



Juliana Melara-Recinos, Karen Andrade

Interviewer:

What is your name?

Juliana:

My name is Juliana Melara-Recinos.

Karen:

My name is Karen Andrade

Interviewer:

And where are you?

Juliana:

I'm in the Wheeling Museum in New Bedford.

Karen:

We're in the same place.

Juliana:

We're in the same place. Go ahead.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Karen:

Because we're all in the same place.

Interviewer:

Okay. So, tell me about your stories.

Juliana:

Okay. Well, what I have said. So I guess looking back retrospectively at my childhood memories, I kind of think that I've changed a lot as a person. But also I kind of feel bad for the kid that I used to picture, I used to see, that I always see in the images I find stored. And then whenever I look at those images, I just kind of feel bad. I'm like, wow, the world is waiting to wreck you. The world is just there. It's about to...and as a child, you picture the world to be a perfect place. And you don't know all the things going like taxes, consumerism.



Karen:

Yeah. You're very innocent.

Juliana:

Yeah. You're very innocent. So it's like...and looking back, it's like I'm not the same person anymore. And it's like, I don't know this little girl. The life she was living is not the same thing I'm going through now. And it's super weird because most of those pictures are me in EL Salvador, not in America. And the ones I see in America kind of change. The way I used to live over there was in the wild. Not in the wild, but in the farm with animals and stuff. And then the pictures I find when I'm here, it's a sharp distinction because I'm stuck in a house. I'm literally surrounded by buildings and stuff. That's what most of my pictures are. So, you can see that in the images. The before and the after of immigrating here.

Karen:

I feel like I can also relate to that because of Cape Verde where my grandmother's house is located is up on a mountain. So you have to literally climb a mountain in order to get there. I used to play with dirt with trucks and stuff that kids here don't normally do. Either they just watch TV or play on their phones. Because now apparently they all have smartphones.

Juliana:

Yeah. Yeah.

Karen:

You can just tell the difference looking back at your pictures. Either you were really happy as a kid or you were really depressed. It's complete opposites. It's one or the other. So it's just weird because you imagine this life and it's not happening, it's like, whoa, that's a disappointment. Is that the same?

Juliana:

Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer:

Now do you guys feel moving from one country to another was the cause of the change? The new environment caused you to change? Do you feel like you had this pressure on you to be more like the people you find or now you're living in because there's a total cultural change and all of a sudden you're somewhere new. Do you, was it...

Karen:

I feel like, yeah, because otherwise you probably get bullied because coming here I spoke English, but obviously it was like, my accent was pretty obvious and out there. And I got picked on by not by white kids or Americans by other Cape Verdians because they were born and raised here. But things that I could have done in reverse, a reverse card on them, like, "Do you speak Creole? I didn't think so." But it's just how you just imagine it to be one way. Because I didn't want to come here at first. Because I didn't know anybody here, didn't know anything about here other than the language that's spoken here and coming here and seeing people speaking another language, especially when they speak about grocery stores and stuff like that and it affects you, but you can't really say anything about it because you can't argue with them.



Interviewer:

Yeah.

Karen:

Obviously you don't have, you don't speak the language well enough to argue with them. You're the minority in the country. And it's just how your life just kind of changes in a second. You can't really control everything that happens. And especially coming at a really young age, I came when I was nine. So it's like, I didn't really have a voice at that age. So I feel that also affects a lot of things.

Juliana:

Yeah. I mean even, even within families it's like, I guess I understand what you say when they're literally making fun of you in front of you and it's like, they use the language. They used to speak in English in front of me, about me. I just didn't know what they were saying. I just heard my name being mentioned. But it was in English, just kind of like, it was their defense mechanism against us, but it's really sad because people who are multilingual, I think, are more valued because we know this, we are more knowledgeable in languages and I speak Spanish and English and you speak Creole and English, right?

Karen:

And I also do speak Portuguese. And also comes to value when it comes to the workforce, you are the one that people want to hire. Because if you speak multiple language, you can help in multiple ways. And it benefits you in the future. But especially when you're younger, you don't want to speak your language around other people who don't understand it. Because they judge it and it's like, what do I do now? You don't want to speak their language because they're going to judge you for not speaking it well enough. You don't want to speak your language because they want you to speak their language.

Juliana:

Yeah. Yeah.

Karen:

So it's just that confusion that what comes with it, especially at a real young age. So I feel like it's a lot for a kid to handle.

