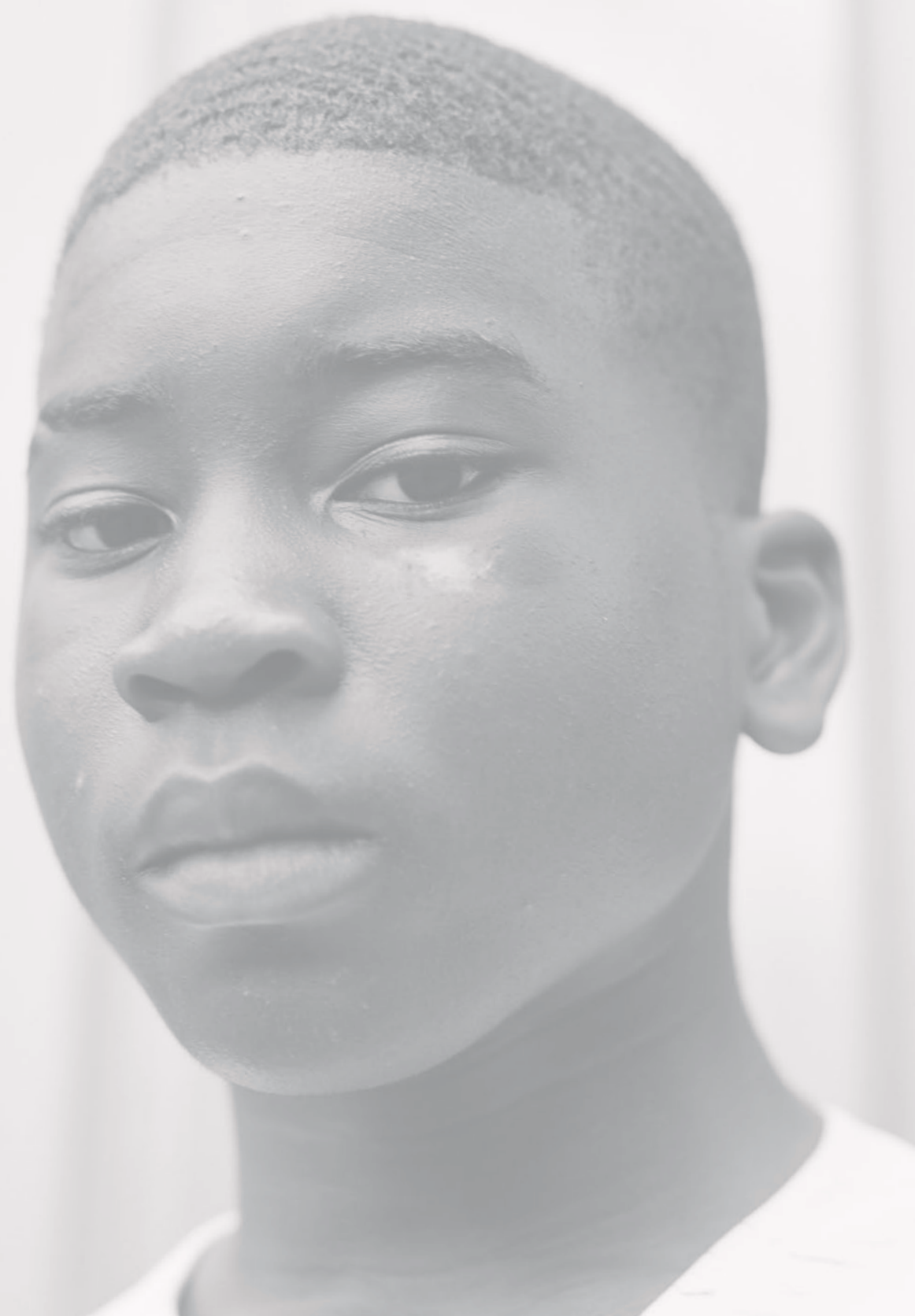


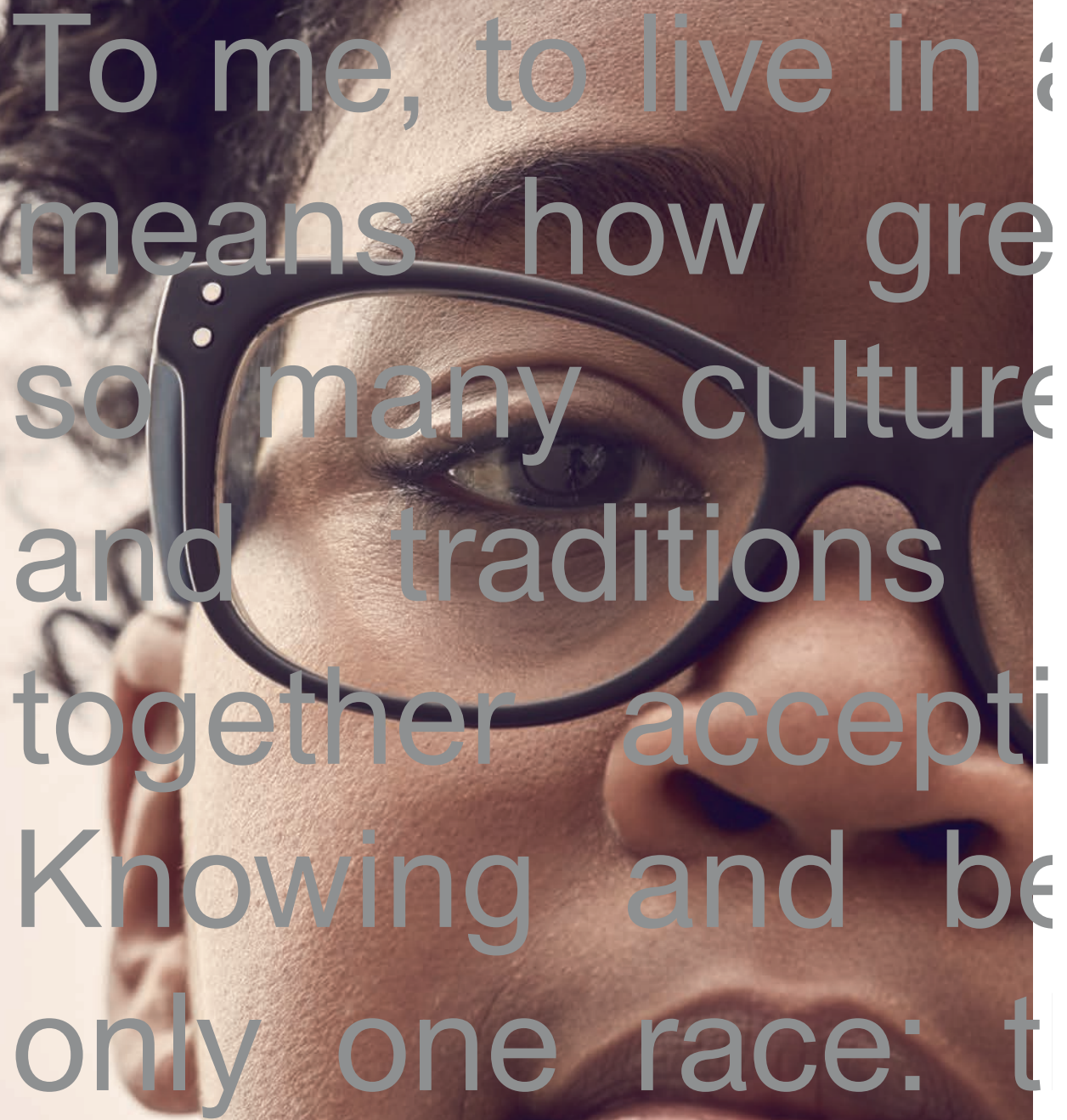
**CITY OF**



**NATIONS**



**FBB**

A close-up, high-angle portrait of a young man with dark, curly hair and glasses. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a thoughtful expression. The lighting is soft and natural, highlighting the texture of his skin and the details of his glasses. The background is blurred, showing another person's face in the distance.

To me, to live in a  
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# FBB

# BRIXTON

Football Beyond Borders is a youth organisation that uses young people's passion for football to educate and inspire them to become the best they can be. We work with over 400 young people each week in 11 boroughs across London. We promote inclusivity, community and self-belief. We run educational projects with our young people that make learning relevant, fun and tangible. This magazine is the result of a 6 week project that was run during the 2018 World Cup.



No Ball  
Games  
Allowed

# Young in





# People London

FOREWORD BY JASPER KAIN

London is a city of wondrous possibilities. It is a place where people from all over the world come to make something of themselves. It is also often a place which people take from in their quest to progress their material and social conditions. At times this can lead to it feeling rather transactional, a race to the top or bottom depending on how you look at it. The individual can reign supreme.

The danger is that if you have too many people just taking then things can become strained. Using the analogy of a tree. The soil needs to be watered for the roots to strengthen and the branches to multiply and grow. We must give back in order to create a healthy environment in which mutual growth can take hold. Taking pride instilled through a sense of belonging is usually a good basis for this to happen.



For me, this City of Nations project embodies this process of watering the soil and encouraging our young people to explore their identity and celebrate their local environment. One of the manifestations was a real sense that young people identify as being a Londoner, This is a particular identity, unique and tangible and something that our young people are proud of. It is a badge of honour and they are united under this banner.

Young people can teach the older generation a thing or two so be receptive to them and their ideas and try not to be too quick to judge. In doing so, as this project underlines, many young people are hopeful for the future. Humans are social creatures and we see on a daily basis how football is a perfect medium to reinforce our shared humanity.

As Michael, one of the young contributors for this magazine says:  
In London every street is different. But there is one language we all understand. That is football. When we see football, we all come together. It doesn't matter what you are when you see a football, we return to that animal we are. Sometimes there is a difference in culture, sometimes they clash, sometimes they don't always fit together. But football always brings people together.

Key to our approach at Football Beyond Borders is creating projects that channel young people's passion for this game. Through football-themed learning, we build relationships between peers, their elders, and local communities, giving young people the tools to create a narrative about their lives and make decisions about the path they want to take.

