

**feedback and  
endorsements**

# encouraging students to spread their wings

The way you encourage students to work outside of their BA Film remit...is a wonderful way to encourage students to spread their wings, think about their careers beyond MDX, and to think about how they can use their skills to help others

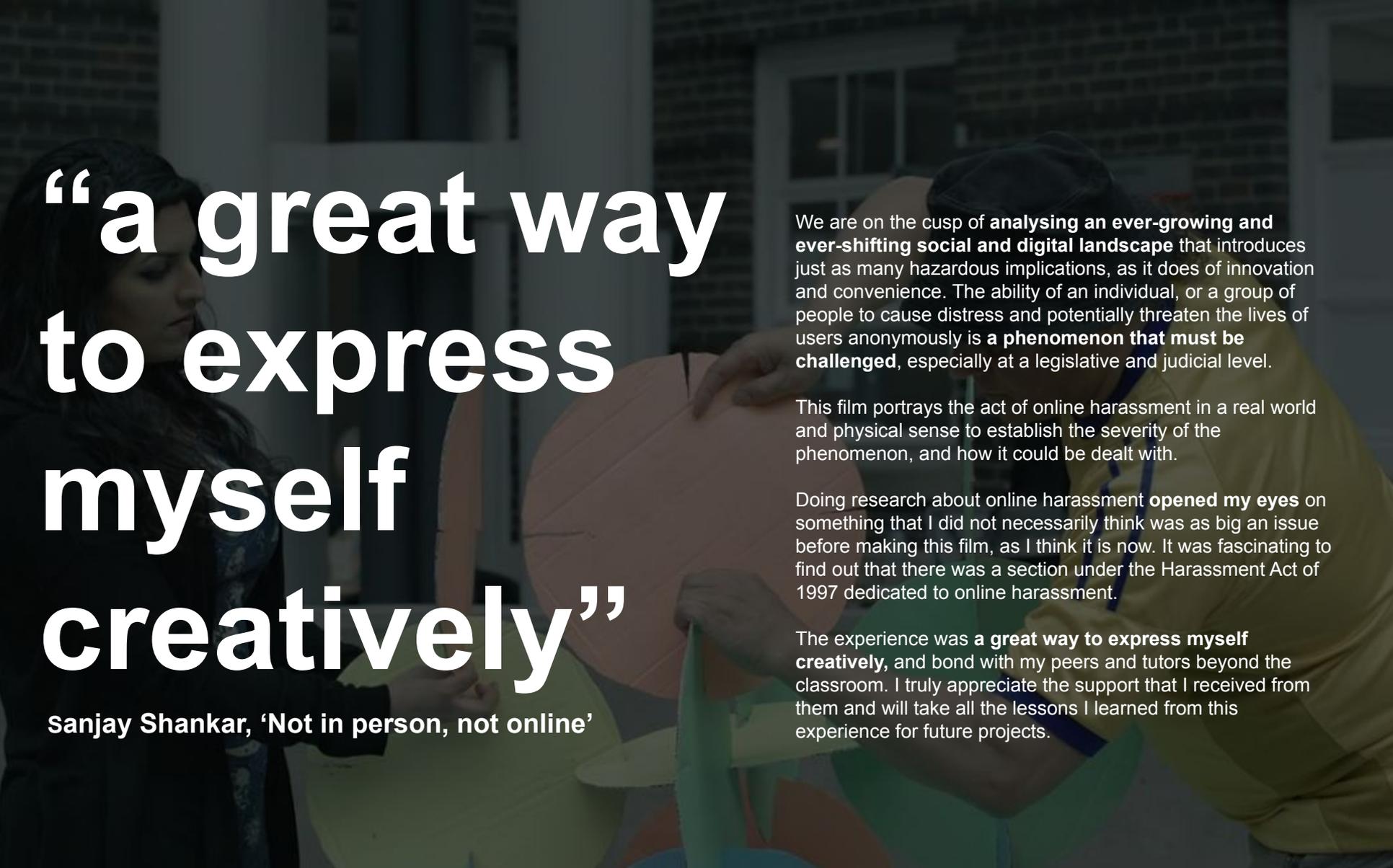
(Eddie McCaffrey, Senior Lecturer, Television Production, Middlesex University)

# critical thinking

The fact that students had to reflect on their own relationship to the campaign's topic and that this reflection was sometimes uncomfortable for all involved was, I think, useful in terms of developing a successful campaign and in encouraging learning. It meant the students had to think critically about what they were saying and how they might persuade others. It also **encouraged them to conduct their own research into the issues around the campaign** and to construct arguments that supported their position.

