

DECOLONIZING FASHION & TEXTILES

# The Creative Legacy Collective

THE HAVEN OF COLLABORATION

ABIGAIL RIGBY - EVGENIIA GALEEVA - JINGYI BAI - YI-CHING WANG - JOSEFA LAVANDERO



# contents

1. About us
2. Context
3. Issue
4. Proposal
5. Process
6. Legacy



# about us

---



**Abigail Rigby**

MA  
FASHION FUTURES

I'm a photographer and director with a focus on sustainable fashion and community building.

I run an events platform that aims to bridge gaps between creative groups and increase access to the arts.



**Evgeniia Galeeva**

MA COSTUME DESIGN  
FOR PERFORMANCE

I'm a costume maker. I have been running a one woman business for several years before deciding to shift my career to costume design.

I'm originally from Russia and am very concerned about politics and human right issues and aim to incorporate my concerns into my design work.



**Jingy Bai**

MA FASHION FILM  
DIGITAL PRODUCTION

I study film for few years, and really care about the social issues happening now. It's important to use my ideas to do more meaningful things!



**Yi-Ching Wang**

MA COSTUME DESIGN  
FOR PERFORMANCE

I'm from Taiwan, working as a theatre designer and wardrobe mistress for several years.

I have an interest in politics and human rights, and I am eager to incorporate these themes into theatre.



**Josefa Lavandero**

MA STRATEGIC  
FASHION MARKETING

Originally from Chile. I have a Creative/Design background for undergrad and previously worked in Creative direction and Digital Marketing.

I try to incorporate my values and passions into my work, hoping for a change in the fashion industry.





Photo by: JC Candanedo

# context

CEAS ceased to apply to the UK followed by **New Plan for Immigration** (*December 2022*)

- Increased prison time from 14 years to life for assisting those crossing the English Channel
- Criminal offence to enter UK illegally, now by arrival i.e. on sea territory
- Removals agreement with Albania, lack of deals with the EU
- Increased delays in asylum processing

BBC



Home News Sport Weather iPlayer Sounds

NEWS

Home Israel-Gaza war Cost of Living War in Ukraine Climate UK World Business Politics

Politics Parliaments Brexit

Asylum hotel closures may shift cost to councils, councillors warn

## Europe's different approach to Ukrainian and Syrian refugees draws accusations of racism

Some of African, Middle Eastern and South Asian descent fleeing Ukraine are struggling to cross borders



# lgbtqai+ refugees

LGBTQI refugees are still rejected by their families and communities even in the UK. They become **extremely isolated**, without enough social safety nets and opportunities in life. They live at the **margins of society**, often in environments that **expose** them to increased **abuse and violence**. – Micro Rainbows

“Stonewall discovered that ‘trans asylum seekers face particular threats of violence in detention’.  
– Immigration Advice Service.