Juliana:

Yeah.

Interviewer:

Do you guys feel if you stayed in your country, you would've turned out way different than what you are now?

Karen:

For sure.

Juliana:

Yeah. I don't think I'd have the same, I guess, dreams as someone over there because in El Salvador, I guess going to college isn't a common thing. It's not something that people, well, it's something people dream of, but they think of it as something unachievable, at all. It's impossible. So I guess coming here was really an opportunity for



me to actually pursue this. Because I want to go to law school. In El Salvador, that's not a thing that people dream of.

Karen:

Especially growing up in poverty.

Juliana:

Yeah. Especially in poverty because people who surrounded me in El Salvador, most of them didn't even finish high school. Most of them barely passed middle school when they were younger. So these dreams that these people might have had back then, they were probably brought down because of their life circumstances and stuff. So I guess in a way we're blessed because...

Karen:

Because it kind of feel like grew up in Cape Verde that college right now is not an option. It is. But you have to have a straight A student and you have to have the grades and you have to know people because if you don't know people, you're not going to make it anymore. And you have to...because I know people who waited one to two years in order to get the funding to go to college. And Cape Verde don't have a lot of universities that can help. So they have to travel outside to England, Netherlands, Portugal in order to get their degrees. And then they go back to their own country, help out the people who help them. And here, I know I can go to college because right now I'm doing the college process and it's extremely stressful.

But it's way easier to get in. Rather you have good grades or not. You can manage that here. There, if you don't have the perfect grades, if you're not the perfect student that the schools want, you're not getting it. And you don't have a chance. And if you don't have a degree, you're not going to get a job. You'll have to be living with your parents. You had to help around the house. And especially me growing up, I was like, what? Five, six? At some point in my house, there was 20 people living in the same house and there was five, six bedrooms. So we all made an effort to take care of each other. Now all of a sudden, [inaudible 00:08:17], moved to different country. We were trying to go to college and help our people and our family back home. So it's just like, I feel like it just depends on the circumstances that you were basically raised in. Some people are better off than others. Some are not.

Juliana:

Yeah. And it's also what I've noticed a lot is that a lot of kids, I guess, we value it more because of where we come from. But a lot of kids don't value their education they receive. And this is why we have so many problems in schools with students and misbehavior, because I feel the opportunities we're getting, the people that are literally living here and they know, get a degree or stuff like that, sometimes it's not the best option for them because of their careers that they want to pursue. But just education itself isn't as valued and as respected as it was and as it is in our native countries and to ourselves.

Interviewer:

If you had the opportunity to go back in time to when you were packing to come to America, would you have, if you had the power to stop it, would you have stopped your family from coming to America?

Karen:

In a way? Yes. And another way? No. Because I feel like coming here has given me opportunities that I wouldn't get there, but I feel I would've been way happier there based on the people that I know. Because I still keep in touch with the people there that I went to school with and I left it when I was in third grade. So I kind of left in the middle of the school year, really young.



So I feel like coming here opened my eyes a lot, but it helped me mature way younger than everybody else. But if I was growing up there, I feel it would be better off mentally, school wise and friendship family wise because once you move away from family, you don't keep in touch as often. People don't really call you and see how you're doing, because like, "Oh you're living in America." And certain things are expected of you because my mom, when we first came here, she was the one who was expected to send stuff, food, clothing for everybody else there because we live in America and that's like, you're living the dream type of life and that's not always the case. So I feel I probably would've been better off in my own country in some ways.

Juliana:

Yeah. That where people expect that. When I traveled there, my cousin, I remember him telling me, "Oh, is your house big? Do you guys live in a mansion?" It's because of the way America's pictured as a perfect country. And I mean, yes, it's prosperous, but it's not, the people themselves aren't as prosperous as they could be because of the situation in the country. But I feel like, I mean I was young. I was four when I was coming. So I didn't really have a choice or anything, but if I could stop it, honestly, I don't think I would because I mean, even if I looked back into the...if I was able to look into the future, I mean, I don't think I would stop it either way. Because I don't know, it's a new country. It's new opportunities.

Karen:

New opportunities.

Juliana:

Yeah. And I don't know, looking now, I don't think I would go back either.