(Martin McGrath (Lecturer in Public Relations and Media, Middlesex University))





“a great way  
to express  
myself  
creatively”

Sanjay Shankar, ‘Not in person, not online’

We are on the cusp of **analysing an ever-growing and ever-shifting social and digital landscape** that introduces just as many hazardous implications, as it does of innovation and convenience. The ability of an individual, or a group of people to cause distress and potentially threaten the lives of users anonymously is a **phenomenon that must be challenged**, especially at a legislative and judicial level.

This film portrays the act of online harassment in a real world and physical sense to establish the severity of the phenomenon, and how it could be dealt with.

Doing research about online harassment **opened my eyes** on something that I did not necessarily think was as big an issue before making this film, as I think it is now. It was fascinating to find out that there was a section under the Harassment Act of 1997 dedicated to online harassment.

The experience was a **great way to express myself creatively**, and bond with my peers and tutors beyond the classroom. I truly appreciate the support that I received from them and will take all the lessons I learned from this experience for future projects.

# a voice to the community

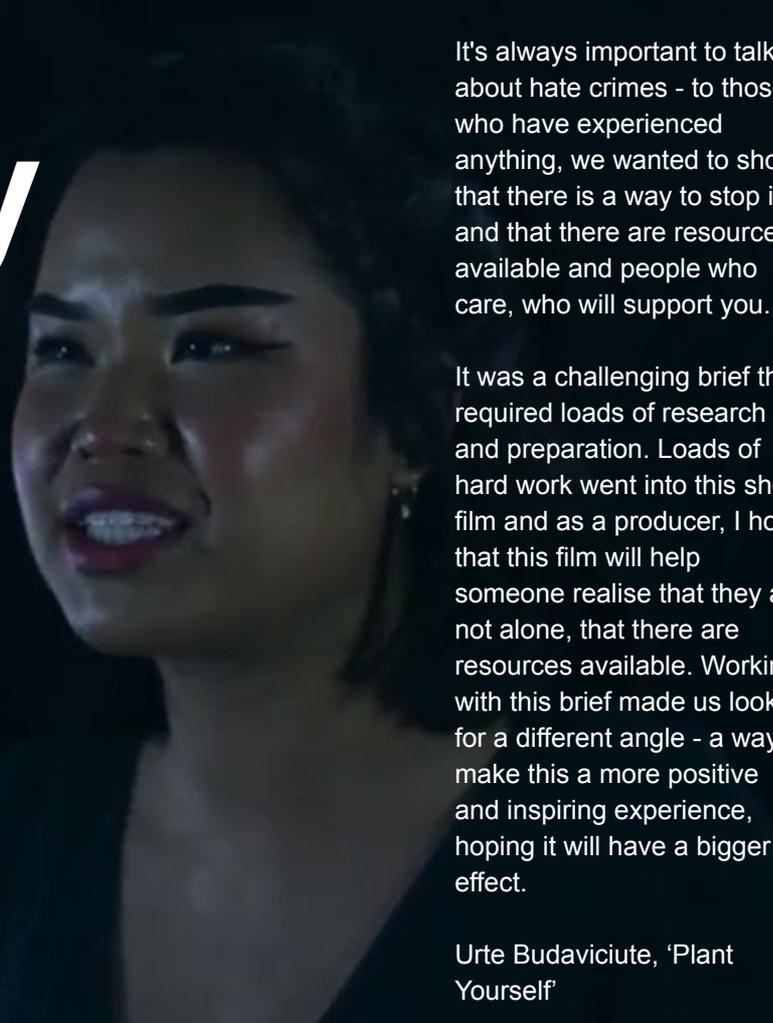
"We were more than **impressed** that the specifications were interpreted to meet and **exceed our expectations** - the mood, expression, timing were **brilliant**. ...completely **'blown-away'** by the way that the students who worked tirelessly through the summer to meet our specification to the minutest detail... [I have] received requests from viewers asking how they can get involved" (Dr. Angela Herbert MBE).

