

IRELAND IN THESE TIMES

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On May 15th

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We are a group of students studying at the University of Texas at Austin who traveled abroad to document the social justice issues impacting people in Ireland today. Over the course of a month, we lived and worked in Dublin, connecting with people and reporting on their lives using the medium of photography. This zine is the culmination of our aim to deepen our understanding of contemporary Irish society.

Design by | Caro Arredondo, Rachel Green,
Kamryn Morales, Sally Parampottil, and Manoo Sirivelu
Cover Photo © Manoo Sirivelu

Bridging the gap between
humans and nature.

Stories and Photos by
Amber Huchton
Becca Youngers
& Kevin Myers

ÉIRE ENVIRONMENT

© Amber Huchton



© Amber Huchton

Birds and bees sing in greater harmony with the city sounds as nature and bustling Dublin learn to coexist in public space. From furthering education about local species, to conceptualizing respectful treatment of wildlife, to designating infrastructure to encourage restoration of native species, initiatives to increase biodiversity find a place to grow in the Dublin City Centre.

A woman sits on the steps outside of Christ Church Cathedral near a designated pollinator section of the park on May 20 2024.

“Nature needs to have its space, and we need to have this space with nature, and how do we share that together?”

Leif Barry



© Amber Huchton

Signs such as these located in St. Stephen's Green are placed in public parks in sections where the weeds, flowers, and grass are allowed to grow untamed for the sake of wildlife.



© Amber Huchton

A tour guide at the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland in Glasnevin explains the importance of pollinators in local flora while an audience of local Dubliners listen on May 11, 2024.



© Amber Huchton

On May 22, a Sand Martin bird glides over the dunes of North Bull Island in which it nests — a biome that is in danger of disruption by human impact.



© Becca Youngers

The beginning stages of these small gardens line the south end of Capel Street in Dublin 1 on Wednesday, May 29, 2024.



© Becca Youngers

A completed small garden sits at the corner of Capel Street and Mary Street in Dublin 1 on May 29, 2024.

“Species don’t know boundaries [within cities]”

Lorraine Bull



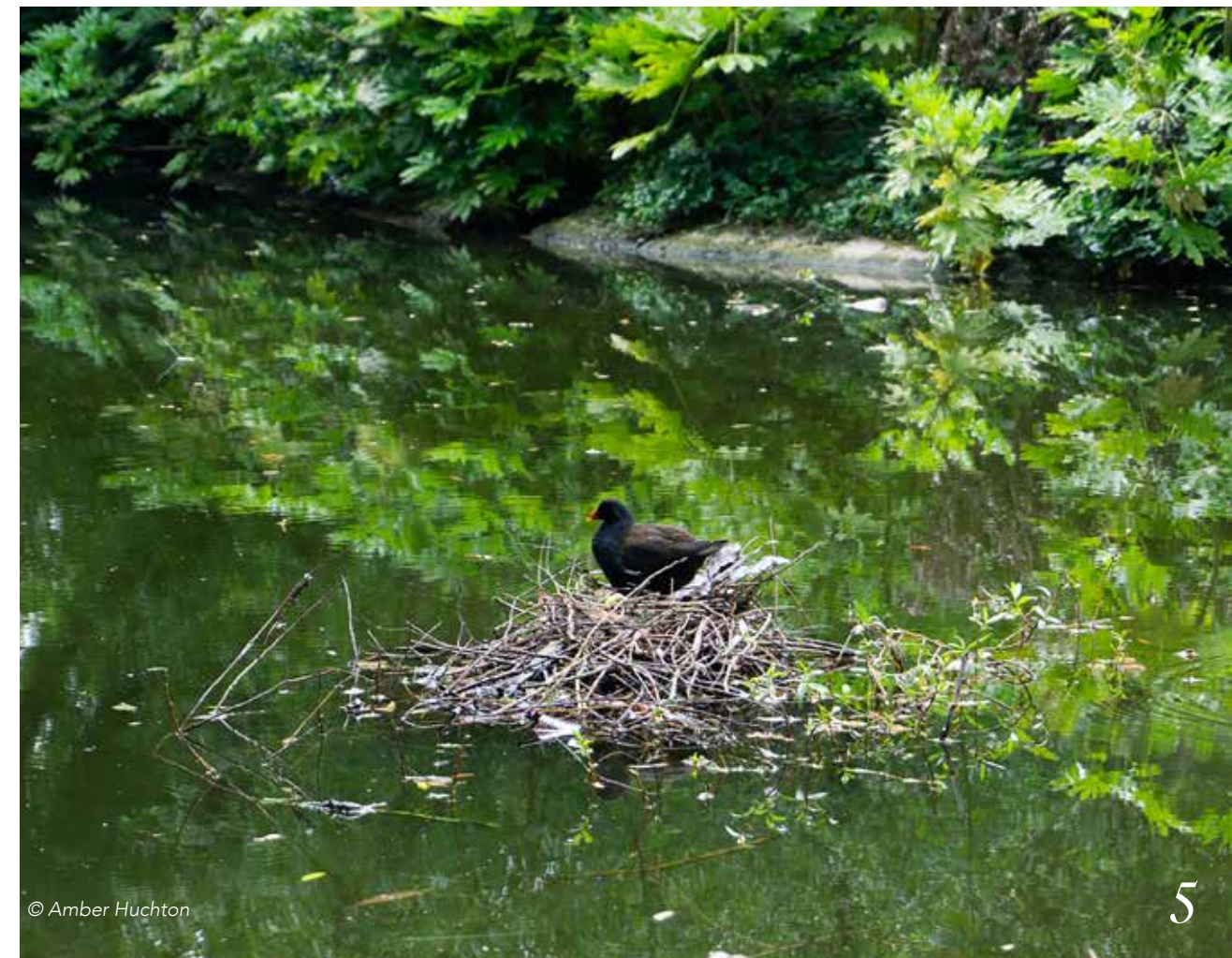
© Amber Huchton

A family feeds two fallow deer yearlings on May 29 against Phoenix Park regulations. This makes deer less cautious of human beings and disrupts their ability to forage for themselves.



© Amber Huchton

Pat Currigan, director of North Bull Island, gives a lecture on the nature reserve on May 22 2024.



© Amber Huchton

A Moorhen's bird nest in the center of a pond in St. Stephen's Green coexists with human recreation at this popular Dublin park.



Manicured lawns and gardens characteristic in Dublin’s historic parklands are making way for new biodiverse cityscapes. Inspired in part, by the greening program in Paris, France, Dublin is rewilding habitat with self-setting gardens in empty property lots and small container gardens in thoroughfares. These pop-up gardens of native plants aim to draw wildlife back to the city. Community gardens and allotments also create pockets for environmental education and biodiversity in Dublin.

“Don’t forget that it’s up to us to save nature... We have no excuse.”

Aaron Foley



© Becca Youngers

Plants line the Broadstone Community Garden in Dublin 7 on Monday, May 27, 2024. The garden grows a variety of produce, including potatoes, cauliflower, broccoli, and rhubarb.



© Becca Youngers

Construction materials sit in preparation, soon to be used on a property site on Bridgefoot Street in Dublin 7 on Wednesday, May 29. Self-setting gardens work as placeholders in undeveloped lots, temporarily upholding the city’s goal of increasing biodiversity and greening the city in a productive way.