67

countries still criminalise and  
penalize homosexuality

+10,900

LGBT people have claimed  
asylum in the UK since 2015

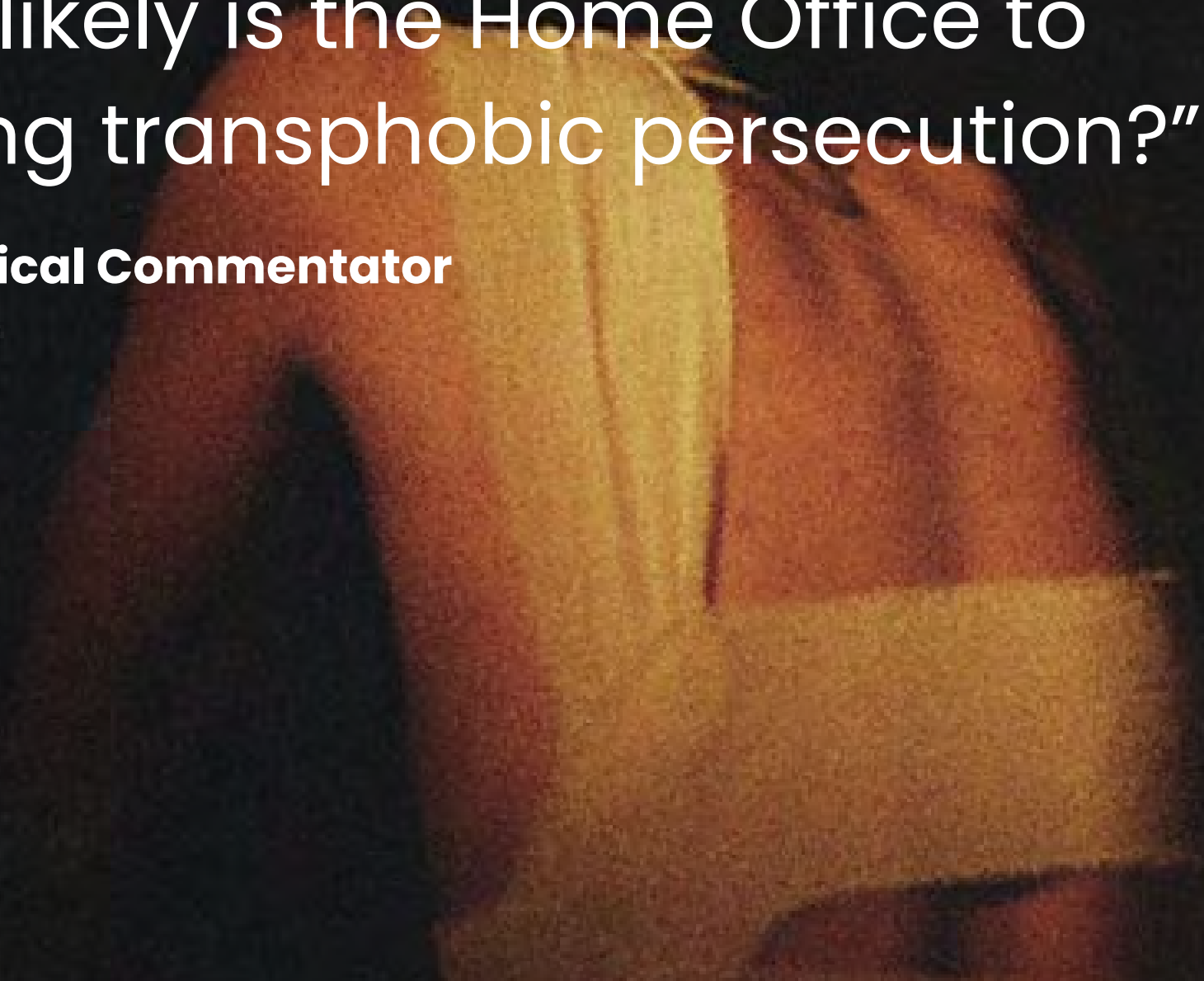
Source: Home office

+29,000

Bed nights provided by Micro  
Rainbows each year

Source: Micro Rainbows

Photo by: David M. Copenhagen Pride parade, 2005



“If Britain fails to ensure the protection of its own transgender citizens, how likely is the Home Office to prioritise those who are fleeing transphobic persecution?”

**Holly Barrow, Political Commentator**

# campaigning

London  
**citi**zens

“After a listening event in June 2023 with 150 asylum seekers living in hotels, a lack of bus travel was identified as a key priority. A campaign to **provide asylum seekers with access to free bus travel** was ratified at a London Citizens assembly on October 2023 with 300 attendees representing over 200 civil society organisations”.

