



Ibidun

IBIDUN DARAMOLA

Ibidun is originally from Nigeria and moved to Aberdeen 15 years ago to do her PhD at the University of Aberdeen. She is a minister with the Church of Scotland, currently serving as an interim moderator.



I speak a few Nigerian languages. I grew up in the North, so I speak a bit of Hausa language. I connected with people from the South, called Calabars, so I speak a bit of Efik language. I speak Yoruba and, having lived in Kenya, I speak bits of Kiswahili. I spent three months in France with my husband to learn French language, but I'm not sure I can do that any longer. The problem with languages is when if you don't make use of it, you kind of lose it with time.

I think the initial tendency [within the community].. is to speak in English because we are in Scotland. But sometimes we do [switch between languages]. We have a lot of our songs. Some of the local songs are in vernacular – the local language. We could sing Yoruba songs. We could sing Hausa songs. Sometimes we sing the Ghanaian songs because it's an African community.



[My children] speak Yoruba like Scots. My husband is quite good at speaking to them in Yoruba... we discuss the culture with them and help them understand the differences sometimes when there are issues that pop up and we're saying that 'look, you are still an African' and they are quite aware of that.



I'm very proud of my culture, and at home we still retain a large chunk of the culture like the language, the food, and the values of the community. [...] And I work with the Church of Scotland so I work with people locally, so I have those two cultures.



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