

## 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: **Carál Ní Chuilín**  
Interviewed by: **Jenny Meegan**  
Date of interview: **24/05/2019**

#### **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.

In some cases, interviewees may have made changes to the transcript.

Personal/sensitive information regarding individuals who may be living has been removed from transcripts where necessary.

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## Carál Ní Chuilín Clip

<b>Clip title:</b>	I'm still referring back to the structure of my TMAs!
<b>Duration:</b>	00:01:06
<b>Clip start point in full interview:</b>	00:08:13
<b>Clip end point in full interview:</b>	00:09:19
<b>Interview identifier:</b>	118_S_01

### **Description:**

Carál Ní Chuilín reflects on the value of the skills she learned through writing her Open University assignments to life in politics

### **Transcript:**

“So it was good. But actually going into negotiations and even going into elected politics, the good thing about education, particularly through the OU, that your political instincts are fine, that will carry you through in your personal instinct. But you do need to get, you know the old saying ‘Organise, Educate, Agitate’ - that has carried me through every walk of life in every part of life. Because in order to put your position forward, you need to research it; you need to have your briefing notes, you need to provide notes and explanations to different party members in order to debate them and get them through, and that is in written form so the structure of your ideas and the way you present your ideas - still to this day it’s almost like writing a TMA [Tutor Marked Assignment]. You have to have a start, you have to have the middle, and you have to have a conclusion, and your conclusion - in political life - has to have a recommendation. So that still carried me through; fifty odd years of age and I’m still referring back to the structure of my TMAs, Jenny, you’ll be delighted to hear that [laughs].”