The City of Nations project taps into everything we at Football Beyond Borders believe an educational project should represent. Through providing a platform for young people to create public products for a real-life audience it enables our young people to see the purpose of learning and empower them to express themselves. In doing so we aim to cultivate a culture where it is cool to be smart, where leadership opportunities are plentiful and curiosity is championed.

This bucks the trend of the overly competitive and individualistic trends in our educational system which are reinforced through societal trends that hinder our young people's well being. We believe that every young person is unique and has an inherent self-worth which must be recognised. It has been beautiful to celebrate our young people for who they are and the communities they come from. The fact that they have provided them with a platform to amplify their voices is special and has had a transformational effect on many of our young people already.

All the articles in this magazine are written by FBB participants who are between the ages of 11 and 15 years old.

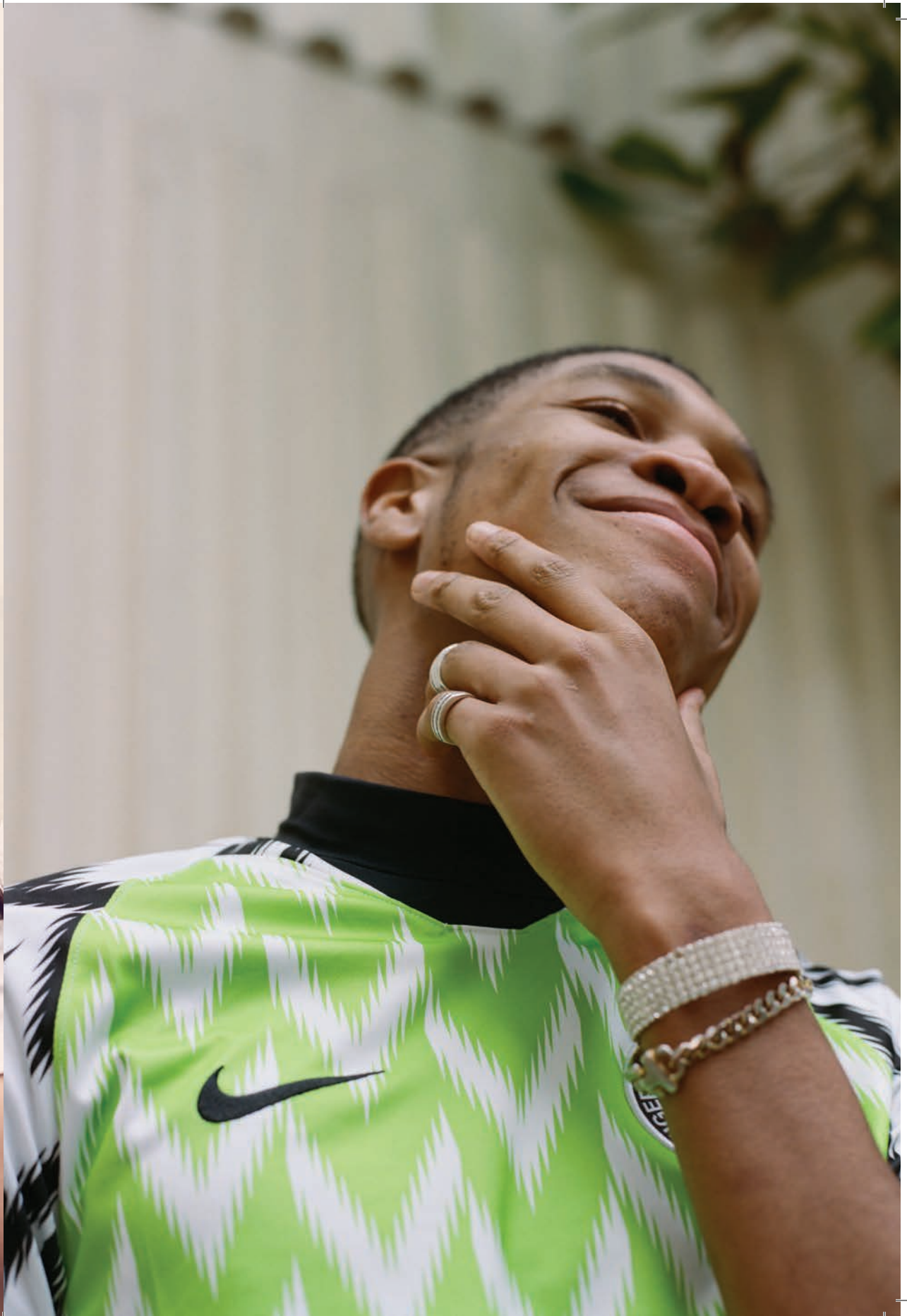
The summer of 2018 is one that will live long in the memory! Thank you to everyone who made this project a reality and I do hope you enjoy the magazine.

JASPER KAIN, CO-DIRECTOR, FOOTBALL BEYOND BORDERS



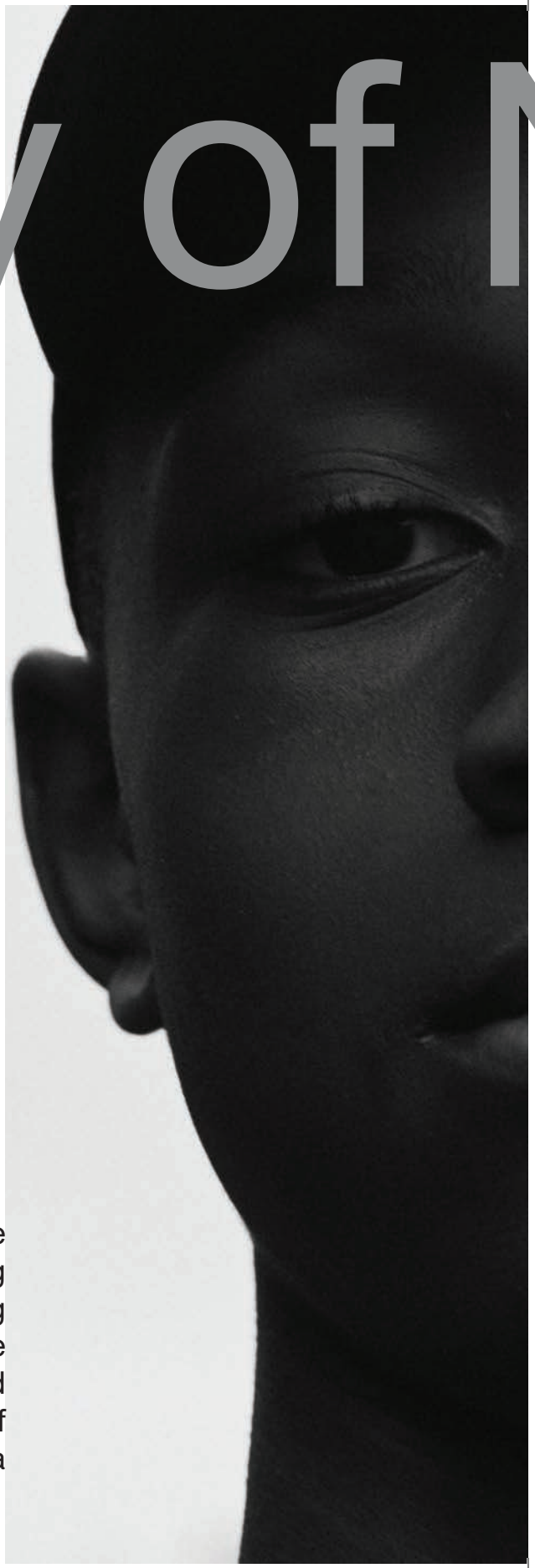






# City of Nations

Forty young people across three schools were tasked with exploring what it means to be a young Londoner, what football and the World Cup means to them and their community and notions of multiculturalism and identity in a City of Nations.





# Nations

Young people on the FBB programme from the Archbishop Lanfranc Academy (Croydon), Chestnut Grove Academy (Balham), Elm Green Academy (Tulse Hill) and Walthamstow Academy were tasked with creating a project around what it means to be a young person growing up in London from different nations during the World Cup. Six nations were chosen for specific focus; Brazil, England, France, Nigeria, Poland and Portugal. Each of these nations were represented by members of the FBB community, who identify with them.

The young people were encouraged to think about notions of identity, football, multiculturalism, and youth. Social identity was framed as being about belonging, with the young people exploring what groups in society they relate to and what groups they feel part of. They also considered what factors affect identity and whether we are free to choose our own identity.

The project has four stages; introduction, research and learning, fieldwork interviews, and production. In the research stage the young people were tasked with thinking about what stories they would like to tell about their community, including what makes it different and why they love it. In the fieldwork stage, they were tasked with speaking to other people in their community around their relationship with the respective national teams and the World Cup. In doing so, they become experts of the nation.

To conclude the project, the young people were asked to write an article in response to one of these eight questions

WHAT DID YOU DO AS PART OF  
THE CITY OF NATIONS PROJECT?

# SADIQ

# WALTHAMSTOW

The City of Nations project is about multiculturalism in London. London is a very diverse city, with so many different cultures, races and religions. The energy and spirit that this diversity brings to the city and also the country is just amazing. Like Nigerians and Jollof rice or Brazilians and their love for football.

As part of the City of Nations project, I had the chance to participate in a podcast with FBB about some of the teams in the 2018 World Cup like Nigeria, Portugal and of course England. Me and my peers interviewed people who were from these countries.

Being a young Londoner for me means being confident in my identity, because everyone is different and this allows us to all fit in. With people from so many different nationalities and cultures living in the city, everyone can feel welcome and the city helps us feel comfortable in who they are.

For me, one of the best parts of living in London is all the different types of food, like Asian food, chicken and chips shops or Jamaican jerk chicken and patties. If I had the chance to change one thing in, it would be the way in which the media represents us, the youth of London. I would choose to focus how talented and inspirational the youth can be, and change the negative media perception to positive ones.

I think most of the older generation look at the youth too negatively, believing that they lack discipline. But I disagree with the vague and wrong statement, because in my experience most of them are actually really talented and bright with big ambitions for the future. Unfortunately, because of the media however we are portrayed as wild gang members.