Karen:

Yeah based on, looking at what it has to offer, especially now being teens and graduating high school soon. The amount of things that come your ways have been really stressful. And especially me being the oldest child, I was supposed to teach...I was mandated to teach my sister English. And I was given the task to teach my mom English and everything that needs to be done in the house, taxes and stuff like that, was kind of put on me.

Juliana:

Yeah.

Karen:

And not even knowing the language or understanding it fully, I was put on that responsibility. Now, I feel like it helps me in some ways because now I know how to do those things and understand it better than kids who are just starting out doing it now.

Juliana:

Yeah.

Karen:

But I feel it's just a lot to put on a child. I feel like an older one who doesn't speak the language that well or doesn't really understand it. So I feel a lot can come with it. Good and bad.

Juliana:

Yeah. The older child, that's such a responsibility.



Karen:

Yeah.

Juliana:

I remember telling my mom, I was so stressed about it and I'm a junior, I'm about at start choosing colleges.

Karen:

Yeah.

Juliana:

And it's like, I don't know. And I feel this weight. I have to help my sister when she does it. I have to help my sister with school. I have to make sure she's okay. And I have to take care of her. I have to do everything for her. And it's like, I subconsciously, you don't want to worry about these things because you have your mom, but you still do because you have that sort of-

Karen:

Yeah. That responsibility put onto you.

Juliana:

...yeah, that responsibility. Yeah.

Karen:

Even for me, for college, I'm going to move far away. But then sometimes I don't want to go too far because I know my mom is going to need the help.

Juliana:

Yeah. Yeah.

Karen:

And she doesn't want me to go too far either because she knows she's going to need the help.

Juliana:

Yeah.

Karen:

So it's like, you stop thinking of yourself most of the time because you have to think about everybody else. And especially when you have younger siblings and they need the help. My sister right now, she's in, what, seventh grade and I'm 12th grade. So now I'm graduating and every thing she needs help with, college, high school, that comes up in the future. That's kind of put on me because my mom didn't go to college. She didn't finish high school.

Juliana:

Yeah. Yeah.



Karen:

Her dad didn't finish high school. So everything that I've done before my sister is kind of put on me to teach her how to do it herself. She's not given the opportunity to learn it on her own. So I'm kind of the parent now. And it's just at times I feel like it's not fair, but it also opens our eyes to different things in life as how we think and stuff that. So it's just a lot as a kid to get that responsibility put on yourself.

Interviewer:

Do you guys feel when you came here, you had to sacrifice your freedom, your happiness, those parts of you that you long now, those parts that you missed that you want? Do you feel you had to sacrifice that to have a better life?

Karen:

I feel I had to sacrifice my mental health because of coming here. It's not I came into a happy place. I came straight into bullying, especially being someone who was dark skinned. So that was an issue. Someone who was really skinny. I always had an issue. I never gained weight. Still can't. Got bullied for being skinny. I got bullied for my hairstyles. Not only by students, but teachers too, who just didn't understand. So that kind of added onto the always like, "Hey, the kids here don't like me, now the teachers, what do I do?" I can't really go anywhere without being judged. So that kind of sucked and going to middle school, kids are even ruthless in middle school.

Juliana:

Yeah.

Karen:

So that kind of just made the situation worse and high school and you stress and your job, you have to get a job, you have to help out your parents. And everything just keeps on adding to it. And your mental health just disappears. It doesn't exist anymore. You just stop thinking about yourself.

Juliana:

You're like a machine.

Karen:

Yeah. You think about making everybody else around you happy or wanting you around. And just trying to fit in as to what people want you to be and just forgetting who you are as a person.

Juliana:

Yeah. Yeah. That's a big factor, but it's also...wait, wait, what was your question?

Interviewer:

Do you feel slowly your culture, that part of you that is in your country, that you feel your heart is there, but your culture and all that is disappearing, staying in America, do you feel like...

Juliana:

Yeah, every time I feel out a form and it asks me.



Karen:

Hispanic, Latino.

Juliana:

What ethnicity are you, right? It says Hispanic, Latino. And then it asks, what race are you? I don't know my race. I don't know where I fall with these labels that we're given. And I guess in our own native country, there's only one race, right? Because it's us. And I guess I left my...it feels like I left my people and I have to represent my country in America because there's such a melting pot of cultures and nationalities and traditions.

Karen:

And separating groups too.

Juliana:

Yes. And it's...

Karen:

Everybody's kind of thrown to a category, black, white Hispanics. And then it's like, the Hispanic is separated. So Mexicans.

