

## Migrant Photography Project, “Belonging”, Launches Exhibition in Shankill Library

**Opening night: 6:30-8:00pm, May 1 2014**

**Shankill Road Library, 298-300 Shankill Road, Belfast, BT13 2BN**

Belfast, NI -- The Belonging Project, a series of portraits and stories about migrants in Northern Ireland, begins a month-long exhibition at Shankill Road Library with an opening launch night on Thursday 1 May. Honored guests Junior Minister Jennifer McCann and Junior Minister Jonathan Bell will both be making opening remarks, as will NICEM Executive Director Patrick Yu.

Belonging is an ongoing collaboration between photographer Laurence Gibson and the Belfast Migrant Centre, and aims to encourage empathy toward migrant communities and promote inclusion in the Northern Irish community.

The exhibition, on view until 31 May, features twenty portraits of individual migrants, each holding a ‘memento’ that reminds them of their home country. Each portrait is accompanied by a recorded interview conducted with the participant about their journey to Northern Ireland and the significance of the chosen object. The multimedia showcase of the portraits and recordings offers a unique way for viewers to engage with the individuals’ stories.

A series of workshops on diversity, identity, and inclusion will be organized at the Shankill location, facilitated by the Belfast Migrant Centre staff and open to the community. The Belonging exhibit is incorporated into each session, helping to illustrate the diversity of migrant experiences.

Shankill Road Library is the third location chosen for the traveling exhibition hosted by Libraries NI, following a successful initial launch at Falls Road Library and subsequent exhibit at Ardoyne Library. For the month of June, Belonging will move to Derry Central Library to participate in Community Relations Week. Photo shoots for the project are ongoing and take place around the country. The project was recently awarded the Intercultural Arts Grant by Arts Council NI, and the Good Relations Grant by the Belfast City Council.



Shoes, Pakistan/N. Ireland. © Laurence Gibson 2014

See more at [www.thebelongingproject.org](http://www.thebelongingproject.org)

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