

ORAL HISTORY INDEX AND SUMMARY

Interview with: Jonida Bujupi

Location: Manchester

Total duration: 11.53

Interview by Naomi Hamill and summary by Kelly Bücher:

The interview plays as one long recording.

1.	Start time	Finish time	Approximate duration	Brief description
	00.00	11.53	11.53	Jonida talks about being born during the conflict, medically evacuation to England as a child, with her family, and her life in England.
	<p><i>Jonida lives with her family in Manchester and is a student. She was born in Kosovo during the conflict in March 1998 in a made-up doctor's surgery: it wasn't safe for her mother to go to the local hospital. At four months old, her parents carried Jonida and her brother through woods over the border to Macedonia. They lived with local families and then moved to a refugee camp. 'Doctors without Borders' recommended that Jonida was taken to the UK for medical treatment as she had problems with her hips. Seventeen displaced members of their family were evacuated to the UK and Jonida was given medical treatment as soon as she arrived in the UK. Jonida is now studying Health and Social Care at college and she has plans to become a nurse in the future. She wants to help other people just as she was helped when she first arrived in Manchester.</i></p> <p>00.00 Jonida talks about how she was born in the middle of the war in Kosovo in March 1998. She talks about her mother giving birth in a makeshift doctor's surgery not a hospital. She describes herself and her brother being carried across the Macedonian border by their parents fleeing for safety and how nice Macedonian families kindly took the Kosovan refugees into their homes.</p> <p>(01:00) She says that her parents realised that she had a problem with her hips but could not afford any medical treatment in Macedonia. Her mum heard of 'Doctor's Without Borders' and applied to them to get them out of the country to get treatment for Jonida. They gave her three options of countries where they could go to: Switzerland, America or England. She says that her mother asked which would be best for treatment for Jonida and they were advised to go to UK. Her family accompanied her.</p> <p>(02.30) She says that as soon as they got to UK, they she was taken for medical treatment.</p>			

(03:08) She describes initially living in a refugee base, a house in Barrow, in England, with her family and several other families.

She says that she had to have several operations on her hips but was then able to walk with practice and treatment which she does not think would have happened so soon, if at all, if the family had stayed in Kosovo.

(04:00) She says that soon after, her parents found out that her brother had an even more serious condition, that if they were still in Kosovo, also wouldn't have been cured and he would not have developed as he should have.

(04:19) She says that she went to Primary School in Barrow but the family moved to Manchester, a larger place, as they thought that there would be better education opportunities there. She says she went to Lime Tree Primary Academy and felt welcomed.

(05:10) She says that she now goes to South Trafford College, studying Health and Social care as she wants to work in Nursing.

She says that as she was a child in hospital, she wants to give back to the community by also working in a caring profession. She thinks it is important for children as they are especially vulnerable and she wants to concentrate on working with sick children.

(06:30) Jonida says that she does not really remember coming to England but she does remember her school years. She says that sometimes her family look at pictures of when she was in hospital and she considers herself very lucky as the family had medical needs that were met.

(07:30) She says that she goes back to Kosovo every summer for about a month with her family.

(08:00) Jonida says that she speaks full Albanian and English, two languages. She says that it is important to her mother that they keep up their Albanian language use and knowledge. Her large family all helped in both learning English and retaining Albanian.

(08:45) She talks about her mother cooking Albanian food such as Pite. Her mother has been teaching her various recipes and she says that she likes this as she will be able to teach other people.

She says that she considers Kosovo home first although she does appreciate everything England has done for her and her family.

Jonida says that she has not yet returned to the place where she was born but considers that maybe that is something she should do in the future.

(09:24) She says that her mum's English is pretty good and she has taken a course and knows enough to communicate, although she still prefers to use Albanian to ensure the family do not lose the use of it.

She says that she does think her mother's life is very different now to how it would have been in Kosovo and sometimes her mother comments on this but is very positive about the evacuation to Manchester.

She talks of her love for Kosovo - where she and her family were born - but feels enormous gratitude to England.