

TRAVEL BOOKLET OF A JOURNEY TO INTERCULTURAL CITIES





diversit.



IN COLLABORATION WITH:



TRAVEL BOOKLET FOR INTERCULTURAL CITIES



CREDITS:

2021 TRAVEL BOOKLET FOR
INTERCULTURAL CITIES

MIGUEL GALLARDO: ILLUSTRATIONS AND CHARACTERS
DANI DE TORRES: STORY AND SCRIPT
STORYTELLING WORKING GROUP FROM RECI
(SPANISH NETWORK OF INTERCULTURAL CITIES)

A TRAVEL BOOKLET IS A SPECIAL NOTEBOOK WHERE YOU WRITE EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS DURING A TRIP. IT'S OFTEN MUCH BETTER THAN JUST A COLLECTION OF PHOTOS: TODAY WE TAKE SO MANY PHOTOS THAT THEY HARDLY HELP REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED, AND EVEN LESS SO WHEN AND WHERE THEY WERE TAKEN. A NOTEBOOK, ON THE OTHER HAND, QUICKLY REMINDS YOU WHAT YOU DID, WHO YOU TALKED TO AND THINGS SUCH AS IF IT WAS SUNNY OR RAINY...

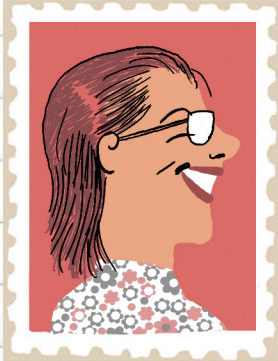
THE TRAVEL BOOKLET IN YOUR HAND IS AN INVITATION TO FOLLOW THE ADVENTURES OF MELO AND MILA, OUR MAIN CHARACTERS.



#ANCESSARYTRIP

THE TRAVELLING PAIR

MILA



A MUNICIPAL OFFICER IN CHARGE OF COEXISTENCE AND DIVERSITY POLICIES

MELO



THE "PEACH-FACED" PARROT

YOU WILL ACCOMPANY MILA AND MELO ON THEIR JOURNEY IN THE SEARCH OF DIFFERENT WAYS OF LIVING TOGETHER IN CITIES WHERE PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT ORIGINS, CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS, ETHNICITIES AND BELIEFS ALL RESIDE.



MILA AND MILO WERE GIVEN A SPECIAL MISSION BY THE MAYORESS OF THEIR CITY: MILA SHALL TRAVEL TO THREE DIFFERENT CITIES TO ANALYSE HOW PEOPLE LIVE TOGETHER IN DIVERSE SOCIETIES, AND TO UNDERSTAND THE VALUES AND STRATEGIES WHICH ARE PROMOTED TO IMPROVE THE INTERCULTURAL COEXISTENCE.



MILA IS 45 YEARS OLD, SEPARATED, HAS 2 CHILDREN, LOTS OF INTERESTS AND A BIG PASSION: PHOTOGRAPHY.



MELO COMES FROM NAMIBIA AND WAS TAKEN TO EUROPE TOGETHER WITH HIS PARTNER AGA TO BECOME PETS. HOWEVER, WHEN THEY ARRIVED THEY WERE SEPARATED AND SINCE, MELO IS DETERMINED TO FIND HIS BELOVED. MELO BELONGS TO A SPECIES KNOWN AS "PEACH-FACED" PARROTS THAT NEVER LEAVE THEIR PARTNERS.



MELO STARTED VISITING MILA'S BALCONY AND THEY BECAME FRIENDS.

THE MAYORESS HAS GIVEN ME THE TASK OF VISITING THREE CITIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND TO WRITE A REPORT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

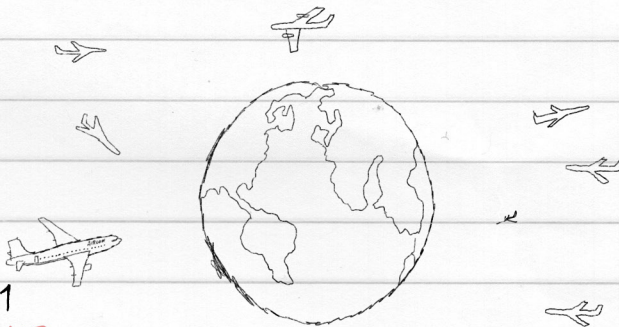
LET ME GO WITH YOU SO I CAN LOOK FOR AGA; IN RETURN I WILL HELP YOU REACH PLACES YOU COULD NOT ACCESS OTHERWISE

ABOUT HOW TO IMPROVE LIVING TOGETHER IN OUR DIVERSE CITY

TEE HEE HEE. DONE!



AND THAT IS HOW, IN MILA'S HOME CITY AND MELO'S HOST CITY, THIS JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD BEGAN.



TRIP 1
12TH APRIL

MILA AND MELO ARRIVE IN EMPORIA AND WHILE MILA TALKS TO PEOPLE FROM THE MUNICIPALITY, MELO FLIES OVER THE CITY AND VISITS PLACES WHICH ARE HARD TO REACH.



MILA TALKS TO THE
COUNCIL OFFICERS

COEXISTENCE IS
WORKING REALLY
WELL HERE

BUT AFTER
WALKING AROUND
SHE REALISES...

...THAT CLEANERS
AND BUILDERS
ALL HAVE DARK
SKIN

WHEN SHE FINALLY MEETS UP WITH MELO,
HE CONFIRMS HER SUSPICIONS.



ON THE OUTSKIRTS
I SAW REALLY
RUN-DOWN HOUSES
AND NOT MANY
COMMUNITY SERVICES

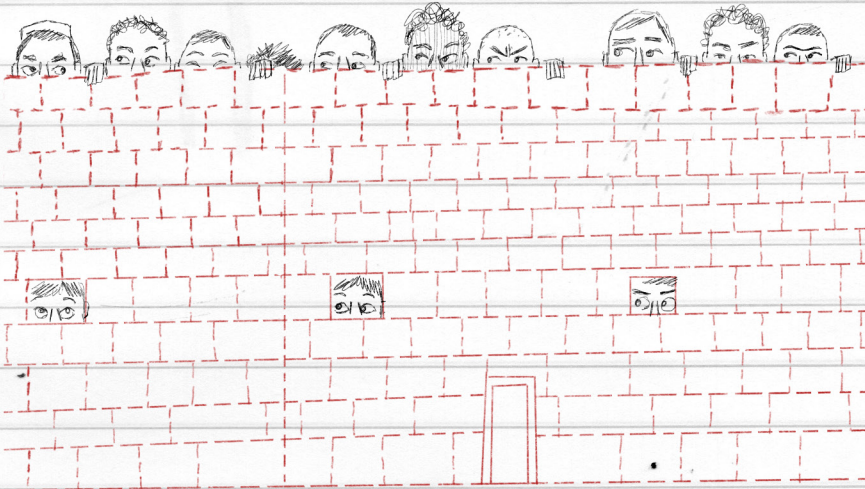
THEY REALLY DO
NOT LIKE EMPORIA'S
COEXISTENCE
"MODEL"



THERE ARE FIRST
AND SECOND-CLASS
CITIZENS AND THE
LATTER DO NOT HAVE
VERY GOOD JOBS OR
EQUAL ACCESS TO
HEALTHCARE RIGHTS.



