

## HOME

### Tattoo Boy

It's the culture. It's the culture of the area, it's the... its...people...I dunno, just making up their own rules yeah dyou know what I mean, just thinking they can do I dunno, it's just the culture, the culture the life in London and that, dyou know what I mean? It's just the way it is.

Round this area, I aint racist or anything but this is mainly like, a black person's area, where I'm white and I don't dress with all the fucking tracksuits and trousers past my asshole and that, I don't get pulled over dyou know what I mean? Yeah. Cause the black people stereotype their self anyway, so, they've only got their self to blame. They say we're the minority, but did you read on the news yesterday, the majority are now the minority

In London, all together, white people are the minority. White, English people are minority

Africans are the majority and then Caribbeans then Asians

Because you see um... polish shops, Jamaican shops, dadadada, but then if you see like an English shop or something, someone will blatantly come out with oh that's racist. You know that you know how it works cause for instance you go to Poland, you go to China, you go to India... you'll never see a, a church of England there or anything, you'll never see a shop saying, oh, only English shop and that, I'm not saying that only English people or Polish shops that are here only polish people are allowed in them but they don't have just like, an English shop will have food for every other country that's why you don't even really need to leave London to travel the world and that, you see it all, it's multicultural, but, the problem is, it's out of control now dyou know what I mean like you...

Nowadays, you have to keep your own... you have to keep the history of the country going dyou know what I mean? Within a hundred years time this country won't even have history dyou know what I mean if you think from all over the world it'll be there won't be one English person, I don't reckon, in about 100 years. They'll all have some other different ethnic minority or background. Like you know I'm saying, no matter, everyone who's come to this country, yeah, like all different foreign people you go back to any one of them foreign countries and I guarantee you they still have their native people there sort of thing you know what I mean?

my girlfriend's not English, she's Turkish. Doesn't bother me. (pause) doesn't bother me at all but I'm just saying enough's enough like because for instance, if you go to them other countries you won't see none of our shit in their country and even in, even though this is England you'll never see English stuff in this country dyou understand what im saying. Like I was in the shop the other day and the only flags they sell are Pakistani and Nigeria. In the English shop, and where the fuck is the English flag then... oh yeah and Polish flag they sold, I'm like, just because theyre white don't mean they're English dyou know what I mean, they're fucking Polish man. And like everyone who's not English like, theyre just rinsing the country, bleeding it dry and when someone English just tries bleeding the country dry cause theyre actually suffering because all these foreigners are bleeding their country dry, they get in trouble and they get fucked right up.

England just gets the piss taken out of it dyou know what I mean? That's all it is it's a piss takers country. Bunch of mugs like.

## 1. Singing Boy

**Singing Boy** My mum's house really...No, I consider my place as a home as well, here as well..but still feel a bit...maybe because I'm NEW I still feel a bit...you know I don't, I still feel, I don't feel this is my home YET. But as the months go by and start getting my things together, I can call it more of a home.

Well, (pause), well (smiling) what lead me to living at Focus is basically I got kicked out of home when I was 17...and..so..because I was so under the law of my mum that...the social worker said I had to go back home but I didn't want to. And my mum did want me back but I felt like...I didn't want to go back. So they put me in a hostel and then from there step by step, eventually step by step...I was sent here, they 'rferred' me here.

Because I'm very to m... I keep myself to myself. Because there are a lot of people in this building and you don't even want to mess about with... There's people in this building that do drugs and all sorts. I'm a person who wants to keep WELL, well away from that

But me myself I just like to keep to myself regardless. I keep head down, because I don't want anyone to think I'm either giving them a dirty look. What I've seen in this building is that people get very [clicks fingers] aggravated so quickly just about maybe just the way someone looked at you. I want to avoid that and that's why I always mind my own business. But I always have courtesy, I always open the door, whether, if someone's behind me I always leave the door open. So I keep myself to myself but I have manners.

I've had problems with my mum for quite a while. And not just becuase of my mum, I mean mum played parts obviously, but I'm not saying here that I wa an angel because obviously I'm not...**her boyfriend** as well was getting involved but even before that, even before he came into the picture, there was already issues between us. But then that added on the tension, you know building up, so whatever. But I remember the exact day that I lef: it was the 8th of January at 7PM. What I left, well I didn't leave, I got kicked out, and the police got incolved but the police told me that, 'if your mum wants you to leave have to leave, then you have to leave'. But what they did not know, well they knew my age, but obviously they were ignorant to the fact, that even though I'm 17... no matter, she can't ask me to leave coz I'm, because the social services said that no, by law you still have to be with your

mum. I'm a very responsible person and I think its time to move on because the longer I stay the harder it will get.

