

A Fish Out Of Water (CARD 1)

A Fish Out Of Water

We take our culture for granted as fish take their water for granted.

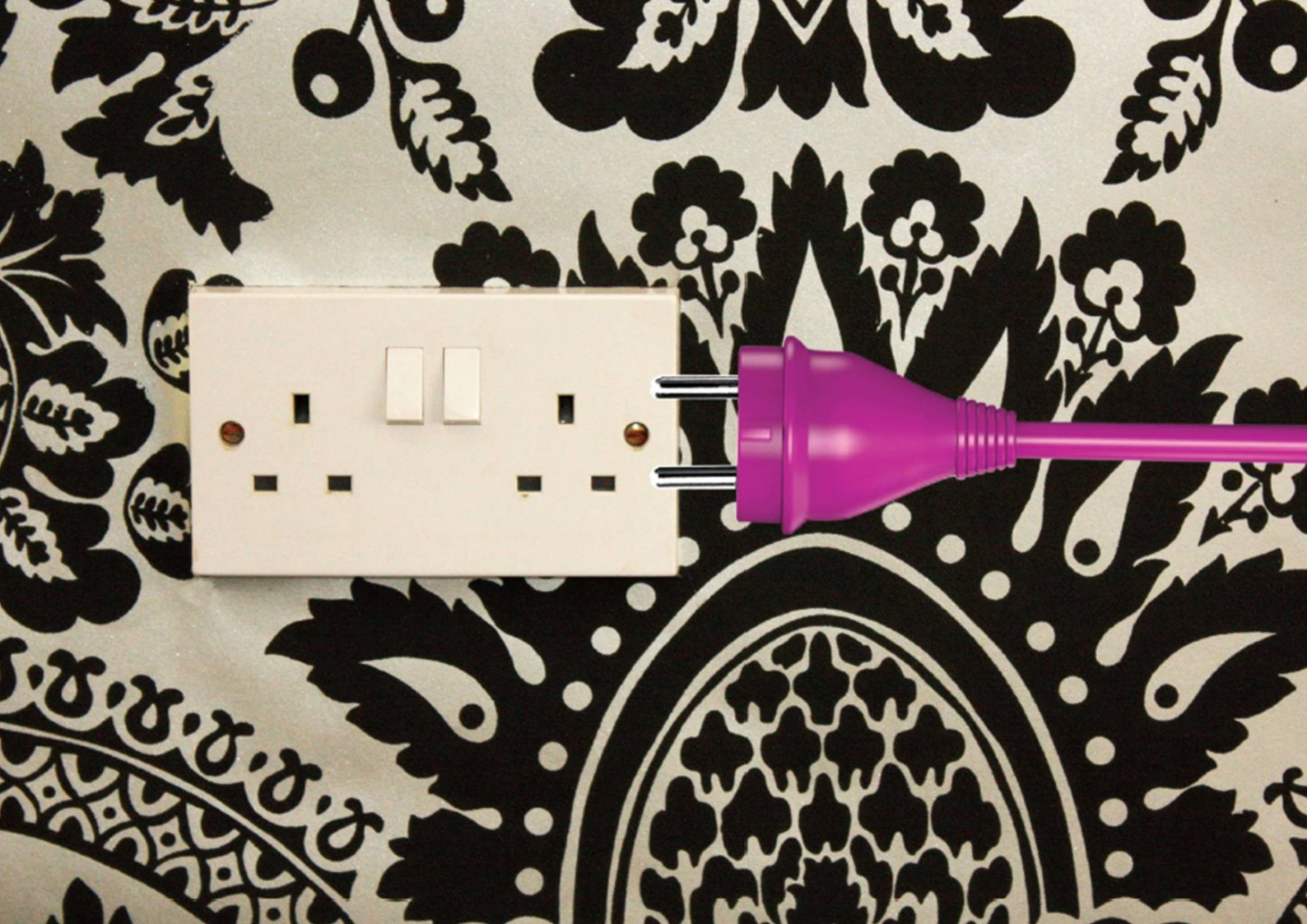
Iwona Wardach, Polish Association NI, June 2012

Everything here is different.

Words spoken during a discussion among a group of people claiming asylum
quoted in the EMBRACE prayer letter, June 2012

*'... in 2010, the total number of international migrants in the world was
estimated at 214 million people ...'*

International Organization for Migration (IOM), *World Migration Report 2011*;
Communicating Effectively about Migration



A Fish Out Of Water (CARD 2)

Fitting In

... I was trying so many interviews, and I was really trying hard. I had a degree back home but it's not valid here. I couldn't get a job...