Juliana:

Yeah.

Karen:

Puerto Ricans, Dominican. It's just...

Juliana:

It's segregation all over again.

Karen:

Agreed.

Juliana:

Yeah.

Interviewer:

Do you feel like it's kind of dehumanizing having those different groups and being separated practically, having those labels? Do you feel like it's kind of dehumanizing of them to do?

Juliana:

In a way.

Karen:

Yeah.



Juliana:

I mean, it is nice to have that sort of, I guess in a way, patriotism towards your country, to feel proud of yourself as who you are and have that label of, yes, I'm Latino, Hispanic. But in the way they use it and represent us in medias and in politics, it's very damaging. Especially during, certain people calling certain groups out and calling and labeling them as something that they're not, generalizing. It's very damaging and very dehumanizing because now you feel, oh, I'm not accepted here anymore. I'm not included in this. And I'm not a part of any of this. So why am I here?

Karen:

Especially for me, during college applications, I would say about 90% of the schools I'm applying to are historical black colleges. Because of just to be with people that look like me, go through the same experience that I go through are, are minorities. Because other people don't know about HBCUs because they're not taught of, it's not publicized. Stanford, Cornell. These are a lot of historical black colleges for people, for black students, who've been through trauma or haven't, but want to get the black experience, not the ones that Americans show us, but create our own experiences for at least the four years of college that we go to. At least it should make the black Americans or Africans or Puerto Ricans Dominicans, the black people in this country feel safer and have their own space for a few years. So they can get a better understanding of what their people were that's not just slavery.

Juliana:

Yeah.

Karen:

So I feel like that's important to teach the people. And I feel like there should be more schools of black colleges, for Hispanics that they will still have their own safe space. So they know, "Okay. These are my people, they look like me, they go through the same things I go through, they speak my language and they understand me." So especially, I feel like just there's different ways to do it. And I feel like the way that it's being done right now is just the wrong way.

Juliana:

Yeah.

Interviewer:

It is.

Karen:

And they're not listening to the people who they're pulling to these groups. They're not listening. So it just affects everybody in the wrong way. And people react in the worst ways and that just affects us even more.

Juliana:

It's literally white people making decisions for-

Karen:

Other minorities.



Juliana:

Other minorities.

Karen:

Not other minorities, but minorities.

Juliana:

Yeah. Making the wrong decisions that they're not hearing us in the country.

Karen:

Yeah. That doesn't affect them.

Juliana:

Yeah.

Interviewer:

Now, Karen, seeing as you're going to college soon, do you feel like coming from another country, it's emphasizing you being black, do you feel like going to an all black college is kind of a safety thing as well?

Karen:

I feel for a lot of black people, yes. Because historical black colleges were created because black people weren't allowed until other colleges. So they created their own safe spaces that black people want to go to. So they can like, "Okay, these four years of my life that I want to be studying, get my degree and getting my life together. I'm going to be in a place around my people. The people that I know I can trust and people that I know are not going to bully me for looking look too dark or being light skinned or whatnot."

So I feel that's a really safe space for a lot of black people. But in a way I can understand other races having their own safe spaces. But I feel like just a lot of these things are just criminalized and just the way that the media portrays a lot of things, I feel it doesn't really help. And HBCUs are not represented as well as Cornell and Stanford. Because those are the best schools, but then it's like, these HBCUs can offer way more than what those schools offer and we're not taught about it because it's not publicized and they don't have the same funding, all these other PWIs have. So it's, we're not...

Juliana:

There's only one side presented, one side of the story being presented.

Karen:

Yeah.

Interviewer:

Okay. Do you feel as though your...although the colleges are supposed to have somewhat of similar educations and give you that experience, do you feel as though it is, you're missing a part where you see diversity, if you go to an all black school, you won't feel that diversity.

Karen:

I feel you will, because me, I'm not African American. I'm African. I'm from Africa. I was born and raised in Africa.



So I feel like my cultural differences look very different from black people in here who were raised black Americans. So African Americans, but then there's also Dominicans who are black. So they have their own culture that they bring. Then Puerto Ricans who are dark skin, brown skin, even light skin. And they want to get their experience. So HBCUs, they don't discriminate around anybody. So anybody and everybody can apply and they can't say, "Oh you're not coming because you're white. You're not coming because you're Hispanic." They have a diverse popularity. But primarily black people go there because that's where they feel safest to go to.

