

Refugee Week



#kirkleeswelcomes

Working together to support and celebrate migration

“Is it a dream?” – Lost friends



Learner R, came to the UK as part of the Syrian Resettlement Scheme. She experienced a lot of sadness and loss in her life, on her journey to the UK.

She joined TSL- ESOL zoom sessions, in July. She is a **very keen and punctual learner**. Despite being enthusiastic about learning, she always commented about her **loneliness and sad life**.

On August 25th a new learner J, also part of the Resettlement scheme, started the zoom sessions. J, **couldn't turn her camera on**, due to a weak internet connection and R, **didn't have the camera on**- because her phone was too old.

The following week, they came into class and J, **managed to put her camera on** with the tutor's help, and as soon as R saw J, **she screamed and tears were rolling down her cheeks**.

She kept repeating “**is it a dream or real?**”. The tutor, sensing their **emotions**, put them in a breakout room and gave them 5 minutes to talk. It turns out, they are from the same area and knew each other, from back home. They got separated during the war and R **fled to another country**, and was there for **8 years**. J, went to a **different country** and stayed there for **10 years**. Finally, **reunited** on the Zoom class, they said they have so much to **share**. R was dealt **another blow**- with another **loss of a close family member**, but said that meeting J was a **special gift from God**- because without J's support she wouldn't have survived.



WELCOME
MENTORS