ABI, A WAITER,
CONFESSES TO
MILA



AS IS OFTEN THE CASE, IT IS AS THOUGH THERE IS AN INVISIBLE WALL THAT SEPARATES PEOPLE DEPENDING ON THEIR SOCIAL STATUS, ORIGIN OR ETHNICITY.



THEY HEAD OFF TO THE NEXT CITY, THIS TIME BY TRAIN.



SOME QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON:

- WHICH FACTORS DO YOU THINK PROMOTE INEQUALITY AND SEGREGATION?

- - WHAT TYPE OF ACTIONS DO YOU THINK WOULD BE NECESSARY TO IMPROVE LIVING TOGETHER IN THIS CITY AND TO PROMOTE EQUAL RIGHTS FOR EVERYONE AND REAL INCLUSION?

TRIP 2

UPON ARRIVING IN DUCRONIA, THEY NOTICE THAT THE CITY'S DIVERSITY IS VISIBLE IN THE STREETS.



"WE HAVE ARRIVED AFTER A LONG JOURNEY AND I FELL STRAIGHT ASLEEP, BUT FROM THE LITTLE WALK I TOOK, I GOT A GOOD VIBE. BY THE WAY, THE HUMMOUS FROM THE STAND NEXT TO THE HOTEL WAS DELICIOUS. EARLY IN THE MORNING I WILL SPEAK TO THE PEOPLE FROM THE MUNICIPALITY".



SOMEONE IS
COMING TO LEARN
ABOUT OUR MODEL
OF LIVING
TOGETHER



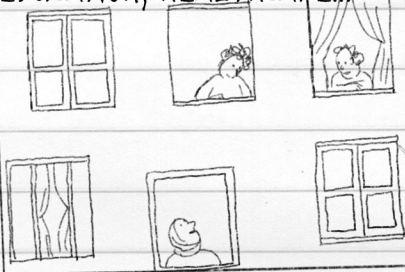
I'M NOT SURE
ABOUT THIS,
SOMETIMES THEY
HAVE A LOT OF
PREJUDICES



HI GIRLS, I
WANTED TO KNOW
HOW YOU HANDLE
INTERCULTURAL
COEXISTENCE HERE



HERE EVERYBODY HAS THE
SAME RIGHTS IN TERMS OF
EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE...



EVEN THOUGH
THEY WERE BORN
HERE, THESE
YOUNGSTERS
HAVE FOREIGN
ROOTS, THEY
AREN'T LIKE
US



YOU'RE FOREIGN, AREN'T YOU? ARE YOU A
JOURNALIST, MAYBE? PLEASE DON'T WRITE
ANYTHING NEGATIVE ABOUT OUR CITY

THERE'S ONLY
ONE PROBLEM
HERE





THE PROBLEM IS THE YOUNGSTERS FROM SOME NEIGHBOURHOODS WHO SPEND THEIR NIGHTS SETTING CARS ON FIRE...

THESE ARE KIDS THAT BELONG TO FAMILIES FROM FORMER COLONIES AND WHO DON'T WANT TO INTEGRATE IN OUR SOCIETY

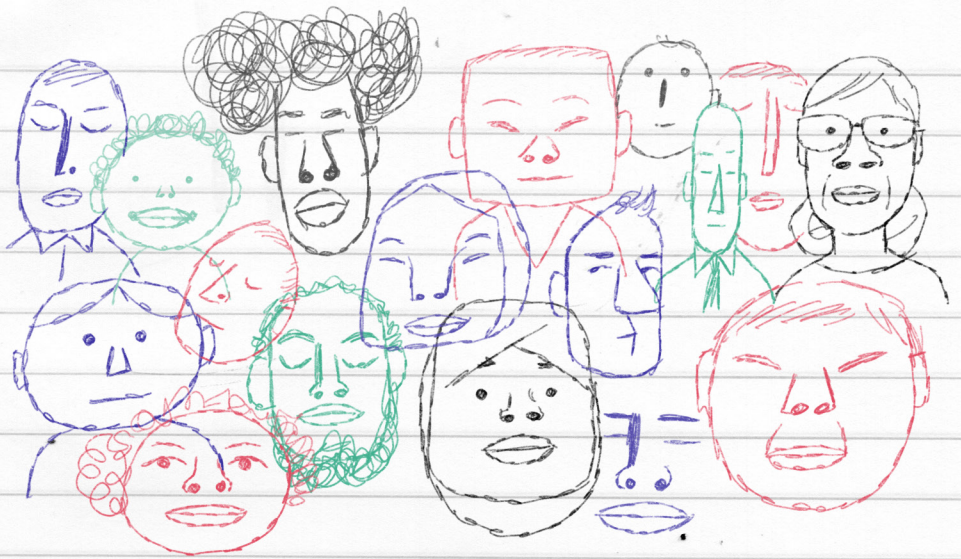
**GIVE US
BACK OUR
ORIGINS**



I BELIEVE THAT THESE YOUNGSTERS MUST PUT THEIR ORIGINS, RELIGIONS AND CUSTOMS ASIDE AND FULLY ADOPT OUR CULTURE.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY HAVE TO GIVE UP THEIR BACKGROUNDS. BEING A PART OF SOMETHING NEW INVOLVES CHANGE AND ADAPTATION FROM ALL SIDES. THIS ALSO INVOLVES A COMMUNITY EFFORT SINCE INCLUSION STARTS WITH ACKNOWLEDGING DIVERSITY. CULTURES ARE ALWAYS IN CONSTANT TRANSFORMATION, AND THEY ARE THE RESULT OF DIFFERENT CONTRIBUTIONS AND INFLUENCES. BUT IF SOCIETY DOESN'T RECOGNISE DIVERSITY, THE MINORITY WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO DEVELOP A SENSE OF BELONGING.



IT SEEMS LIKE DIVERSITY ANNOYS THEM AND THEY DON'T WANT TO VALUE IT NOR MAKE IT VISIBLE ACROSS SOCIETY.

SOMETIMES I'VE BEEN REJECTED WHEN I WANTED TO RENT A FLAT AND THE POLICE STOPS ME IN THE STREET BECAUSE I LOOK "DIFFERENT"...



