

HACKNEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Action
ESOL for



ESOL STUDENT
VOICES

To whom it may concern:

In this booklet a selection of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) students from Hackney Community College write about their backgrounds and what ESOL is helping them to achieve. They would like you to read about their lives and to try to understand how important learning English is to them.

In the light of the proposals to charge 'inactive' unemployed adult students to study ESOL, many colleges across the country are facing the prospect of turning a considerable number of eager learners away because they cannot afford the fees. A recent internal survey at Hackney College has shown that 75% of current ESOL students will be unable to pay the predicted fees for next year.

The change in eligibility for fee remitted ESOL classes will have a dramatic impact on over 1000 adult learners who take ESOL qualifications at the College. The classes are predominantly attended by women, many of whom have childcare responsibilities or are spouses of those on low incomes. 74% out of 435 learners surveyed would not qualify for subsidy when the proposed changes go through and women would clearly be disproportionately affected. Only 23% out of 351 female students would qualify under the new regime compared with 36% of men.

The social and economic impact of this massive withdrawal from education shouldn't be underestimated.

The economic value of ESOL

- Unemployed ESOL students improve their prospects for employment
- Unemployed ESOL students are able to access other vocational training
- Working ESOL students contribute more to their workplace
- Working ESOL students contribute by paying income tax
- Professionals and skilled workers can transfer their skills to this country

The social value of ESOL

- Learners gain independence and can contribute to the wider community
- Parents learning ESOL can support their children at school
- English is required for citizenship and integration
- Support for adults at risk of mental health illnesses
- Promoting social cohesion with hard to reach communities
- Supporting vulnerable people as expected of civilised societies

English for Speakers of Other Languages provides a wide range of learners with the tools to forge a new future for themselves. Behind the acronym ESOL there are real faces with real lives.

Please take some time to allow some of our students to introduce themselves to you. They all have ESOL in common and they all need your help to enable them to continue learning English.

Signed,

The ESOL students at Hackney Community College



Without English classes... I cannot integrate with the systems

My name is Mogos Tinsaew. I arrived to the UK in 2008 from Eritrea. And I applied for a asylum seeker, then I have got a grant leave to remain in the UK as Refugee status permit.

Currently I am living in Towerhamlets borough of London.

I came to London after I lived for three months in Doncaster city, because decided to come to London.

London is suitable city to work get a job and also it is multi ethnicity area.

I have got three children two girls and one boy in back home Eritre.

I am studying ESOL level one, ESOL classes, it is very important for me to change my life for example to get a job, communicate, speak, write, read, and understand all informations. Because when I was arrived in the first time in the UK it was so difficult to communicate for every thing an interpreter. However now thanks for my ESOL classes I have improved to communicate in English.

I am studying this year ESOL level 1.

I would like to do in the future a trader in the markets because I have previous experience how to do.

I can not pay for ESOL class fee because I have not money, because to get money I have to work to get a job also I have to learn English.

So if I can not to communicate in English no one offer me a job from employees.

With out English classes my life is so difficult, because I can not to integrate with the systems.

Please stop the cuts to ESOL because it is the main source of changing life for the a lots of minor ethnicities living in the UK, because with out ESOL life will be more difficult of getting a job, earning money and having bright future.

yours sincerely, Mogos Tinsaew



I want to study childcare

My name is Sirad and live in Hackney.

I come from Somalia.

I have four children.

I came to London because there is a war in my country.

I study Entry 1 ESOL at Hackney Community College.

I never went to school in my country.

In the future I want to study childcare.

I can't pay for English classes next September because it is



**We do not have the money to pay
expensive fees**

My name is Nihal DEMIR. I am a student Hackney Community college. I am a house wife and I have two children. I come from Turkey. Since 2002, I have lived in Hackney. I went to Aziziye Education Centre four years ago but I couldn't go to learn English regularly because my children were very younger.

I am writing to you because I am worried about the cuts to ESOL funding. My children go to primary school now and this is a problem for me because I can't speak to their teacher. It is important for me to learn English because I need to talk to their teacher, doctor, dentist and other people in the community. I am alone. I want to make friends from different countries and I want to walk to outside independently. I do not want to be shy outside if I can't speak English.

If the government cut ESOL classes, I can't come next year to college. We do not have the money to pay expensive fees. English can help me in so many ways? Please do not cut our classes as my future depends on ESOL.