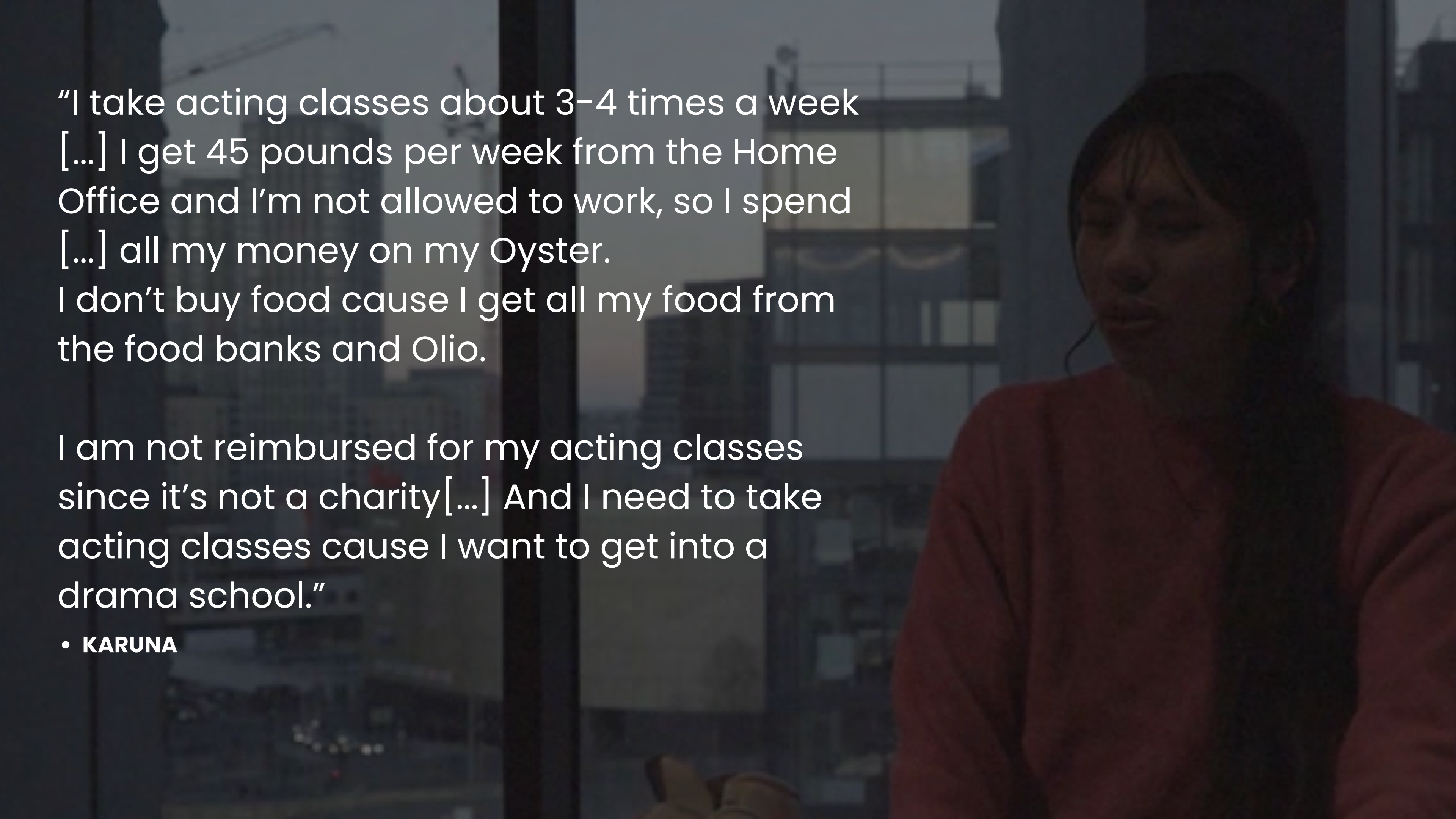
– Froi Legaspi, Citizens UK

“I have to take a big train and then the tube so for me there’s a lot of money. For asylum seekers I feel like we should have some sort of concession because **how else are we going to access support or therapy and community.**”

– Karuna, Participant

## specific campaigns for lgbtqai+ refugees?



A woman with dark hair, wearing a red sweater, is looking down. The background is a blurred city skyline at dusk or night, with buildings and a crane visible. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

“I take acting classes about 3–4 times a week  
[...] I get 45 pounds per week from the Home  
Office and I’m not allowed to work, so I spend  
[...] all my money on my Oyster.  
I don’t buy food cause I get all my food from  
the food banks and Olio.

I am not reimbursed for my acting classes  
since it’s not a charity[...] And I need to take  
acting classes cause I want to get into a  
drama school.”

