

# GHIATH'S STORY

Having graduated in law and working as a paralegal for two years, in 2014 Ghiath had to leave Syria just after finishing his training due to the war. He travelled to Turkey where he lived for 5 years. His experience there was tough, as during his stay he wasn't offered any benefits from the government, not even accommodation. He arrived in the UK in October 2019, thankful for the life he now has here and is really grateful for all the support he has received.

Ghiath was informed about the Together South programme by the Job Centre and thought it was a great opportunity to meet people and practice his English. He also wanted help finding a job and he thought this would be just what he was looking for. Ghiath has mentioned that he is quite shy, but found these sessions to be very welcoming.

The sessions Ghiath particularly enjoyed were the group ESOL classes as well as the one-to-one personalized sessions. Not only did he learn English, but expanded his knowledge on British culture which he found interesting and useful. The focus was on learning the language as well as about how people live, think and do things in this country; all of which were new to him.

He also found the employment sessions very useful and enjoyed meeting new people. Due to Ghiath being quite shy, it's harder to make contacts in a new country so the sessions were a great help as they showed him how to make contacts and made him feel more confident meeting new people. Ghiath also found that he learned a new skill in every employment session including how to look for jobs, how to use LinkedIn and how to write a CV. He met professionals who he wouldn't have had the opportunity to meet if it wasn't for the Together South Programme.

Ghiath feels that the programme has showed him how to move forward in the right direction, having given him more concrete ideas about how to proceed. He knows now what he wants to do and is very excited, feeling very much in control of his future.

Coming out of Together South feeling more positive and confident, Ghiath believes the programme has helped him to settle into the UK as he got to meet new people, learn about UK cultures and was introduced to professionals in the field of work he's interested in pursuing.



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