© Becca Youngers

A motorcyclist speeds by a self-setting garden on Bridgefoot Street in Dublin 7 on Wednesday, May 19, 2024. Such gardens are commonly set up on either abandoned or empty property spaces — a significant part of Dublin’s inner-city biodiversity initiatives.



© Kevin Myers

During the 2020 COVID-19 lockdowns, Dublin took advantage of the empty streets to install temporary cycling infrastructure, similar to COVID-era projects in Paris, France. The city has since painted new lanes and installed physical barriers, however, many cyclists have said there's more work to do.

The pedestrianized Capel Street is an example of Dublin's increasing adoption of cycling as a viable mode of carbon-neutral transportation. Bicycles can be seen delivering packages and food, carrying commuters across town, and providing leisure and exercise to residents.

“The city that was 60, or 70%, more cycling based, is infinitely more pleasant to be in...”

Darren Walsh

A UPS carrier pedals an electric assisted parcel delivery bicycle down the pedestrianized Capel Street on May 28, 2024. The street continues to be a major North-South thoroughfare for delivery bicycles.



Darren Walsh, director of CycleBike, a cycling shop on Mary's Abbey.

Miren Maialen, a member of the Dublin Cycling Campaign photographed at Trinity University on May 27. Miren doesn't want a car and she has relied on cycling to get around Dublin for over 20 years.



© Kevin Myers

“Not everywhere in the city center is easy to cycle... You have to take into account that there are other types of [vehicles].”

Miren Maialen



© Kevin Myers

A group of cyclists waits at a red light on Christchurch Place on May 21, 2024. Intersections like these that put cyclists in close proximity to cars and buses are among the many frustrations cyclists have with the current infrastructure.

Stories and Photos by
Aaron Boehmer
Manoo Sirivelu
Michelle Lavergne

WHAT'S A GAFF?

Finding and maintaining
a home amid crisis

The housing crisis is as pervasive as it is uniquely felt. It spans the Irish nation, impacting each community in distinct ways. High rent and house prices make home ownership a distant dream even for Dublin's middle-class professionals. As of April, Ireland's RTÉ reported that Dept of Housing data showed a 14% rise in homelessness in the last year with a total of over 14,000 homeless nationwide. The demand for affordable housing is one of the most significant social issues affecting quality of life and social equity nationwide.

Coming from a community now caught in the throes of gentrification and dereliction, a local artist works against the stigma associated with social housing. He

believes Ireland needs new social housing but also must work to regenerate pride in neighborhoods like the one his family has called home for generations.

Another community of people have found a solution to the housing crisis aboard houseboats. However, they are now confronting new bylaws and regulations that pose a threat to the survival of their decades-long housing community.

Faced with navigating immigration, the housing crisis, and discrimination, Filipino healthcare workers rally together to help each other find accommodation and a sense of community.

How an artist from Oliver Bond uses beer, sugar, eggs, and more to regenerate his neighborhood.



© Aaron Boehmer

During the tour on May 22, O'Brien explains the history of Oliver Bond (opposite page, middle). O'Brien then planted greenery on the sidewalk outside the estate (right). On a wall across the street from the estate grows one of his moss works (opposite page, main image)). Before the tour, O'Brien led a workshop in his garden (middle, left), where he practices beekeeping as a part of Bee8, a social enterprise working to develop sustainability within the southwest inner city.

“Art is freedom and a great equalizer. There’s a stigma to where I’m from. People judge you on your background, and art equalizes that.”

Anthony Freeman O'Brien



© Aaron Boehmer



© Aaron Boehmer



After trying various combinations of materials, Anthony Freeman O'Brien (pictured above with his art on Sunday, May 19, 2024), eventually discovered that a mixture of beer, eggs, sugar, and buttermilk does the trick at adhering moss to brick walls. From words to figures, O'Brien tagged the neighborhood his family has called home for generations with graffiti made of moss, all at once creating art while purifying the air. O'Brien's moss graffiti works as one of his many initiatives to regenerate The Liberties, a neighborhood caught in the cross hairs of dereliction and gentrification.

O'Brien grew up in the Oliver Bond flats, which were built in The Liberties in 1936 and remain one of the largest social housing complexes in Ireland. Frequently labeled one of the most dangerous places in Ireland, O'Brien said, rhetoric around Oliver Bond is often sensationalized. "It's not what people say it is," he said. As with many low-income, working-class communities around the world, the living conditions of Oliver Bond are a result of the city's failure to provide its constituents with necessary resources; residents are subjected to illness brought on by mold and damp and community green spaces are filled in with cement for fear they will be used to hide drugs. The task of revitalization is then left to community members such as O'Brien.



© Aaron Boehmer

“Oliver Bond: It’s not what people say it is.”

Anthony Freeman O'Brien



© Aaron Boehmer



© Aaron Boehmer



© Aaron Boehmer

Later, O'Brien stops at the derelict Iveagh Markets. Locked behind the building's blue gates stands a statue of Biddy Mulligan, a figure known as the Pride of the Coombe. Such as the market inside, O'Brien intentionally created the statue to look like she is stuck at the crossroads of growth and decay. Since putting the work up in 2022, O'Brien said the work has served its purpose, removing the statue on May 24 as the city began work to save the building.

Home Is Where You Moor It:

Fighting to keep community aboard Ireland's houseboats

Every May, liveaboards -- people who maintain a boat as their primary residence-- journey on waterways to reach Dublin's Grand Canal Docks. The tight-knit community shares a reverence for nature and independent thought. Some are committed to downsizing for ecological sustainability. Others find it an affordable option in Ireland's decades-long housing crisis. As in other years, the Dublin Rally is a community-wide celebration, but this year it's also a time for advocacy. If new Waterways Ireland bylaws are implemented, the €278 mooring permit will rise even for sites without urban serviced water and sewage pump out. Housing advocates liken permits costing €4,000 or €7,500, to forced eviction, in a time of record Irish homelessness.

Zoe and Alain Servant's son jumps into the Grand Canal Docks from their boat on May 20, 2024



© Manoo Sirivelu



© Manoo Sirivelu

Sammy and Niamh Owens Khalid stand for a portrait with their Daughters Aya and Freya inside their Houseboat at Confey on June 2, 2024. The lifestyle restrictions they faced during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown following the birth of their eldest, Aya, was one of the primary factors that motivated their transition to the liveaboard life. The community welcomed them immediately even making space for the family to easily access the mooring facilities.



Niamh Owens Khalid plays with her daughter Aya during a picnic barbecue celebration of another child's first birthday. The birthday boy Fiach is born and is being raised here at the Leixlip Confey docks.

© Manoo Sirivelu



© Manoo Sirivelu

Irish Residential Boat Owners Association Members meet at Eilbhe Brennan's boat on the Grand Canal Docks in Dublin to plan and advocate for their homes and community on May 19, 2024.

Tidg and Michelle sit for a portrait with their dog Cali in their home at the Grand Canal Docks on May 20, 2024. They live on a narrow springer boat, made of metal sheets from industrial gas cylinders making it smaller for easier navigation.



© Manoo Sirivelu

Cain services a friend's boat at the Grand Canal Docks in Dublin before a community potluck on May 20, 2024.



© Manoo Sirivelu



© Manoo Sirivelu

Houseboats docked along the Grand Canal in Hazelhatch on May 19, 2024.