**If you can't speak English how do
I gonna get a job?**

My name is Romeo Wayne. I live in Hackney. I came to London to change my life and study more. I am writing this letter because the government want cut ESOL classes.

ESOL is important because if you can't speak English How do ~~I~~ gonna get a job. Right now I'm ^{I'm doing Entry 2/3} studying at Hackney community college in ESOL classes. In the future I want to be a doctor because I like to help children and elderly people and if I don't learn English I am not able to get a job.

Next year I can't pay the ESOL classes because I find difficult find a job. My life without English classes gonna be terrible.



***I don't speak only by myself but also for
thousand of other people***

My name is Piotr Zabedki and I live in Hoxton. I came to London 1 year ago and I'm doing entry 2 ESOL. In the future I would like to be a lawyer or Mechanic. I'm studying in Hackney Community College, but next year I can't study any more because I don't have enough money to pay. I really need this English classes in order to improve my English to get a good job.

I would like the government to review the decision because learning English is important to me. I don't speak only by myself but also for thousand of other people who are facing the same problem as me.

I look forward to hearing from you



***I will have to pay but know I won't be able to pay for it
It is very difficult to live in a country without
the country's language***

My name is Fatima El Kaderi and I live in Hackney, London.

I am a student in Hackney Community College, doing an Entry 2 ESOL course.

I am writing to you because I am unhappy and worried about the government's decision cutting free ESOL course for students over 19 years. Now I am 16 years old but when I will be 19 years old, I will still need ESOL course.

And then to continue doing ESOL course I will have to pay, but I know I won't be able to pay for it.

I need ESOL course to learn English, because if I do not speak English I won't be able to study at university. And also as you know it is very difficult to live in a country without the country's language.

I would like you to help us with our studies by trying to change the government's decision. ESOL course is very important for many people.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.



Without English I can not move on my life

My name is Claudia Kala.

I live in Hackney. I come to London as a refugee.

ESOL class is very important to me because I want to help myself. In the future I want to get a job and to talk to my doctor in private, no interpreter. I want to speak to everyone easily in this country because this is an English country.

I am in Entry 2 ESOL class at Hackney College.

I want to do a chef assistant in the future.

I can't pay for English class next year because I am on income support.

The money I get is not enough for me to pay my ESOL course.

My life is becoming very bad if I stop this course, nothing without English class. I can't move on my life.

We need your help, please.



Cutting ESOL causes there will be more unemployment and isolated people

My name is Gulderen Asiliskender. I live in Hackney. I came to London for better future for my family. I set up my life and family in London. I have five children; they were all born in London. The reason for me to write this letter to you is to inform you on how important it is for me to learn English.

Firstly ESOL is a very important course for me because to live in England, to survive, to live independently and to be confident and more active in my life I need to speak fluent English. So therefore for me to speak fluent English I will need the ESOL course. Also a very important outcome of speaking fluent English would be being a role model to my children. At the moment I am studying Level 2 Esol at Hackney Community College. When i finish the level 2 course I will continue with the class room assistant's courses, which will then lead me to become a classroom assistant at a primary/secondary school. Overall if I successfully finish both of the courses I will be able to work, which will then benefit the economy.

If they cut the ESOL I will not be to pay for the English classes next year neither would people in the similar state as me. My priority is for all my children to be educated, so i will be putting their education first. As a result of the government cutting the ESOL courses there will be more unemployment and isolated people which will put the country into an economically crisis.



**Could you accept for thousands of mothers
to stay at home without ESOL!**

My name is Ruth Djamba and I live in London at the address above. I came to London in 2004.

The ESOL is important for me because I should learn and speak English and it'll help me to communicate with orders and search for work. When I came I couldn't speak but with ESOL course I can speak and learn. Please save our ESOL.

I couldn't make to pay for English classes next year, I'm in low income, and could you accept for thousands of mothers to stay at home without ESOL!



**I myself have benefited a lot from attending ESOL classes
How can I help my children to be educated?**

My name is Bul, I am a student in Hackney Community College. I am studying ESOL Level 2.

I came to this country in 2002, I did not know English at all. I knew how difficult it is to live, when you are not able to express yourself.

I myself have benefited a lot from attending ESOL classes. I have been able to help my children and they have been studying regularly at home.

I really concerned about my children future, If I can not speak fluently English, how can I get a good job? How can I help my children to be educated?

I can pay for English classes next year. I have got two children. They are 4-7 years old. I am not working.