• **KARUNA**





# proposal

Collaborate with current LGBTQAI+ refugees and asylum seekers to co-create a short documentary which will become a part of a **legacy campaign**.

This will develop into **network and community** building for **creatives** that want to share their professional work and skills.

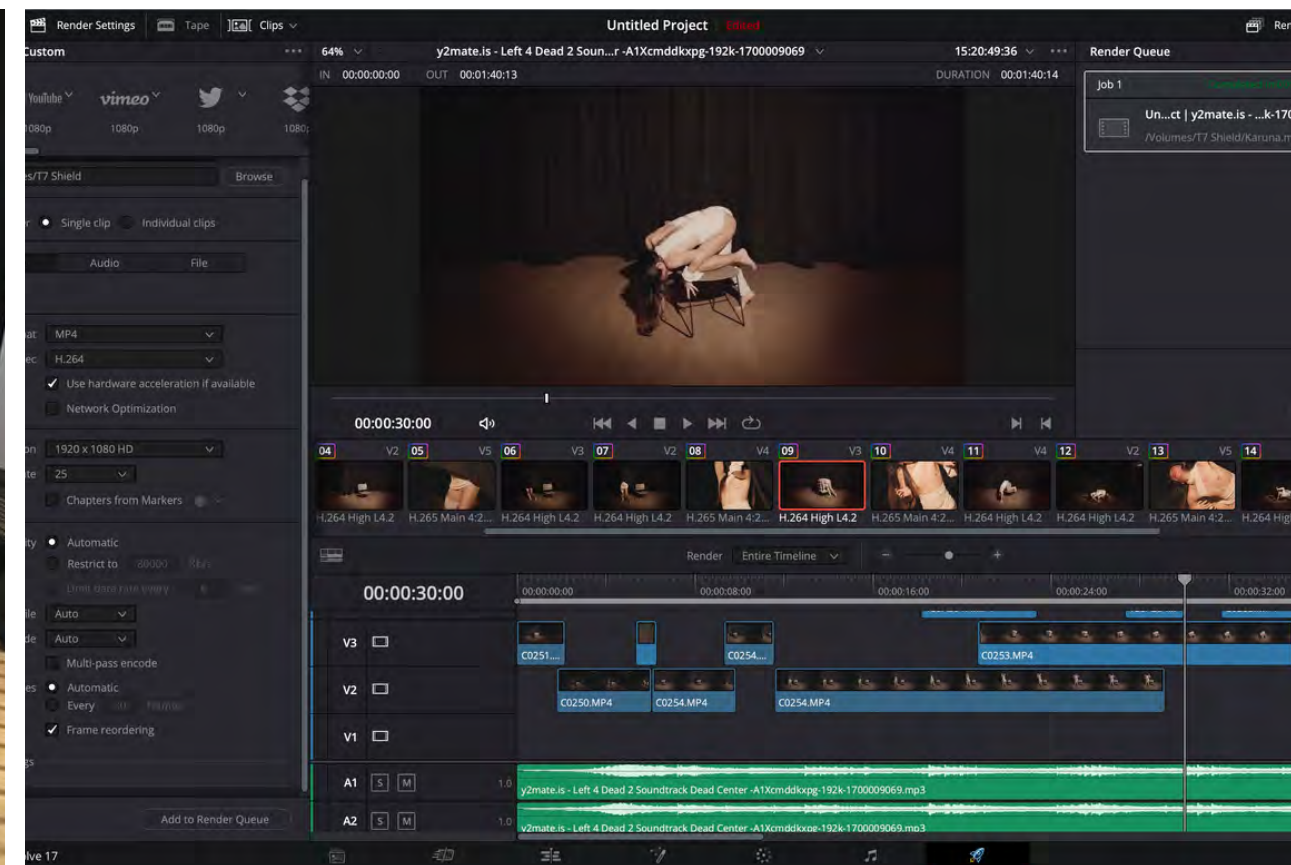
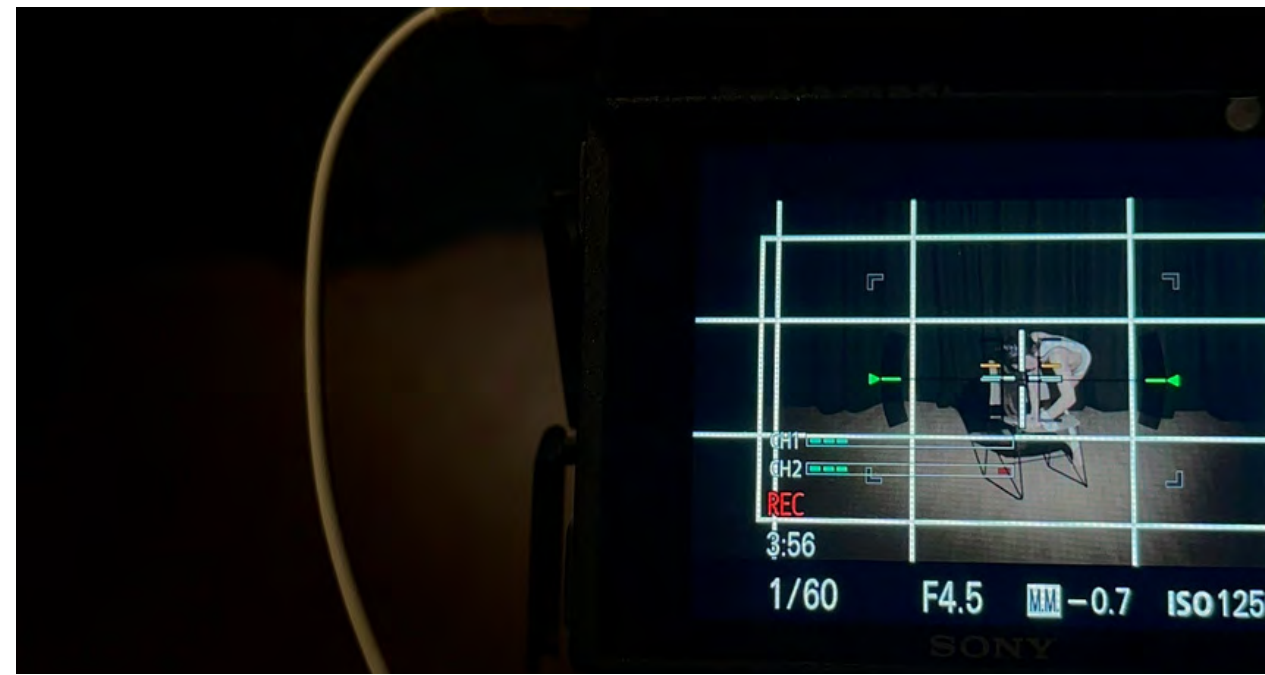
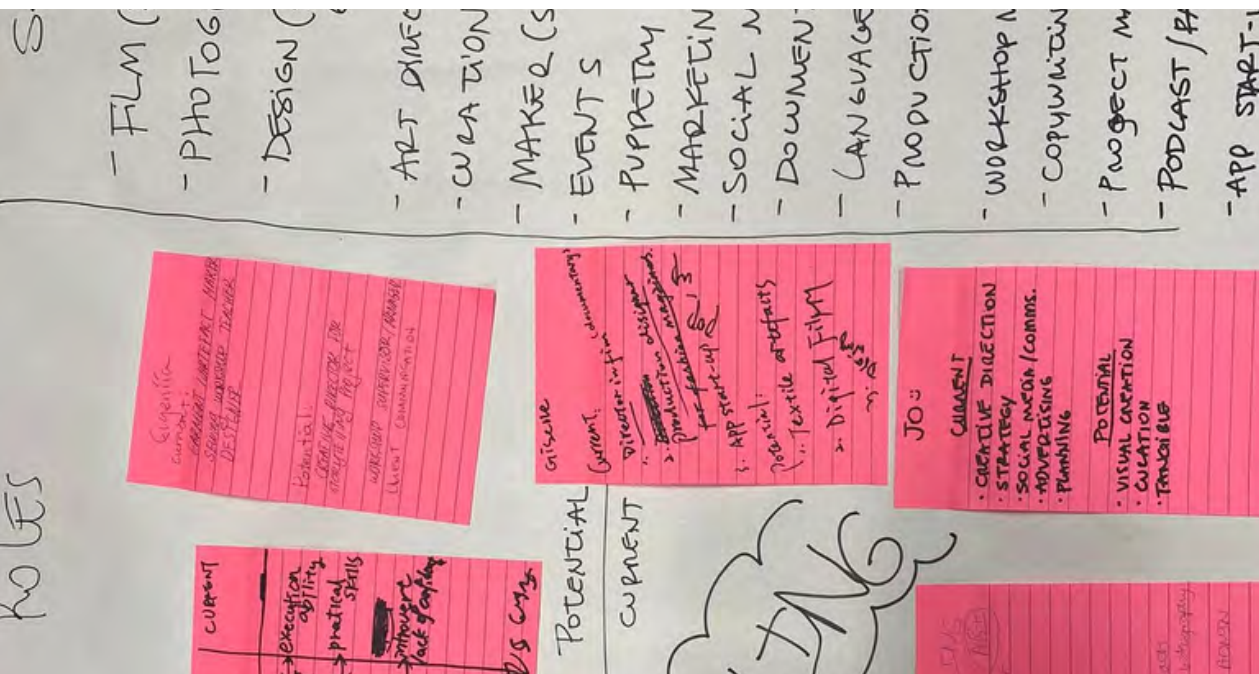