© Manoo Sirivelu

Liveaboard Joseph Cousley stands for a portrait on the gunnell of his boat at the Confey docks on May 19, 2024 as he does his spring cleaning. Joseph has been living on his boat since last year as an affordable housing alternative while completing his degree at Trinity College Dublin.



Bryan Surla arrives at the three-bedroom mobile home shared by three of his friends in Swords, Dublin, on May 17, 2024. Surla has been assisting Filipino healthcare workers to find employment and housing accommodations in Ireland since 2016.

Jade Liu shows how the sloping roof touches her head in one of the rooms that she rents out in Blacrock, Dublin, on June 1, 2024. Liu put up curtains in place of a door to help give her roommate a sense of privacy. (Below) Liu sits on her bed as she shares her story.



© Michelle Lavergne

Loi Santos shows her friend, Clair Lobas, what her closet looks like in her mobile home in Swords, Dublin, on May 17, 2024. Santos lives in a three-bedroom mobile home, which she shares with two roommates. Hers is the only bedroom that has a closet.

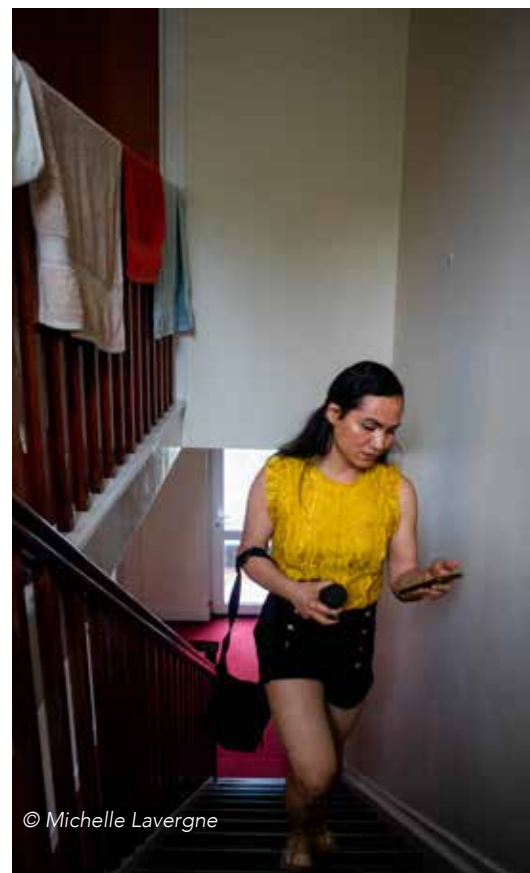


© Michelle Lavergne



© Michelle Lavergne

Genny Surla shows her attic on May 19, 2024. The space is furnished with two single beds, a sofa bed and two cabinets. Surla and her husband Bryan rent their attic to Filipino healthcare workers in need of accommodations in Dublin, Ireland.



© Michelle Lavergne

Mattie Alamo shows her work ID reflecting her gender identity. She had her ID created in 2021 to help patients and other hospital staff properly address her with her new female name and pronouns. She goes up the stairs to her apartment in Kilkenny, Ireland, on May 30, 2024. She moved into her apartment in 2019 and has been splitting the rent with two other roommates.



© Michelle Lavergne

Bayanihan

The iconic depiction of bayanihan is the old practice of townspeople helping carry their neighbor's nipa hut (the traditional Filipino dwelling) to relocate to a new place.

Bayanihan is deeply ingrained in the Filipino culture and has manifested in various ways through the years — from remitting money to loved ones back in the Philippines to rallying together whenever a natural disaster hits.

In Ireland, the practice of bayanihan hits closer to its original roots as Filipinos try help each other find accommodations amid the housing crisis plaguing the country.



© Michelle Lavergne

Doodz Rapliza checks out the closet in an apartment he is hoping to purchase in Bray, Ireland, on May 23, 2024. Rapliza's sister pledged to help him close on the apartment and told him to bid €10,000 over the asking price to try and seal the deal.

DUBLIN DIASPORAS

Finding Community

Like other immigrants, people from majority Muslim countries are drawn to Ireland by the allure of prosperity, need for asylum protection, or the pursuit of personal freedom. Some come to further their education with a widely recognized Irish degree. Others, fleeing persecution or war, are seeking a place of welcome and safety. Most aspire to gain entrée to social and geographic mobility enjoyed by professionals working in the international economy. Sometimes they find that the hurdles are too great.

Whatever their personal goals, the experiences of the Muslim diaspora unite scattered members from many national origins through cultural, social and spiritual traditions. Their new bonds remind them of the traditions of the cultures they left, while creating new relationships with their Irish home, their work, and the wider society.

Grocery items from around the world line the shelves of Asian Spices Food Market on Moore Street in Dublin, Ireland on May 14, 2024. Tucked between superstores and retail shops, these international markets often serve and are operated by immigrants themselves, echoing the flavors of home.



© Kamryn Morales

Taxi cars line up along Lord Edward street in Dublin, Ireland on May 11, 2024. Amongst Dublin's drivers is a large population of immigrants who have entered the country in pursuit of prosperity. However, for some, the barriers of Ireland's citizenship systems cut the ride short.

© Kamryn Morales



Oposite page: Pareezad, a recent immigrant from Pakistan, observes the streets of Dublin outside of the Faizan-E-Madinah prayer hall on Talbot Street for early afternoon prayer on May 10, 2024.

Stories and
Photos by
Itza Martinez,
Kamryn Morales
& Noel Cantu



Refuge for the Spirit

Faisal Al Abdulqader is a third year medical student from Kuwait City, Kuwait at Trinity College Dublin. Though he enjoys his time in Ireland, he expressed his strong desire to return home to establish his practice. He tries to maintain the feeling of being in Kuwait in Dublin by preparing traditional cuisine as often as he can. He said Ireland is merely a stop on his journey where he can receive a valuable education he cannot attain anywhere else.

“The quality of life is beautiful, the people are welcoming and friendly, and I can’t say I have anything to complain about... But of course I miss home. Kuwait is my family, my friends.”