I believe that the cuts to education, imposed by the new coalition government will have detrimental effect on a future society. The result of this Government action will be to shut out many of our young people from education.

Without English our life will be extremely difficult. I would like ask you support ESOL students help and understand. Give for us this opportunities



I want to be a nurse

my name is zenab seino. I live in hackney.

I like hackney because I like England language.
my name is zenab seino.

I am from chad.

I have one chil.

I Study ESOL Entry 1 at hackney community
College.

I didn't go to school in my country.

I want to be a nurse in the future.

I can't pay for ESOL classes next year.

I am very unhappy.



I want to help my children in the future

My name is Sadiqeh FAZLI.

I live in Hackney.

I come from Afghanistan.

I have got 5 children.

I want to help my children in the future.

I study ESOL Entry 1 at.

Hackney community college.

I didn't go to school in my country.

I can't pay for ESOL classes next year.

I am not very happy. I am very sad.



I want to study to be a midwife

My name is Aysegül Cetin and I live in Hackney and I have got four children. I came to London to join my husband. I study Entry 1 Esol at Hackney community college.

I went to primary school in my country Turkey.

In the future I want to study to be a midwife.

I can't afford to pay the full fees. They are too much.

I am not happy.



I want to study beautician

My name is Xin Yan (May) Huang and I live in Hackney and I have got two children. I came to London to join my husband. I'm a student and I study English EFL/ESOL at Hackney Community college. I went to primary school at China. In the future I want to study Beautician. I can't afford to pay the full fees. They are too much. I am not happy.

I want to be a dinner lady



My name is Rosette Monoko and I live in Hackney

I came to London because I had problems in my country. I have four children, they were all born here in the UK. I study ESOL E3 literacy to improve my reading and writing.

ESOL is important to me because I want to read and write in order to read and write letters and help my children. Also, so that I can work in the future. I want to be a dinner lady in a school

I wouldn't be able to pay for ESOL next year because I'm not able to work because I'm not able to work because I need to learn how to read and write.

If I couldn't learn ESOL I wouldn't be able to work.



*There is a lot of fighting
My life would be no good if I couldn't
learn English anymore*

My name is Zainab.

I live in Abbott Road London E14 0NG

I come from Somalia and I came to London
because my country has a civil war.

There is a lot of fighting.

I have five children.

I study ESOL E3 literacy because I can't read or
write very well. In the future I'd like to work in
children. I can't pay for ESOL classes because I'm
not working. My life would be no good if I couldn't
learn English any more.



*I'm working of tower crane operator
In the weekends I'm working in
Stoke Newington Police Station*

My name is Diego Mayor. I'm student to Hackney Community College.
I'm coming to ESOL Entry 3 Monday and Wednesday in the evening.

I'm 36 years old and I've two children one boy and one daughter.
I'm working of tower crane operator and in the weekends I'm working in
Stoke Newington Police Station the volunteer.
I was live in London for four years and if the best city in the word.

ESOL class is very important for my self because I don't speak a lot of
English. Them I'm need study English for more opportunities in the
future and I'll go to my dream (Police Helicopter Pilot).

Next year I'm think so I don't continues my English class because I'm not
want to much money for pay my full payment course.

Would you like to answer my letter and tell me what happen next year?



Now I have job but maybe tomorrow haven't

My name is Vladimir I'm from Slovakia. I m 28 years old and I study English (ESOL E3) in Hackney College. I m in the London nearly 6 years and this is my first year in the College I can see difference between study English from the life an study English in the school. I learn much more quickly.

This year I m not paying for a school because when I enrolling I was unemployed. Now I have job but maybe tomorrow haven't If I need to pay for a next year I m not sure if I ll continue and my English is going stagnated again.



I can speak with friend(s) and neighbours

My name Nezahat I'm a ~~the~~ student at Hackney Community College I am writing to you because I am worried about the cuts to ESOL funding.

I'm came from Turkey in 1991. I married in Turkey. I got 3 children. I stayed at home home looked after my children. When arrived in London. My husband didn't want me learn English but after than I came I've studied for 3 years independent feel more confident than before when I learn more English. I can find a good job I can speak with English friend and neighbors I want to go by my self in Hospital and Community. ~~Community~~

I would like this courses not stop I hope to hear soon with all student that you will not cut ESOL



I don't want to stay (at) home (it) is not useful for my family

My name is Yvette Gwottoy and I live in Hackney E9. I am 36 years old and I have three children and I live with them. I came from Ivory Coast West Africa and I arrived in UK 8 years ago I was refugee.