# ANDREA

# CROYDON

The City of Nations project with FBB was based on bringing all the different cultures and communities of London together throughout the World Cup and embracing different football jerseys that we see around the city.

I can't put into words how grateful I am for being part of this project and how much it has helped us as young people to learn, share, and discover many new things which will definitely help us in the future by learning and understanding everybody's background and allowing us to become one through the World Cup.

I enjoyed this project because I believe that even though we are Londoners we are often labelled to be all different due to our backgrounds, but FBB helped us understand that different communities are able to come together for our love and passion for football, without having to be labelled for having different ethnicities. Now I can say that I am extremely proud to call myself a young Londoner, even though I was raised in Spain, and my family belongs to Dominican Republic, I am a part of the beautiful multicultural society.

Lastly, I want to let other teens and adult Londoners know that nothing is unreachable, by coming together we can all make a better society, a better world, and an even better younger generation which are full of faithfulness and talent, not only for our passion with football, but to grow and develop as a community. A big thank you from a proud member of Football Beyond Borders!





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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE  
A YOUNG LONDONER?



# RHYS

# WALTHAMSTOW

My family are from Cardiff, Wales. But I was born in London, and that's why I don't have the accent, or the taste for the pub! I think being a young Londoner is different from being young in many other places in the world because the city's culture has changed so much. The culture is hugely different from what it would have been a hundred years ago, and it will continuously change to something bigger.

Although my family are from Wales, most of my friends here are from different countries and backgrounds. This is the best part about being a young Londoner in my opinion because if London wasn't so diverse I wouldn't have had a chance to have friends from all over the world. And of course that means I wouldn't have all the amazing food I like from these different places, or the music I love.

If I could change one thing about London, I would like to see even more unity and love for the different cultures we have in our city. Like I said, without these cultures we wouldn't be eating the amazing food like Jerk Chicken or Chinese food we love.

I would say London definitely has a lot to teach the world because in my opinion it's the most multi-cultural place on earth and it could teach other countries the value of opening up to the world. It can teach them that embracing other cultures is good because we can learn so much from each other. Personally, having thought and written about it, I have truly began to appreciate the way in which other cultures have contributed to my life as a young Londoner.

I think the older generation don't really understand us young people in London. They don't understand that we listen to Drill Music not because we are bad or violent but because we are exploring our own culture. That it is something that has emerged from the combination of different cultures and sounds in our city.

# JESSICA

# CROYDON

What I felt when I first arrived in London is how a lot of young people feel. They see all the negativity around London and all the labels given to young people and they feel that they need to change to fit in. When that happens you create a mask for yourself and hide under that mask. That can be very lonely and you never really show your true self. This mask comes from a fear of not being accepted. Sadly I just became a stereotype of what society wanted a young Londoner to be - angry, lots of attitude and unapproachable.

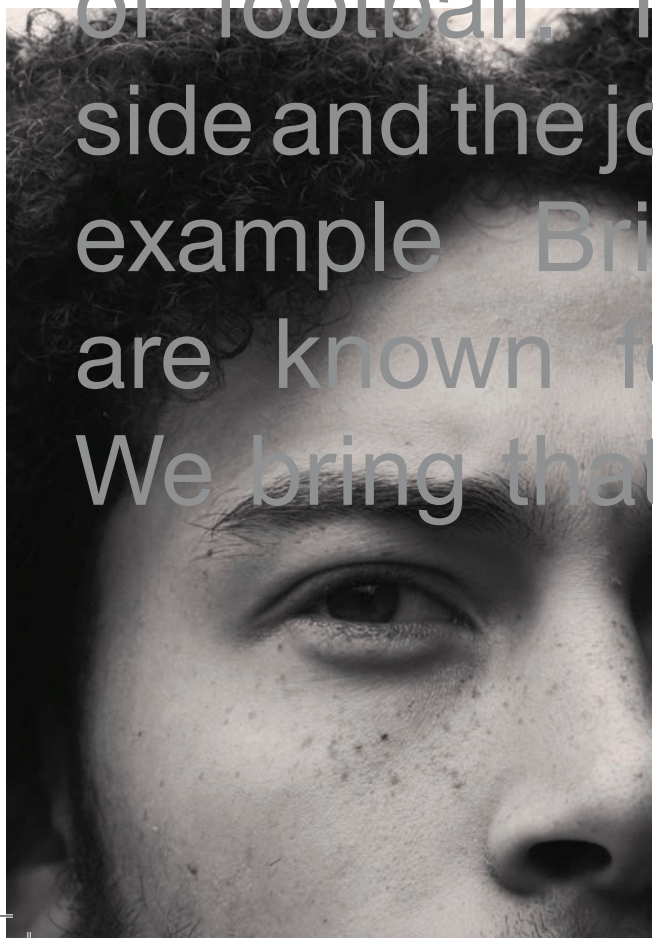
After a while, as I got to know London better I took off that mask. I realised that it isn't what London is about and actually London was all about difference and actually young people in London love difference and being unique. I chose to be myself and let people like me for me and since then London has been a different experience. I am now so proud to be from London.

I have learnt that London is an amazing place when you learn to embrace difference and be yourself. London is so full of different cultures and ideas and as a young Londoner you get to experience and explore these. If you visit another country you realise that everyone is jealous of London for this and now I proudly say I am from London a City of Nations, a city where people come together and there is amazing unity and a place where you aren't judged by where you are from but by your actions and that is why London is so special.

If I could pass on something I have learnt to other young Londoners, it would be that it is far better life to show who you really are rather than shutting down completely or creating a mask for yourself to hide who you are - don't do this just because this is what you think society has labelled you as it wants you to be. Be fearless and overcome it.



Culturally, Brazilians bring a bit of spice and vibrancy to London life. Where does that vibrancy come from? Football. Everyone plays football in London and I feel that we bring the other side of football. The beautiful side and the joyful side. For example British players are known for their grit. We bring that kind of flair.





# SUHAIL

# WALTHAMSTOW

For me, being a young Londoner means being myself. I am not afraid to be unique because there are so many different people from different countries like Nigeria, Jamaica, and Poland.

With so many people from different cultures living in this city, London is a place that appreciates and embraces diversity. And these cultures bring something unique to the city, like language, food, style and music. For example the joyfulness of Brazilian music, tasty Jollof from Nigeria, and England's stylish fashion. This is why I am not afraid to express my identity and take pride in where I am from.

Growing up in such a diverse place has also taught me that it is possible for me to do anything I want to and desire in life because the diversity of the city means people being different doesn't lead you to being judged. Having so many different cultures and backgrounds in the city means people are not restricted by where they are from or what they look like, at least compared to other places I would say.

When the World Cup takes place, London is even more amazing with everyone coming together to watch all the best players from all over the world to compete and most importantly have fun. And I love the vibes it brings from the fans, like Brazilians who always seem to be happy even if they lose. For me this represents perfectly the best part of being a young Londoner.

Although some people do think being a young Londoner is not great, they see so much media portrayal of stabbings and gang violence. I really don't like this because instead of blaming the youth for these things, people should be supporting young people to make sure these things don't happen.

# JADEN

# BRIXTON HILL

Meeting people from different countries and with different cultures is part of what it means to be a young Londoner in my opinion. The stereotypes that other might have, are corrected – they are challenged and silenced. Being a Londoner also means challenging the negative views that box people unfairly. For me this is an important element of what it means to be a Londoner.

The best thing about living here and being a Londoner is the chance you get to be aware of what is going on not just in the city but also the rest of the world. Because there is so many groups of people that originate from different places living in London is an opportunity to learn how to appreciate peoples cultural difference and heritage.

During this time of year when the World Cup has started, there is strong relationships created as you banter and you can really see the closeness amongst Londoners despite them not being necessarily from the same country.

One thing I would change about being a Londoner are the opportunities provided to the youth for example in programmes and organisations such as Football Beyond Borders which show the wider world as we given many interesting opportunities.







WHAT DOES THE WORLD CUP AND  
FOOTBALL IN GENERAL MEAN TO YOU,  
YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR COMMUNITY?

# MICHAEL

# STOCKWELL

There are a lot of different backgrounds, ethnicities, languages and cultures. Every street is different. But there is one language we all understood. That is football.

