

Dear MSA UK committee,

I work for the Guardian newspaper, the paper has commissioned a project to photograph and interview - by August 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.

So far we have interviewed 144 children but we have yet to find a child from the Maldives. I'm contacting MSA to ask for your help in locating a suitable child from the Maldives whose parents would be interested in the project.

The material collected will create 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 the Maldives to a Maldivian mother and father. Though its possible we might make an exception. If the children are very young, we just photograph them and record them telling us their name and the country they are from, no more. If they are older and speak English, we 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: 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](http://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. 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.

Any help the committee members could give us in locating a Maldivian child would be much appreciated. Especially ways of contacting Maldivian expat community, are there any other Maldivian societies or associations?

Thank you in advance for your help.

Best wishes

Emily

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