ESOL is important for me because I don't have any qualification and I also need to speak good English. I am doing Health and social care course for level 1. If my English is good, I want to be a nurse or doing better job.

I also want to help my children to do their home work, participate ~~in~~ the parents meeting on my own. I really want to ~~have~~ a self-esteem and to be independent. If I get a better job, I can pay taxes instead of claiming benefits.

I can't pay for ESOL next year because I don't have money to afford my ESOL course. My life without English classes will be difficult. I ~~don't~~ want to stay home is not useful for my family. My children future depends on my independent.

I could re-think the decision to cut funding for ESOL. I look forward to hearing from you.



**My life was in danger
I would be able to pay my own rent and tax**

I am Maruko, 35 years old. I have got two children, I live in Hackney E5. I came here 6 years ago from Congo because my life was in danger.

I am student at Hackney Community College. When I came to this country I couldn't speak English. Everytime I needed someone to help me with the J.P or any appointments but now I can speak, I can fill any application form, also write a letter myself. I have started Health and Social care last year, I would like to become a social worker. Also I would like to be able to help my children, and help my community in anyway. I would like to be able to pay my own rent and any tax.

I won't be able to pay for ESL class next year because I don't have any qualifications that I can look for a job. Without English classes I won't be able to help my children and won't be useful for this country. Please think about the consequences for the longterm.

I hope you will consider my request and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.



How can I help with my children('s) homework?

My name is Mihriban Han and I live in Hackney. I am writing to you concerning the cuts in education which will affect us ESOL students.

ESOL is not just an English course for me. It is life, qualifications and independence. Before this course I did not ^{know} anything about the life in the UK.

I came to London a better life for my children. First of all when I came here I felt extremely alone and sad, because I was in a completely foreign world.

After I started ESOL course I felt better because I could communicate with people, so I have had friends. Also I did not need translator any more. I have started solve the problems myself so my life has got a lot better ways.

I am studying now ESOL level 2. After learn English very well I would like to be child carer.

If the government cuts the ESOL education I can't afford to pay because my income not enough for this.

How can I get a job without good English also how can I help with my children homework.

Could you help all student please. You should ^{use} your authority. I would be appreciate it if you find a solution about this matter.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.



**We were afraid every day and every night
I love this country**

My name is Seher Berk and I live Hackney. I have grown up three children they all are got married and they leave me alone ~~with~~ with my disabled husband. I really need speak English. My first language is Kurdish but I am from Turkey and my religion is Alevi but I am not really religion.

We have been in the UK since 1988. We came to UK because Turkey has a Turkish and Kurdish problem. We were afraid every day and every night. I couldn't go back to Turkey and I love this country. I am happy ~~be~~ with my children because they grown up there and they have excellent English. They are living in Wales at the moment and I like help my grandchildren to learned ~~it~~ ^{something} with English. What is more I can speak my own languages every where and I am more freedom here.

In addition I am studying level 1 in Hackney Community College. I hope you understand me because I can't pay for my English classes. I really need speak English when some letter come to my house I can't read it. When I go out and if I through an a trouble it is difficult for me to explain that is stressed.

The main reasons I am living there and I need a good English because I want a job. I am interested to be a bus driver I like work and earn money. Moreover I want go to doctor ~~by~~ by my self and I don't have enough money. Could you pay for all ESOL classes because I understand ~~with~~ which is doesn't work need to learn English.

I hope to hear from you soon,

I want to be a social worker



My name is Christiana Idane Gbè and
I live in Hackney I have a son. I am
from Nigeria I came to London to study.
Entry 1 ESOL at Hackney Community College
I went to primary school in Nigeria In the
future I want to be a social worker
I can't pay for English classes next semester
because it is expensive. I am not happy.



**If you can't speak English how
do I gonna get a job?**

My name is Bihai Andreea, and I live in Hackney Wick.
I came in London, because I want a future good for me
and my family, and I hope my dreams can be reality.
I don't have children, because I think is not moment, I'm
too young. ESOL is important for me because I learn English
and I can build a better future.
I study Entry 3 Law ESOL at Hackney Community College,
In the future I want to be a nurse, I like to help people
who are in problems, but if ESOL class are cut all my dreams
will stop here. Please give one chance to us.
I don't can pay for English class because is too expensive.
If English class will be cut, us don't can improve
English, don't can find a job and the life change in bad.
One more time please give a chance for a new generation.