IT'S HARD WHEN IT FEELS LIKE PEOPLE DON'T TRUST YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU LOOK DIFFERENT FROM THE MAJORITY



I LIKED THE SPEECH ABOUT HOW THEY DON'T DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN ORIGIN OR ETHNICITY BUT... THIS IS WHAT KEEPS HAPPENING IN REALITY. I THINK THAT IF WE DON'T RECOGNISE DIVERSITY, IT WILL BE HARD TO ACHIEVE A GOOD DEGREE OF LIVING TOGETHER OR A SENSE OF SHARED BELONGING, OR EVEN REAL EQUALITY.



THIS IS WHAT KEEPS HAPPENING



US AND THEM

SOME QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON:

- WHICH ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CONCEPT OF EQUALITY AND EQUITY?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO VALUE AND RECOGNISE DIVERSITY?

- THINK ABOUT SOME SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL ACTIONS TO IMPROVE HOW DIVERSITY IS RECOGNISED IN YOUR CITY.

THIS TIME THEY MAKE THE JOURNEY TO THE NEXT CITY, ZAMIRIA, BY BIKE.

TRIP 3



THE MEETING WITH THE TEAM FROM THE MUNICIPALITY IS HELD AS THEY WALK THROUGH SOME NEIGHBOURHOODS. MILA LIKES THIS AND DECIDES TO TAKE SOME PHOTOS.



THEY TELL HER THAT THEY STRONGLY DEFEND EQUALITY,
BUT TO DO SO THEY NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CULTURAL
RIGHTS AND THE DISCRIMINATION THAT LOTS OF GROUPS HAVE
SUFFERED IN THE PAST...

ALI →
THE SELLER



DISCRIMINATION



KWAHERI

VINJARI

كوتج المسيرين
Bonche Almassira



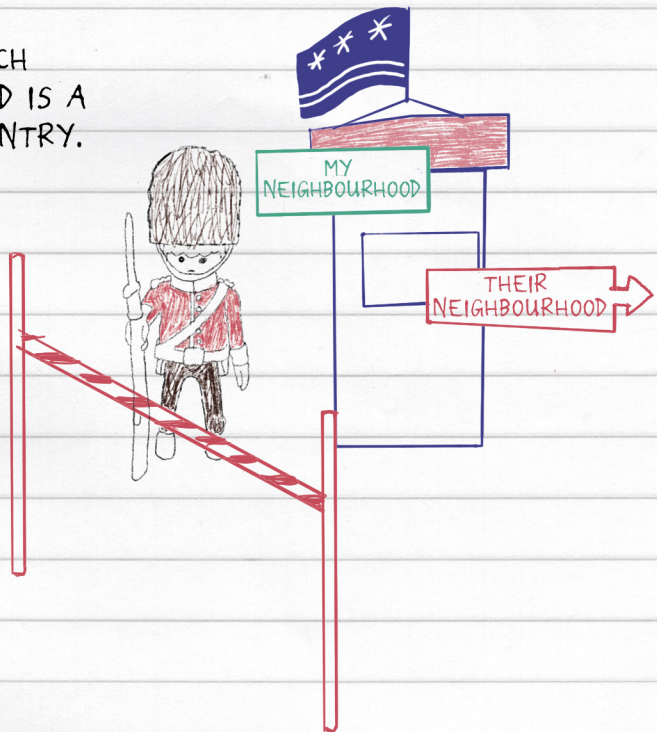
MILA NOTICES THAT THERE IS A LOT OF DIVERSITY AMONG THE STAFF AND THE MANAGERS AT THE HOTEL, AS WELL AS ON TV.



HOWEVER, THERE IS ALSO SOMETHING THAT SHOCKS HER - DURING HER VISIT SHE NOTICES THAT DIVERSITY IS VERY CONCENTRATED TO SPECIFIC PLACES.



IT IS AS IF EACH NEIGHBOURHOOD IS A SEPARATE COUNTRY.



SHE QUITE LIKES THIS BECAUSE IT IS LIKE TRAVELLING THE WORLD WITHOUT LEAVING THE CITY...

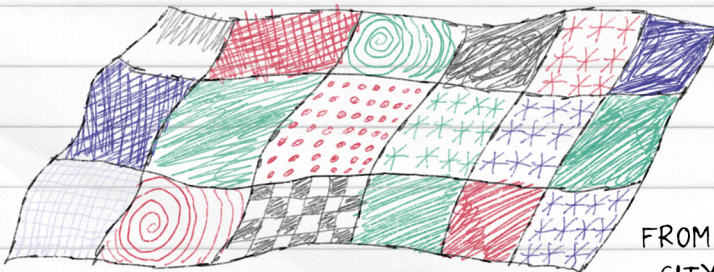
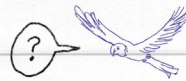
BUT SHE ALSO THINKS THAT IT IS A BIT WEIRD...



HMM... I'M NOT SURE...
IF NOBODY INTERACTS AND
PEOPLE DON'T MIX, WE
CAN'T SAY THAT THEY ARE
REALLY LIVING-TOGETHER,
CAN WE?



I THINK
I JUST SAW
AGA



FROM THE SKY THE
CITY LOOKS LIKE
ONE OF GRANDMA'S
PATCHWORK BLANKETS

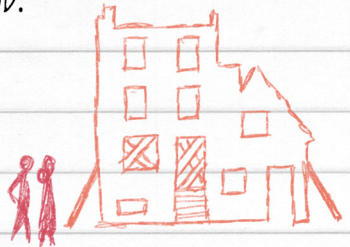
MILA TALKS TO A SCHOOL TEACHER WHO TELLS HER THAT IN ORDER TO FIGHT THE HISTORICAL DISCRIMINATION...

I SEE! THAT'S VERY INTERESTING!

THE PLAN WAS TO RECOGNISE THE CULTURAL DIFFERENCES OF THE DIVERSE COMMUNITIES SO THAT THEY COULD MAINTAIN THEIR CULTURES AND TRADITIONS



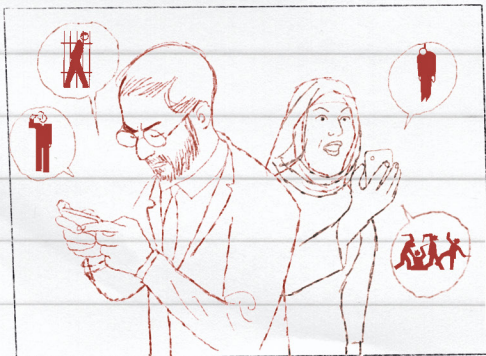
SO, ON THE ONE HAND, THE POLICIES ON HOUSING, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES STARTED TO BECOME MORE SPECIALISED AND ADAPTED TO THE NEEDS OF EACH COMMUNITY, BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS HAS ENCOURAGED PEOPLE TO CLUSTER IN CULTURAL GROUPS BY NEIGHBOURHOOD.



