

The Mic Drop - Season One, Episode Nine: Jansie

Mohammed [00:00:00] Hello! Another session of The Mic Drop podcast. I'm Mohammed, call me Mo. I work with the people seeking asylum and refugees. And I've been involved with the Many Hands One Heart, a supporting group for the LGBT+ people seeking asylum, refugees and I'm interviewing Jansie, who is a member of the Many Hands One Heart, a relatively new member. I know she's been coming to our meetings for the last six or seven months, but she's basically relatively new. Obviously, what do you think about Many Hands One Heart? That's the first question I've got to ask you. Has it been any help for you or...

Jansie [00:00:45] Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. When you come here and you just come and take some of your stress out, talking to your friends, meet and always have new friends, meeting, talking, some few things to do

Mohammed [00:00:58] And you meet other people. Do you wish that you could have those meetings on a more regular basis?

Jansie [00:01:02] Yes.

Mohammed [00:01:04] Just tell us a little bit about yourself Jansie, where do you come from? How old are you?

Jansie [00:01:12] I'm 41, I'm from Namibia.

Mohammed [00:01:14] You don't look it, I mean you don't look 41!

Jansie [00:01:17] I have one daughter, which I gave birth in Southport.

Mohammed [00:01:22] How old is your daughter?

Jansie [00:01:23] She's turning 18. She is at the college at the moment.

Mohammed [00:01:29] Obviously, because you're a member of the Many Hands One Heart, so you're a member of the LGBT+ community, are you lesbian?

Jansie [00:01:37] Yes.

Mohammed [00:01:39] You identify yourself as a lesbian. Does your daughter know about your sexuality?

Jansie [00:01:44] She knows yeah because like, when I was back home, like, you know, when we started like, I started when I was at school because not in our school because since I'd grown up I was like wearing all the time like men's clothes, trainers and all stuff in then my mom was, she was aware like something maybe was going on with me but because I was playing between girls today and tomorrow boys and I used to play football a lot as well. And then like so she said like in our tribe we have like cousins, you can date your cousin in those stuff like. And then my my my uncle like she was forcing me to go out with my cousin and then end up like raped me and get pregnant. And then when I get that this way, I, like, decided to move to England.

Mohammed [00:02:31] Ah that's when you came to England?

Jansie [00:02:32] Yeah so I came pregnant here and I gave birth and...

Mohammed [00:02:36] Oh, your....sorry, so you got pregnant back home or did you get pregnant...

Jansie [00:02:41] No I get pregnant back home but when I give birth here in this country because I came here pregnant.

Mohammed [00:02:49] Ah I see, Well, let's go back, when you were like a teenager, you played football you said, you know, did you know that you were different from other girls, you know?

Jansie [00:02:59] Not quite, well, because I was in between between girls and boys sometimes. But sometimes I was just like always stay with the boys, hang around, like the way...

Mohammed [00:03:08] But were you are attracted to the boys?

Jansie [00:03:09] Yes.

Mohammed [00:03:10] You're sexually attracted to the boys.

Jansie [00:03:13] No, to the girls and the boys both. Because sometimes, yeah yeah

Mohammed [00:03:16] And when did you have... When did you realise that you were a lesbian?

Jansie [00:03:22] When I was 14.

Mohammed [00:03:23] Do you want to tell us a little about how you realised? Or? No OK, that's OK. So you came here to UK and you were pregnant and what was your, like, life then? Was it easy for you? Was it difficult, did you come with a visa?

Jansie [00:03:41] Yeah, we came way with working holiday visa. They give like two and a half years to work. So I was working but I found out myself when I was like six month pregnant and it was a little bit late. So in seven months, because I was working in a cold place and then they said like my baby couldn't grow up again just because of the cold and stuff, so by seven months I did cesarean because the baby wouldn't move and wasn't growing so I have like an early birth and...

Mohammed [00:04:16] Did you go back to work?

Jansie [00:04:18] After. Yeah. Yeah. I give birth November, then in January I took my baby home to my parents because I couldn't work because there was no one taking care, so I have to take her back home to Africa.

Mohammed [00:04:31] So your parents, that's a good subject, do they know about your sexuality?

Jansie [00:04:37] They did yeah.

Mohammed [00:04:38] How do they react to that?

Jansie [00:04:40] Because, you know, they can't do, you know, because in our culture is not allowed. Yeah. So.

Mohammed [00:04:48] And it's illegal as well?

Jansie [00:04:49] Yeah. They couldn't do anything.

Mohammed [00:04:53] And so were they happy or did they get angry with you or..

Jansie [00:04:59] Just my mum couldn't do anything, but my uncle was not happy, he was 'why you allow her to do this?' and she said 'what can I do?' Just like that.

Mohammed [00:05:09] And you know your life in UK. Did you have any relationship, were you with anyone?

Jansie [00:05:17] I was with one, but then she went back home and after she went to Canada, where we used to communicate very well. But now we stop because she moved on with life and that stuff yeah.

