

Barbora Turtakova

Hi, my name is Barbara. I am 23 years old, and I come from Slovakia. The city I come from is called Kosice and we came to UK when I was eight years old, I came with my parents and the rest of my family. From what I remember, studying in Slovakia was very difficult, I remember being discriminated, I remember being separated from the white kids. So Roma kids would have separate desks placed on the other side of the room, and then the rest of the white kids would sit on the other side. And I remember going through bullying because of my origin. And I also remember the rest of my family, my siblings coming through bullying and discrimination in school. And the reason my parents decided to come to UK was because they believe that if we move to United Kingdom, we would prefer better opportunities in getting education and getting a better job. What I like about UK is that in UK, I think whatever dream you have, you can actually achieve. In Slovakia, I believe, if I managed to graduate throughout the discrimination and bullying, I would find it very difficult to find any type of job in the area that I would get my education. But in UK, I think there is a better chance for kids to graduate and get their education and actually follow their dream Dream roles. So for me what it means to be Roma, it means being categorised into a group of lower class people, I would say, I found it throughout the life that people when people think of Roma, they straightaway think of people without education, without a good job, and without any money or anything like that. So I think that being Roma means actually working really hard for yourself working extra harder than other people. And in case of following your dreams, it would mean giving more percentage, more effort into it than the rest of the people. So how I see the role of Roma people and women in general? I think that I see a lot of people finishing their colleges and finishing getting a degree at the universities, and actually following their dreams. I know a few people that have actually got a diploma in law, in psychology, criminology and all all type of job roles. And I think it's very inspiring. I think it's a positive change for the Roma history. So I work in a law firm in Bradford. I've started working there as a paralegal. And actually now I'm an assistant helper with solicitors on actually dealing with most immigration cases and family cases and criminal cases. I really enjoy what I'm doing and in future, I hope to become a criminal lawyer. And looking back, I actually realised that as a kid, I've never had a dream job. I always knew that I wanted to do something better, something bigger, but never had an actual dream or dream job that I will just follow. I started doing business management when I was about 15 years old. I've graduated in business management, but I found it really hard to get a job in that area. So I've applied for a job in a law firm and I've got offered a job role as a paralegal and then fell in love with immigration law and criminal law. What I see myself doing in 10 years is hopefully immigration and criminal law. So I would hope to become a immigration lawyer and criminal lawyer. The reason I hope to become a criminal, because even though I've never had a dream job as a kid, I was always interested into criminology. I always loved watching criminal documentaries as a kid. And it's, it's, it was something that would always interest me. And I know that it is something that I would never lose my interest in the future. Seeing more Roma people get in education, and actually becoming lawyers becoming police officers, becoming doctors is very inspiring. And I think that the more the majority of Roma, people would get education and better jobs and better futures, it would break the stereotype of the category that the Roma placed into. So people when people think of Roma, right now, what they see is people without education without good jobs, but I think if Roma people started thinking about education and thinking about the future and thinking about their dreams, it would break the stereotype and I really hope in future I would be able to see that. So I'm actually right now a law student at a university I'm in my second year. And in future, I hope I'll would get a degree in a criminal law and immigration. So I really hope this video would inspire more Roma people to get their education and to follow their dreams. And I would also like to say thank you to Compas charity for giving me this opportunity to do this video and tell people about my dream and about my future dreams and about my past. So thank you.