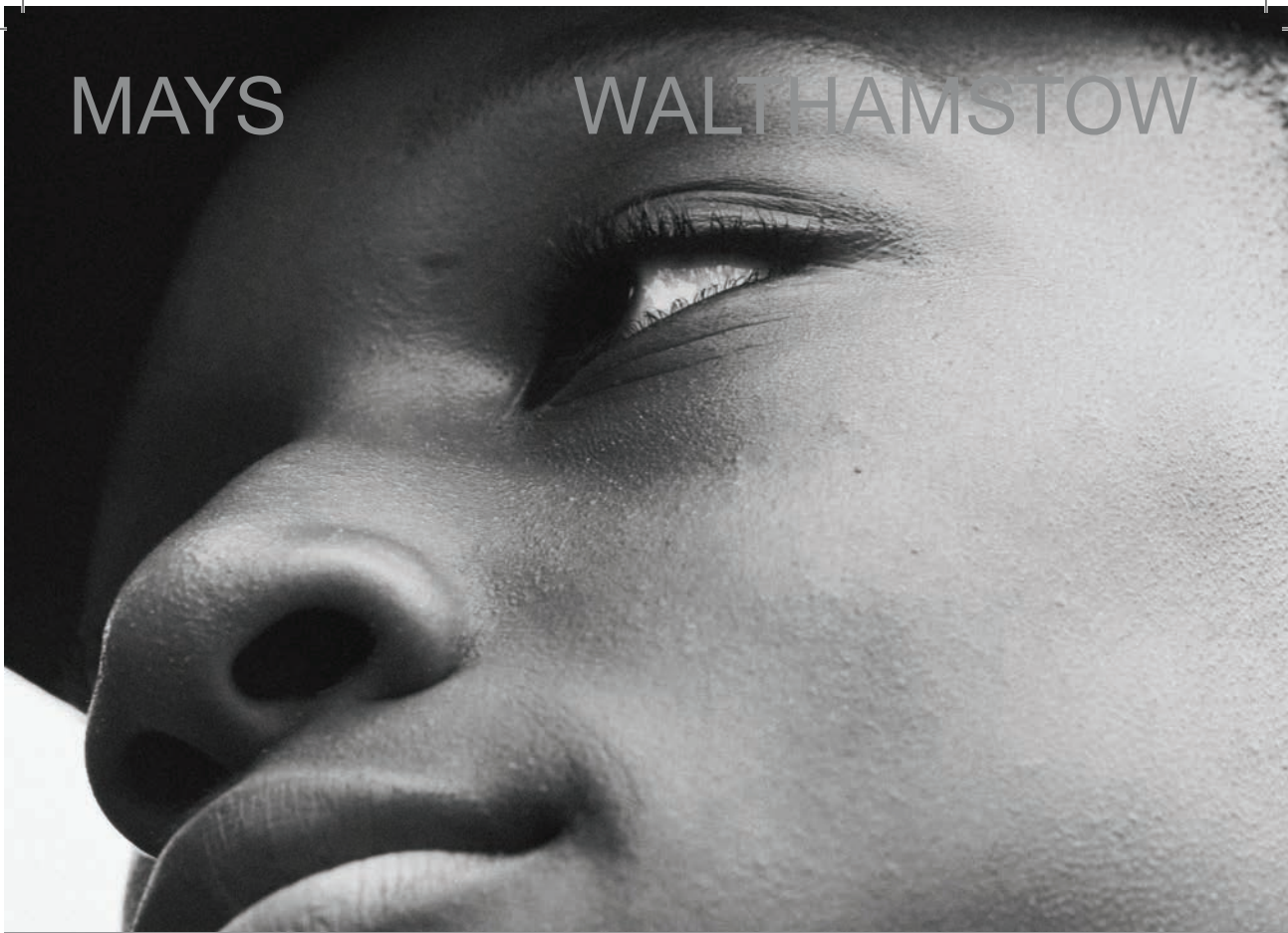
I support England much like I support my family because England is part of my family. I support this England team because of the youth behind it, I feel I connect more to them. I could have been in the same team as Rashford. He could be any of us, he could be me or one of my friends. I could say that s my boy. That could literally be any of us.


The world cup means so much to me, every four years, family get together, friends get together. It doesn t matter what you are doing or where you are, all what you are trying is to watch every single match. It doesn t matter If we are in school. It doesn t matter if we are at work. Like this year my friend said we are watching every England Game and I am so on it. England s first game is the same day as my last exam, I will write my last exam and head straight to my friend house after the exam to watch the match.

When we see football, we all come together. It doesn t matter what you are, when you see a football, we return to the that animal we are. Sometimes there is difference in culture, sometimes they clash, sometimes they don t always fit together. But football always brings people together. That is what football and the World Cup means to me!


MAYS

WALTHAMSTOW





To me the World Cup means a time filled with fun and celebration with friends and family. An opportunity to enjoy the best players and teams playing against each other. I remember before it started there was so many negative vibes. So much of the news was about racism and homophobia in Russia. But from the moment the first game was played all of that negative energy turned into joy and passion.



I get so excited to come everyday to watch the matches. Honestly, when watching the games everything that happened during my day leaves my mind. It takes all my attention! One of the things I really love about watching the World Cup is seeing how it brings people together, like the fans of the different teams dancing and having fun together. For example when Panama scored against England, their fans were celebrating so widely that from looking at them you would think they had won the whole tournament. But actually they were losing 6 1. That is what the World Cup is about, for me at least. A time of amazing vibes and happiness.

# DANIEL

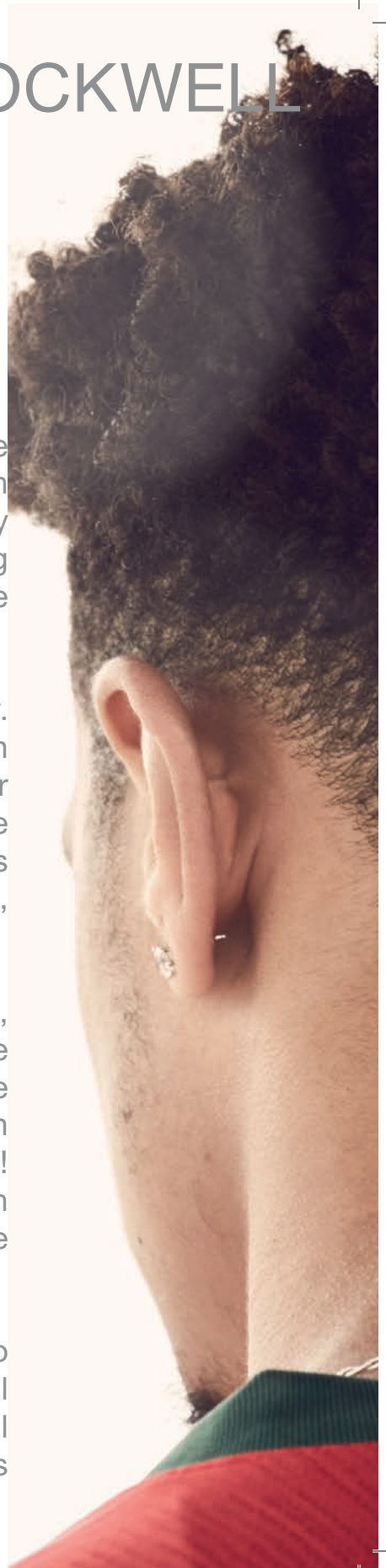
# STOCKWELL

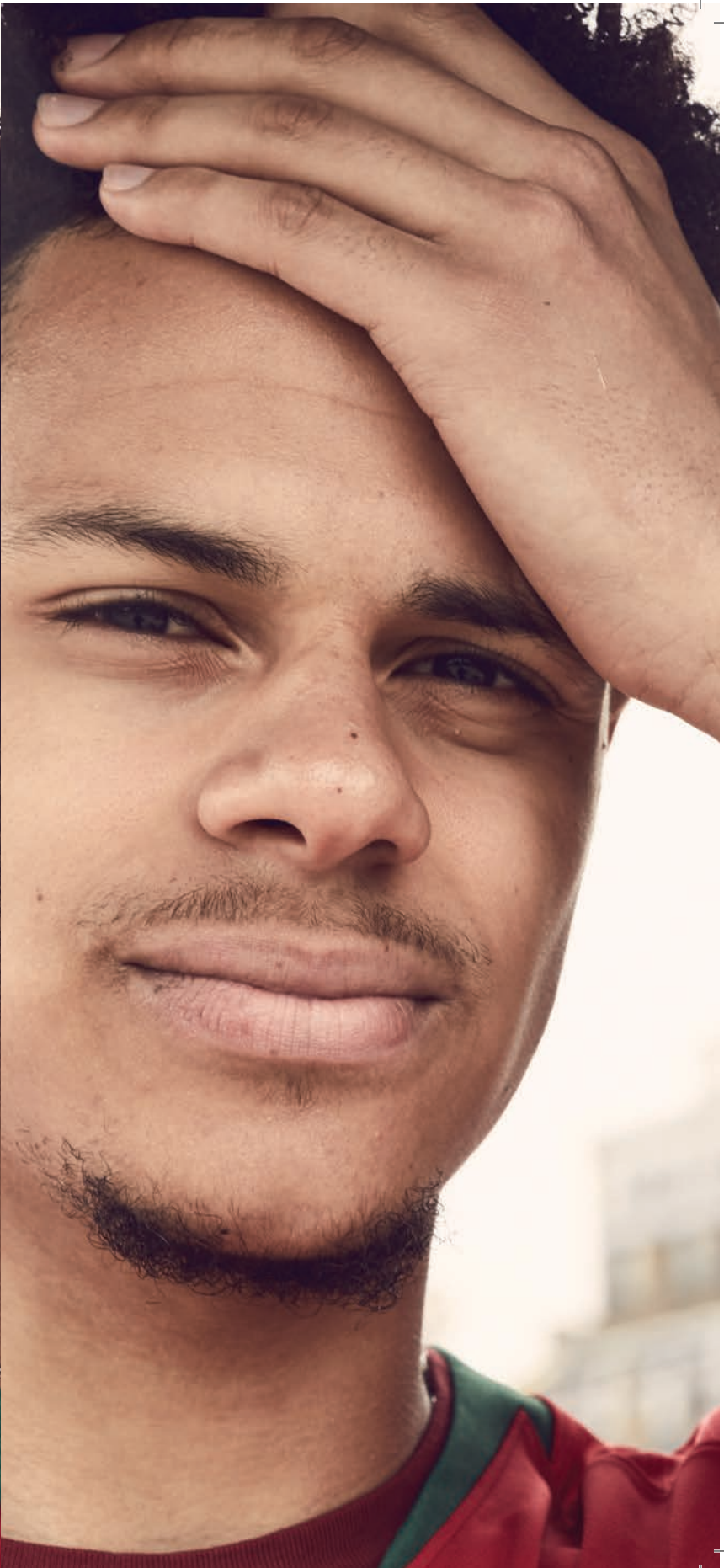
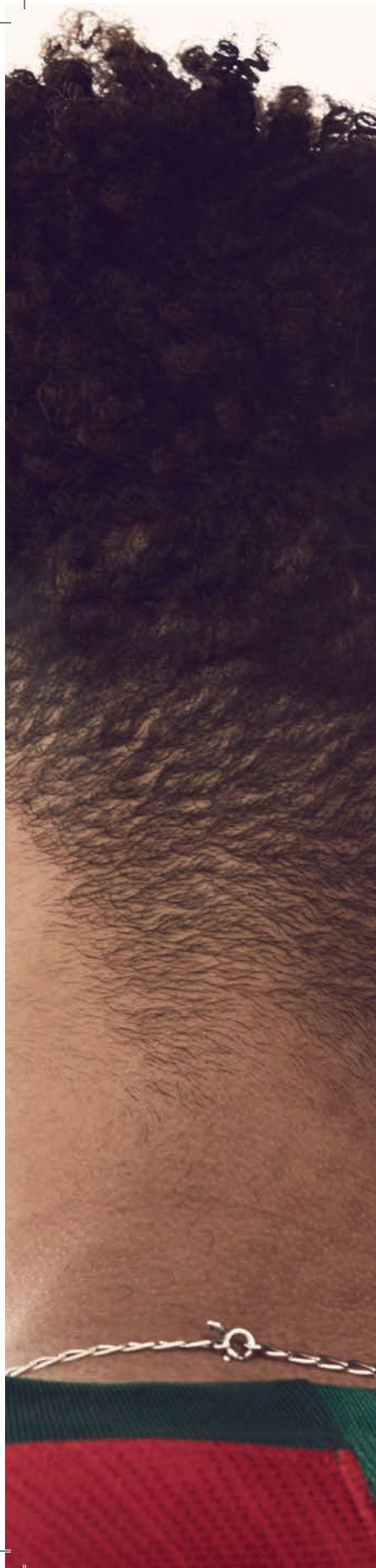
Football is a way of life in Portugal, everyone comes together over football while you are on the pitch everyone is best friends. Half my family supports Benfica and half supports Sporting Lisbon so I have grown up around passionate football fans.