Rhina from El Salvador quoted in *Voices from the Global South; A Research Report on Migration*, Centre for Global Education, 2010

'The comments given by respondents demonstrate a concern about adapting to life in Northern Ireland with one respondent saying their main concern was "Getting adjusted to living in a foreign country".'

'Za Chlebem': The Impact of the Economic Downturn on the Polish Community in Northern Ireland by Robbie McVeigh and Chris McAfee, 2009

The 2011 census indicates that 81,453 people (4.51%) living in N Ireland were born in countries other than the UK or the Irish Republic; 45,407 from other European Union countries and 36,046 from countries outside the EU.



A Fish Out Of Water (CARD 3)

Which Game? Whose Rules?

I had to start again learning other things, other customs, other traditions and the ways to do things. It was almost like being a child again and being told how to do things. That was difficult because back home I would have always thought of myself as independent.

Rhina from El Salvador quoted in *Voices from the Global South; A Research Report on Migration*, Centre for Global Education, 2010

'Settlement choices such as where to live, where to send children to school and where to worship are often interpreted in the host community as affiliation to a "side" in the conflict, sometimes leading to hostility, intimidation, or even the threat of or actual violence or expulsion from accommodation.'

STEP, *Research to Identify Additional Difficulties Faced by Minority Ethnic Groups and Migrant Workers because of the Conflict in N. Ireland*, 2010, Executive Summary



A Fish Out Of Water (CARD 4)

Mixed Signals

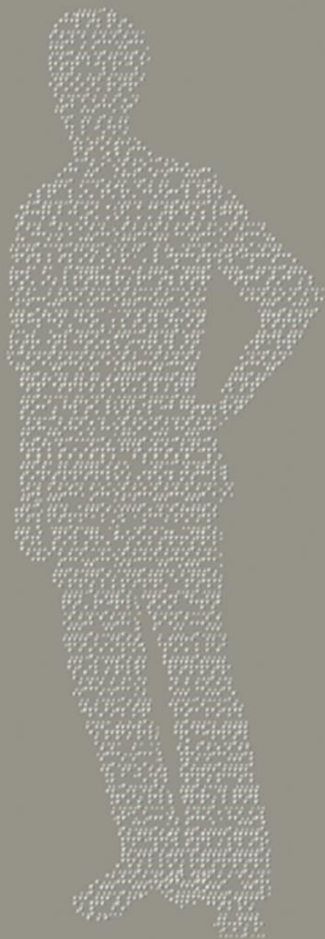
'A Polish woman who is a skilled seamstress tried to find work using her skills but found that her basic English skills prevented her from doing so. She was offered a cleaning job through a recruitment agency and worked for 2-3 hours per day for 1 week only. There were no other job offers. Having improved her English she has now found work as a seamstress.'

The Role of the Recruitment Sector in the Employment of Migrant Workers, 2010

There are people of different nationalities living in this country: some have the same rights as the local people. Not us. Are we not all humans?

Roma woman from Romania, speaking to a support worker in Belfast

[Romanian and Bulgarian people do not have the same rights as other Europeans, e.g. to seek jobs and receive state support, if necessary. This will change in 2014.]



A Fish Out Of Water (CARD 5)