AND BECAUSE INTERCULTURAL INTERACTION IS MISSING, NEITHER BONDS NOR A SENSE OF SHARED BELONGING CAN BE DEVELOPED.



WITHOUT CONTACT, PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO REALISE THAT WE SHARE VALUES, INTERESTS OR NEEDS, AND THAT WE HAVE IN FACT MORE IN COMMON THAN WE HAVE DIFFERENCES.

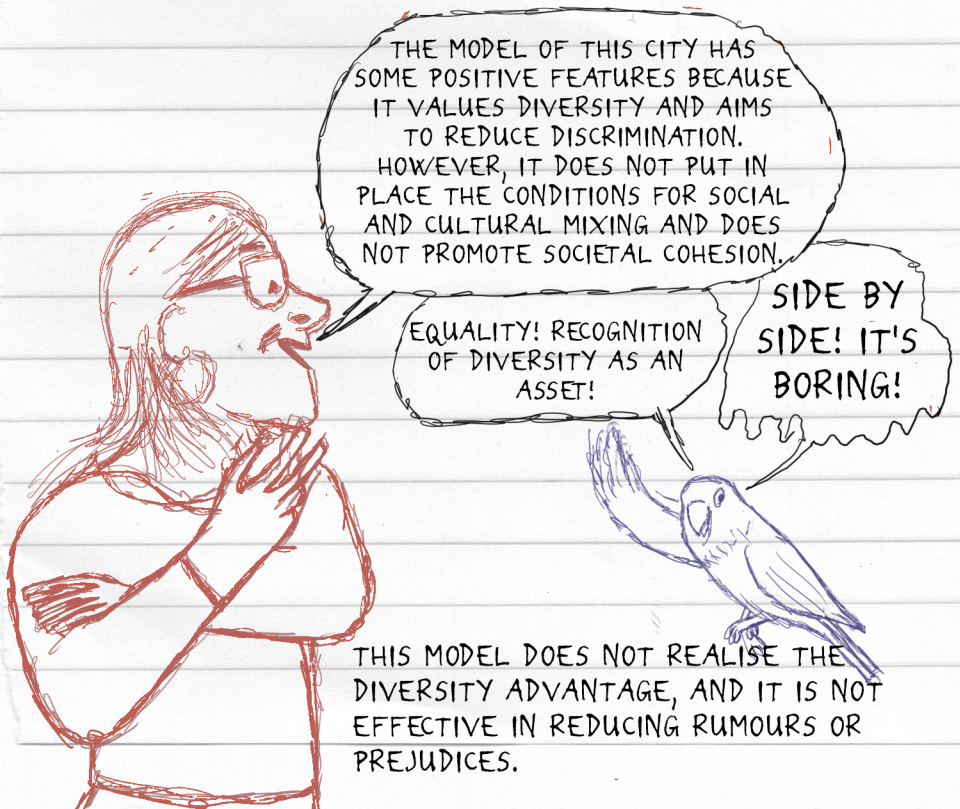


ALSO, SOMETIMES POLITICIANS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CITIZENS' PREJUDICE OR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE TO STIGMATISE CERTAIN GROUPS AND SCAPEGOATING THEM.

THIS SITUATION DOES NOT REALLY SURPRISE MILA BECAUSE SHE HAS SEEN IT IN OTHER CITIES TOO.



"WE NEED TO ADDRESS THE WAY IN WHICH SOME PEOPLE PERSIST IN STIGMATISING INDIVIDUALS AND/OR GROUPS DUE TO THEIR ORIGIN, SKIN COLOUR, SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY..."



SOME QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON:

- IN YOUR VIEWS, WHICH ARE THE BARRIERS TO INTERCULTURAL INTERACTION AND THE CREATION OF BONDS BETWEEN PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT ORIGINS AND BACKGROUNDS?

- WHAT TYPES OF ACTIONS COULD BE PUT FORWARD TO PROMOTE MORE MEANINGFUL INTERCULTURAL CONTACT AND INTERACTION, ON EQUAL FOOTING?

DURING THE TRIP MILA IS WRITING HER REPORT



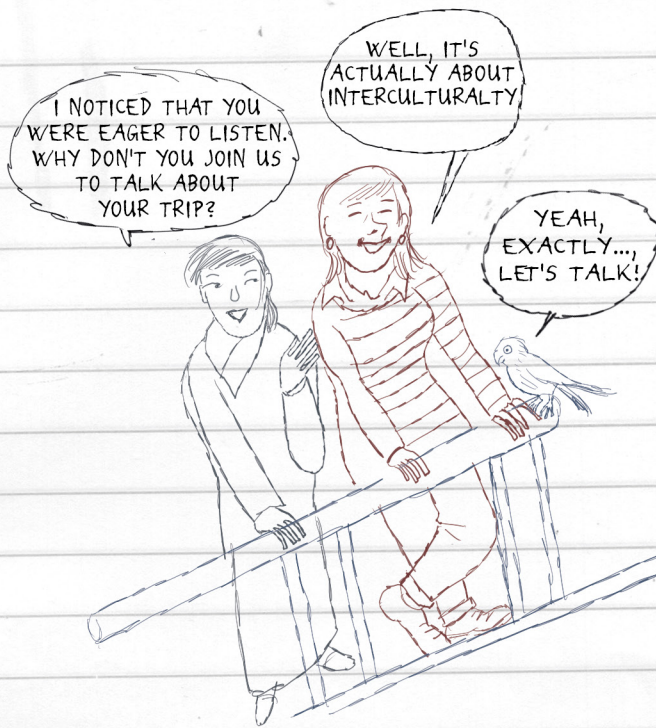
MILA AND MELO TAKE A WALK AROUND THE DECK



...THAT'S WHY
INTERCULTURALITY IS THE
MODEL THAT WE NEED TO
OPT FOR IN OUR CITIES FOR
LIVING TOGETHER WELL
IN DIVERSITY

DID YOU
HEAR THAT
MELO?

THEY'RE TALKING
ABOUT OUR TRIP.
HAVE THEY FOLLOWED
US? ARE THEY
SPIES?



THEY ARE COUNCIL OFFICIALS FROM DIFFERENT CITIES AROUND THE WORLD THAT ARE PART OF A PROGRAMME CALLED INTERCULTURAL CITIES, WHICH IS RUN BY THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.



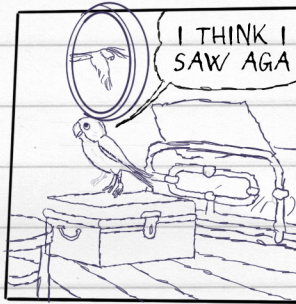
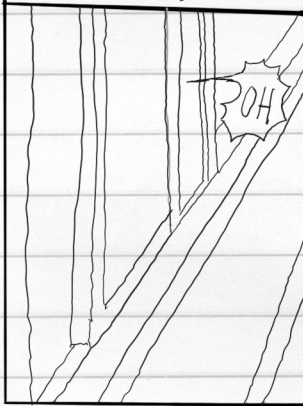
WE HAVE BEEN SHARING IDEAS AND STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE THE ART OF LIVING TOGETHER IN DIVERSITY AND TO PREVENT DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM FROM HAPPENING.