"It is **well written and acted, with powerful, honest words** that will make an impact, especially as they are coming directly from young people. Young people are very intelligent and will generally listen to others who they feel are being genuine - which this film portrays well. **Well done to you and your team!**" (Colette Allen, Director, Hackney Quest).

"...was **touched** with how the real life scenarios affected different people i.e. the perspective of the Mum, no Dad at home, the baby's chair etc. These different takes create empathy at all levels" Courtney Brown, Founder and (CE, Father2Father).

"**A massive thank you** to all of the creative students and staff at Middlesex University London for their efforts in creating this **amazing** short film for us" (Violent Crime Prevention Board).

# learning along the way



The theme of my campaign was racism and I think it's important to talk about this now because even though racism has decreased dramatically in our history, it still lingers in our society and it's not going away any time soon.

That being said I believe that people should focus on standing strong against racism accepting that it may never go away but equally asserting that you will never change your perception of self because of it - you will remain you no matter how different you are and you should report it if you witness it.

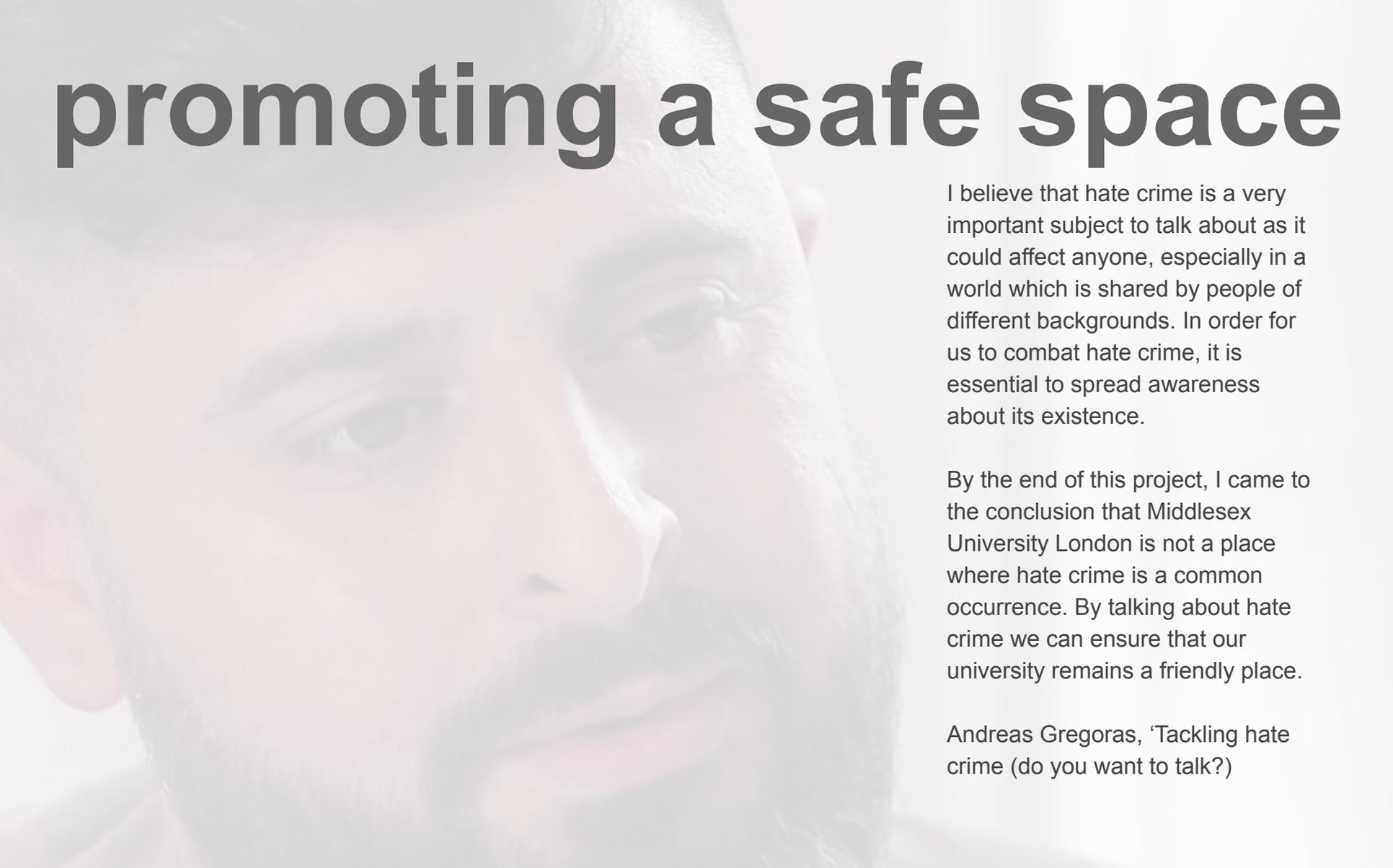
What I learnt along the way are obviously some new filming techniques but more importantly that racism is an evil towards individual groups of people but on the contrary, does not discriminate. It happens to everyone - White, Black, Asian whoever and no one is safe from it. So I made the cast of my film completely diverse to represent that.

