

Emma C. - Only in Leicester

Leicester has been a teacher to me on how to have relationships across difference because the differences are many and more apparent, they are more visual. You see people from different faith communities, or that person has a different colour skin, they have a different language, they are from a different economic background, they have had different opportunities in education. I think differences are always there but in Leicester, I think you can see it quicker. We can talk about intergenerational differences, when you have got the baby boomer grandparents and the people in their twenties, there is a cultural difference right there. I think Leicester has been a teacher to me on how we can be together. I think me standing in the school pick up line for my daughter's school is an educational place for me as well. So, I suppose my question would be where are the gathering spaces in Leicester where people can have conversations about their differences and their shared humanity, which really increases dignity and respect? I think in a lot of ways Leicester is already ahead of the game with a lot of that. I think that the world should really pay attention, Britain should really pay attention. But also, there is always more to learn, because it is clear we do not have everything perfect, and it is clear there are tensions and sometimes those tensions are just outright conflict. And it was not that long ago that I remember reading a blog about someone being scared to walk through a street because there were really risen tensions in Leicester, they just really did not feel safe. How can we be honest about those experiences, about the difficult experiences, the painful experiences but also the shared experiences of where we have common values, common interests?