I will watch the World Cup with my family. We will all squeeze into one house and watch it together. We love to get on the backs of our players if they make mistakes because we expect the best but we love all of our footballers deep down. If Portugal won the World Cup, there would be so many parties.

Football is a lot more inclusive in Portugal, everyone plays. At any place at any time people are living and breathing football. If we win there will be a huge street party from Lisbon to London via Madeira, it will be bigger than the Euros! Everyone will come out together somewhere in London and party together. We will celebrate like no other - all of us together!

The World Cup brings people together, no matter what club you support, when Portugal play we put it all to one side and we are all together. Everyone puts up Portugal flags, it is an excuse to party.







The Portuguese cor  
are so welcoming,  
around Portuguese  
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Community in London  
whenever you are  
the people in London  
may feel at home.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO  
LIVE IN A 'CITY OF NATIONS'?

# MATARR

# GYPSY HILL

To me living in a City of Nations is an exciting experience. Sometimes the world will present a picture of this city which won't always highlight its best bits whether it is obsessing over youth crime or gangs.

Being of Gambian descent, but having been born and growing up in London, I have learnt to celebrate my cultural heritage and identity of being a Londoner of Gambian origin. This has made my experience of growing up in London much more exciting, as I have the privilege of being surrounded by a diverse groups of people from the African region as well as other regions across the world.

Living in a City of Nations has taught me to love and appreciate people that are both different and similar to me. I have been blessed to make friends from diverse areas of the world and to learn and appreciate other culture. By me doing that, I have been able to develop my social skills, allowing me to have many friends from all around the world from Jamaica to China. Living in a City of Nations has given me much more opportunities to express myself than I would have in certain countries.

# OSKAR

# CLAPHAM

I am a young Londoner from Poland. I have lived in this City of Nations all my life and no one is going to tell me that I'm not a true Londoner. Living in a City of Nations means living and being with people from different countries, cultures and backgrounds.

It also means being proud of your own culture and heritage. For me, when I put on the Poland top and play football I get that buzz and energetic feeling, as if I am playing for them right now.

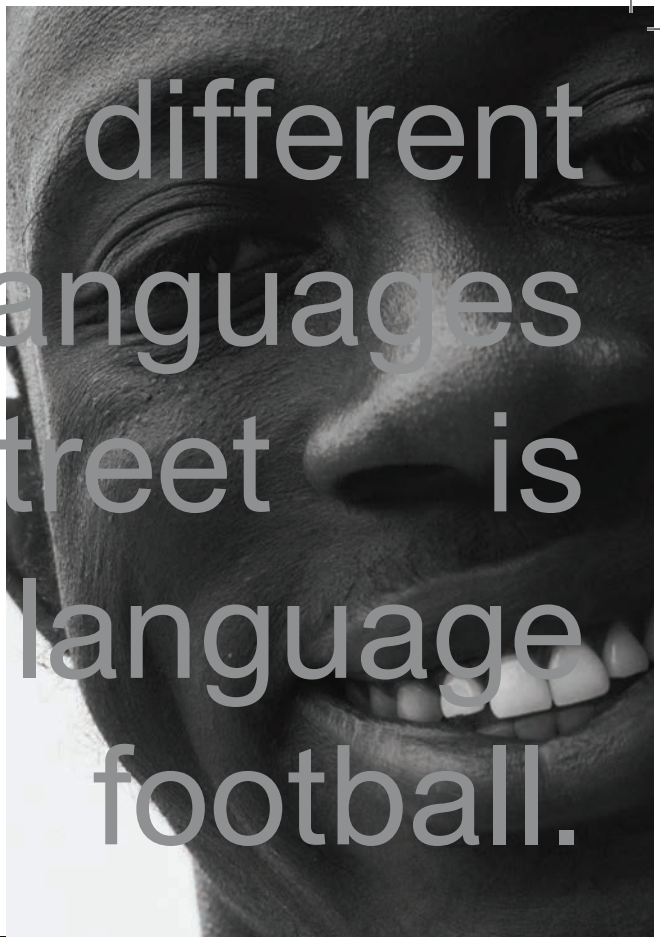
Living in a City of Nations can also be challenging because there are times you can and do experience stereotypes. For example Polish people get called builders, Russians get called an alcoholic. My personal experience of being from Poland and living in such a diverse country is that you could be excluded because of your language and skin colour. For example when I was younger, I got called an immigrant because I have been born in Poland and I am different because I am eastern European.

However, as life rolled on people started to value my ethnicity and are able to understand where I come from, and that we have a different culture to other countries. More people understand that it doesn't matter what background you have, when you live in London you become a part of the multicultural city. No matter what anyone says I am a true Londoner.



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lot of different  
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Every street is  
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WHAT ROLE DOES HERITAGE PLAY IN  
GROWING UP IN SUCH A DIVERSE CITY?



CERNY

BRIXTON



Obviously I'm from Paris, France but living in London. Now I know what you're thinking, if he's from France why is he living here? , well that's because London is probably the most diverse and accepting place in the world.

Being a young Londoner can have its ups and downs, purely because of the way people see me and think of me. For example, a middle aged privileged person from Kensington who will hear the words South London and automatically see this rebel with no ambitions or goals in life and instantly have a biased view point towards people like me.

But the guys from FBB like Bruk, Khadija, Debra and Brandon (big shout out to my guys!!!!) who have been through similar experiences, will see me as this wicked young man with so much potential who deserves all the opportunities thrown at him. Being around people like that allows me to take pride in my heritage, not only the French one but also my identity as a South Londoner.

France is a very diverse place but it doesn't have the same qualities as London in terms of different cultures getting together creating a bond and celebrating our togetherness which this country is great at and an example of this is internationals day.

Paris and London are two very different places, and me living in London means I need to show the Londoners what my country's all about, you get me? How? I do it through my Sappiology. For those who don't know what Sappiology is it's what we in France call the science of dressing well. Something I really know how to do. I'm sure my peers will agree!

The Nigerian community are  
to the table. When you see  
turn up. We are fun, energetic



are known for bringing fun  
e a Nigerian you know it's a  
getic and welcoming people.



# MARLEY      CRYSTAL PALACE

I'm from South London and have lived here my whole life. I wouldn't change it for anything! I am proud to be a young Londoner. When I think London I think of the most multicultural city in the world and a giant melting pot of people from every corner of the world. When I think London I think of endless opportunities and chances up for grabs. When I think of London I think of home. My home.

I'm of mixed heritage, my mum is also mixed race from Nigeria, Jamaica, and England. My dad is Afro-Portuguese originally from Mozambique. Being Lightskin has given me my fair share of complications, to say the least. From the 'are you Hispanic, Arabic or just white with a tan' and the constant stereotypes around it. But I don't always screw and I'm not always rude. To be honest I'm quite a nice fella.

Growing up in a diverse city like London though has allowed me to be comfortable with myself and my heritage. Being able to embrace your own heritage is extremely important as your heritage makes you who you are and being yourself is everything especially in a city with millions of different individuals like London. This city allows you to understand yourself and express yourself. Through your heritage, be that the clothes you wear, the food you eat or the friends you choose to keep, you are unique.

These things are all influenced by background and heritage and make us who we are. London is so diverse that when you walk down the street you will hear numerous languages being spoken and see people of different colours, shapes and sizes from every country possible. I wouldn't be surprised if I saw a green alien walking down past Brixton station after school. Anyway, my point is that there is no city as amazing and diverse as London! Honestly, could you name one? I am a young Londoner and part of that is appreciating and embracing, being proud of my heritage and my roots. I am proud of my city and where I come from. I am proud of my home!