From A Distance

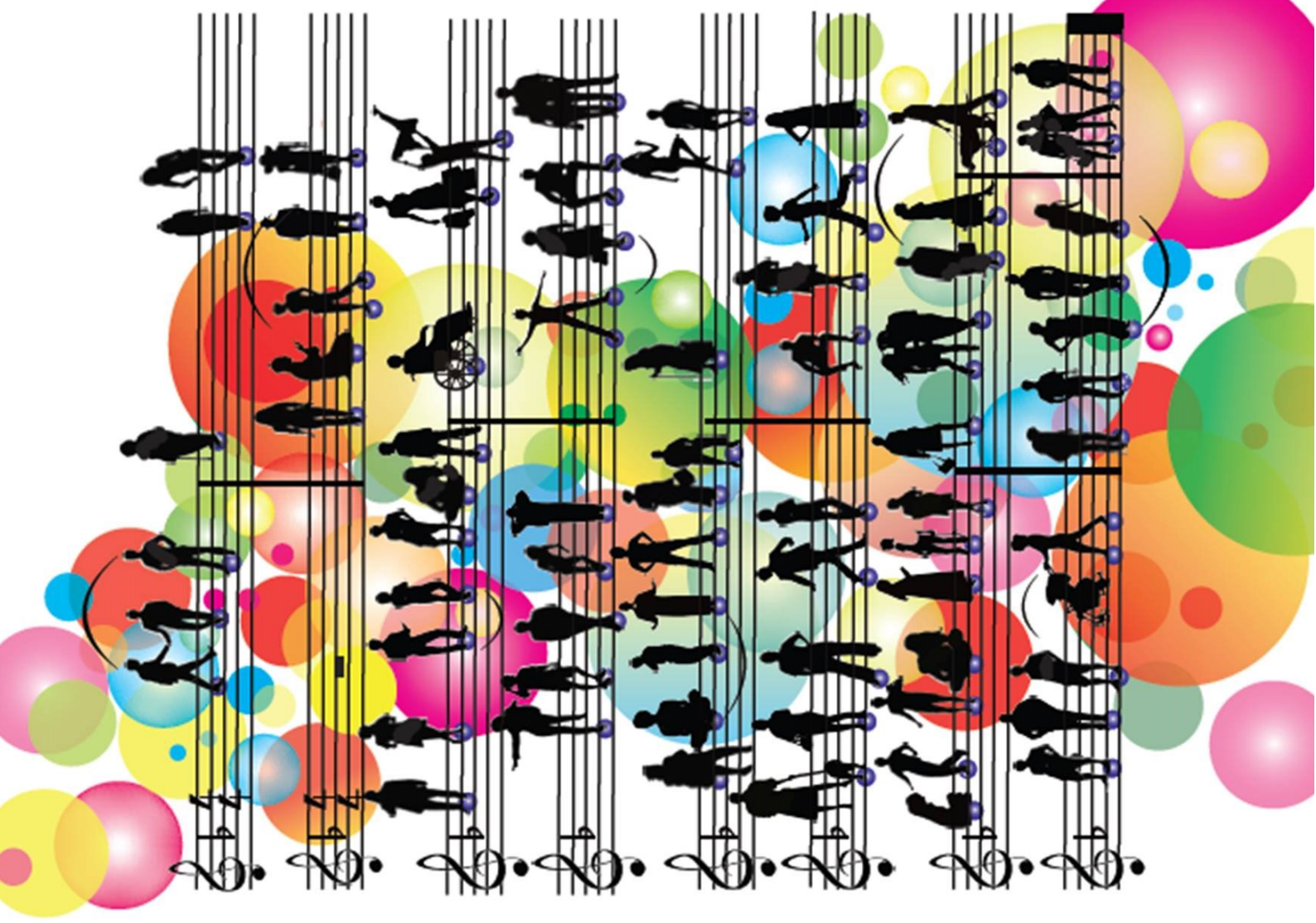
... If I don't speak to you I don't know what makes you laugh, I don't know what makes you cry, I don't know what makes you happy, I don't know your history...

Ann from Liberia quoted in *The New Workers: Migration, Labour and Citizenship in Northern Ireland in the 21st Century* edited by B. Garvey, P. Stewart, J. Kulinska, R. Campuzano

A Tunisian proverb

When I saw him from a distance, I thought he was my enemy.
When he came closer, I recognised a human being.
When I shook his hand, I found a brother.

Quoted in *On the Road: A Journey through the Bible for Migrants*, French Bible Society, 2009



A Fish Out Of Water (CARD 6)

Dancing With Diversity

'When the first boatload of Vietnamese [refugees] arrived, they refused to get off the boat. They said, "you must be joking, we are coming from war-torn Vietnam." And so the first boatload went back to Liverpool. That is how bad it was [in 1980]. But now it is different. Now we are a growing society, becoming more normal, more multicultural.'

Interview with a policymaker, Community Relations Council, 14 October 2005, quoted by Peter Geoghegan, 'The Search for Equality: Race, Religion and Public Policy in Northern Ireland' in *Shared Space*, Issue 9, 2010

The various migrant populations who have arrived in Northern Ireland since the millennium have brought with them, not only their skills and experience, but also their traditions, music, food and language. Ten years ago, Northern Ireland was a relatively insular and inward-looking country. Today, it is a vibrant and culturally diverse society.

Raymond Russell, *Migration in Northern Ireland: An Update*, 2012

Music is expression of harmony in sound. Love is the expression of harmony in life.

Stephen F. Gaskin