moodboard





# process



Workshops / Brainstorming

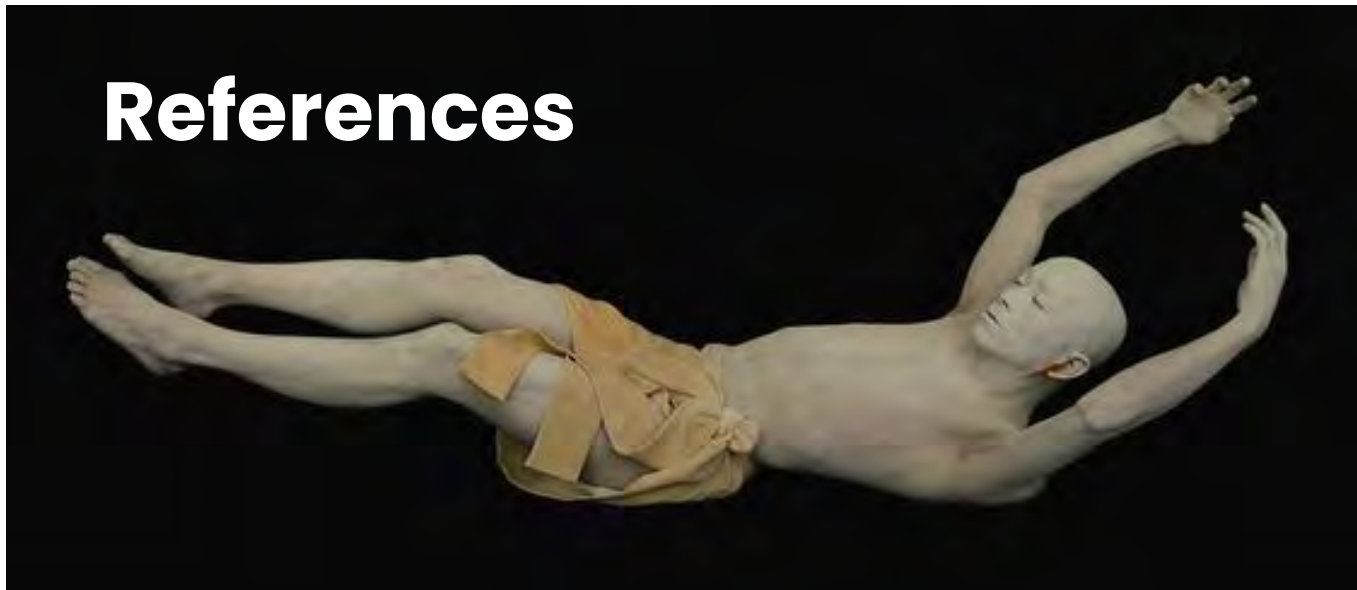
Proposal / Shooting

Editing / Presentation



# costume design

## References



## Final Outcome





# Creative Opportunities for Change



## Topics of discussion:

- Identity
- Isolation
- Networking
- Tools
- Mental health

## Creative Skillset:

- Fashion marketing
- Photography
- Costume design
- Film making
- Performance
- Fashion

