

Time to Think

Open University Journeys in British and Irish prisons during the years of conflict, 1972-2000

Oral History interview clip transcript

Name of Interviewee: **Student C**
Interviewed by: **Jenny Meegan**
Date of interview: **03/10/2013**

Important

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this transcript, however no transcript is an exact translation of the spoken word, and this document is intended to be a guide to the original recording, not replace it.

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Student C Clip

Clip title: Translating for the Peace Process

Duration: 00:01:09

Clip start point in full interview: 00:46:24

Clip end point in full interview: 00:47:33

Interview identifier: 019_S_01

Description:

Student C describes how Open University students helped other prisoners in Loyalist Wings of the H Blocks in the 1990s understand the language of documents for the Peace Process.

Transcript:

Right, and you were talking about the OU and the Peace Process coming for you side by side, do you think there was any relationship there?

Absolutely yes. Well I remember it was coming up to the Peace Process, and the Good Friday Agreement [1998] and the copies of the Agreement came out and I mean, suddenly we became a valuable resource, because there was a vocabulary used in the Agreement. There was a certain jargon, there were lots of concepts and terminology. People referred to it as constructive ambiguity itself, you know. The people they were coming to, to translate that into ordinary everyday language with jargon free, "What does that mean? What does that say? What is that about but, how is that going to work out"? It was people who were going through those courses that people were then coming to. We suddenly, something that wasn't seen as that valuable, its value had significantly increased—