Juliana:

Do you think that African identity or African descent, that identity is kind of when people do come from Dominican Republic or Puerto Rico, I've noticed that a lot of times they don't themselves identify as African or black.

Karen:

Black, yeah. They don't want to.

Juliana:

So, I don't know what you think about it

Karen:

I think it all depends on how you're raised. Because some people are raised, you just know you're Dominican and these are the things that apply to you. But people forget to think that you're not just one thing all the time. You can come, you can be Native American mixed with other things. And people don't know that. I feel like the education system has really failed us when it comes to teaching us about what is actually necessary to know, they just teach us about slavery. And wars it's like, none of this applies to us right now. Teach us about what we're going through, what's going to help us and what we actually need to know.

Juliana:

Yeah.

Karen:

But even other black Africans who are born here and their parents identify as Africans, they don't want to identify as Africans because they found that to be embarrassing. I came speaking the language and then my mom taught me the old Cape Verdean and the really really old ones. So I was born in the culture and I'm planning to teach my kids if I have any. These cultural music and what our cultures about because a lot of it died when the place got colonized by Portugal. So it's like, whatever you have left of your country, where you come from, I feel like it's good to express it, whether other people like it or not. Because it's just good to you. The more you hide yourself, the more you're going to end up hating yourself for it. So I feel like just express yourself rather you, I feel like, especially the Spanish community, they just rather not identify as black because they already have a lot of issues going on. So, okay, adding black to it just going to add way more issues for them.

Juliana:

Yeah. Yeah.

Karen:

And I can see that because a lot of my friends are Hispanic and just like, not that they identify as black, but the white passing ones, they use that their advantage because they know that's going to get them places. I get it. It's wrong in some ways. But to each their own. It's just based on how your parents raised and how your family is.



Because people just don't want to identify as it because they don't want to be judged for picking a group.

Interviewer:

So emotionally, because I know you guys say your mental health left. So emotionally, do you get overwhelmed in sadness now that you're here? Do you feel a constant repetition of sadness and depression? Because it isn't what most people imagined, being in America.

Juliana:

Yeah.

Karen:

I'd say yes. Because seeing, especially what happened last year, the amount of rage and in the black people that you can see.

Juliana:

Yeah.

Karen:

And even people that you're friends with that are not black and they don't understand why people did what they did. They're like, "Well that wasn't necessary." You don't think it's necessary because you never experienced it. Obviously they overdid it. And some of the things were horrific, but they've been through literal hell. We're reliving these things that happened 400 years ago over and over and over again, not in the same ways, but it still affects people severely because I can't wear specific hair styles at certain jobs because they don't like it or because white people can't do it. Or they try to culturally appropriate something that doesn't belong to them or their people. I feel like it's fine. But then it doesn't turn out their way. They blame us for it. So I feel that's kind of dumb.

Interviewer:

I'll cut that out please.

Karen:

But even people trying to argue with you about situations that you go through that they've never experienced ever and never will experience. And they think that they're right. And they'll give you every reason why they think that they're right. But then they won't listen to you when you give them not even opinion, but the facts that have happened. And not even the past 400 years, the past couple of years. So I feel just people just need to listen more and kind of...especially if they don't experience, they don't go through it. They don't see it. And I feel media can emphasize, not emphasize, but you know the word I'm looking for, but these things-

Interviewer:

Impact.

Karen:

...yeah, impact these things a lot. And people just go based off of their favorite news stories or what their friends are doing, because they don't want to be the odd one now in their friend group. But if it doesn't affect you and you don't understand it, I feel like just sit back and watch. Or ask people who it does affect and ask them for their opinion, their viewpoint on it and get another understanding of another point of view on the situation.



Juliana:

When I last traveled...no, that was two years ago. When I traveled two years ago to El Salvador, I did feel that sort of longing when I came back. I felt like, oh no, I left something over there. It felt like this urge that I left something back in my home country and it was an ugly moment in a way for me because I wanted to go back so bad because of this, it was really nice seeing people. Oh you're from El Salvador. Okay, yeah, because I'm in the literal country. So it felt really nice to finally find people like me and identify with these people. Because a lot of times I can count. I can tell experiences in my life and then I'll hear people say, "Oh, that never happened to me." And it's like, those people were probably experienced similar things as me and it's really hard to talk to certain people that just don't-

Karen:

Get it.