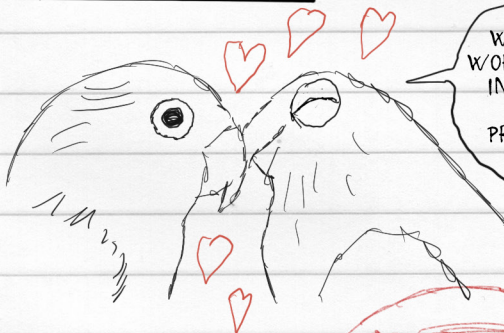
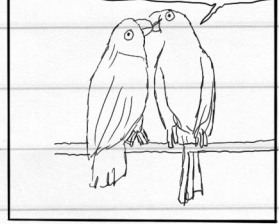
THEY ENGAGE IN A LONG AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING CONVERSATION ABOUT THE CHALLENGES THEY FACE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CITIES, AND SHARE PROJECTS AND POLICIES BASED ON THE INTERCULTURAL APPROACH.



THIS IS ALL VERY INTERESTING. I'M GOING TO WRITE THE REPORT TO MY MAYORESS AND I WILL EXPLAIN THAT OUR CITY HAS TO JOIN THE INTERCULTURAL CITIES NETWORK.



FINALLY, WE MEET AGAIN AGA, I NEED TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOMEONE



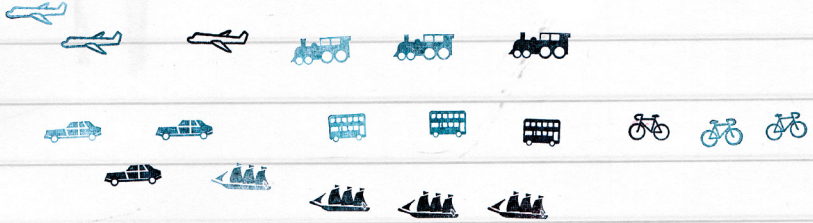
I AM SO EXCITED TO SEE YOU!!! WE HAVE TRAVELLED AROUND THE WORLD LOOKING FOR A CITY MODEL FOR INCLUSION. WE HAVE MET A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE DEVELOPING A PROGRAMME PROMOTING THE ART OF LIVING TOGETHER IN DIVERSE SOCIETIES.

OHH MELO, I'M SO HAPPY YOU FOUND AGA. NOW WE SHALL ALL GO HOME, BUT FIRST I NEED TO FINISH THE REPORT FOR OUR MAYORESS; WE CAN SPEAK LATER.



Agencia
alcaldesa

AFTER THE TRIP TO THE THREE CITIES TO LEARN ABOUT THEIR MODELS OF LIVING TOGETHER IN DIVERSITY, I REACHED THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS.



I BELIEVE THAT THE MODEL FOR LIVING TOGETHER IN DIVERSITY FOR OUR CITY NEEDS TO BE BASED ON AN INTERCULTURAL APPROACH WITH THREE MAIN PRINCIPLES:



1

THE PRINCIPLE OF REAL EQUALITY: EVERYBODY HAS THE SAME RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES, NOT ONLY ON PAPER BUT IN EFFECTIVE TERMS, COMMITTING TO DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY AND SPEAKING UP AGAINST RACISM, XENOPHOBIA AND ANY OTHER TYPE OF DISCRIMINATION.

ASHANTI



ALKA

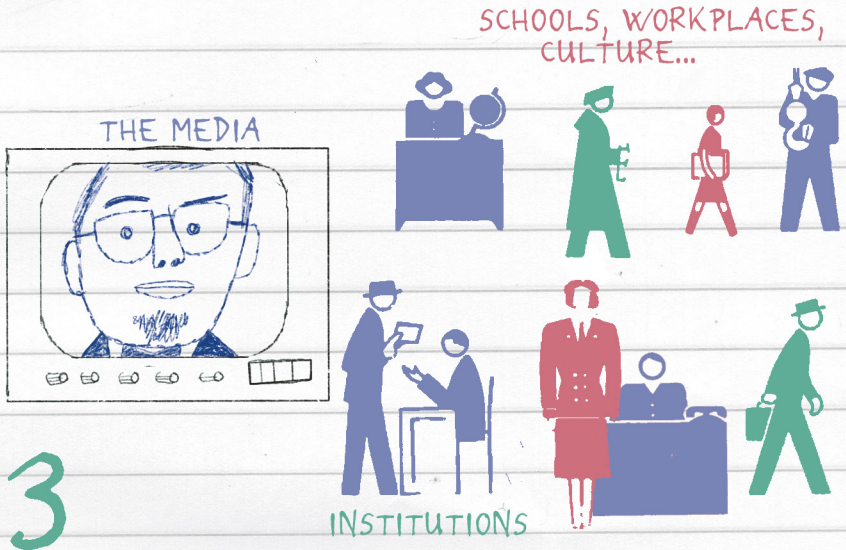


DAVID



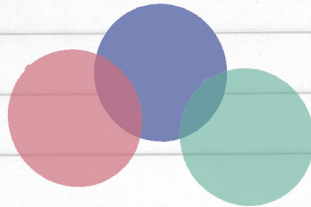
2

THE PRINCIPLE OF VALUING DIVERSITY: SOCIO-CULTURAL DIVERSITY IS A STRUCTURAL REALITY OF MOST CITIES AND THIS NEEDS TO BE RECOGNISED, VALUED AND MADE VISIBLE IN ALL AREAS AND AT ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY...



3

THE PRINCIPLE OF MEANINGFUL INTERACTION: IT IS FUNDAMENTAL THAT SPACES FOR INTERACTION, HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS, AND BONDS ARE CREATED AND ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH DIFFERENT ORIGINS AND PROFILES. THIS IS A CONDITION FOR SOCIETY TO BE ABLE TO DRAW ADVANTAGE OF DIVERSITY, BUILD ON SHARED VALUES AND HIGHLIGHT THE BONDS THAT UNITE, SO THAT WE CAN ALL LIVE WELL TOGETHER IN DIVERSITY.