# AARON

# HERNE HILL

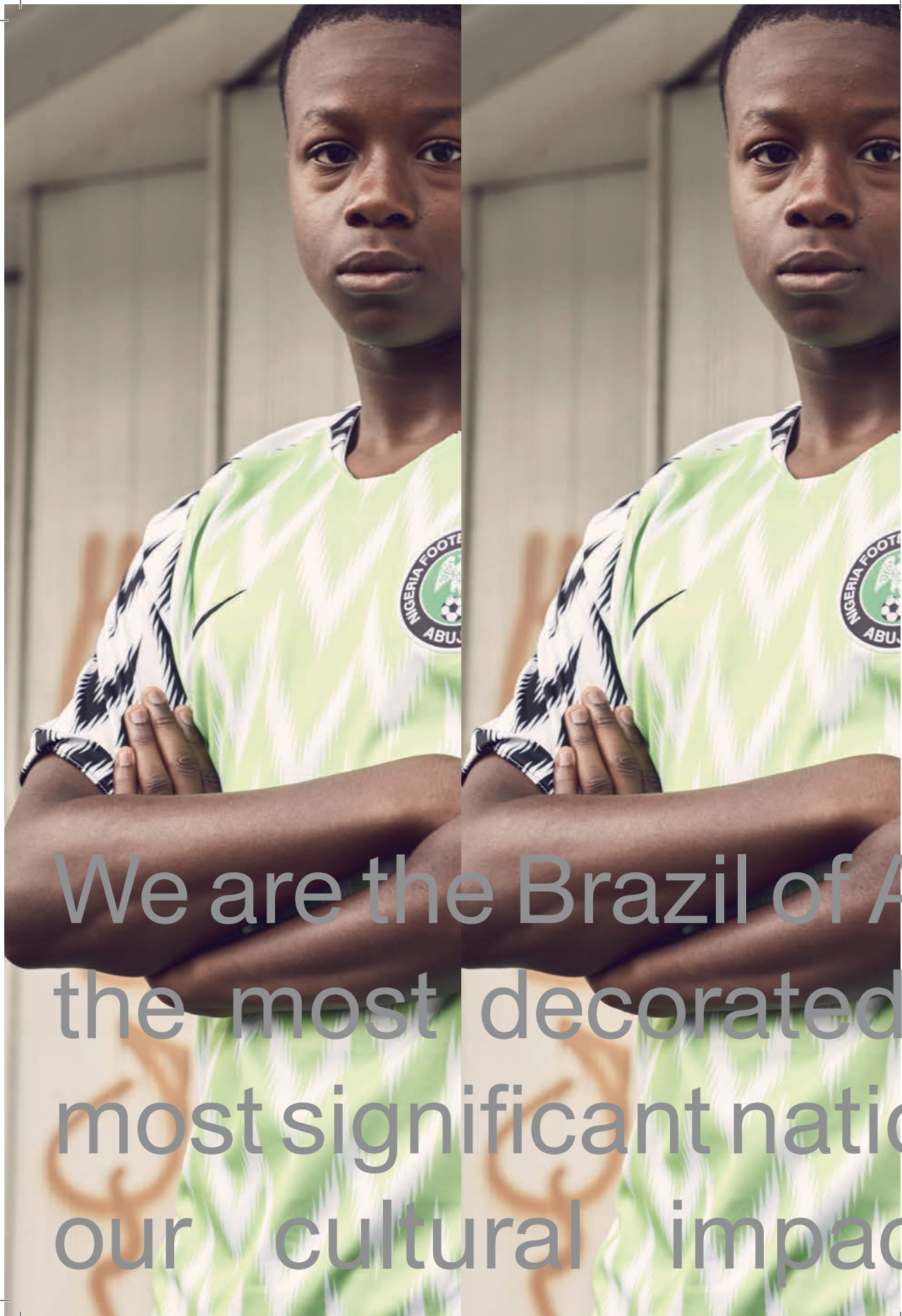
I am a Londoner, no matter what anyone says, I am a Londoner! London is a multicultural city because you have many people from different countries all around the world.

I have lived in London all my life, therefore I believe that we all have the same equal rights, and even if we do look different we are all technically family. As a Londoner, you carry a lot of responsibility looking after your community making sure that you make your community healthy and safe.


The World Cup has a great impact on young people lives as they look up to the football players as role models. However my home country team isn't in the world Cup at the moment, therefore I would have to support my second home team England. I think this tournament is a great way to bring countries and people from all around the world together and compete as a team, working together towards one goal. The world cup is a time to celebrate with my family and cheer for different countries especially, our own: Ghana!

Living in a City of Nations can be controversial and challenging sometimes because you can experience a lot of racism and stereotypes. For example, people are called immigrants just because they weren't born here - something I have gone through. But little do people know I was really born in London, therefore, I have tagged myself as a Londoner. Moreover, people will just judge you because you are a different race.

However, I look at these minor setbacks and use them as a lesson to always ignore the haters. As a reason to accept who you are. Something that no one can change but you. I always use negative things and change them into positive ones because inside I know that I will achieve more than thinking negatively.



We are the Brazil of Africa  
the most decorated  
most significant national  
our cultural impact



Africa. The team with  
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WHAT CAN LONDON TEACH  
THE REST OF THE WORLD?

# TYREE

# HERNE HILL

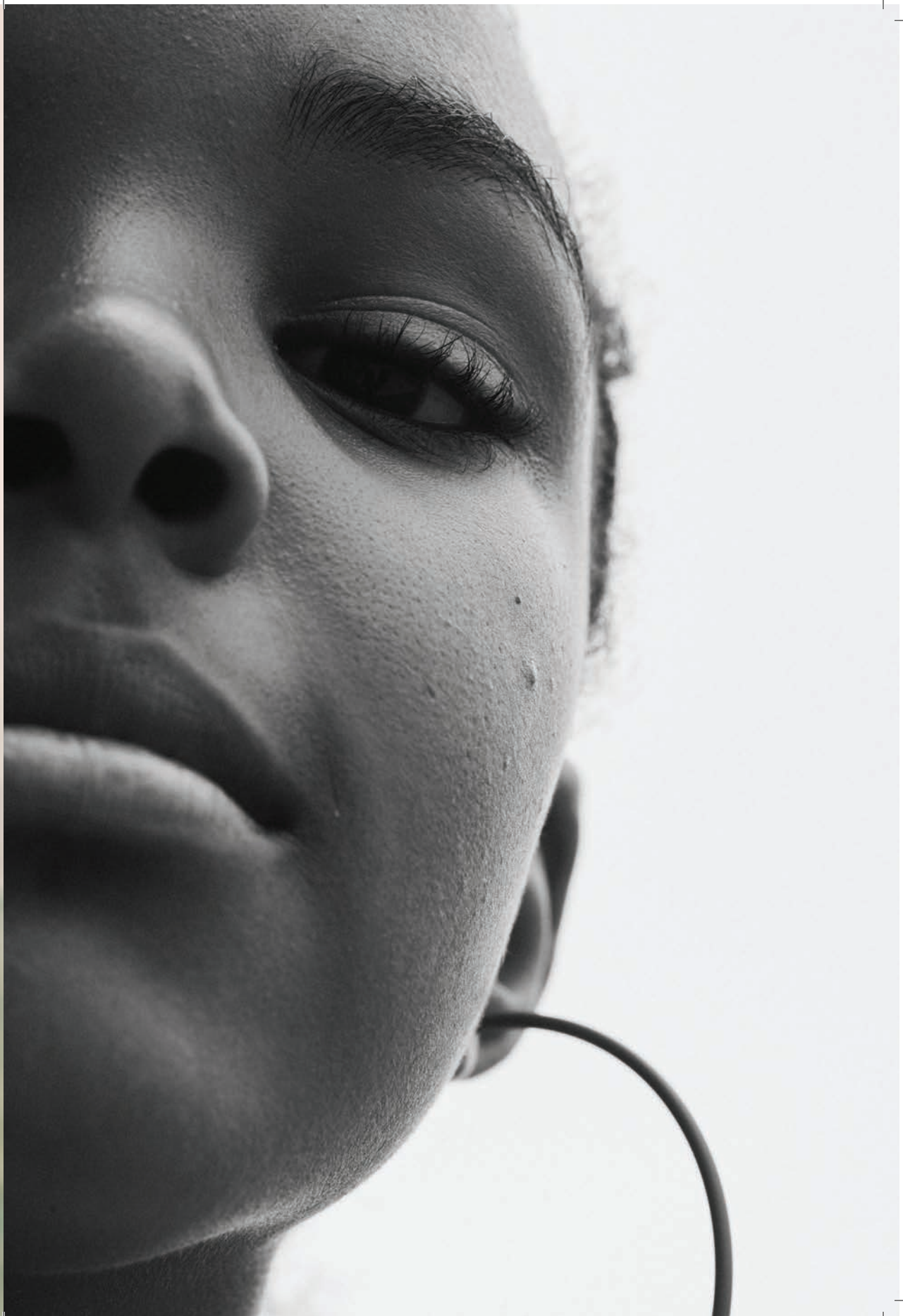
London is a special place and I m glad I was born and grew up here because the amount of chances us young people get are outstanding.

Growing up in a Jamaican family has taught me to love everyone the same and not to judge people because of their colour, sex or religion. In addition being Jamaican, sports brings us all together especially watching the one and only Usain Bolt run. The world cup attracts all of us like glue because we love to link up and watch our country do us proud. Furthermore, the world cup allows everyone to join together and have fun no matter where you re from. I ve learnt from different countries/cultures that everyone is different and we all celebrate and believe in different things. London can teach other cities to love one another and celebrate our differences, there can be a few negatives about London but if you go deep into it you ll find more positives than negatives, like willingness to get to know other people, diverse cultures that bring us together rather than separates us, a place where you can express yourself without judgement.

London could teach young people from around the world to get to know other young people with different backgrounds and to approach others without any judgement. For example, most of my friends have different backgrounds which I find important, all of my friends listen to different types of music such as: Drill, Hip-Hop, Bashment, Dancehall and American music, we are all different. One of my friends is Italian and they ve made me try homemade Italian food that their mum has made for me.

To sum up everything, London will give the youth amazing opportunities in life and football.





# JAMAL

# STREATHAM

Being a Londoner means too much to me. It creates me, it's who I am. Being from London, from the bottom of society, allows me to create new boundaries that I can break and redefine for myself. I get to prove myself to the powerful people of society that I am worth your time and that I can actually teach the older generation about my race, about my culture, and about my experiences.

Growing up in such a diverse society, I feel like I have the greatest view of life, my music taste, the food I enjoy everything that creates me stemmed from the vibrant community that surrounds me. You don't see this type of love between so many nations, especially since the world right now is so divided; the wars, the discrimination, the racial abuse. It's disgusting!

However, the society that is labelled as "violent" and "divided" is actually the most blessed and co-operative group in the social hierarchy. Being a Londoner I get to celebrate the fact that I have Black, Asian, White friends that feel like family to me.

This is an important lesson London can give to the rest of the world. I believe London can teach other places the importance of being united and the value of love even though you may be going through the toughest of times. Having that positivity around me provides me with the fuel that makes me the best person I can be. There is no other place like London.



