

the guardian

FAX

To: The High Commissioner
His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Asim
Maldives High Commission

No: 0207 224 2157

From: Emily Butselaar
The Guardian

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Date: 10/07/2008

Dear High Commissioner,

The Guardian newspaper has commissioned a project to photograph and interview - by September this year- a child from every country in the world living in the UK. The finished work will be published in the Guardian magazine and Channel 4 will be showing the pictures and extracts from the interviews in a series of mini documentaries.

Any assistance the Embassy could give in helping us to find a suitable child from the Maldives - whose parents would be interested in the project - would be much appreciated. Especially ways of contacting Maldivian expat community in London, are there any Maldivian societies or associations?

So far we have interviewed 144 children. The material collected will be a historical snapshot of the UK today; its tone will be upbeat, a celebration of diversity. We are travelling to all corners of the UK in search of children. The criteria are that they are aged between 0 and 16 (inclusive) and, *ideally*, that they were born in their native country, to both parents of that nationality ie to qualify as 'Maldivian', for example, they should have been born in Maldives to a Maldivian mother and father. If the children are very young, we just photograph them and record them telling me their name and the country they are from, no more. If they are older and speak English, I ask about what we could learn from their native country and what they miss, what their hopes are for the future

The photographs are very informal: a simple portrait or an image of the child doing something he or she enjoys. Caroline Irby the photographer usually spends 40 minutes to one hour total with each child. Please see attached the attached samples for an idea of how the project will look. If you'd like to see

some more examples of her work, please visit www.carolineirby.com – she is CRB checked and works regularly with children on assignments for organisations such as UNICEF, Save the Children, Oxfam etc.

Caroline is travelling to meet the children at their homes, schools or activity clubs, then taking photographs showing the children doing something normal for them: it could be eating, playing, riding the bus home, celebrating a festival or just a simple portrait. It takes around an hour of their time. Only their first names will be used in the magazine / on Channel 4 and the name of the school they attend will not be disclosed.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Best wishes

Emily Butselaar
The Guardian

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