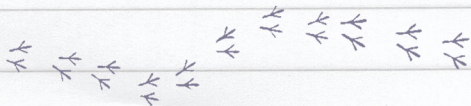


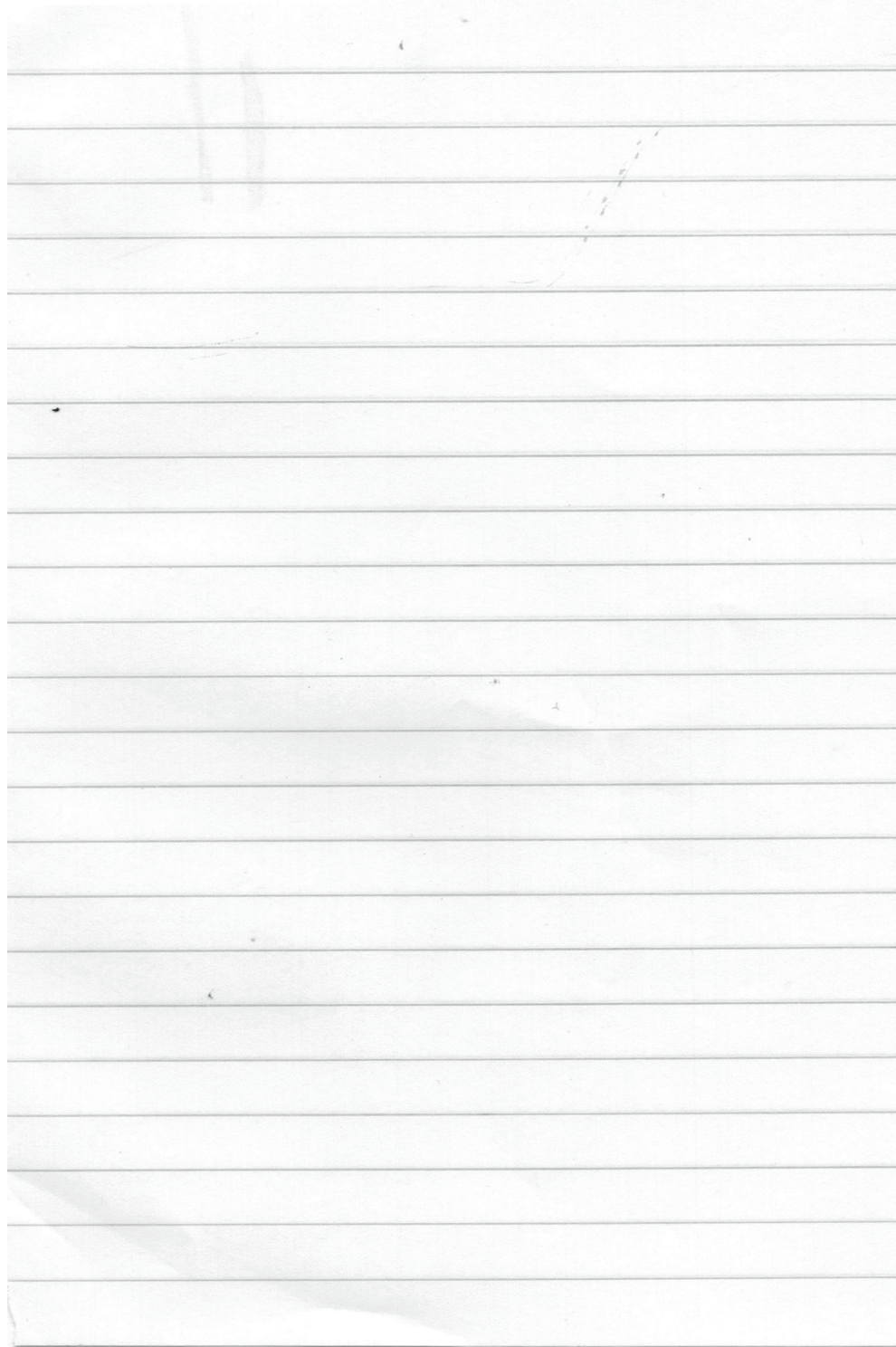
AND WE ALSO NEED TO GENERATE A SENSE OF BELONGING THAT WILL BOOST COHESION, CREATIVITY AND CRITICAL THINKING, AND THAT WILL ALSO REDUCE PREJUDICES AND MISTRUST.

IF WE DON'T WORK IN THIS WAY, MAYORESS, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AVOID DISCRIMINATION, EXCLUSION, SEGREGATION OR CULTURAL HOMOGENISATION, NOR WE WILL BE ABLE TO COUNTER POPULIST SPEECH THAT STIGMATISES AND SEEKS OUT SCAPEGOATS BASED ON DIFFERENCES OF ETHNICITY, ORIGIN, OR ELSE.

IN ORDER TO MOVE FORWARD IN THIS DIRECTION, I HAVE LISTED SOME RECOMMENDATIONS THAT I BELIEVE ARE ESSENTIAL:

- STRENGTHENING THE POLITICAL COMMITMENT TOWARDS INTERCULTURAL COEXISTENCE, AND REACHING A WIDE CONSENSUS ON DIFFERENT POLITICAL OPTIONS.
- WORKING IN ALL THE MUNICIPAL SECTORS: EDUCATION, CULTURE, URBAN PLANNING, ECONOMY, SPORTS, ETC... TO INTEGRATE THESE PRINCIPLES INTO ALL PUBLIC POLICY.
- WORKING HAND IN HAND WITH CIVIL SOCIETY, INCLUDING SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS, BUT ALSO WITHIN THE NEIGHBOURHOODS, WITH THE BUSINESS SECTOR, AND IMMIGRANT ASSOCIATIONS
- WE NEED TO BE COMMITTED TO DIALOGUE, TO BE FLEXIBLE AND CREATIVE; THERE ARE NO MAGIC SOLUTIONS, BUT WE NEED TO BE READY, INNOVATE AND TRY NEW THINGS.
- WE NEED TO SET OURSELVES SPECIFIC GOALS AND BE ABLE TO ASSESS WHETHER WE ARE MOVING FORWARD OR NOT; IN PARTICULAR: WE NEED TO COMMIT TO DIALOGUE AND CRITICAL THINKING. WE NEED TO LISTEN TO PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHOSE VOICES ARE NOT ALWAYS HEARD; WE NEED TO RETHINK A LOT OF THINGS AND REACH A NEW CONSENSUS TOWARDS RESPECT AND ADOPT A PRO-ACTIVE ATTITUDE WHILST BEING VERY OPEN TO CRITICISM.





AND LASTLY, I THINK IT WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT FOR OUR CITY TO JOIN THE INTERCULTURAL CITIES PROGRAMME RUN BY THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. IT INCLUDES A NETWORK OF MORE THAN 150 CITIES WORLDWIDE THAT SHARE MANY CHALLENGES BUT ALSO INTERESTING SOLUTIONS.

INTERCULTURALITY IS A LONG-TERM PROCESS, IT IS A JOURNEY THAT ISN'T FREE OF OBSTACLES; YET, IT IS A VERY WORTHY ONE AND IT WILL HELP US LEARN ALONG THE WAY... WE NEED TO BE CONSISTENT AND NEVER LET OUR GUARD DOWN!