Skill sharing, portfolio building and networking opportunities for all involved.

Creative practice as listening campaign.

Resulting in a push for policy changes.

# objectives

## **1. PROVIDE**

Service, skills and experience to LGBTQAI+ refugees/Asylum seekers for their personal or professional use.

## **2. SUPPORT**

Spaces for personal and professional networking, alongside with a platform to showcase their work.

## **3. LISTEN**

To testimonies, experiences, needs and more in order to communicate accordingly through the project.

## **4. CONTRIBUTE**

Towards policy changes, long term advocacy and overall communication of the current state of LGBTQAI+ refugees/asylum seekers in the UK.

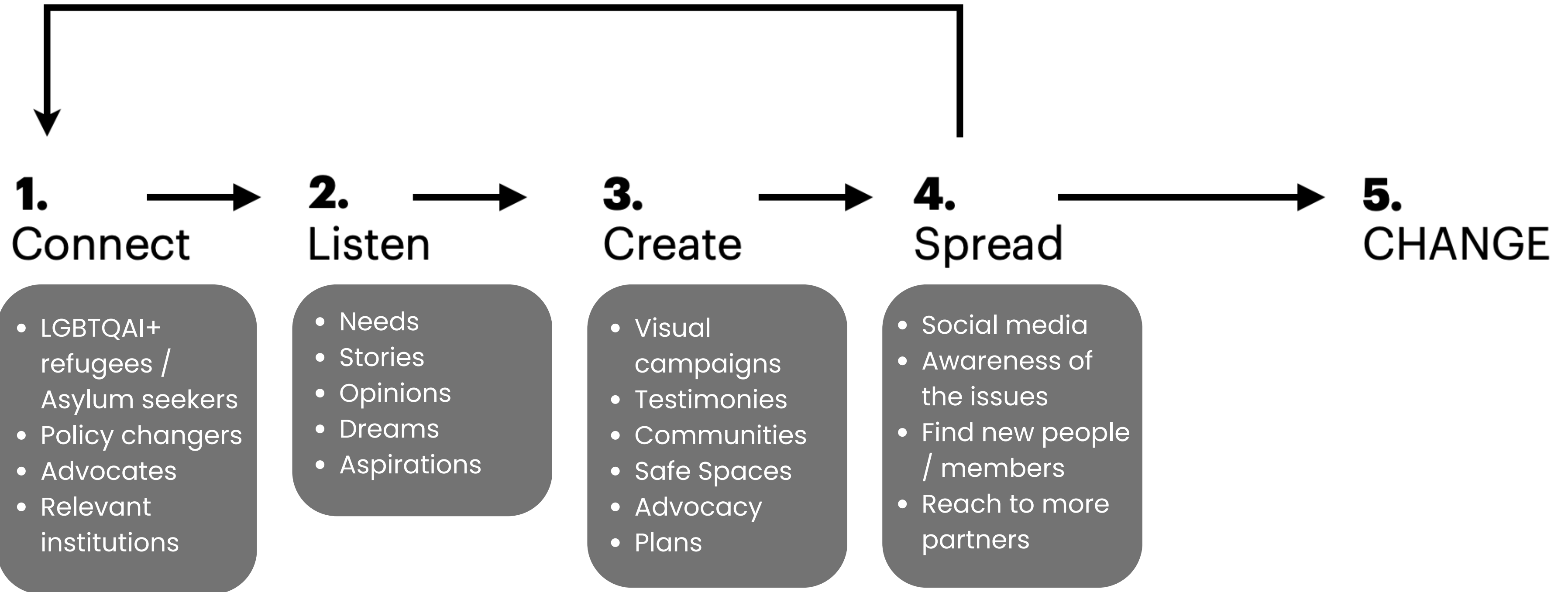




This would be used as a medium/tool to showcase their stories and creative work in hopes for becoming a **skill sharing network and community.**

Sharing transferable skills as creatives by listening and knowing what they need in order to create, us as students can help give technical/professional tools that they can apply themselves and also them as creatives help others with skills they might want to develop.