Mohammed [00:05:29] And where do you live in UK?

Jansie [00:05:31] Me?

Mohammed [00:05:32] Yeah.

Jansie [00:05:32] Soutport.

Mohammed [00:05:33] So how long you been there in Southport?

Jansie [00:05:36] Because I go in and off, I came there 2002.

Mohammed [00:05:40] Where were you before that?

Jansie [00:05:42] Norwich.

Mohammed [00:05:42] Ah you were in Norwich. I went to Norwich when I was about 17. I went to learn English there.

Jansie [00:05:49] Yeah it's a very big city.

Mohammed [00:05:53] When did you apply for asylum?

Jansie [00:05:57] Because, my story is long. You know, when they catch me, it's like I was working, living and then the police catch us and then they detain us. So I live in detention centre for two months.

Mohammed [00:06:13] Where was that?

Jansie [00:06:15] In Bradford, is it Bradford? Yeah. I had to live there for two months.

Mohammed [00:06:20] With your child?

Jansie [00:06:21] No, my child was back home that time with my grandmum. So when I was there, my grandmum was like, not well that moment, so I have to a call from home like she's not well, I have to go back home, so I withdraw my case. I have to go home. I went home in, it was 2009. She died that year. So in 2012, then I come back again. I came on my own, I leave my daughter with my friend for one year and then I bring her over here with me. So when I came here, I didn't claim asylum I was just like doing hair and those stuff and then...

Mohammed [00:07:05] Working illegally?

Jansie [00:07:06] Yeah. So then was it 2018, yeah, where the police come in Southport. They were looking for me. I don't know why. They didn't tell me why they were looking for me. So that's why I put my case again for asylum seek.

Mohammed [00:07:28] Just let's go back to when you were in the detention centre, what was it like, were you scared or what was it like for you?

Jansie [00:07:36] Not scared, but it was too much stress.

Mohammed [00:07:39] It was a stress. You didn't have any sort of like, there was no television.

Jansie [00:07:45] There is! There was television. There was a library room where you can go for Internet, there was a gym. There was a lot of stuff to do, you know, but church like Sundays every afternoon to go and pray. But still stress there, because you're just indoors.

Mohammed [00:08:01] What does, what does your daughter do here, is she studying?

Jansie [00:08:04] Here. Yeah. Yeah. She's doing nursing yeah, healthcare.

Mohammed [00:08:09] What is your plan. What do you think is gonna happen to you if you get your, get this status?

Jansie [00:08:16] Ah I can't wait, I don't know...

Mohammed [00:08:19] So your case was rejected is that right?

Jansie [00:08:21] First yeah

Mohammed [00:08:22] And then you appealed?

Jansie [00:08:23] Yeah I appealed and I'm waiting, I was supposed to go last week for fresh claim, I didn't go because I was...

Mohammed [00:08:29] Have you got solicitors?

Jansie [00:08:31] Yeah I got a private one. So I'm just waiting for Shereen to come back and then some waiting for my letters from back home and then..

Mohammed [00:08:42] I think someone from Sahir House rang me, emailed me saying, can you do a letter, I said, well, yeah, you've got they've got all the records.

Jansie [00:08:51] I don't know why, they just say they couldn't help me, if Shereen will not come back who is going to help us then?

Mohammed [00:08:56] Exactly. I think hopefully she will. But if not, then you have to ask someone else to give you a letter.

Jansie [00:09:02] If Shereen can't give me a letter who can do it for me then?

Mohammed [00:09:06] I don't know.

Jansie [00:09:07] Yeah. Because someone said like they don't know me. That's why they can't provide me any letter I have to wait for Shereen. Was it you who was supposed to call me?!

Mohammed [00:09:17] No no no, I can't write, my letters supporting letter is totally different from, you know what, Sahir House write a letter you're a member of the Many Hands One Heart and they basically confirm that, you know, in their opinion, you're lesbian, whatever. I cannot do that, I will just talk about how I know you in regards to mental health and stuff like. Anyway, it's not about let's just talk about something else, you know. Do you still interested in football?

Jansie [00:09:46] Yeah, just because... I'm a Chelsea fan. At the moment I broke my ankle so it's...

Mohammed [00:09:53] Oh. Did you used to play here as well? Football. Do you play football.

Jansie [00:09:56] Just sometimes with my...

Mohammed [00:09:58] Because there is a women's...

Jansie [00:09:59] Yeah. Yeah, they're in Liverpool. Yeah.

Mohammed [00:10:03] What. Where do you play as a striker, defence, goalkeeper, midfielder?

Jansie [00:10:09] Goalkeeper.

Mohammed [00:10:11] Are you?!

Jansie [00:10:12] Yeah.

Mohammed [00:10:12] Anyway, thanks very much for your time. And I don't know if you want to add anything else you want to say anything else about, you know...

Jansie [00:10:21] No I don't think so..

Mohammed [00:10:22] Okay. Thank you.

Jansie [00:10:22] You're welcome.