

Muminah Koleoso 31.01.26

Interviewer: Thanks for taking the time for this interview. For us to get started, can you please tell me your full name, where you're from and your previous roles with the Young Women's Movement?

Interviewee: Sounds good. So, my name is Muminah Koleoso. I'm originally from Nigeria, Yoruba, which is one of the main ethnic groups from Nigeria and I have since moved to the UK and grown up in different parts of England and Scotland. In terms of how I've been involved with the Young Women's Movement, I joined back in 2024. The first project that I worked on was the Young Women Lead Programme and as part of the programme, we co-designed a report on young women's democratic wellbeing in Scotland.

Interviewer: Thank you. So to get us started, we've got a few warmup questions just to learn a little bit more about you. Can you tell us how old you are?

Interviewee: I'm 24.

Interviewer: And when will you turn 25?

Interviewee: In July.

Interviewer: You've said that you've lived across different places in the UK and beyond. Can you give us a bit more of a detailed look at the different places you've lived?

Interviewee: So I was born in Lagos in 2001 and we moved to the UK in 2003. We first moved to Scotland and lived in Worcester and Stirling, then after a bit, we moved down to England and we lived in Hertfordshire. Then after that, we moved back up to Scotland and we've since lived in Glasgow. And oh, I realise every time I say this, so I've lived in Glasgow, Edinburgh and now Dumfries but when I moved to Edinburgh for uni, that was when my family moved to Dumfries. So during that time, I split my time between Dumfries and Edinburgh because during uni holidays and stuff, I'd live in Dumfries with my family and then also there was the pandemic during that time, so I spent a good long while in Dumfries. But then it's since I graduated that I've spent more time in Dumfries now.

Interviewer: And what was it that you studied at uni?

Interviewee: I studied computer science and maths.

Interviewer: Is that something that you still are interested in and use in your daily life?

Interviewee: I'd say yes and no, in the sense that I do have a sort of general interest in technology, and I'd say that's increased even more now, especially with all of the developments with AI. I think especially, funnily enough, for a little bit, I was not as interested. But now through a lot of the advocacy work that I've been involved in and seeing how a lot of the implications of AI technology and how that's really impacted, especially women's lives and stuff in the last, I would say last couple of years, I've been even more interested in it and seeing all the updates of this new law, this new development, etc. So, I've got quite a sort of area of focus there but in terms of my actual day to day work, not as much since I now mainly sort of operate in the media and literary arts space. So, it's more like I use technology a lot in the way that a lot of us do in terms of social media and that sort of thing but in terms of actually working with the sort of theory behind computer science and then, I guess, from a maths perspective, also not really like beyond, I guess, having to calculate things. And I guess sometimes from a transferable skills perspective, I suppose, like problem solving and stuff but yeah, I'd say computer science and maths is not as much part of my everyday since I graduated.

Interviewer: You mentioned there a wee bit about your current work. What is it that you do for a living at the moment?

Interviewee: So right now, I freelance as a journalist and content creator, I also write poetry and I host creative writing workshops. I also host my own podcast called Sister Station and I also work in advocacy as advocating for youth voice and women's rights as well.

Interviewer: Could you tell us a little bit more about your podcast, Sister Station?

Interviewee: So, the main aim of my podcast is to amplify the voices of black and Muslim women. As part of that, I hope to cover lots of different themes, everything from faith to culture, careers, creativity, community, etc. And I have a sort of mixed style approach to episodes, so I share some reflections on solo episodes, but I also mainly do guest episodes. So depending on the person that I'm featuring, it tends to be that each episode is quite unique because of everyone's different life experiences, both in terms of cultural background, the career that they have or education as well. So yeah, I try to vary things in that way so that there's some unique kind of experience and insight that the audience can gain from each episode as well.

Interviewer: And you use your podcast to talk about the advocacy work and you also look at more lighthearted content. I'm just wondering how it feels to create that content and be part of it as part of your advocacy experience.