Yeah and I was always told what I can do and what I can't do. You have to do this and if you don't do this...

well my mum used to hit me before but not now. But shouting, swearing at me obviously (but I don't swear when I'm arguing with people you know every time we argue, I'm the one whose being called the names, I'm the one who's this that.

And there was even a point my mum said to me, she said to me, 'I wish I aborted you'. (Pause). Well that made me feel like wow, I don't know what to say, I don't know what was going through my head at that moment but I just felt like so in pain, so hurt...And even now she doesn't recall saying that. But when someone says something to me, so deep and so strong, there is no way I'm going to forget it, I'm sorry, as much as you want me to try and forget it, that's not happening, and I've got such a good memory that is not going to happen.

And from that day on I said Ok, (Pause) I'm going to stop trying to give a damn, I'm going to stop, trying to every time do things for people. Because I'm going to just do me, I'm not saying I'm not going to clean anything but I'm just going to do only what...I feel I created that mess. I'm going to do it. I'm not going to be in this house like Cinderella...because I'm not a slave for anyone,

What now? My days I wake up in the morning, I feel absolutely great. I get to do what I want, every moment I go to college. I sing I get do this/its part of my course. I sing, I dance, I Act... I do everything. You want me to sing something now? Do you know beyonce? Halo? Yeah I'll sing that.

### *Rendition of 'Halo'*

well what keeps me very motivated is the fact that every song I pick, Every song I sing has to have meaning behind it and I feel that with every song I sing I'm here for a purpose, I'm here for a reason, to show the world... I was born, I've been through so much. I feel that, me, I really want to become a singer. It's very hard I know maybe I am a bit feminine the way I speak and I articulate myself and stuff BUT I hate the way my voice sounds on camera, I just don't like...another point youre bringing me back to. When I was at school, a all boys school. I went to an all boys school and it was not the easeiest thing to get up on that stage and sing and not have people laugh at you. Or after you've finished your performance to say you're gay because you're singing or you're gay because you're singing a female song. I felt every day I walked through those gates, I could have died.

The first time I fell in love, you can ask me that. Yes...the first time I fell in love, it was very very strange, when you're young. Well I'm only 18 now but I was 14 at the time.

when you like someone you like someone and that's just the way it is. And when I met this girl, I don't know, it just happened, I was just so happy, I was in a good place...I don't know how to explain it...these are one of the awkward topics to speak

about, I'm not god at this I get very nervous...But when I met this girl I felt absolutely amazing, it was like amazing.

right how am I going to put this. It's very hard for someone, for example, who is attracted to the same sex. Now to church or mosque or whatever that's considered as a sin.

### Asian Young Mum

after I had (baby's name) I think that was my, my main break through for me personally that is when I put my foot down and I said you know what, I'm not letting her go through this

Cause my room and my living room is together we're trapped in one room so she's so used to having me in one place cause I've got nowhere to go like I have to place her in bed and I have to make sure I turn off the tv cause she's a light sleeper as well so I don't have time to myself cause the room and the living rooms together and where do I go, kitchen? Do what exactly? Apart from cook, I can't sit in the kitchen.

So when she sleeps I do nothing I sit there, if I can't sleep I will just sit there.

So well what happened, I went Bangladesh for a year and eight months cause of my father, um, so I missed year 11, I went at the end of year 10, I went there for 2 years, um, nearly 2 years, come back and to them it's like my father, it's never enough, no matter how good you are it's like, you gotta do more, you gotta cover more cause I never used to wear a scarf, I'm still in the wrong cause I wanted to go out- I couldn't but because I wanted to- I'm so bad in his eyes

Then well it was, I was on a day out, I was telling my parents I'm going work (laughs) and...got on the bus, met the father...on the bus... what a crazy meeting...and he was already drunk and we just got talking and we just clicked and to me that lifestyle it was just like- wow! You're drinking you're having fun- and I didn't have groups of friends that used to go out and drink cause I wasn't allowed out and the work lot is just- at work so that was the first time I met someone who's going out, who's... you know doing their own thing, no ones saying nothing to them, it was just like wow to me and oh my god and then he was like yeah, try a bit, tried it, loved the drink (laughs) So come out in the day come for a drink, let's go for a drink

I never been west end until I met him, took me there and it was just a new life to me and it was like.. woah... we just used to go out shopping, um, when we went west end his friends needed to buy a few things, so, and his sister in law, who we were kind of close as well so, we just went out and just seen the lights and everything... they done their shopping, me just window shopping with them (laughs)

yeah I was madly in love with him and to me it was, learning everything from him and having fun and I just wanted to be with him, I used to go and see him in prison um... obviously my parents didn't know anything about him in prison but...