Faisal Al Abdulqader



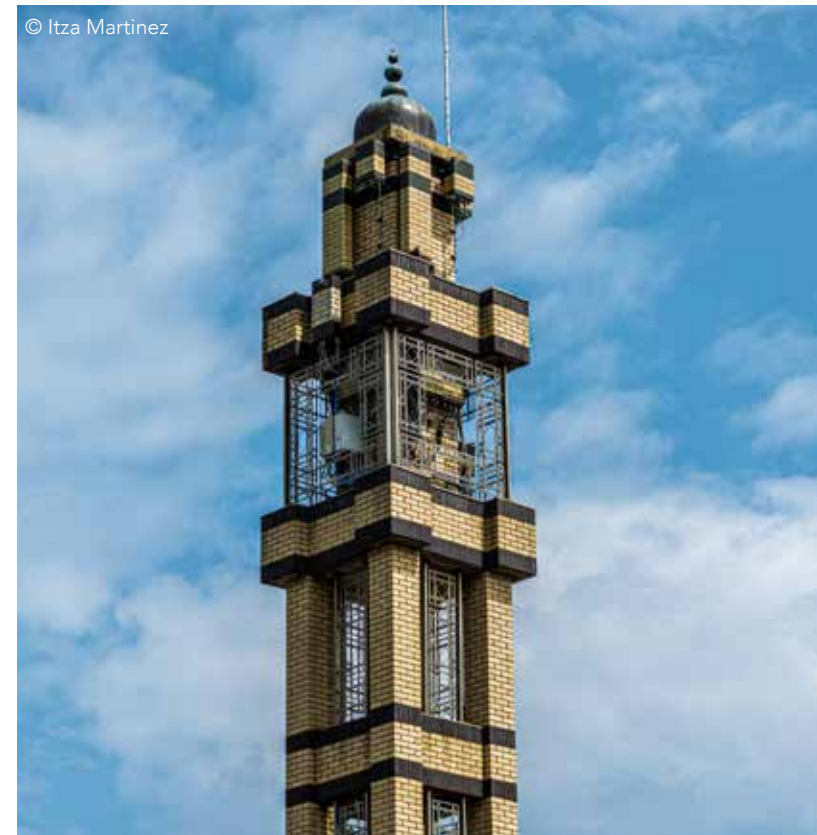
© Noel Cantu



© Noel Cantu

International students Faisal Al Abdulqader (left) and Esam Adnan (right) show their hands. Both dream of returning to their home countries to practice as surgeons. They are among many international students studying at Trinity University, a population that makes up about 40% of the school’s undergraduate class.

Young girls gather inside The Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland in time for Dhuhr also known as afternoon prayer in Dublin, Ireland on May 21, 2024.



© Itza Martinez

In Dublin, religious centers are a central axis of many Diaspora communities. When new immigrants find themselves disoriented, they offer a haven of community and the comfort of faith. Although Ireland is known as the land of a thousand welcomes, it can also feel daunting and isolating to newcomers. Even those eager to acclimate to Irish culture quickly, need time to master language, and to navigate cultural differences. Mosques provide Muslim asylum seekers and immigrants alike a place of mutual support and a place to meet Irish born Muslims who may cushion an otherwise difficult or lonely transition.

The Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland in Dublin, Ireland on May 21, 2024. The Centre’s main building is a mosque, hosting prayers daily, with buildings surrounding it, including multiple schools: the Nur-ul-Huda Quaranic School and the Muslim National school, a primary education facility. The Centre has seen a dramatic uptick in recent immigrants in attendance at their regularly-held prayers.



© Kamryn Morales

Translated copies of the Quran sit on the shelves of the main mosque at the Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland in Dublin, Ireland on May 21, 2024.



Hakkan Isik, owner of Salon 56 smiles in front of his newest of three shop locations in Dublin, Ireland on May 22, 2024.

© Kamryn Morales



© Noel Cantu



© Kamryn Morales



© Noel Cantu

Ender Ozturk trims the beard of a client at Salon 56 in Dublin, Ireland on May 22, 2024. Ozturk is among a team of barbers who regularly provide free haircut services to Dublin's homeless population.

Entrepreneur Hakkan Isik owns and operates multiple businesses across Dublin. A proud Turkish immigrant, Isik opened his first barbershop, in Clontarf, over a decade ago. He has since expanded to three locations. Isik and his employees regularly provide free haircuts to Dublin's underserved and homeless, outside of the General Post Office on O'Connell Street. His belief in assisting those less fortunate is a tenet of his faith and of his business model. Though proud of his Turkish roots, Isik never looked back once he began his new life in Ireland. He is proud to be Irish, and says he is here to stay.



“There is no limit, there is no stopping. As long as the world revolves, we will stand up and go and work.”

Hakkan Isik

Salon 56 barber Baris Demir brushes excess hair off of a client after giving a free haircut outside of the General Post Office in Dublin, Ireland on May 17, 2024.

“At the end, this is your home which you have to serve and that’s why I understand people here ... I don’t blame (the system). Yet... what happened to me, it was wrong, definitely wrong because I didn’t do anything.”

Ferīṣtah Koroglu

Originally from Mugla, Turkey, Ferīṣtah Koroglu has lived and worked in Dublin, Ireland for four and a half years. “The reason I came here was to speak more English or give myself better options to develop myself...and then go back to my country and serve my country,” Koroglu says. However, the EU’s Turkish Association Agreement requires Turkish citizens entering Ireland to remain employed in the first job they take for a period of 3 years, to earn the right to switch employers. Trapped in low wage work, Koroglu found it difficult to pay her rent. Eventually she became homeless. It was a stressful time, but by sharing rent and the same bed at her friend’s small apartment on Dublin’s outskirts, she thought her fortunes had turned.

But a long and costly commute to work added new financial stress. After finding a second job at Starbucks, she spoke with her original boss and told him she intended to work both jobs. Instead of considering it, he fired her. When Koroglu tried to renew her visa, she was told her work permit was now invalid. She had a choice: accept deportation or commit to starting the entire 3-year process of earning a flexible permit with another single employer. She says she is sad to leave Ireland, but this setback opened her eyes to the systemic barriers immigrants face.

On May 23, 2024, Ferīṣtah Koroglu savors her final sips of coffee and tea just before her local coffee shop closes for the day. She relishes her good memories of her time in Dublin as she awaits to leave on a one-way flight back home to Turkey. Ferīṣtah explains she has found peace with her decision to close shop in Ireland after significant setbacks with her work visa.



© Itza Martinez

Ferīṣtah Koroglu at the Ryanair bag drop on May 29, 2024. While her last few months in Dublin have been bittersweet and with unanswered questions and frustration, she recognizes that her experiences in Ireland have fostered personal growth and resilience. She considers Turkey her home. She’s decided to take lessons learned from her thwarted Irish Dream and kickstart her future there.



© Itza Martinez

IN LIMBO

Stories from Dublin's Asylum Seekers



© Anna Ippolito

Stories and photos by
Anna Ippolito
Mirya Dila &
Quinn Lawrence-Sanderson

On the evening of May 20th, 2024, a family with two young children, seeking international protection, show up with their tents and luggage, looking for a place to sleep. But this area near the Grand Canal is already overcrowded. Quickly the members of the encampment make phone calls and find a solution for the family in another location.

In the heart of Dublin, behind the bustling streets and iconic landmarks, lies a hidden world of waiting and uncertainty. The lives of asylum seekers, who navigate prolonged waiting periods for accommodation and status decisions, reveal the emotional and psychological toll of such delays. Seeing the lives of those experiencing this reality firsthand, makes visible the challenges, resilience, and hope that define the asylum journey in Dublin.

Muhammad spends his evening sharing stories with other people who are currently seeking international protection. Typically, around 7 pm, most people in the encampment come back to their tents or come outside to socialize with each other. The following morning, this section of tents will be torn down, and fences put up.



© Anna Ippolito

Youssef and Safadi, who knew each other back home in Morocco, share a cigarette near the tent site along the Grand Canal. Youssef has accommodation, near Galway, but is staying with Safadi in the Dublin tents so he doesn't miss his interview with the International Protection Office. He's waited 1 year and 8 months to find out whether he will receive permanent refugee status.



© Anna Ippolito

People in need of international protection continue to seek asylum in Ireland. For many, sleeping in tents is the only choice, as they wait for the Irish government Direct Provision system to relocate them to sheltered living. People may spend many months living in tents on Dublin's streets.

These photographs depict life along the Grand Canal, near McCartney Bridge, in Dublin between May 14th, 2024, and May 30th, 2024.



© Anna Ippolito

Safadi holds out a necklace with his mother's name on it. He wears it every day. The last time he saw his mother was 8 years ago, when he was 19 years old. He says he doesn't know if he will ever see her again, but his necklace keeps her memory close.