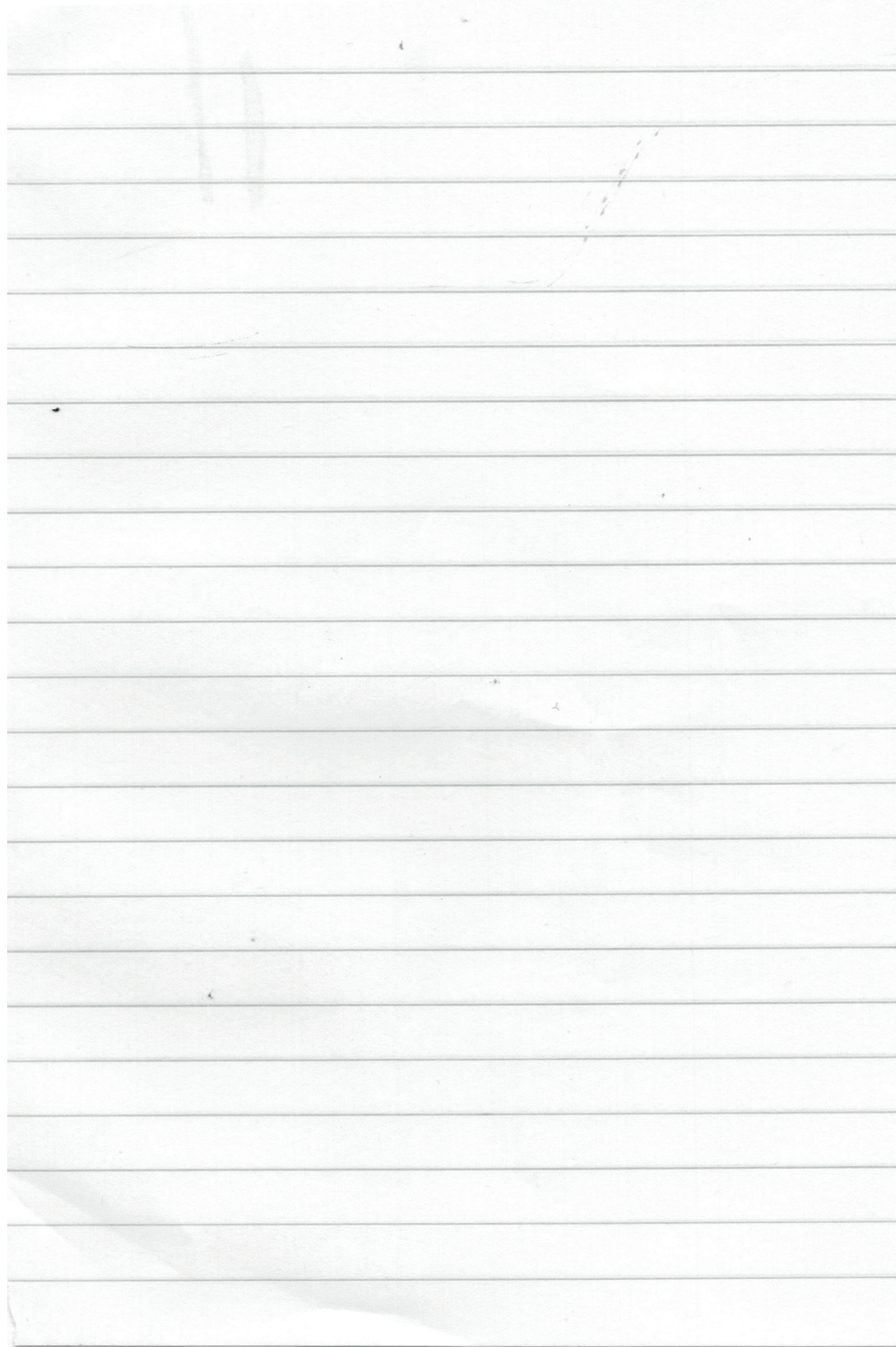
WHAT DO YOU THINK MELO?

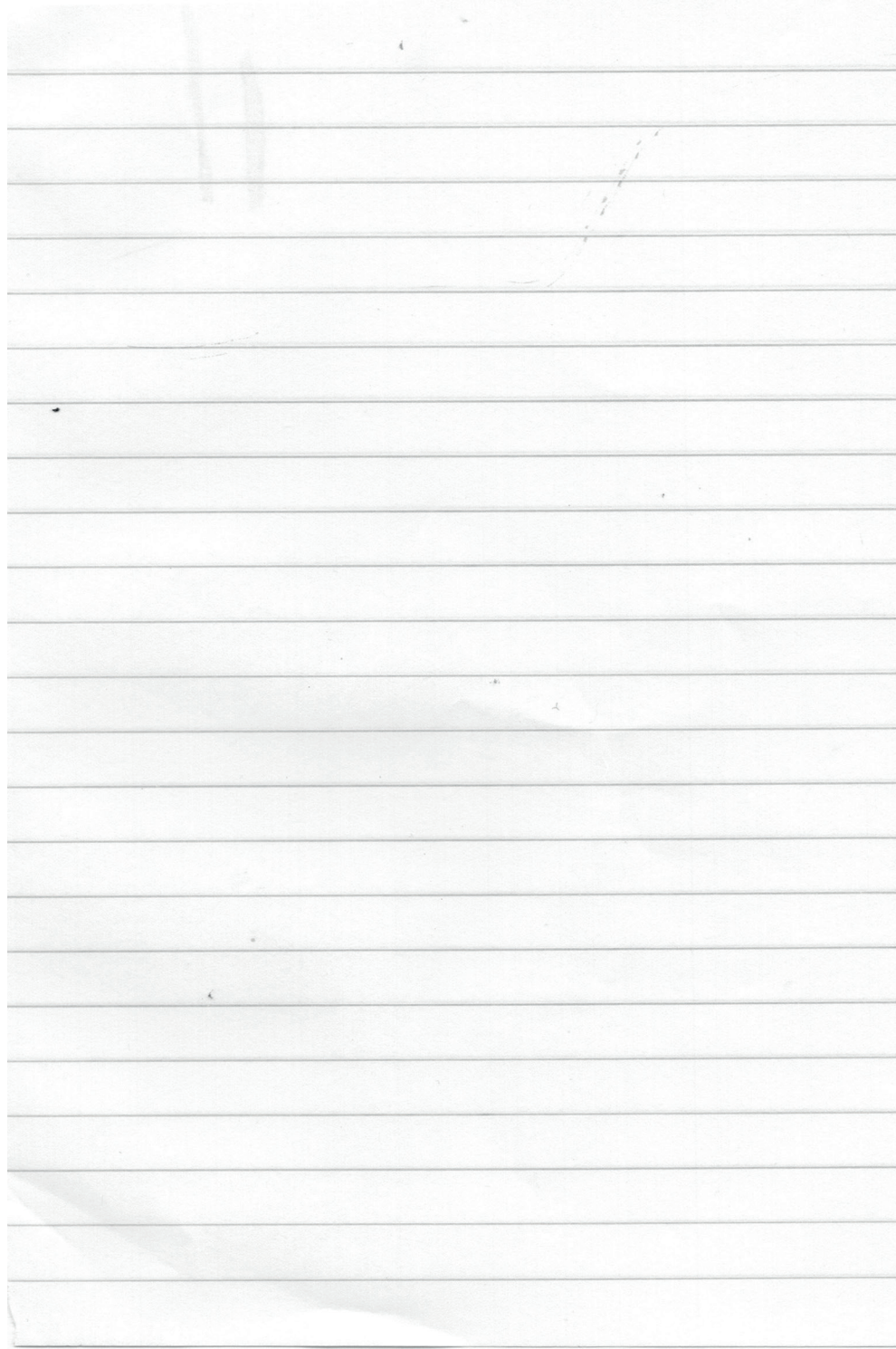
EQUALITY!
DIVERSITY!
INTERACTION!
I LIKE THAT AS A SUMMARY OF WHAT INTERCULTURALITY IS!

