

Station 1: English Transcriptions

OK: Carina Evangelista / Philippines Language: Tagalog

I pledge allegiance to the Philippine flag. This is uttered by every child at school each morning. A pledge to love a country that has long subjected itself to the greed of those in power such that despite its rich natural resources, it is way beyond its borders that hope can be seen. I am just one of millions of Filipinos who live in other parts of the world because it is not in the Philippines where one could find life-sustaining work; it is not in the Philippines that life free of oppression, poverty, or danger can be found.

OK: Maria Trejo / Honduras

When I went to look for work as a maid, I remember perfectly that they asked me: "Where are you from?" and I tell them I am from Honduras. "No, dear, we do not hire from Guatemala that is so close, much less a Honduran" and they did not give me work.

I ended up dancing. I put on shorts and a blouse and they already told me that the only thing I had to do was to accompany people to drink, and if they invited me to drink, I was going to get a commission and they were going to give me a salary of 100 pesos. At that time when you do not have anything to eat, you do not have anything to pay the rent, wow, 100 pesos is a lot of money. I said that's enough, because I had a baby and I didn't even have money to buy her milk. And so I stayed, and little by little I got into that environment.

But I think it was the best decision, because after I arrived I met a person and today he is my husband, we have been together seven years, we got married, thank God.

He has never reproached me for my past. When he asked me to get together I said "No, why, I have four girls, you cannot support me!", and he told me: "I can do that and more, my queen". I remember that after some time passed he proposed five times, and I said no because how am I going to get tied up like that? And then I went to a church and I heard that when you get married, if you have God in your home, in your mind, in your heart, you keep a blessed home. Then I thought well, I need to get married, and we got married after all and I got pregnant with my baby.

Maria Trejo Honduras Song:

As I know Honduras and I agree with anyone
Today I ask you all if you know my nation,
where are the most famous beautiful ruins of Copan
where there are rivers that drag pure and unrivaled gold
in Honduras, in Honduras, the noble birthplace of Francisco Morazán,
where there is a rain of fish like a celestial miracle,
where there is a virgin queen and national mother
in Honduras, in Honduras, the noble birthplace of Francisco Morazán
where you've seen a flag remembering union
where there's land for everyone who wants to work
in Honduras, in Honduras, the noble birthplace of Francisco Morazán
where the most beautiful women are, this is how they give themselves from the heart
where there are men who give themselves forever to a woman
in Honduras in Honduras, the noble birthplace of Francisco Morazán.

OK: Irma Vasquez / Mexico Language: Spanish

Well, basically I came to the United States when I was 22, 21 years old. When I was in Mexico, I was studying in university and I left my studies because I came here. Well, in context, my parents are divorced and my dad has lived here (in Oklahoma) all his life. When we were in Mexico my dad told us he wanted to see us, so we had the possibility to arrange our papers, and he wanted us to come and live here.

We started having problems with my dad because of his wife, who behaved badly with us. And well, very unpleasant things happened there and oh no, my dad decided that we had to leave his house. And basically that's when we started having problems to survive in this country. My sisters returned home, as we had many problems with my dad - it was more of an ego thing, maybe.

He told us once that we were not going to survive in this country if he did not help us, but I stayed here to show him that yes, yes, I was going to be able to survive. I decided to leave everything I had in Mexico, well it was not much, you know? But I was studying at the university, I was already going to be an educated girl, and I decided to leave everything to show that I could. Well, I started working and doing a little badly because the jobs are not very well paid for girls who don't have documents in Oklahoma - well, anywhere.

OK: Carina Carina Evangelista / Philippines Language: Tagalog

The challenge of life shaped by flight is how to shape the chapter of now and of tomorrow without bitterness over the chapter closed. Love what is past—the life abandoned, the life shed. Love the new life unfolding—the new home adopted. Be observant. Be analytical. Be grateful. But always eyes wide open. Just because one landed on the shore of what might be viewed as the beacon of democracy, be aware that it is not free of exploitation, of deception, of injustice, or of its power to crush your spirit and your humanity. Hold precious your dignity. Hold precious the dignity of others, too. If you value your freedom and your rights but you do not recognize these values apply to others, what you value is your privilege.