Anas talking to his friend while sitting along the newly placed fence to keep tents out, and eating his dinner of bread and cheese he received from volunteers.



© Anna Ippolito



© Anna Ippolito

Safadi rescues a tent after strong winds had blown it from the canal bank into the water.



© Anna Ippolito

The international protection seekers photographed here have now been moved to a Direct Provision accommodation center 8 miles beyond the city center. Responding through WhatsApp, Safadi says he faces different challenges in this new accommodation. "Every day there are fights and chaos. I don't like this."

Tents are moved into a pile, before a large crane attached to a truck lifts them up and drops them into the truck bed. Afterward fencing is placed along the canal to prevent future encampment.



Workers for the Breffni Group follow government orders to remove all tents from the Grand Canal on May 30th, 2024.

© Anna Ippolito



© Anna Ippolito

Men from the tents being directed to the buses that would take them to an accommodation center on the morning of May 30th, 2024.

“I’m hoping for the best. The future looks bright at 36. My bank account is at zero at the moment, but that’s okay. I still have got dreams. I still have hope that maybe someday, somehow, things will change, and I’ll be somebody tomorrow. You never know.”

Mo



© Mirya Dila

Mo sits in a small outdoor play area, formerly a balcony at the Dublin Central Inn. The facility, which houses 94 residents, was transformed in 2020 to provide refuge for asylum seekers.

Even after asylum seekers in Dublin, receive Direct Provision housing, life remains on hold. According to refugee advocates it still can take as long as 6 months for an application review and first instance decision. Despite efforts by the Irish government to expedite cases and to prioritize decisions for families—necessary before successful applicants may apply for a work permit—delays can last much longer.

Omer, the duty manager at Dublin Central Inn, a hotel which currently houses people in need of international protection, wishes that people who criticize asylum seekers could understand their struggles.

“(Asylum seekers) still have to be in the system for six months before they get a job,” he says. “If you can imagine sitting on your ass doing nothing...that would get to (you), on top of anything else. Once you’re working in the system and you’re dealing with (asylum seekers) on a day-to-day basis ... you’ll actually really see how much help and protection they need. People get a lot of misinformation. They don’t really know what’s going on behind the closed doors.”

One asylum seeker, a 36-year-old man who asked to be called Mo, has lived for the past eight months in an accommodation center in Dublin. He left Zimbabwe in 2023 seeking safety for himself and his

family with dreams of a better life. But for now, normal family life remains on hold while he waits for a decision and a permit to work.

Living in a separate center from his wife and children is not what he expected from Ireland’s family asylum process. “You’re stuck here. I don’t have money to support my kids at the moment. I’m just keeping up with faith. And my 38 euro.”

None-the-less, Mo tries to remain positive. He says his mother’s death from cancer made him realize the importance of education for himself and his children as well as how few and far between the opportunities and resources were in Zimbabwe.

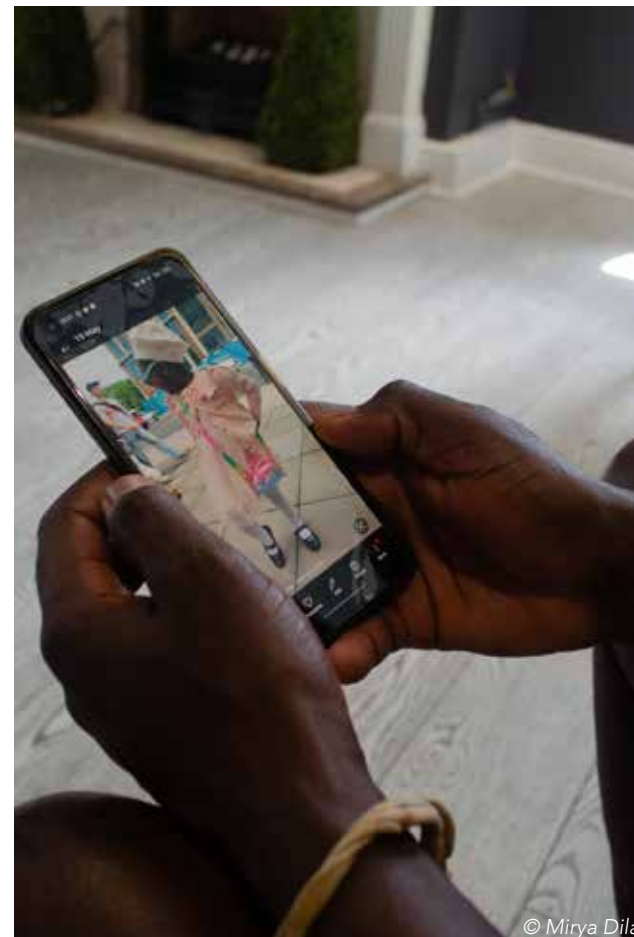
In Dublin, Mo’s children are in school, receiving an education that would have been unattainable for them in Zimbabwe. Mo is also studying. He recently graduated from a college course, and dreams of pursuing a healthcare career. He considers his graduation a lifetime accomplishment. “It’s an achievement for myself and for my mother...just to put on that hat...I’m eager to keep on going and studying. Back then I didn’t have a way I could study... but now, I feel like I can keep on going.”

But until he’s granted official status and a work permit, all Mo can do is wait, hope and dream.



© Mirya Dila

To pass time, Dublin Central Inn duty manager Omer established a pool bracket game among the inn’s residents. He and Mo compete in the inn’s lounge area.



© Mirya Dila



© Mirya Dila

Mo shares a photograph of his 6-year-old daughter, who lives in a separate accommodation center due to space constraints. Because of the centers’ strict visitation policies, Mo said this separation has been especially hard on their family.



© Quinn Lawrence-Sanderson

A man waits just outside the Lighthouse after closing. Moments earlier he was involved in a fight. Despite aid from organizations such as Tiglin, life remains unstable for many.

Fatima (an alias she prefers) is not herself an asylum seeker. She traveled to Ireland from Bolivia on a student visa to improve her English. In addition to studying, she volunteers regularly at the Lighthouse, a charity serving Irish and immigrant people in need.

At her home in Dublin, she is surrounded by fellow Spanish-speaking Bolivian women. Conversing with native English speakers at the Lighthouse boosts Fatima's education goals. Interacting with clients—sorting and retrieving used clothing, is a way to understand and help others.

Fatima chose to come to Ireland knowing she'd face challenges, but she says not everyone is prepared. Bolivian travel agents sell an image of opportunity and easy life. Ireland is frustrating for those who know little to no English. Bolivians leave Ireland for Spain or even go home, when they realize an immigrant life is tough.

Fatima says she's adapting, but what she misses most is the strong sense of community back home.



“The life of the immigrant here, it’s hard. It’s very hard... Four people in the bedroom... And I can’t, sometimes I can’t sleep. But I need sleep because I work in the morning. For this reason, sometimes I prefer outside...”

Fatima



© Quinn Lawrence-Sanderson



© Quinn Lawrence-Sanderson



© Quinn Lawrence-Sanderson



© Quinn Lawrence-Sanderson

Fatima organizes crates of second-hand clothing which line the shelves.

The Lighthouse is a “homeless café” run by the charity organization Tiglin in partnership with the Dublin Christian Mission. Volunteer staff prepare hot meals seven days a week. The Lighthouse is a haven of free care for anyone who needs it. From a haircut to a rehabilitation referral, a tent, or fresh set of clothes— staff go out of their way to help to the best of their ability. However, it is an uphill battle and limited resources mean limited care.