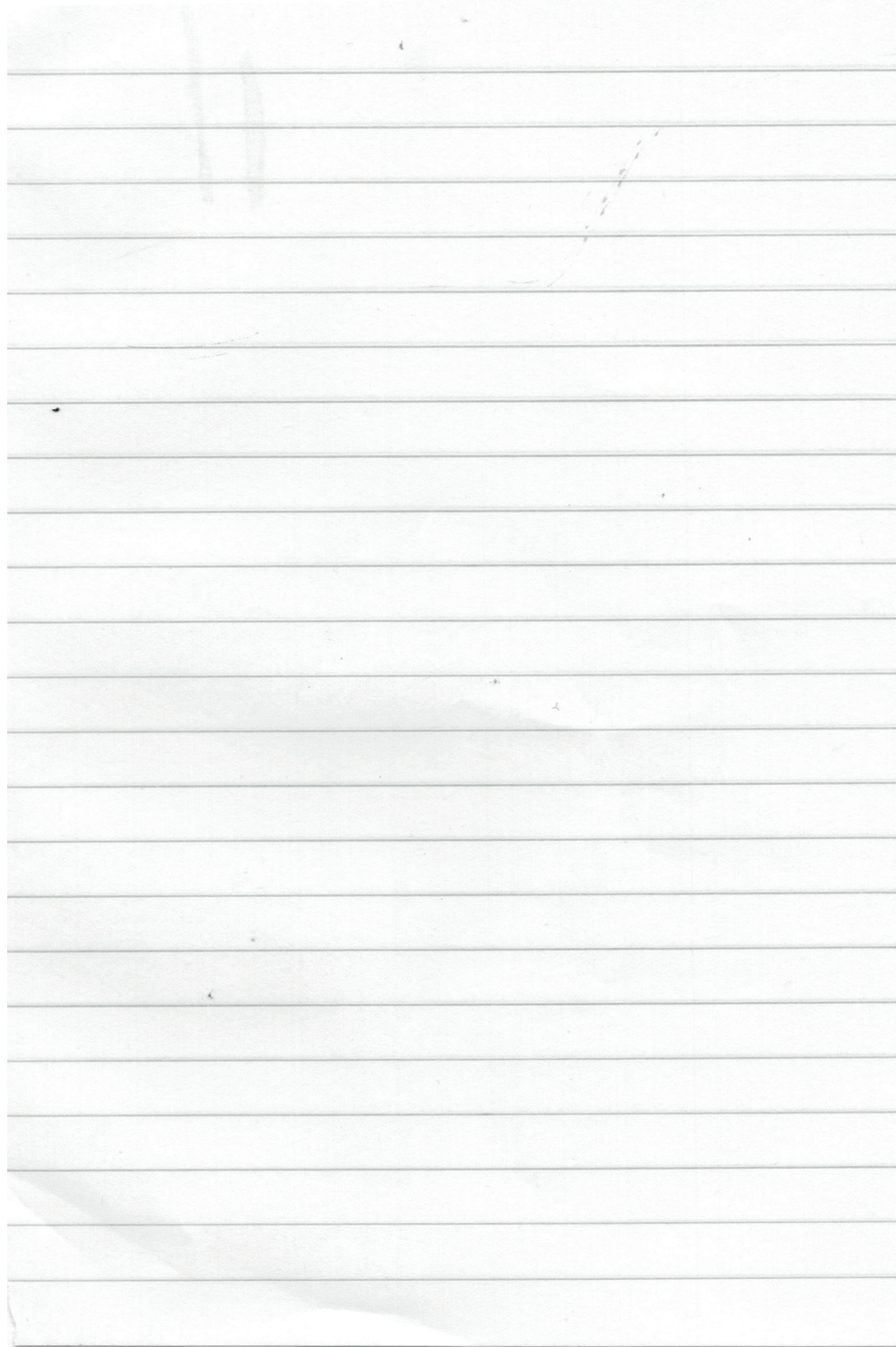
OH MELO! I'M SO HAPPY! THIS TRIP WENT REALLY WELL... AND I FEEL LIKE WE ARE EMBARKING ON A NEW TRIP, THIS TIME FOR INTECULTURALITY! AND WE'RE OFF TO SEE YOUR WONDERFUL AGA, LET'S NOT KEEP HER WAITING.

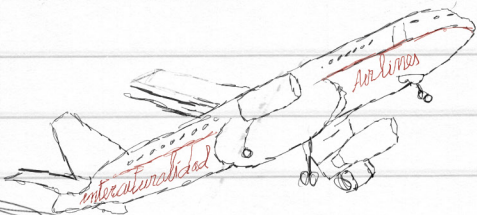
SOME QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON:

- COMMENT, ADD THOUGHTS, AND CRITICALLY QUESTION THE IDEAS AND RECOMMENDATIONS MILA HAS MADE... WHAT DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE LIVING TOGETHER IN YOUR CITY? WHAT DOES INTERCULTURALITY MEAN TO YOU?









WELL FRIENDS, WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ON OUR NEXT INTERCULTURAL CITIES' TRIP AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE CITIES MORE FAIR AND INCLUSIVE.

I FOUND AGA THANKS TO THIS TRIP. I KNEW THERE WERE LOTS OF ADVANTAGES IN INTERCULTURALITY! HAHA!

FROM NOW ON WE WILL BE INSEPARABLE AND WE WILL SHARE THIS JOURNEY TOWARDS INTERCULTURAL CITIES! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ON THE WAY!





TRAVEL BOOKLET FOR INTERCULTURAL CITIES



INTERCULTURAL CITIES