Interviewee: I'd say it's been an interesting journey and I've enjoyed it so far because I'm really passionate about the ways that storytelling can be used to inspire people and inform people as well. And across different mediums, so from podcasting to writing and through other ways as well, that I think it's really important that there are spaces that people can share their stories and share their lived experiences, especially because when we look at mainstream media or the most popular forms of media and entertainment in different forms, that oftentimes there can be a priority to only share stories and experiences from one kind of narrow perspective. And so I think a part of my work that I'm very passionate about is making sure to kind of diversify things, show lots of different perspectives and experiences so that hopefully I can inspire other people and show them that they're not alone in the experience that they have and also to kind of help to further causes of making society a more inclusive space to accommodate everybody's different lived experiences and realities as well.

Interviewer: That's amazing, thank you for sharing that. I suppose that leads in quite well to discussing the Young Women's Movement itself. It would be great to hear about when you joined the organisation and what was the first project that you were involved with as part of the Young Women's Movement.

Interviewee: So I joined the Young Women's Movement back in 2024 and the first project I joined was the Young Women Lead Programme that year, YWL for short. Although now that I've said that out loud because I'm so used to using the abbreviation YWL like when I type about it, but then I realised as I'm saying it I think Young Women Lead is easier to say. So, the first programme I joined was the Young Women Lead Programme and as part of that we were researching into the theme that year which was democratic wellbeing. And democratic wellbeing has an official definition which I have forgotten off the top of my head but the way I usually explain it is that it's to do with the political participation of young women in Scotland, in democracy and politics, policy, that sort of area of things. And yeah, as part of the programme it was over about six months and we had about I think roughly like nine sessions and it was a hybrid programme. So, we had some online sessions as well as sessions in person split between Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee as well and we were fortunate enough that some of the sessions as well we had them in Scottish Parliament and it was through the Young Women Lead Programme that was the first time that I had ever visited Scottish Parliament. And I remember it was an interesting experience because I think one of the first things that struck me about

Scottish Parliament was just that it looks really cool because I was even there again recently and I just like how it looks inside. I think what's nice is that through the Young Women's Movement since then I've actually now lost count of how many times I've been to Scottish Parliament which is honestly something that I see as such a privilege that I'm really grateful for. That I like as a young woman, as a young black Muslim woman who is a first generation immigrant to this country, like feeling so comfortable and at home in the Scottish Parliament building and feeling like I can now have a say in this sort of sector of life and the policy and political space. It means a lot to me so yeah I'm really grateful that that sort of first introduction to the Young Women's Movement. Sometimes I don't really remember what happened first if I saw the advert for the Young Women Lead Programme on LinkedIn or if it was that a friend of mine sent the application to me but either way I learnt about it through both avenues. I remember I wasn't too sure about applying but I figured why not. Luckily the application process itself was also quite simple because I think if it had asked me to write a lot more potentially I might not have got around to it. But yeah, I just decided to throw my hat in the ring as they say and I'm really glad that I ventured out of my comfort zone in that way. Also, as I mentioned previously having a computer science and maths background and as much as I've now very much pivoted into a different area of work, I remember especially soon after graduating I was still kind of one foot in the STEM world, one foot out. So, I never really ventured into anything to do with politics as much as beyond having political opinions if that makes sense, so I remember feeling like oh I don't know if this is something that I could do with my limited prior experience. But yeah, I decided to go for it and I'm really glad because being part of the Young Women's Movement has been a big part of my journey, I'd say generally in life honestly for the past couple of years so yeah, I'm really glad.

Interviewer: That sounds really great, thank you for that. I was wondering with that focus on democratic wellbeing, how effective do you think Young Women Lead was at educating about what that is and then taking that forward into spaces like the Scottish Parliament to be able to make that difference? How effective do you think the programme was at making those steps towards improvement?

Interviewee: So I'd say if I focus on the perspective of sort of what I got out of the programme as a participant, I'd say definitely it was effective in the sense of I went from feeling like I didn't really know much about politics and policy and that was also just very generally not just in a Scottish context to by the end of it I felt a lot more confident being able to articulate my views in the space. Also, I felt a bit more knowledgeable, and I understood more about the Scottish political landscape and it also inspired me to want to pursue similar opportunities both within the Young Women's Movement but with other organisations as well. Yeah I'd say in that sense, the Young Women Lead programme has been very effective in sort of taking me from A to B in

that regard. I can't speak for other participants but just seeing what some of my fellow participants have also gone on to do as well within the space I think hopefully that it's had a similar impact for them as well, so yeah.