Stories and
Photos by
Campbell Williams
Joseph Chavez
Molly Hennessy
Rachel Green

CREATIVITY AND PROTEST

© Campbell Williams



Jupiter Cassidy (left) and Shadow (right) throw blue, white and pink confetti in the air at the conclusion of their performance advocating for more accessible gender-affirming care.

Historically, the arts have provided LGBTQ+ people worldwide outlets for personal expression and political protest. In Dublin, LGBTQ+ citizens face many issues. Access to gender affirming healthcare, housing instability and the potential for public violence remain challenges. However, LGBTQ+ artists refuse to let their identities be defined by struggle. As creatives and performers, they cultivate new venues and forms whether using humor and theater in political action on the streets or gathering in joyful celebrations that recontextualize what it means to be community.



© Rachel Green

Protestors hold up a trans pride flag during a satirical play about the difficulties of acquiring gender-affirming care in Ireland on May 11, 2024.

© Joseph Chavez



Transgress the National Gender Service is a group based in Dublin advocating for accessible transgender healthcare in Ireland. Those seeking gender-affirming care are often put on appointment waitlists of seven years or more. In protest, Transgress the NGS decided to perform street theater outside of the Health Service Executive office to bring attention to their struggle in a light-hearted and joyous manner.

“We should do street theater, because it’s the gayest thing we could possibly do!”

Niall Keane

Local drag queen Niall Keane at a pro-transgender health protest outside of the National Gender Service in Dublin, Ireland on May 11, 2024.



© Campbell Williams

Sasha Shame and Goblins, Goblins, Goblins share a mirror as they finish their makeup on the steps of Dr. Steeven's Hospital, headquarters of the Health Service Executive of Ireland.

“You can't live as a trans person if you can only focus on access to healthcare. You need to be able to have other ways of finding joy...”

James Hudson



© Joseph Chavez

A megaphone at the pro-trans healthcare protest outside of the National Gender Service in Dublin, Ireland on May 11, 2024.



© Rachel Green

The Dublin alternative music scene is small and ever-changing. Faced with unaffordable housing, many musicians no longer live near Dublin or each other. Despite the uprooting and impermanence, queer musicians still find the time to express themselves, explore their identities and create community in Dublin's underground venues.

Sarah Deegan and “Pixie Cut Rhythm Orchestra” bandmates Sean Montgomery Dietz and Danny Duho at Workman's Club in Dublin on May 18, 2024.



© Rachel Green

The satirical performance ended in an expression of the grief those in the transgender community face when trying to access healthcare. Local drag artists Sasha Shame (left) and Goblins, Goblins, Goblins (right) fall down in joy in Dublin, Ireland on May 11, 2024.

Musician Sarah Deegan and photographer Erin Plaiice prepare for a photoshoot on Clare Martin's Dublin Rooftop on May 15, 2024. Each of the three divide their time between the music industry and other part-time jobs.



© Rachel Green



The members of the emo Dublin band "Girlfriend". perform at Workman's Club in Dublin on May 18, 2024. This was the hometown stop on their Irish tour, although many members have moved to Limerick following an illegal eviction.

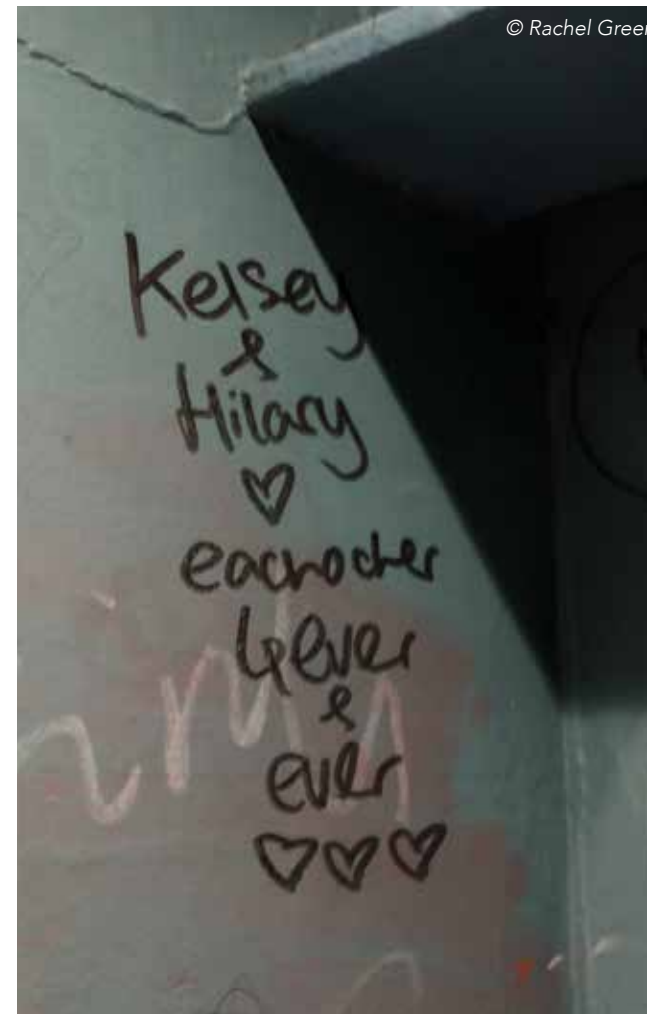


© Rachel Green

The family of "Girlfriend" members often come out to see their shows. Their crowds, while consistently devolving into mosh pits, are welcoming spaces for those both in and unfamiliar to the alternative scene.



© Rachel Green



© Rachel Green

Graffiti in a bathroom stall at Workman's Club, Dublin on May 15, 2024. The two names are feminine, scrawled on a bathroom wall in a bar that is not traditionally considered a "gay bar."

*"Why doesn't this exist?
I'll do it myself."*

Robyn Avery



© Molly Hennessey

“Of course, the world around us has changed... but the [choir’s] essentials are the same: visibility, mutual support and being another voice in our rich and varied community.”

Walt Kilroy

Glória, a Dublin-based LGBTQ+ choir, was founded in October 1995 with an initial 25 members. Nearly thirty years later, the choir’s numbers have doubled with members from all over Ireland. Glória held their Summer Lovin’ concert in the Pepper Canister Catholic Church on May 17, 2024.

Less Protest, More Joy



© Campbell Williams

Clara performs “Defying Gravity” as a soloist during the Glória LGBTQ+ choirs’ summer concert at the Pepper Canister Church in Dublin on May 17, 2024.



© Campbell Williams

Members of the Glória LGBTQ+ choir practice for their summer concert at the Pepper Canister Church in Dublin on May 17, 2024.



© Molly Hennessey

Leah Mullen accompanies the choir on piano on May 17, 2024.



© Campbell Williams

Two members of the choir perform "I'm Just Ken" at their concert on May 21, 2024.

ESTAMOS AQUÍ

The imprint of the Brazilian diaspora on Irish life.