Juliana:

...understand and don't get it. Yeah. Don't get your story. Don't get where you come from. Because it's a completely different world for them.

Karen:

Especially when you become an immigrant, you become lost. Because here you don't fit in. But then when you go back, when I first went back, after I first came here, my name was literally immigrant. Everywhere I went, "Oh there's the immigrant. Oh immigrant this, immigrant that. Do you still speak Creole?" They would get in your face. "Do you understand what I'm saying?" And it's so disrespectful. It's like, I don't remember some of the people because I left when I was nine.

But then it's like, I try to keep up with people. I try to remember everybody. I try to, I still speak the language because I try to remember the language and I don't want to lose my language. I don't want to lose the culture from where I came from. But the thing is you don't fit anywhere anymore. Because you don't fit here because that's not the cultural thing here. That's not the thing here. Even the States is a really immigrated place. When you go back, you're not the same. People expect money from you. They expect things from you. They expect you to be all boujee and all this. It's like, no I'm still the same person, but just don't disrespect me.

Interviewer:

Do you feel as though putting all of this back to looking at your younger selves, at your childhood, at young you, do you feel going back to when you were younger, if you would've thought of, would you have imagined yourself, the person you are today?

Karen:

I would say no because when I was a kid, I wanted to be a firefighter, police officer. I would hear a noise right now. I would run the other direction. Could never be me. I could never do that. I imagine myself doing that. But then when I first came here, I was like, oh I want to be a fashion designer. I went to [inaudible 00:29:51]. I was like, absolutely not. Now I want to be a lawyer, a judge, a social worker, somebody who wants to work with people that go through a lot and get a good, deeper understanding. Because I've been through a lot and trauma and depression is not something that is expressed in minority groups. Because if you express it, you either weak or you get beat, punished for expressing yourself as a kid.

Juliana:

Yeah.



Karen:

You learn to keep it into yourself. But then it's like, now I want to learn how keeping trauma to yourself can affect people in different communities and how it just affects everybody in general and how different people express it. So I feel like what I've went through has basically shaped me to how I am today. But then it's just a lot sometimes.

Juliana:

It's like, I guess I wouldn't have imagined myself going through this whole...because when I was little, I honestly didn't understand how I was alive. I didn't understand. I was like, okay. Yeah, I'm here. Yeah. So I don't, I guess I never imagined myself growing up, I never imagined myself getting bigger, changing. So I guess, no, I never really pictured further away in my life. What I have noticed, from what you said about the trauma and the depression and stuff, are most of my family just doesn't believe in these things. And it's like, when you tell them this, they immediately associate it with being crazy.

Karen:

Being crazy.

Juliana:

Yeah.

Karen:

Demons, they become religious.

Juliana:

Yeah. So it's like, how do we receive help for all these things? Because these feelings are real.

Karen:

Yeah. When you do seek help, they get upset. Because you didn't go to them. But when you did go to them, they rejected you.

Juliana:

Yeah. Toughen up.

Karen:

Yeah. Trauma. Yeah.

Interviewer:

That's right. Yeah. And they're like, "Oh you have nothing to be depressed about."

Juliana:

Yeah. Yeah. But we are literally living so much pressure, so much anxiety.

Karen:

Because we passed the trauma on to our kids and they've had them to their kids.



Juliana:

Yeah.

Karen:

It keeps on going through generations and it's like, people don't know how to handle it anymore. Because I feel like my mom's generation, our generation is completely different, how they see things. But there's certain things that my mom are like, "Okay. This is okay." And it's like, no, that's not okay. It might have been back then. That's not okay now, you can't say that in public or you can't do this. And I don't agree. And they don't understand why we say those things because they were never taught it. They don't see it on the news or on TV.

Juliana:

Yeah.

Karen:

They just don't understand it. And they refuse to listen and be able to understand it. So I feel like it's just how we were all raised differently and in different generations and we all went through different life experiences that it's just hard to communicate and explain how the world is changing, but they're not willing to change with the world.

Juliana:

Yeah. Yeah.

Karen:

Sometimes it's just difficult to just get your point across, get help. Or even be yourself around certain people that you grew up with.

Juliana:

Yeah. Because honestly I wouldn't have imagined myself sharing my story like this to different people. Because I guess I never thought someone would listen or care. So I guess it's a nice platform and yeah.

Interviewer:

All right. Thank you.