John Castro, 'Plant Yourself'

It's always important to talk about hate crimes - to those who have experienced anything, we wanted to show that there is a way to stop it and that there are resources available and people who care, who will support you.

It was a challenging brief that required loads of research and preparation. Loads of hard work went into this short film and as a producer, I hope that this film will help someone realise that they are not alone, that there are resources available. Working with this brief made us look for a different angle - a way to make this a more positive and inspiring experience, hoping it will have a bigger effect.

Urte Budaviciute, 'Plant Yourself'



# promoting a safe space

I believe that hate crime is a very important subject to talk about as it could affect anyone, especially in a world which is shared by people of different backgrounds. In order for us to combat hate crime, it is essential to spread awareness about its existence.

By the end of this project, I came to the conclusion that Middlesex University London is not a place where hate crime is a common occurrence. By talking about hate crime we can ensure that our university remains a friendly place.

Andreas Gregoras, 'Tackling hate crime (do you want to talk?)



# talking about sensitive issues

I chose an LGBT theme because most of my friends are gay and I know their stories. And I know that they live in a society where they still have to fight for acceptance and a right to live a normal life like everyone else.

My research showed me that most LGBT people in the UK are still afraid of holding hands in public places and that there are many teenagers who have ended their life because of bullying at school.

I made this film not only in honour of LGBT but in honour of everyone who has faced bullying and ended their life because of it. All of those human beings could be happy.

It is extremely important to talk about the problems, and only by talking, showing, and spreading information, can we solve them.

Anna Rihtere, "The Moments She Will Never Experience".

# inspirational experiences

I had **an amazing experience**. Being a part of this project was **a privilege** and served as an **inspirational experience** to make little changes in the world no matter how small

I enjoyed this experience immensely and it was **such a pleasure** to be apart of this council community's project of solidarity .

I got involved in this project because of the issue it was talking about. **Working on documentary films makes me do more research and allows me to meet people interested in the same topics**. It was great to see that despite bad weather, a lot of different types of people from came and helped.

**Thank you so much for the opportunity** given on this project. The reason I took part in this documentary was to know more about these two communities. What I found interesting was that differences were put aside for a greater cause and it made me think that projects like this should happen more often, in all communities.

I was impressed by all the hard work that has gone into the project AND the amazing results! It is comforting that this work is taking place and there is **a groundswell for change** – I find it particularly hard to broach these topics with my generation and we need to “erode” these prejudices at every opportunity! (Leo Smith)



# educational

I found it to be a wonderful and educational experience that **improved my knowledge about society as well as film awareness.** [I learnt about] the statistics of crimes to do with stalking and how surprisingly high they are. Not to mention the fact, they are often ignored.

[Our] film highlights the heavy struggles of our society's hidden inequalities in gender, and how the damage done to women is often overlooked by the law. It...**shows that there ARE people that care, and that they need not be afraid to speak up**

**GL De Guzman, producer, 'The Dusk'**

# inspiring change

*“Thanks for coming to the event today and supporting our students’ amazing work. We’ve had some incredible comments and feedback and people asking to screen it in various settings but something just happened that I must share with you.*

*A woman just approached me at the conference and held my hand and thanked me for the film. She said it really moved her. She turned away because she was crying. She then gathered herself and said it had inspired her to act, and she has just reported a hate crime because of this film.”*

A ‘Changing the Culture’ team member, post safe4faith event.

You are louder than the hate.