Stories and photos by
Kim Andrade
Mason Rouser
Sally Parampottil
& Walker Watson

Brazilians are one of the fastest-growing immigrant populations in Ireland. According to the Irish Central Statistics Office, the Brazilian population in Ireland grew from 15,976 in 2016 to 39,556 in 2022, a more than 150 percent increase. The Irish Times reports that as of April 2024, the Brazilian population is now more than 58,000. This diversification

is feared by a growing movement predicated on keeping immigrants out. But the Brazilian diaspora whether they came to Ireland in search of economic opportunity or fled Brazil's political turmoil, are making an indelible mark on Irish Society. Brazilians have made Ireland home, and their presence and community spirit are here to stay.



© Molly Hennessey

"A bit less protest, defiance, and striving to be heard... And a bit more celebration and confidence..."

Walt Kilroy

A member of Glória rehearses for the choir's upcoming concert on May 17, 2024.



© Kim Andrade



Immigrant students sit in an English language class at Liffey College listening to Anna Paula Neumann read the novel "1984" on May 29, 2024.

Anna Paula Neumann said she immigrated to Ireland in 2023 when she couldn't find a well-paying job in Brazil after earning her master's degree in veterinary medicine. While attending English language school, Paula Neumann works as a housekeeper due to the difficult process of degree recognition and obtaining a work visa in Ireland. This caused her to look for work in other European Union countries.

"Right now, I am free. I don't need to go to Brazil anymore, and if I have children one day, they're only going to listen to the stories I tell them about it."

Matt Cruz



© Mason Rouser

Anna Paula Neumann takes the Luas outside of Dublin city center after her English language class at Liffey College on May 29, 2024.

Matt Cruz said he immigrated to Ireland from Brazil in 2023 after Jair Bolsanaro's far-right government and its ineffective response to the COVID-19 pandemic left him traumatized. Cruz attends an English course, a requirement of his visa, and works as a tattoo artist. Cruz expressed worry about the growing far-right movement in Ireland, particularly after his experience with Brazil's far-right. However, he remains cautiously optimistic as he builds his life in Ireland.



© Mason Rouser

Matt Cruz tattoos a tourist visiting Dublin at Black Hat Tattoo on May 21, 2024.



© Mason Rouser



© Kim Andrade

João “Brutto” Adnet has mesmerized passersbys on Grafton Street with his spray-painted portraits of international icons since 2014. However, Adnet’s love for visual art began in his home country of Brazil several years before his talents graced the streets of Dublin. Adnet said he immigrated to Dublin on a whim and in search of a new, healthier environment to live and hone his craft.

Graffiti art became Adnet’s first form of income and method of communication in Dublin when he was unable to express himself in English. Adnet never anticipated making a living from his art, but since his immigration to Ireland, it’s allowed him to support his family, expand his brand, and make connections with the people of Ireland.

João “Brutto” Adnet spray paints on plastic wrap on Grafton Street on May 18, 2024.



© Kim Andrade



©Sally Parampottil



© Walker Watson

Social Volleyball Dublin, a recreational club, began in March 2022 with a group of Brazilian women who missed the activity from their home country. Club co-founder Vanessa Montanha said volleyball helps facilitate a work-life balance through physical activity in public spaces in Brazil. She said the weaker presence of the sport in Ireland prompted some immigrants to fill in the gap. Social Volleyball became officially recognized by Volleyball Ireland in August 2022 and now boasts 210 members. Though around 80% of its players are Brazilian, the club includes members of multiple nationalities, highlighting the role of the sport both as a method of retaining culture and sharing it across borders.



© Sally Parampottil



© Kim Andrade

“[Jiu-jitsu] isn’t Brazilian anymore. It’s all over the world.”

Fabiano Luz

Infinity Jiu-Jitsu members practice at Naomh Mearnóg facility in Portmarnock on May 21, 2024.

Fabiano Luz doesn’t like the term “Brazilian jiu-jitsu.” After immigrating from Brazil to Ireland three years ago, he continued teaching jiu-jitsu—a profession he’s held for 32 years. But despite the sport’s inseparable history of development in Brazil, Luz said it’s become an international practice and he wants to continue to spread it to populations unexposed to it

For Luz, the sport provides life-changing skills, such as confidence and discipline. As he and his family embrace their lives in Ireland, Luz welcomes all ages and levels to his dojo to learn Gracie-style jiu-jitsu.



© Sally Parampottil

(Opposite page) Social Volleyball Dublin practices at Trinity Sports Centre on May 23, 2024.



© Walker Watson

© Walker Watson

“Fianna Fail was the first to create a Migrant Network. It now has around 300 members, some of them running, and when I joined it made me think, ‘Oh, people can hear my voice.’”

Isabel Oliveira



© Walker Watson

Caio Benicio and Isabel Oliveira share a story all-too-familiar to Ireland’s Brazilian community. It’s a story of leaving one’s family, work and the only life they’ve ever known with aspirations of building a better future for themselves and their loved ones. Benicio, a restaurateur from Rio de Janeiro who lost his livelihood in a 2019 fire, and Oliveira, a former event coordinator from São Paulo who arrived in Ireland fed up with Brazilian political turmoil, have found themselves in the unlikely position of running for election in Dublin’s North Inner City under the banner of Fianna Fáil.

Less than a year after arriving in Ireland, Benicio’s thwarting of a November 2023 knife attack in Parnell Square thrust him into the public eye. Rumors quickly circulated online that a foreign national committed the crime, sparking the proliferation of anti-immigrant sentiments that ultimately led to riots in the streets of Dublin. Today, Benicio hopes to provide a voice for Dublin’s growing immigrant community while addressing the city’s most pressing issues.



© Walker Watson



© Walker Watson

In order from left to right, Isabel Oliveira, Caio Benicio, Mary Fitzpatrick, and Anne Marie Connoley begin canvassing for Fianna Fáil in the North Inner City of Dublin, May 22, 2024.

Melodies of Diversity

Irish singer, songwriter and musician, Jess Kav, is renowned for her genre-blending style that combines elements of jazz, Motown, soul and R&B. Widely recognized as lead singer for the Irish Indie band Barq, Jess is embarking on a solo career with plans to release new music in the upcoming year. Her powerful voice and socially conscious lyrics established her influential place in contemporary Irish music.

Her mother, an Irish Nigerian, was adopted along with her siblings from a mother-and-baby home, the scandal-plagued orphanages where unmarried mothers were separated from their children in the 20th century. Many first-generation mixed-race Irish people share this history as interracial marriages were not widely supported in the early to mid-20th century. This intergenerational trauma fueled Jess's advocacy for diversity and representation in Ireland. She actively uses her platform to address social issues and champions inclusivity through various projects. Notably, she shared her story in Caelainn Hogan's book "Republic of Shame," premiered her poetry on the podcast "Pantisocracy," and performed her original songs at the "I Am Irish" festival, a celebration of mixed Irish heritage.



Jess performs at the Porterhouse pub in Dublin with her guitarist as she begins her journey as a solo artist on May 22, 2024

"It can be very hard to find the times and find the space to discuss what being multi-racial feels like and how it, no pun intended, colors how you see the world."

Jess Kav



Jess sits among other performers and collaborators at the end of the "I am Irish" festival on May 11, 2024.

Story and photos by
Caro Arredondo
Elena Delgado &
Madison Strange



ECHOES OF ÉIRE

Expanding on what
it means to be Irish.

