially as a stimulus to creative thinking, discussion and debate. They are an excellent stimulus because they can stimulate individuals, small or larger groups and photographs can be used to encourage people to talk, explore, compare, debate, discuss and apply ideas and understandings. They can be used to explore how images are constructed, what choices and issues face photographers, how images can 'lie' or provide 'partial' understanding of, and access to issues. Some questions to consider:

- What do I see and think?
- What do I see in an image?
- What key ideas or key words does the image suggest to me?
- What might the people in the image be thinking?
- How do I interpret the image?
- What does it make me think/feel?
- How do others see the same image?
- What do they see?
- What similarities or differences do they see in the image(s)?
- Are our reactions different?
- How would others from different places see the same images?

2.

SELECTING

Invite the group to look carefully at the whole set of photos. Each individual or pair should pick one or two photos which they find particularly interesting or which raise important questions or issues for them.

Participants then form small groups (of for example 4 or 6) and explain their choice to each other. Each small group then selects one or two photos from the group and explains their choice to the larger group. Each group does this in turn.

This activity can be used to make a list of issues or questions that might need further study and discussion.

3. DESCRIBING & NAMING

Divide the group into pairs and invite each pair to choose one photo and to then describe, in their own words, what is happening in the photo.

Invite them to choose some keywords which best describe the photo (e.g. happy, sad, busy, singing, speaking, women, poverty, relaxed, hard-working etc.)

Each pair can then share their description and keywords with the whole group.

A list of group keywords can then be compiled and discussed:

- Are there words in common?
- Are the words largely positive or negative or a mixture of both?
- What was the basis for the choices made?
- Does anyone disagree with the labels chosen?
- What evidence is there in the photos for the labels?
- Is there agreement or disagreement as to what might be happening in the photos?

Alternatively, each pair or group can display their photo on a piece of poster paper on the wall with a set of keywords describing the photo on stickers added to the poster. In this way, the entire set of photos can be displayed and described.

Invite the whole group to look at all the posters and share agreements or disagreements on the words chosen to describe particular photos.

The overall list of keywords could be used to initiate a discussion on our images of development or rights etc.

4. **STORYTELLING**

Each group or pair can be invited to choose a photo and to then describe what might be happening in the picture through a story – this could include what happened before the photo was taken and what might happen afterwards. This activity is designed to encourage more detailed engagement with the issues etc.

5. QUESTIONING

Give each group or pair a photograph – this could then be mounted on a larger piece of poster paper so that they can write around the edges. If this is not possible, the questions can be written on a separate piece of paper.

Invite them to write as many questions as they can about the photo. Questions can be directly relevant to the photo or to issues raised by the photo. Encourage the group to ask questions that raise broader issues and challenges.

The questioning process around each photo can then be displayed and shared with the larger group.

Activities 2,3,4 and 5 are referenced from:

