

Library Resources



Case Study 1: Patricia Gregory

Patricia Gregory may not consider herself a great football player, but she is a football hero. Her story is integral to the history of women's football and an inspiration to sportswomen worldwide. Her determination, strength, and resilience inspired others to join her, showing football can bring communities together.

Why don't girls play football?

In 1967, when Tottenham Hotspur won the FA cup, Patricia and her father were amongst the crowd to see them bring the cup back. Looking up at the team on the balcony she thought to herself, 'Why don't girls play football?' She wrote a letter to her local paper asking this question, and to her surprise they published it. Patricia received many letters from girls who wanted to join a team and the girls got together, however when it came to finding pitch to play on, they were turned down due to a 1921 ban on women and girls playing football on pitches under FA control.

The girls had no funds and no pitch but following further campaigning by Patricia, men's teams came forward offering their facilities, eventually the girls were able to share a pitch with Tottenham ladies. By the end of 1968 Patricia and others formed the first women's league and the team were travelling around the country by bus to play matches. With no funding the women raised money by cleaning cars, organising jumble sales and even babysitting! In 1969 and still only 21 years old, Patricia and fellow officers of the association formed the Women's FA and had their first official meeting in November of that year.

By early 1970 the 1921 ban which forbade women from playing football was lifted!

Patricia went on to enjoy a career in sports media production management working for notable organisations including the BBC. She worked on many men's football World Cups and other high-profile events including the Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Olympic Games. She is currently writing the history of the Women's Football Association.



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Case Study 2: Women's Refugee Asylum Seekers Project

(For the purposes of anonymity, this case study would like to be known as 'L')

L may not consider herself an inspirational woman, but she has shown great bravery, resilience, and courage since arriving in the UK.

L came to England from Kenya, she left behind her home and everything she knew to seek asylum and start a new life. Since moving to England, L struggled to find opportunities to take part in physical activity but through a Refugee & Asylum Seekers project run by Hampshire FA, L was able to take part in weekly 'Soccercise' sessions.

L lives on her own and has struggled through the pandemic to engage with the local community and socialise with others. L attended the Soccercise group to make new friends, join online learning courses and keep fit playing by football.

Despite being alone and a very long way from home, L showed bravery making many new friends in a new country. She showed courage and resilience by taking part in online learning and with the support of the other refugee women and local volunteers, L completed an online course at her local library and is interested in starting a small business.

There are many refugees like L who are making a huge contribution to our communities. Perhaps you have a story to share? Perhaps write a letter or poem of thanks to someone who has made you feel welcome. How might you welcome a Refugee to your city?



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