

ECONOMIC (IN)JUSTICE

FACTSHEET - TACTIC

Name	Chrisann Jarrett and Kimberly Garande – We Belong
Details, area of experience	Migration, youth
Interview date	December 2020
Issues addressed	Migration; youth; attainment; politics; hostile environment.
Injustice category (linked to economic injustice)	ability <input type="checkbox"/> age <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> class <input type="checkbox"/> faith <input type="checkbox"/> gender <input type="checkbox"/> neuro-diversity <input type="checkbox"/> race <input type="checkbox"/> sexuality <input type="checkbox"/>
Dates mentioned	2020
Locations referenced	Across the UK
Campaigns, movements, protests	Galvanise and mobilise; enact policy change; gave evidence to MPs.
Historical context	The UK's hostile environment 2010s onwards
Tactics	Galvanise the youth; appeal to common values of different politicians; bridge political divides; hold regular gatherings; meaningful participation; spoke to migrants to find out where their MPs were based.
Key words	Migrants Youth Learning Bridge political divides Galvanise

	Changemakers
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be persistent. • Engage on a human level. • Be true to your organisation’s values and embed them in everything you do. • Aim for meaningful participation as an accelerator for social change. • Make your campaign constituent led.
Stand-out quotations	<p>“If you don’t tell your story, someone else will, and you won’t like how it’s being told.”</p> <p>“It’s important that we also equip the young people we work with for them to be able to become changemakers in their own right.”</p> <p>“Despite different political alignments, everyone subscribes to basic human values such as fairness and justice.”</p> <p>“We created a space for young people to learn and speak openly with no risk of judgement to get skills in public speaking and any other skills they would need to continue campaigning for the issues that were so close to them.”</p>
Story summary	<p>Chrisann Jarrett and Kimberly Garande from the organisation We Belong talk about the tactics they use to challenge the hostile environment and its impact on young migrants. They describe how they appeal to common values of cross party politicians to bridge political divides and raise awareness of the issues.</p> <hr/> <p>We Belong formed to address the issue of hostile environment and the restrictive policies introduced for non-British or non-settled migrants in the UK. The young people We Belong support were brought to the UK as children and the hostile environment impacts their attainment and opportunity to contribute to society. Because of the cost attached to their private lives and right to stay in the UK, many migrant children enter adulthood with a massive financial burden; because all their money is tied up in the UK’s immigration system, it makes it harder still for these people to further integrate and not live on the side-lines.</p> <p>We Belong galvanise and mobilise young migrants in the UK who were and are affected by the hostile environment in a way that had never been done before. One tactic they used was ‘the story of self’, originating from Marshall Ganz, a narrative tool to direct attention to stories by letting them take on the role of teaching people how to act, inspiring and calling the listener to action. We Belong used ‘the story of self’ by drawing on their structured plot of young</p>

	<p>migrants, consisting of the challenges they all faced, including being blocked from higher education, so the listener could see the issues from the protagonist’s lens. This allowed We Belong to tell their story publicly in a structured way to call their listeners to action.</p> <p>‘The story of self’ was the first confrontation of a young migrants’ lived experience and was used to empower young people, encouraging them to partake in social change and tell their own stories. We Belong also created literary comics to tell their stories and to encourage advocacy and educate people on migrant issues. Using ‘the story of self’ to change the narrative of migration and raise awareness of injustice allowed young migrants to share their story and recognise themselves as leaders, not victims of their migration status.</p> <p>To appeal policy that would increase the fees paid by migrants, We Belong grouped together and compiled a photobook to show the Home Office the groups’ journey from the time they arrived in the UK as children to going to school and being part of the community. Doing this allowed the group to own their narrative to appeal to social change, highlighting that lived experience is an asset and at the heart of what We Belong do. They also found that being creative and giving arguments in visual form is energising. Initially, MPs didn’t listen to We Belong - they saw the cases as isolated anomalies - so We Belong made themselves constituent led, and framed the issue about young people wanting to meet their MP to discuss migrant issues.</p> <p>Because We Belong is a charity, they are politically neutral so worked across different parties to raise awareness and found despite different political alignments, all parties subscribe to basic human values such as fairness and justice. We Belong spoke to MPs and law firms that had expertise in the areas that would help them.</p> <p>Relationship building is a primary concern and a key objective for any social change agent because injustice is allowed to persist in society because people aren’t aware it does. We Belong also run leadership training programmes to equip future young leaders with confidence to speak out against injustice.</p>
Main themes for learners	<p>Tell your own story to make change.</p> <p>Share your skills.</p> <p>Talk to and listen to each other.</p>