Interviewer: Thank you. You mentioned there about other opportunities within the Young Women's Movement, what were those other opportunities that you gained?

Interviewee: So, since finishing the Young Women Lead programme I had the opportunity to speak in Scottish Parliament at a Women's Parliamentary Commonwealth conference. I think it was the 11th one and this was last year and I gave a short speech that kind of summarised some of the main outcomes that we found in our research from the programme so that was one opportunity that followed on directly from that. As well as this, I've also participated in the inaugural co-design group for the inaugural Young Women and Democracy Summit that was held in September in 2025 as well because, I just realised that I said last year but depending on when people view this that might be any year from now, but yeah so this was September 2025 that I was able to participate in that as well. Also, in 2025 I've been involved in quite a few things actually because in May of 2025 I was also fortunate enough to attend the European YWCA study session that they host every couple of years and that was in Hungary. We were able to go as part of the YWM delegate, so it was me and I think, I can't remember the exact number of us but there were quite a few of us that attended and there were about 40 of us in total in that whole programme that had come from different parts of, from other YWCAs across Europe. The theme for that study session was peace building and human rights and gender equality if I remember correctly, so we had a full week of different workshops and talks and activities where we learnt more about human rights and peace building within the European context. Also, ways that we can take on our learnings and insights and use them to improve the work that we do in our various YWCAs when we go home to other parts of Europe, so that was my first sort of experience of being in the sort of advocacy and policy space in Europe on an international scale. From there I was also privileged enough to go to Brussels in Belgium as part of the 10th Agora, 10th European Women's Lobby Agora summer camp programme that they have been hosting for yeah so it was, they have been hosting it for the last 10 plus years, I think this year will now be the 11th year. Through that programme as well, the theme was violence against women and girls and we, a similar, like we had a similar set up to the EYWCA study session. We had like a week of workshops and lectures, also got involved in various different activities to learn more about how violence against women and girls manifests in different parts of Europe and also like, to gain skills and experiences that we can also take on to our work as well. Yeah, I think those are the kind of main experiences but I've also just generally as part of YWM, oh I forgot to say that when I went to the Agora summer camp I went with two other members of YWM as well. I was able to apply through being a member of YWM so, oh I think I

forgot the other thing I was saying, oh yes, so, I think those are the kind of main projects slash highlights since I joined. But I'm also just generally like, yeah like I just generally feel like part of the community now because there are other like sort of one off events that I've also attended and it's just been nice to, it's just been nice to like get involved in like other, other like yeah other opportunities as well. Also, just keeping up with all of the connections that I've made as part of YWM and yeah it's definitely been, it's definitely been one of my highlights of the last couple of years, and I look forward to hopefully being part of YWM for a long time to come.

Interviewer: That was all really nice to hear, it sounds like you've done so many amazing things, so many achievements. So, you spoke a bit there about you know community both within YWM Scotland and Europe, you know how important are those kind of communities and having those networks in terms of your wider kind of advocacy work?

Interviewee: So I'd say, sorry can you repeat the question?

Interviewer: Just if you could talk a little bit more about the kind of young women's movement community and how important that is for you to be part of, here in Scotland but in terms of your connections to you know the kind of European delegates as well.

Interviewee: So I'd say, I'd say having, like being part of this community and having the connections that I do now both locally and on an international scale, I think has definitely been a really big part of my advocacy journey. I think like one of the main things has just been seeing all the work that other people have done has really inspired me and also like I've learned a lot from their different experiences and skills as well. So I'd say like having those connections has really helped in that sort of way, and also being able to collaborate with the different people as well because like, for example, I'm hoping like on my podcast in the future to interview some of the connections that I've made via YWM. Also, on the wider scale as well, in the hopes to be able to like share their stories and just the same way that they inspired me I hope that my audience can also be inspired by their journeys as well. And like other sort of experiences have led on to being referred to like different resources and opportunities so there are like a few things that I've been able to sort of get involved in or like get to know just by nature of like meeting these different people as well, so yeah I'd say it's been beneficial in those ways.

