SOAS 60-Second Interview

For UnLtd Winners

Name
Ernestine Cath

Photo of interviewee

Project Title and Description
Student Detainee Support Group

SOAS – What are you studying/did you study, involvement in societies/projects etc.?
I am in my last year of a BA in Social Anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies. In my time here I have been involved in the Student-run Food Cooperative, the Green Group, the Samba society and SOAS Detainee Support Group.

Date of graduation
2013

Why did you decide to apply for the UnLtd Funding?
With a group of other students we had long spoken about our desire to set up an organisation, which offers support to immigration detainees as we had extensive experience in this field. UnLtD Funding seemed ideal as it also offers us support to materialise this vision beyond mere funding.

How did SOAS help?
As an critical institutions I feel SOAS has laid the foundations for many students in understanding why they should engage in working towards social justice. The SOAS UnLtd team have been very helpful in trying to figure out how to put this vision in to practice by considering practical concerns and limitations that we face and trying to see how to get beyond them.
What do you hope to achieve through your project?
We hope to see that more immigration detainees in the UK are supported through their legal representations and feel less socially isolated during their time in detention.

Future plans?
To continue working in the field of Migration and do a Masters in this as well.

Any tips for students who want to start something?
I think its quite important for students to take seriously their ability to positively influence the world right now and not always perhaps feel that things like practical casework support to vulnerable populations is something for later on. There is great need for more projects which support for instance illegal migrants and asylum-seekers and it would be great if people just committed to this.