



LOCKDOWN LOST GENERATION... NO NOT US!

SUMMER 2020 WAS LIKE NO OTHER, SO YOU CAN IMAGINE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ALONGSIDE 12 OTHER PASSIONATE YOUNG PEOPLE ON A PROJECT THAT HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH REPRESENTATION AND THE ISSUES OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES FACE WAS INVIGORATING AND A WELCOME DISTRACTION FROM THE CHALLENGES THE PAST YEAR HAS BROUGHT US.

IT WAS A SURREAL EXPERIENCE MEETING THE COHORT AND WORKING TOGETHER FACE TO FACE IN THE “NEW NORMAL”, BUT WE ALL BONDED AND WERE ENTICED BY THE INCREDIBLE LECTURERS AT UCL! WE LEARNT ABOUT THE POWER OF GLOBAL PROSPERITY AND WHAT IT MEANT TO BE SOCIAL SCIENTIST RESEARCHING THE COMMUNITY.

WE WANTED TO BRING ATTENTION TO THE CHALLENGES OUR COMMUNITY FACES AND AT THE SAME TIME SPOTLIGHT THE AMAZING ASPECTS OF OUR AREAS. SO, WE SET OUT AND EXPLORED THREE DIVERSE AREAS IN CAMDEN, CLARKSON ROW, REGENTS PARK ESTATE AND SOMERSTOWN. IT WAS AN ENLIGHTENING INSIGHT FOR US ALL, YOU THINK YOU KNOW YOUR BOROUGH BUT EACH AREA HAS ITS OWN UNIQUE ATMOSPHERE AND VIBE! THE RESEARCH METHODS WE LEARNT SUCH AS “WALKING ETHNOGRAPHIES”, TAUGHT US TO HOME IN ON OUR FIVE SENSES AND DOCUMENT THEM TO PAINT A DETAILED PICTURE OF THE AMBIENCE AROUND US.

THROUGH TALKING AND INTERVIEWING RESIDENTS, THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY COHESION BECAME CLEAR, AND DISPLAYED HOW AREAS CAN THRIVE TOGETHER WHEN WE CONSCIOUS OF OUR OWN. MY EXPERIENCES ALLOWED ME TO RELATE AND UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTIES YOUNG PEOPLE IN CAMDEN ARE FACING.

I PRODUCED [A SHORT VIDEO](#) WHERE I EXPRESSED HOW ACCESS TO SERVICES, GREEN SPACES, LEVELS OF CRIME AND WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAY AN INTEGRAL ROLE IN RESIDENTS’ QUALITY OF LIFE. I ALSO BROUGHT ATTENTION TO THE WEALTH DISPARITY THAT CAN BE SEEN JUST BY LOOKING AT HOUSING ON THE SAME STREET AND THE TENSIONS THIS CAN CAUSE.

I NOW FEEL EQUIPPED AND AMBITIOUS TO TACKLE THE ISSUES WE IDENTIFIED VIA MY EVERYDAY PRACTICES AND PROSPECTIVE CAREERS. I HOPE TO STAY CONNECTED TO THE BRILLIANT PEOPLE I MET DURING THIS PROJECT.