Interviewer: And I suppose that goes on to a question on like how has the movement kind of influenced your life outside of the work that you do and just your daily life?

Interviewee: Day to day, I'd say, sometimes, like, I think it's funny because like I can, I can sometimes really zero in on certain details and any questions somebody asks me about like day

to day or every day, because my day to day is so different, I'm like where do I begin? But, um, I'd say, um.

Interviewer: I think we've been more as well like day to day as in like your, you know, your job and things like that like, you know. How has being involved in YWM and the, you know, the experiences like working in Parliament and going to Europe and all these things like, how does that kind of come back to your, you know, your work as a journalist and advocate like how does that kind of send back into your normal life outside of these specific opportunities?

Interviewee: That makes sense. Also, can we pause?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Interviewer: So your experience with the YWM, how has that impacted other areas of your career?

Interviewee: So I'd say that being part of the YWM, I have been able to get involved in quite a lot of different opportunities, as well as like, as part of that some of them have been written opportunities to, for example, writing for the blog and also, I was able to co-write a chapter with Jenny Snell on gender stereotyping. So, I co-wrote a chapter in a book that is hopefully set to come out soon, the book as a whole is looking at different aspects of young women, like issues affecting young women in Scotland. And as well as that, I've had a lot of public speaking opportunities as well, so from speaking at the Commonwealth Conference that I mentioned earlier to other opportunities to speak in Parliament as part of the co-design group for the Young Women in Democracy Summit. So through like, yeah, these different sort of opportunities and events, I've done work that has fed into my career overall and yeah, that sort of thing.

Interviewer: And there's been a few occasions where you mentioned, you know, the European events you've been to, so like the camp and the conferences. Could you describe those a little bit more and share a bit more detail on those experiences?

Interviewee: So as part of the EYWCA conference, we stayed in the European Youth Council. It was EYCB, if I remember correctly, but I'm trying to remember what each letter stood for but I think it was European Youth Council of Budapest. But yeah, we stayed in like one of the main buildings in Budapest that was part of the European Youth Council and that was our accommodation and also where we did most of our activities as well. And yeah, over the course of the week, there were like quite a few different things, so we attended like different

workshops that were hosted by different members of the various EYWCA's. So, the programme as a whole was hosted by or sorry, the programme as a whole was coordinated and organised by five, six, six members from different EYWCA groups from across Europe. And they, yeah, they coordinated the entire programme and they were also involved in like hosting some of the activities as well. We also heard from a couple of the programme participants, like sharing their different perspectives and teaching us about the various different topics that all have to do with human rights, peace building, women's rights in Europe. And as well as that, we also had a chance to explore the city as well. So, one of the programme coordinators, she led us on a tour of Budapest and as part of the tour, she highlighted the contributions of various Hungarian women in history and also in more modern times to different aspects of like across different industries and also in terms of advocacy and activism as well. And so that was, that was a nice opportunity to not only get to see more of the city, but also to learn a bit more about Hungarian culture and history as well. And even like outside of the programme, we had like quite a lot of, as in outside of the official programming, we had quite a lot of like sort of activities to socialise and just get to know other participants and have fun as well in that regard. And one kind of highlight of the experience that I had and the other members of YWM that I went with is that we formed what I've been colloquially referring to as the Scottish Belgian Alliance. Essentially, like we just formed a really strong bond with the members that had come from the Belgian YWCA of Antwerp that is known as LUCIS. And so yeah, now that we formed the Scottish Belgian Alliance, we actually have a group chat and everything and like since that sort of initial meeting, we like even before we left Budapest, like we were all saying how we need to meet up again and we have to do like a reunion and it's like, you guys have to come to Scotland, we need to see you in Belgium, everything. It's just been a really sort of full circle moment since then, because within 2025, we were able to do both to an extent. So when it came round to the Agora summer camp and me and two other members that had gone to the YWCA study session. So, when we found out that the Agora summer camp is in Brussels, that means that we have to find a way to also visit Antwerp whilst we're still there, because it's nearby so that we can see our Belgian sisters in Antwerp and so that was how we coordinated the whole thing. So when we finished up with the Agora summer camp, we spent the weekend in Antwerp and we were reunited with our Belgian sisters and then since then, a couple of the members of Lucy's came to visit us in Scotland and we were able to have a mini reunion there as well. So, yeah, it's just been really nice to maintain that connection that we formed. And even beyond that, we still have the sort of giant group chat of everybody that did the EYWCA study session and we're all still keeping in touch on social media as well. And apart from the reunions that I just talked about, there's been a couple of others in other parts of Europe and it's just really like, yeah, it's just been so beautiful to form that connection and to see it kind of grow beyond that as well.