# KAREEM

# BRIXTON

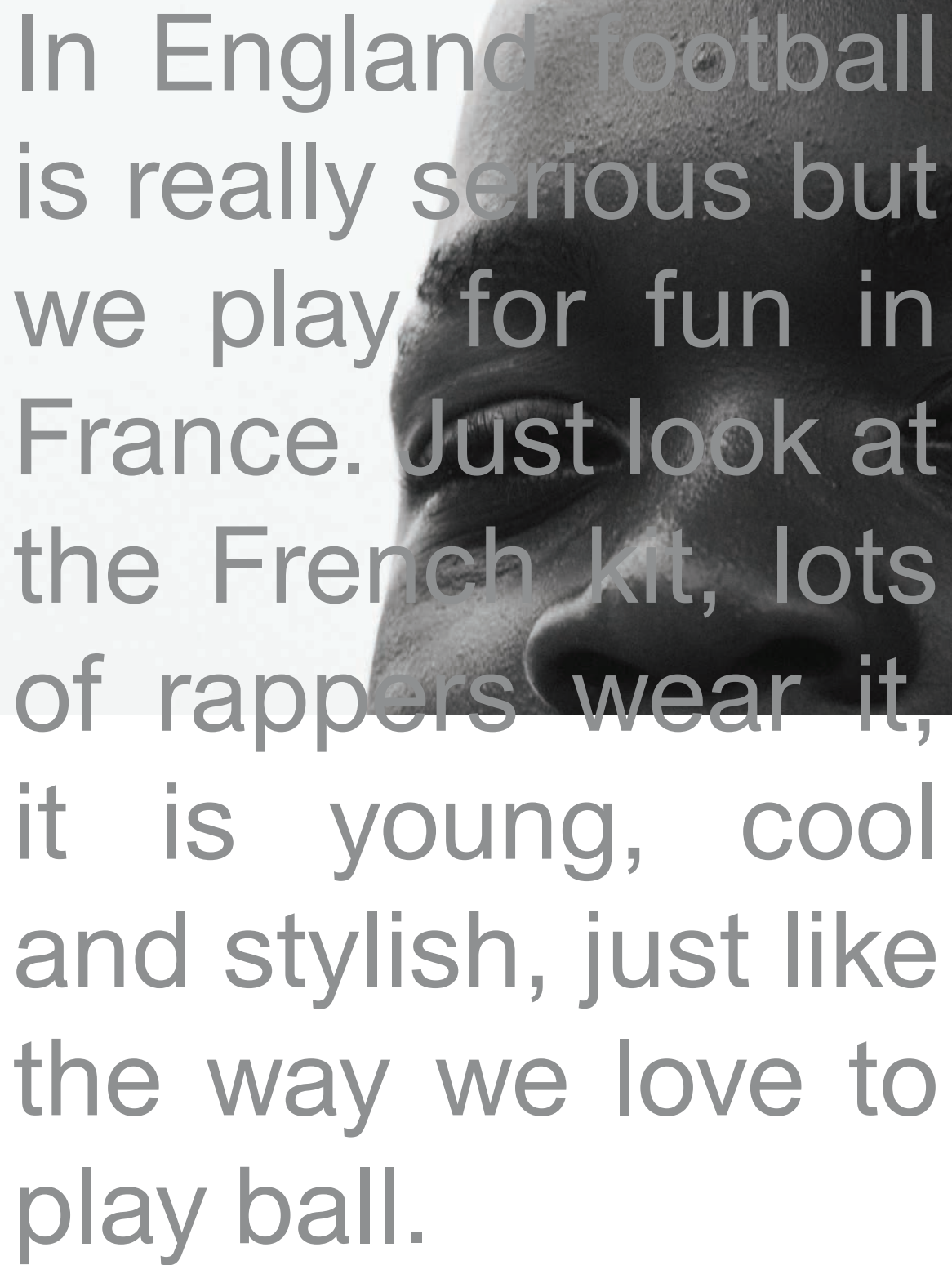
For us Londoners, living here is great because it teaches us that everyone is equal whatever their ethnicity or background. Of course everyone has their own preferences. Some people prefer Fish and Chips, for example, while others would go for a Chicken Chow Mien. In fact Jerk Chicken and brown rice is the best! If London wasn't a City of Nations would we have the opportunity to try all of these different foods?

I think London can teach the rest of the world that racism isn't the answer to anything, including in football. Think about this, football teams don't consist of just one race or one culture. Look at Arsenal, Iwobi is from Nigeria, Cech is from Czech Republic and Welbeck is English. As fans we support and treat them as one of our own.

As young people in London I think we have the responsibility to teach the older generation that people come from different backgrounds and this is portrayed through the diversity in school which didn't affect the older generation when they were growing up. As society is changing the mentality of the older generation should adapt with it to as well as their mentality to young people because in fact we are doing bits as a generation think about all these up and coming ballers that are impressing the older generation.

People that come from different backgrounds that come to London might not be classed as a Londoner, if you are born in London and you speak fluent English you are classed as a Londoner. I think there would be a lot of racism in London because different people would come to visit London from different countries to watch the world cup if England was to host the competition.

I believe that there would be tension amongst English fans and other countries, if England was to lose the competition. I believe that having a diverse English football team would tackle racism because different people would celebrate the players and their success regardless of their ethnic differences as they would represent just one team.



In England football is really serious but we play for fun in France. Just look at the French kit, lots of rappers wear it, it is young, cool and stylish, just like the way we love to play ball.



WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED TO APPRECIATE  
FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES?

# DIOR

# GYPSY HILL

My name is Dior Diamond Dean and I support an amazing team called Chelsea and I am a part of FBB. Am I a Londoner? That's not even a question, of course I am. I have lived in London for as long as I can remember. It's not just because I've lived here for my whole life, it's because of how far I have come, and what I've built here.

Being a young Londoner means a lot, because every day there is a new challenge and a new obstacle to overcome. But it's amazing at the same time, I feel like it's my home in many places other than the home I sleep in, like down to my school, the football cage and the chicken shops. Honestly I wouldn't change the culture for anything. Although the violence does sometimes worry me and I really hope young Londoners like me could make a difference and make our city safer. But there is more to London than the crime rates, and right now I love it the way it is. The best thing for me is the football and how football has made me the person I am today.

I really do think London can teach the rest of the world something. London is a multicultural city which brings people from backgrounds that I didn't imagine existed, and it's a place that people come to try and start a new chapter. London has everything, down to the amazing landscapes and the amazing food (chicken shops) and the sick grime songs my Londoners make.

In addition I have learned to appreciate the amazing cultures that I have come across in my lifetime. I have learnt not to judge and mock any person's culture because I don't know what they have been through and what they are experiencing and it's also amazing how other people's cultures can bring you closer and just make you take into consideration other people. In conclusion London has given me everything down to education and the opportunity to express myself.

# ANAIYA

# CROYDON

There are so many different people and groups in London, like so many of my friends are from different countries or their heritage is from somewhere else. Since I have been with FBB I have learnt that not only do we all have different cultures within us, but also how important it is to value this.

I have learnt that we should all appreciate that we have mixed heritage within us and we can all learn new things from each other. At the end of the day, it is important to understand that even though people might have different skin colour, different accents or may look different, we all have the same organs, the same red blood cells inside us. Nobody should be judged because of the way they look!

Football is a big thing to me and my family, it gives us a sense of unity. I think football brings us all together as a family and unites us together as one. For me, it has helped me appreciate how despite our differences we can be passionate about the same thing.

It can inspire people to do positive things and achieve their goals, as being part of a team encourages people to get along with one another. And just like football teams, having a variety of cultures and backgrounds is a strength.

London is the world's most multicultural city and over 300 Languages are spoken in London schools. Not every person in London may speak English however when it comes to watching the world cup or a football match, we are all speaking the same language.



WHAT CAN THE YOUTH OF TODAY  
TEACH THE OLDER GENERATION?