Building Bridges

Graceny Curpen received a bachelor's degree in French and Irish Folklore, with a minor in Modern Irish and psychology from University College Dublin. She is now finishing a master's in international relations. Despite her Mauritius origins, Grace developed a passion for learning Irish when she moved to Ireland at a young age. The culture enveloped her, and she quickly learned to speak Gaeilge as well as English with an Irish accent. In secondary school, Curpen worked with

her classmates to design dual English/ Irish language signage and sought out tutoring to bolster her command of Gaeilge. To this day, she practices speaking Irish while traveling Europe, promoting Irish policies around the European Union. Although she grew up in Ireland with a passion for the Irish language, she can still feel disconnected from her Irish identity when she encounters biased sentiments towards non-White Irish people.

© Elena Delgado



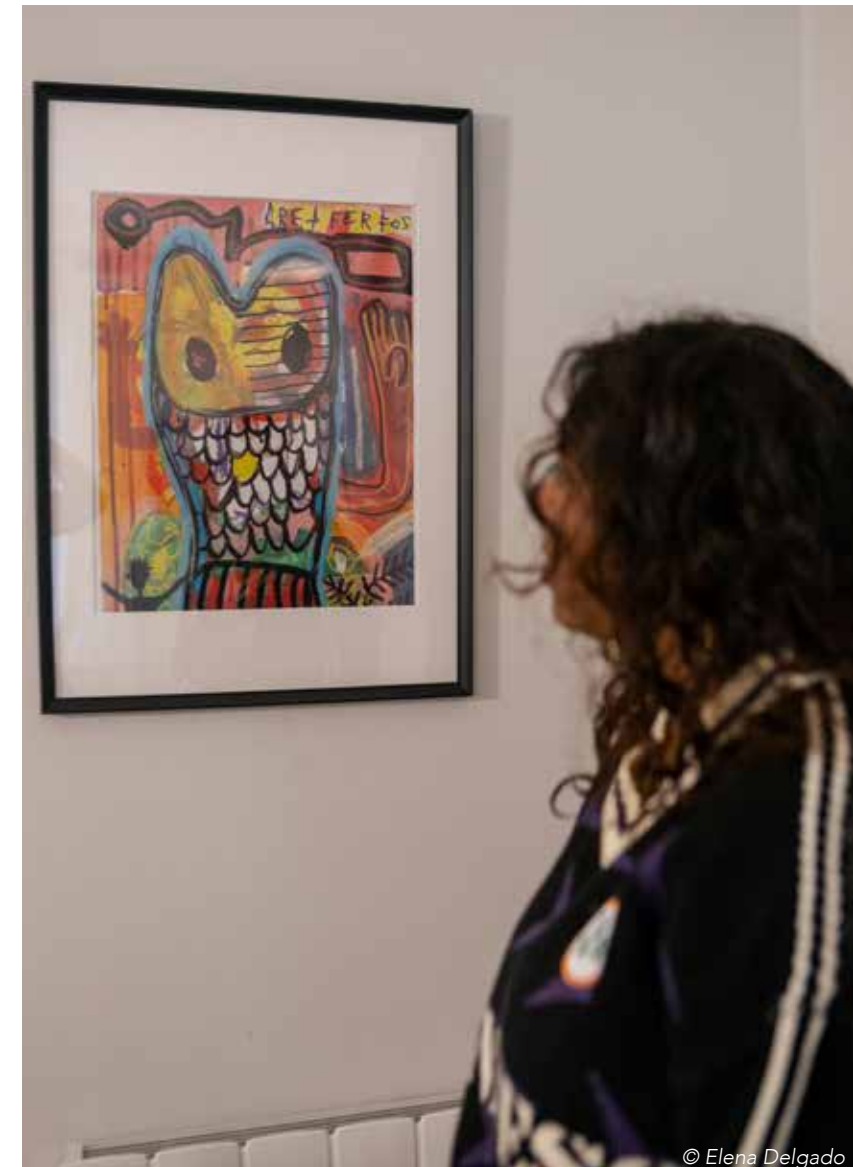
© Elena Delgado



© Elena Delgado



© Elena Delgado



© Elena Delgado

Grace shares possessions that remind her of home and reads through the grammar book she still uses, called "Leabhar Gramadaí Gaeilge," Irish Grammar Book in English. Grace said she prefers this book because it has both Irish and English for reference.

Mixing Cultures

Activist Carline Thompson Kelly is a practicing nurse and author, who also runs a banana bread business. When Kelly left Jamaica 21 years ago, she recalls the culture shock she felt transitioning from a tropical climate to Ireland's wet cold weather. Finding jobs was challenging for Kelly. Although she spoke English, employers preferred to underpay employees who were not fluent in the Irish way of speaking English. She spent four months traveling around Ireland to find employment. She worked as a chef in Cork saving the money she earned so that she could afford to study in Ireland and make her move permanent. Under a school-work visa, Kelly went to a private college for three years for business management. She later attended Trinity College to pursue nursing in 2006 and later completed her first a master's degree in disabilities studies. In 2022, she completed a second master's degree in healthcare management. Kelly found the best way to connect with her Irish friends was by sharing the flavors and spices of her native country. As a student she regularly baked banana bread and shared it with her classmates. Now in addition to her other professional pursuits, she runs a baking business Jam-Ire blending her Jamaican heritage, Irish culture and a love for baking.

Kelly says that the trauma she carried from racial discrimination in the healthcare workspace inspired her most recent book "Equity in the Workplace." While her baking connects cultures her writing and activism point to the mental abuse that Irish people of color experience at work. It's a crucial issue that she believes Irish society needs to take seriously.



© Elena Delgado



© Elena Delgado

Kelly bakes banana bread for her new baking business, Jam-Ire, in her home kitchen on May 28, 2024.



© Madison Strange

Kelly sells her homemade banana bread at the "I am Irish" Festival in Dublin, Ireland on May 11, 2024.



© Madison Strange



© Madison Strange



© Madison Strange

"Baking is a therapy for me."

Carline Thompson Kelly



© Elena Delgado



© Caro Arredondo

Clery hikes up Knocknarea in Sligo town, Ireland towards Queen Maeve's Cairn. Legend says the warrior Queen who ruthlessly led an army of men against her enemies in Ulster and even in death, stands defiantly upright towards the North, ready for battle.

“Through the centuries, we developed folklore of fairy stories to protect these areas [sacred sites].

All of these stories about particular locations within rural and urban localities were told in the Irish tongue, through Gaeilge, and it was to protect something.

We're realizing it's even more important now to revive the Irish language to protect those stories ... because so much of that knowledge has been lost, for so many different reasons.”

Regina Clery

Art, Adventure & Ancestry

A train gets ready to depart to Sligaech, Ireland, the Irish word for Sligo. All signage and announcements are required to prioritize the Irish language, Gaeilge.



© Caro Arredondo

Regina Clery, Ríonach Ní Chléirigh in Gaeilge, works as a civil engineer for the Iarnród Éireann/ Irish Rail, but describes herself as an artist. Clery isn't afraid of jumping into new experiences after she studied fashion design in college and served 11 years in the Irish Army Reserve. Her fearless attitude led her to work in Antarctica, Australia, New Zealand, China, Canada and more.

Clery's father is half Irish-half Ghanaian. As a baby, he narrowly escaped being taken from his mother by the Catholic church. It was a time when interracial couples faced great social stigma. Despite that history of prejudice, Clery is proud to call herself Irish. Like most Irish children, she learned Gaeilge in primary school. Today, she tries to share Irish folklore and history through art, poetry and daily interactions that maintain the Celtic spirit of her culture.



© Caro Arredondo

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