Interviewee: And more specifically in terms of our experience with Agora. So, it had like a similar setup to the YWCA study session and as part of that programme, I was also able to co-host my own workshop. So we had a day where participants, so leading up to the programme, if I take us back a little bit, when we were applying as part of the application, we were able to mention if we wanted to get involved in hosting our own workshops and so I decided to. I was like, I might as well try it because I think probably if you ask me more and more about different things that I've done, especially the last year or two, there's so many things that I was like, oh, I might as well. But I just try different things that I, especially if maybe I have less experience, I'm like, because thankfully, the more I've been doing that, I've been having more and more positive experiences of it, so I feel a bit more comfortable to try new things in that sort of way. So, yeah, when it came leading up to the programme itself, each person that had made that pitch or proposal, we were paired off with a different participant. So quite a few of us, yeah, we made new connections that way because my partner for the workshop, she was from Italy and so it was really cool to get to know a bit more about her background and culture and everything as part of working together. And as much as we still had separate topics, so we kind of split the workshop into two and she hosted her half and I did mine, we still kind of coordinated our presentations a little bit in that regard. And yeah, I'd say it was an interesting experience for me because as much as I do have, as much as I have delivered workshops before, this was my first time delivering one in the world because so many of them I've either done online or like in the UK. So now I was like, you know, in a completely different context and also, yeah, it was it was an interesting experience and I'm really glad that I had that opportunity as well. And I think, yeah, that's honestly, honestly, I could talk about Agora and EYWCA for like a good while but yeah, I'd say those are like some highlights.

Interviewer: That sounds so fun. It sounds like a really impactful experience for you. I have a question about these kind of international events and conferences you've been to, were there differences and similarities between the topics and issues that each kind of delegation were bringing from each country in regards to women's experiences?

Interviewee: So I'd say that was definitely one of my key takeaways, so to speak, that it was just so, so interesting to see how much was similar across our different contexts and experiences, because in both across both programmes, we were a very diverse cohort. So, not only did we come from different parts of Europe, but a lot of us were like a lot of participants had similar backgrounds to me, i.e. having immigrated from other parts of the world as well, so we had a really big mix of cultures in that way. And it was, it's like I always feel about it in two ways, it was the same when we'd be sharing our different experiences and areas of expertise that part of me, it was like a little bit sad to hear that, wow, so we're all facing so many of the same problems. It's like same problems, different thoughts, i.e. yes, it might manifest with slight

variations based on people's different cultural contexts and backgrounds but the same kind of underlying issues, it's generally like a lot of us are all facing the same things. But then on the flip side, there is a kind of element of solidarity that we can kind of be unified in having like the same goal and the same cause to help improve the lives of young women and women in general as a whole across our different cultures all over the world and that being something that brings us all together. So I tried to hold on to that side of things as well but yeah, that was that was my experience. Like, do you want me to talk about some of the issues like specifically or?

Interviewer: If you'd like to, if you've got anything to add, that would be great.