# LORENZO

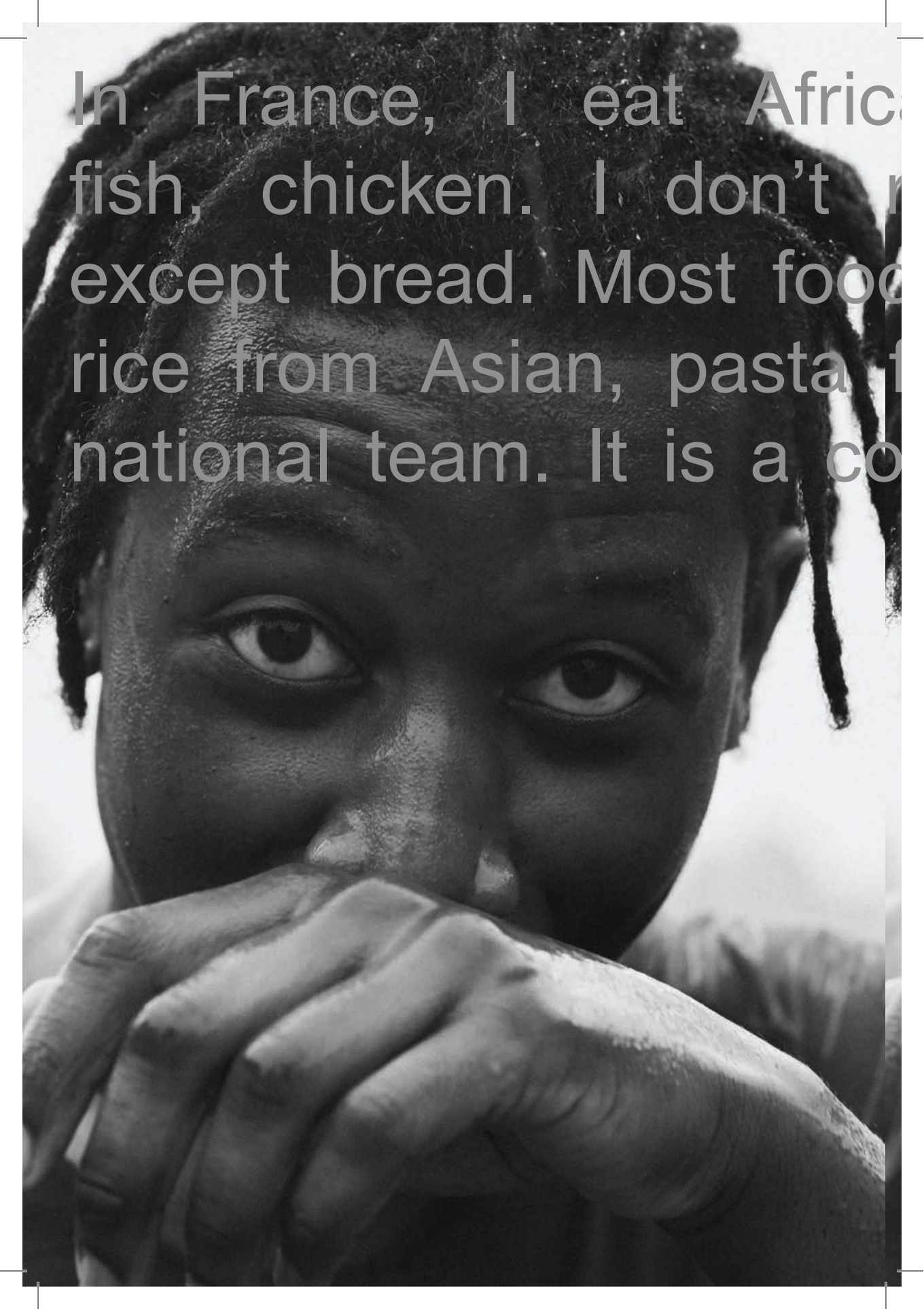
# HERNE HILL

My name is Lorenzo and I've been part of FBB for over a year. Our latest project City of Nations has made me realise how diverse London is. London can be described as a City of Nations because of diversity and different cultures around the city. This means that people can mix with different cultures. For example different countries bring different music, food, clothes and languages. When I walk around London I smell different flavours from different countries or hear different music such as afrobeats or drill. All of this comes together to describe my life as a Londoner.

The World Cup to me means a time of fun and gatherings with my family. Since it has started, all that has been playing on the TV is the World Cup. When I watch the World Cup it shows how passionate people are for their country and how they celebrate even after they lost. The World Cup brings communities together and this is one of the best times to see the diversity of London. Here through the World Cup, I have learnt to appreciate other cultures. As Nigerians we are proud to watch football and usually it involves big meetings and gatherings.

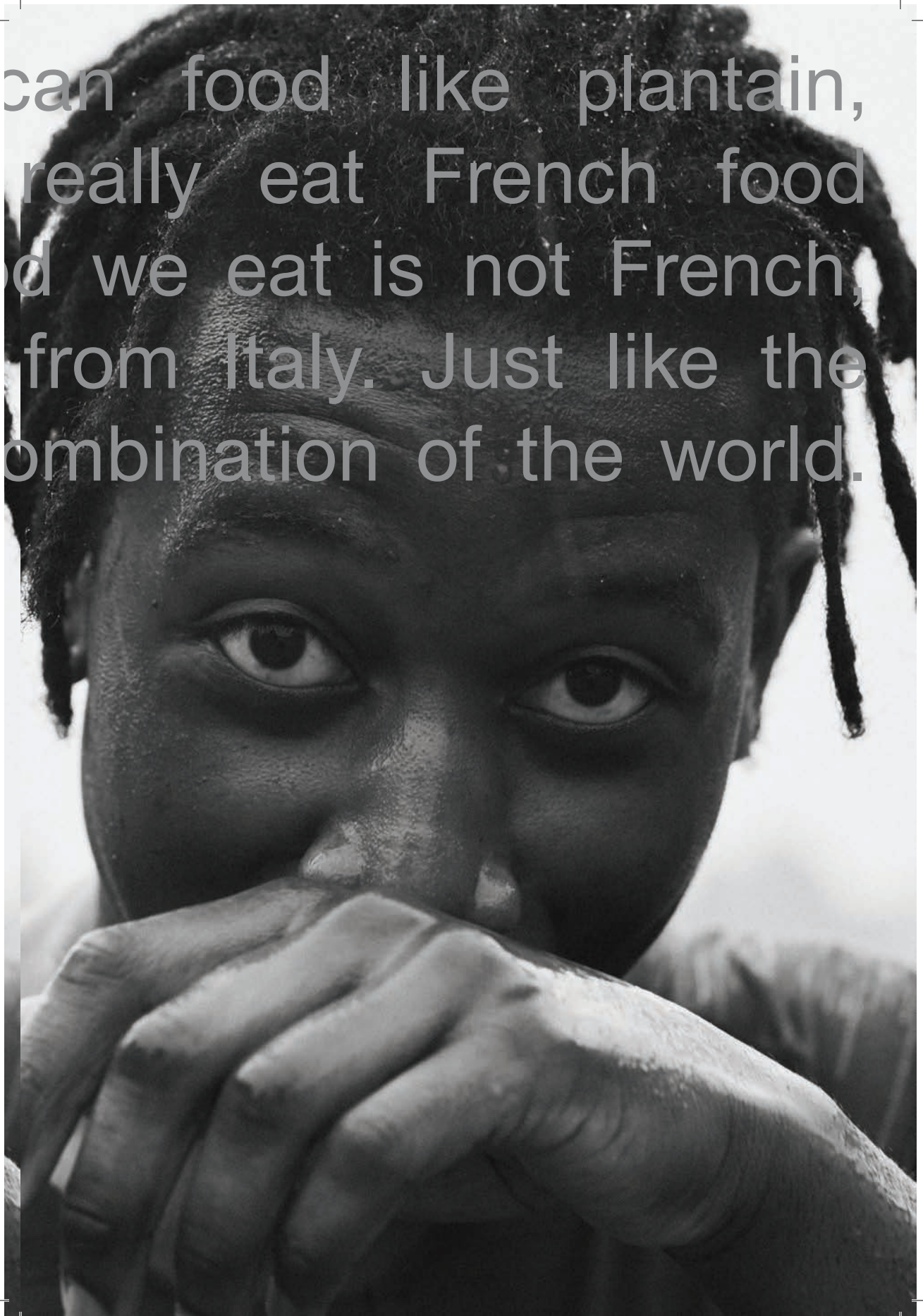
Us as youths, we can show the older generation that diversity is a good thing to have, because without diversity London would be a dry, dull place. Therefore different cultures are a necessity to make London what it is, a fun, energetic, diverse place. Youths may be portrayed as violent or to be associated with gangs and in fact the majority of us aren't.

The older generation has to see us for what we truly are, a generation of talent, creativity and diversity. In football, teamwork is necessary and that means accepting people's differences, and celebrating them. Football is a sport that doesn't use the differences of the players to discriminate or divide, but teaches us to appreciate each other and that we are more united than divided, through our passions. The same way the older generation have taught us about hard work we need to teach them about accepting other people and their cultures, as well as celebrating each other.



In France, I eat African  
fish, chicken. I don't eat  
except bread. Most food is  
rice from Asian, pasta from  
national team. It is a com

can food like plantain,  
really eat French food  
and we eat is not French,  
from Italy. Just like the  
combination of the world.



# SHALUKA

# CROYDON

Growing up in this generation with so many young and talented individuals I have realised our voices are not recognised or heard. I have met a lot of young people who have overcome and continue to overcome tough situations and challenges. Having conversations and sharing experiences with these young people, who have become close friends or inspirations, has shown me a different side to the youth. Most of the time young people don't have support or don't get the help needed so are often forgotten about. So many of us young people grow up together as our own family and we support each other than getting support from older people. I want to ask the older generations to take an effort to understand and that we could use their support and ask for them to be our role model.

We are all different in some way but most of the older generation see this as a division and a negative thing but for us this is a positive and we bring the best in each other with this. All our differences make us closer together and it shows we all push each other up then pull each other down. Older generations should see that the division makes us who we are and give us an identity that other people support.

There are many young people across the country that want to make a change or an impact on someone's life to help them. We want to show or inspire people to reach for their goals and go beyond. Our generation have potential but we are often not given the opportunities to make a difference. Many young people get stereotyped because they wear a tracksuit and look different to what kids should look like now a days but if you ask these kids about what they want to do or what goals they have set for themselves you would see that all of them are talented but don't get given a chance to show their talent because they get seen in a bad light.

Young people don't let negatives define who they are or don't let that stop them from reaching their goals and that's why young people should be given an opportunity and a chance to show that we can change and help people's lives.





# MALACHI

# TULSE HILL

To be a young Londoner it s challenging for us now because the older generation expects a lot from us because they think our lives now are not as hard as theirs was when they were the younger generation. Also, the younger generations from different countries have to adapt for example if people in Nigeria came down to England they would have to adapt to the people around them and also the weather. The weather in Nigeria is very hot so therefore when they come down here they will find it hard to adapt due to the fact they are used to hot weather not cold and rainy days.

Also, the older generations didn t have the technology and now we do. In my opinion, I feel like technology has changed the actions of younger kids, we spend way too much time on technology. Technology could be an addictive thing for us younger kids. But also we are able to do so much with it, whether it is making music, videos, or using our computers to research for school work.

It is important for the older generation to see that just like technology, the challenges us young people face today are different from what they went through. At the moment to be a young Londoner it is hard because people are killing themselves and it is very dangerous on the streets, especially for us boys. I think it is important that they come to meet us halfway if we are to get along and stop problems like violence in our city.

In my opinion, I feel as though if they did it would make a difference because being young is today is not the same as it was in the past. Of course, young people do need to make an effort to help the older generation us, because for them it is easy to think us youngsters are destroying what they spent their life building. But if they were ready to listen to us and engage, like FBB does, maybe they would see something different.

# THANKS

Printed by

**PUSH** London

**JORGE** Stockwell

**JULES DOMINIQUE**

**KHADIJA MENOVAR-FOUATIH**

**OTIS DOMINIQUE**

**PADDY** Angell Town

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