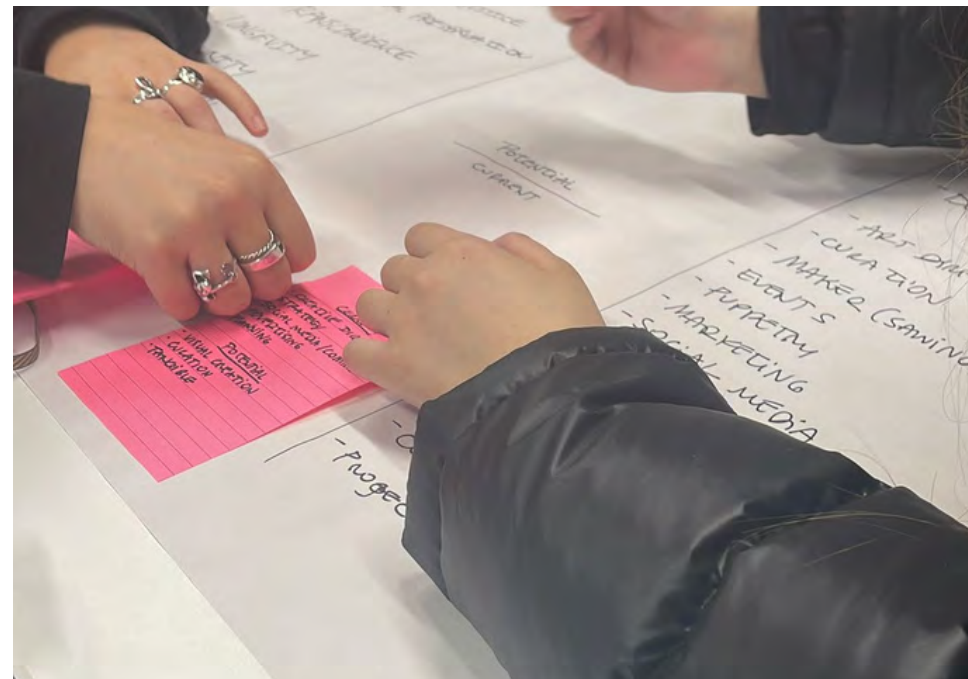
# implementation





# future steps & partnerships

- Connect with charities like Micro Rainbow and Rainbow Migration, offering our service as a tool for their clients.
- Collaborate further with LGBTQIA+ refugees and asylum seekers, and listen to what's needed most.
- Ensure we have a wide pool of feedback and research.
- Connect with Citizens UK and others campaigning for policy change to broaden our impact and theirs.
- Showcase the work of artists at exhibition and on social media to build growing network.



# credits

Project concept & creative direction developed by a collective collaborative effort of the team

Production management, photography, interviewing, policy research and communications by Abigail Rigby

Presentation design, assistant direction, external communications, campaign research by Josefa Lavandero Olivares

Costume design and making, communication management, interview assistance by Yi-Ching Wang

Film direction, cinematography, editing by Jingyi Bai

Costume design & making, production management, set assistance, interview assistance by Evgeniia Galeeva

Performance concept and choreography by Karuna

Filming location provided by Feldy Community Centre and Centre for Sustainable Fashion

Project supervised by Dr Francesco Mazzeella



DECOLONIZING FASHION & TEXTILES

# The Creative Legacy Collective

THE HAVEN OF COLLABORATION

ABIGAIL RIGBY - EVGENIIA GALEEVA - JINGYI BAI - YI-CHING WANG - JOSEFA LAVANDERO