Interviewee: I guess, I guess like one, the main one, I think that sort of springs to mind is just sort of if you think in like social, social context, like the expectations of women, like especially from a young age, like how so many of us have either experienced or witnessed being treated so differently to boys and men. And yet the kind of expectations of what you should aim for or aspire to in life and a lot of the time it tends to have a lot more constraints and limits to it, like in terms of education, career, etc. I think it was just really interesting to see how so many of us, like literally regardless of country, background, et cetera, had all like either experienced it personally or witnessed it. And, it was still such a widespread issue, especially in Europe, given the fact that when we were learning about different sort of like when we were going over like different pieces of sort of research or statistics that would talk about like aspects of sort of gender parity and like comparing sort of where different countries were, for example, that if this makes sense, even the most progressive, even the most advanced country was still having these issues in a very tangible way. So, in short, that again, it's that like feeling that I have on the two sides that it can be so disheartening to see that, yes, we've made so much progress like if we compare our experiences now to a lot of women in history, there's, there's so much work to do. And I think, yeah, like so much work to do in making sure that women across different areas of different socioeconomic backgrounds, different class cultures, etc. like regardless of where you live and what your background is, like making sure that we all have equal opportunities to education, to different career progression, etc. all these kinds of things that really affect quality of life. But yeah, just the more I'm exposed to like different research and different stories and all of these sorts of things, like it further kind of motivates me and inspires me that there's still there's still work to be done and that's something that I feel very strongly about.

Interviewer: And that work that we need to continue focusing on, what are the kind of things that we should be looking at, particularly the young women's movement? What is it that we should be focusing on in terms of future progress?

Interviewee: I'd say I'd say probably two key areas. I mean, there's so many, but I think one would be in terms of I think in terms of like safety. I realised that safety is such a big thing because it affects like all aspects of your life and the fact that both in like, if I think, for example, the two contexts of online and offline. So, if you think offline, like in the real world, like there's so many issues affecting the safety of women and girls, like from in school, public transport, like different aspects of like different areas of society and we're seeing so many issues with sexual assault and violence against women and girls and stuff. And, so many people talk about not feeling safe in all these different environments, which really affects our ability to be able to engage in public life and other contexts as well. So, I think a big area of focus should be helping to make society more safe for women and girls so that like we don't have to worry about these sorts of things. And I think, oh, I remember now that was that was like more offline and then online as well, because we are engaging more and more in digital contexts, especially like if we look at social media and there's been such like a big rise in, there's been such a big rise in like online harassment and misogyny, etc. and it's sad to see how so many like, yeah, so many women and girls have been affected by this. And, you know, so many feel like they've had to reduce their participation in online spaces to protect themselves and it's just like, it's just sad to see. I feel a big sort of area of focus going forward should be just the same way as helping to make offline spaces more safe and more welcoming, that the same should be done for online spaces as well, so that there is more like, yeah, there is more space for women and girls to feel comfortable in expressing themselves, expressing like any views and opinions. But in particular, like in political spaces as well, without feeling like they're going to get harassed or attacked in all of the awful ways that that has been happening. So, yeah, I'd say I'd say safety is probably a really big issue amongst other things, because there's so many issues beyond like access to education and also like career wise in terms of limiting the gender pay gap. So many, so many things. But yeah, I think safety is the one that really comes out, stands out to me, yeah.

Interviewer: And what are maybe the kind of strategies that we can use to start targeting those kind of key areas?

Interviewee: So I think, I think one approach could be generally raising awareness in a way, because I think, especially as like we've seen in some statistics and research that like a lot of women and girls have lived experience of all of these different issues. But then like other people in society, especially in positions of power, sometimes especially in sort of male dominated spaces, can be somewhat unaware of not necessarily just the issue, but maybe the extent of it. So I think, raising awareness and more kind of campaigning to show that this is like these are personal issues and to show how like much it's like affecting society that I think, that strategy can hopefully be effective in helping to kind of influence people in power to show

