

# HARDENED CONCRETE

Transcript (ENG)

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*The Wall* (2017) is a Guestbook Project produced by Megan Murphy as part of “Exchanging Stories: Changing History”

Participants Mary and Jessica (last names have been omitted at the request of the participants) with narration by Megan Murphy.

English Transcription K. Sweet

[Donald Trump: We're going to build a wall. It's going to be built... It's going to be made of hardened concrete and it's going to be made out of rebar and steel... It's not even—believe it or not—it's not even a difficult thing to do.]

**JESSICA:** I remember, like, one time there was a Traveler girl in my class. And she came up to me—Bridgie was her name. And she was like asking me, "oh, you're a traveler aren't you?" And I didn't know what to say.

If, when I was younger it was kind of like, if I say I'm not a traveler because I don't follow the traveler lifestyle or do I say I am a traveler because I'm related to travelers. My blood is traveler blood.

**MARY:** It's not much different basically. If Jessica gets up and ready for school and I just get up and clean up and go for message and cook the supper basically. It's a different lifestyle where the women work like in your community, women do not really work here. It's their job. It's like housewives so...

**MEGAN MURPHY:** There is a wall between my house and my aunt's house. It's commonly called the Berlin Wall because it divides my family from my aunt's. My aunt, uncle and cousins are all travelers, and we're not.

**M:** I don't think there's that much of a difference. I think people expand it to make think that oh we're like these aliens and stuff.

**MM:** So I got my sister Jessica and my cousin Mary to sit down and try and confront this divide. I didn't get much from Mary and Jessica when I sat them down as there was this constant fear that they were going to offend one another. This is the most I got out of them.

**J:** ... all the things I want to do come before that in my head.

**M:** — It's completely different.

**J:** Yes, different.

**MM:** So I tried asking Jessica directly about the wall.

**J:** I can't believe you would ask me that. Did you ask Mary that?

**MM:** No

**J:** I can't believe you are asking me that

**MM:** Why not

**J:** You're going to put this into your thing. What are you going to do when everyone else sees it.

**MM:** Then I tried asking my other sister Ellie who has more experience with Travelers.

**Ellie:** Because one my parents were settled person and I started for the last fourteen, fifteen years, I wasn't so much hanging around with travelers. I wasn't involved in it that much and when I started it was a lot harder to be accepted and to be let in because I've already lived in a settled community so it's a lot harder. You have to kind of — I felt like you had to kind of prove yourself, maybe. They don't mean to do that to you but you just feel that way.

**J:** It's like it's just them and they kind of block everybody else out.

**J:** In a way, Travelers probably want be separate from other people almost as much as other people want them to be separate from Travelers. Like, if a traveler said to another traveler, oh, go away from me, you're a country boy or you're a country girl—like they take that as a as a like a highly ranked insult. Like, they would take offense to being called a settled person.

**MM:** Hearing Jessica say this made me think of all the walls that divide travelers around the country. So I visited traveler sites to see if their walls were anything like mine. And they were. These traveler sites were normally behind industrial parks, motorways, or even just estates. These walls divide travelers and kept them away from everybody else. That's when I realized maybe there's always going to be a wall between our houses.

This year, my seventeen year old cousin Mary is getting married, while my seventeen year old sister is studying for her leaving cert and plans to go to college in Wales.

**M:** It's just you still are half, you's still are travelers yous just have a different way of lifestyle.

**J:** When I was younger, I probably had to think twice about when somebody said, "Are you a Traveler? Are you not a Traveler?" I wouldn't really know what to say. But now, if somebody said, "Are you a Traveler?" I'd say I wouldn't consider myself a Traveler. I don't follow a hundred percent the lifestyle. I could tell them straight out yeah. Do I say my family are Travelers? Yeah. And my auntie, she lives besides me. My cousins are Travelers like, I don't really care because it's not a bad

thing.

**M** Yeah, like half yeah I am. I got the best of both world basically.

**J** Peace out

[Title Card: Jessica finished her Leaving Cert and is nervously waiting on her results while preparing to move to Wales]

[Title Card: After the wedding Mary moved to a site in England before her and her husband travelled to America. Along with the change in home Mary just found out she is expecting her first child.]

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This document has been provided by the Guestbook Project, an international project committed to transforming hostility into hospitality, enmity into empathy, and conflict into conversation.

*Hardened Concrete* was produced as part of the Guestbook Project's 'Exchanging Stories - Changing Histories' initiative, creating opportunities for young people from communities that have been polarized by religion, race, ethnicity, or culture to come together to trade stories and make short videos. Working with peace organizations, community art groups, innovative schools and cultural workers from areas torn by conflict and injustice.

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