



Hello!

Mother and Child Welfare Organisation (MACWO) is a community group that uses information, training and support to help people to lead better lives.

It was founded in 2007 and works in West London and Wandsworth.

Khadra Ali Hared is the founder of MACWO

Hawa Mohamud is the project manager.

Richard Neville is a storyteller who works with community groups to tell record and make use of stories.

He has been working with MACWO since 2018.

**MOTHER AND CHILD WELFARE
ORGANISATION - HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED**

PRISON VISITING AND COURT SUPPORT

**HELP FOR EX-OFFENDERS AND
SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS**

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP

YOUTH WORKSHOPS

PARENT PROGRAMMES

ICT, ESOL AND SOCIAL CARE TRAINING

ADVICE AND MEDIATION

Ideas we will explore (hopefully) during today's session

Stories are a place to start - where can they lead?

Storytellers must be willing to hang out and spend time with groups

Stories can lead to positive outcomes, empowerment and development for individuals and for groups

Question

**How do stories and storytelling appear
in your life and work at the moment?**

Two types of story

- **Life stories**
- **Cultural and 'traditional' stories**

Life Stories

It can be useful to think about stories under different themes or categories.

In MACWO we hear stories in many different situations:

Health and illness stories

Prison stories

DVA stories

FGM and cultural harm stories

Arrival stories and adjustment stories

Organisation and personal success stories

Question

What areas of life do you hear about or work with, what themes are useful for you in your storytelling work?

Traditional Stories and Folktales

'Traditional' stories can take many forms and be learned from different places

Stories recalled from childhood

Stories read at school

Proverbs

Nursery Rhymes

Inspirational stories from the internet

Stories to express values and beliefs

Stories of ancestors

Heart warming stories that bring people together under the tree!

Question

Do you hear 'traditional' stories in your work? What type of stories do you hear?

Outcomes - What to do with stories?

How can you give stories continuing value in the life of a group or organisation?

Books/exhibitions/art works: Who is the intended audience? What do you want them to think, feel or do?

Funding applications

Impact reports

Skill Sharing

Campaigns

Social Media

Question

What further benefits could you bring to the groups you work with as a result of hearing stories?

Listening to stories - ground rules and boundaries

Stories can be referred to, summarised, told very simply

Emphasise that a story telling session is about telling stories, being creative, sharing our experiences for the benefit of others

Appreciate the meaning and the message of the story

Appreciate the play and sheer enjoyment of a story

Question

What ground rules or boundaries do you use in your storytelling work?

Final thoughts

Stories appear everywhere
Build up your knowledge of a group through
hearing stories
Bring some benefit to the group beyond
storytelling

Thank you and goodbye

Contact

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Richard: storiesinthestreet@yahoo.co.uk

MACWO's website - <https://www.macwo.org>

Richard's website - <https://www.storycircles.co.uk/asset-based-storytelling>

Resources

<https://youtu.be/24UmBsMLmMs>

'Trauma-Informed Storytelling in Trainings' : useful video with much food for thought

'The Stories We Live By - Personal Myths and the Making of the Self' by Dan McAdams

Interesting study of life stories written by an academic psychologist

https://www.storycircles.co.uk/files/ugd/e961f4_4f8030382fbb4d9db13f36eb965679fe.pdf

'Storytelling, a Toolkit', developed during a project that Richard did in 2022 with Kingston Libraries and Kingston University. Richard has some physical copies of the book, contact him if you would like a copy.