them that this is something that they should focus on and implement things to change them as well. And I think also, just ways like, finding ways to help support women and girls that are affecting, that are affected by these issues, so again, raising awareness, but in a different way to like sort of highlight that areas of support and like sort of resources and ways that they can they can sort of look after themselves. And, like on the scale of things, like sort of, for example, making adjustments to the ways they use like social media so that like they feel more comfortable maybe like showing ways that they can like, for example, curate their algorithm or like sort of block and report accounts, etc. but also in bigger ways that, maybe ways that they can advocate for themselves. Also, like if they need to in certain like more dire situations, maybe seek legal help and all of these kinds of things, because I think, like, especially in this day and age, especially with the Internet and like I know I'm guilty of this personally, but I think in general as well, like we can just kind of assume that like there's all this knowledge out there. There's so many resources and so everybody just knows how to do things and what to do but I think a lot of the time we kind of take that for granted and we forget that actually as much as all the information is there, it's two things. One, you don't always know where to look, where to start and then there's also so much misinformation and fake news and so many things. So, I think like it's a good place to be if the young women's movement can be like somewhere where young women and girls in Scotland know that, OK, I can go here to find useful resources. I can like, this is a place that I can feel safe and supported to like, yeah, in different aspects and areas of my life as well, so, yeah, I think that's yeah, I think those are like effective strategies.

Interviewer: And so, in terms of kinda next steps for yourself and your own kinda goals as a creator, what are those next steps and aspirations for you?

Interviewee: So I'd say that I have, I have a lot of goals and I have a lot of projects that I'm working on and things that I want to do but I'd say maybe like the three main ones right now is that one, I want to be a published author. So I'm working on writing a few things, but mainly now I'm working on a novel and poetry collection as well, so, yeah, I hope that in the near future those will be out in the world for people to read. And another main goal of mine is to grow my podcast, I'm hoping to interview more people, release more episodes, hopefully grow the audience and have more listeners. And really, I'd say the third goal that I have that is kind of tied in with that is to really sort of build a community and expand beyond the podcast and also to really have, yeah, really have like an active and engaged community like in offline spaces as well, also be able to like host events where people can connect over shared interests and stuff like that. I feel especially in this day and age that sometimes there are so many, there's so many ways that we can feel like quite isolated and disconnected and as much as there are ways to connect in online spaces like through social media and podcasts and the like, I really also want

to be able to, through the podcast, find ways to bring people together. And yeah, that sort of thing.

Interviewer: I have no more questions for you. Kelly, do you have anything to add?

Interviewer: Yeah, so I think given that you mentioned it when you started and also it's just something that's happened recently, you've been included on the YWM 30 under 30 list. So, I guess it's just, what does that mean for you and what impact do you think that will have kind of going forward for you?

Interviewee: I, so I'd say that being recognised as part of the 30 under 30 list. Yeah, it means a lot to me to be recognised in this way, mainly because, like, since the Young Women's Movement has been a big part of my journey these last couple of years, it feels nice to have that kind of recognition. Yeah, to have that recognition, sort of, quote unquote, be part of the furniture now, so to speak. And yeah, I think another part of that is that I hope that other young women and girls, especially those from a similar background to me, can see me on the list and think that that could be them one day as well. Because, I think that phrase is like, be the change you want to see, that it can be a lot easier to feel more comfortable pursuing different goals that you have when you see other people doing similar things. And, I think especially given my non-linear path in terms of, like, career trajectory from studying in STEM and then going more into like an arts media type route and now also working a lot in advocacy and especially not having as much of a prior, not having much prior experience in that area of things. I think, yeah, I very much like to think of things from the perspective of if I can do it, you can do it too kind of thing. So, I really hope that I can inspire other people with my journey as well. And in terms of, like, the impact that I see this having sort of in the future, not to be cliché, but it's like, quote unquote, whatever the future holds, like, I'm just, like, Alhamdulillah, I'm like, I'm just very grateful for like where I am now and I feel very hopeful about the future, like, given everything that I've been able to achieve so far. And yeah, I'm really thankful for all of that and I just hope that as I keep going that I'm able to benefit from more and more opportunities and I have more opportunities to share all of this with other people and those around me, my community, etc. So yeah, that's, that's how I feel.

Interviewer: Alright, brilliant. Well, thank you for your time. I think it's been a really good conversation for all of us, a lot of really interesting experiences, a lot of really interesting insight to different things. So, I think we'll wrap up there. Do you have anything that you want to share before we finish? Any questions for us?

Interviewee: Um, nothing specifically, I guess just, yeah, thank you for interviewing me and yeah, that's everything.