

Congo Peace Fund: Skills for Life Project

Congo Peace Fund received a grant of £2,250 to deliver a programme of introductory hairdressing and beauty skills sessions to disadvantaged women from BME communities in Hackney. Participants learned basic practical and theoretical skills to either work in a salon or as a freelance hairdresser.

- 15 activity sessions were delivered
- 9 participants gained self-confidence and developed work-readiness skills
- 4 participants are now actively seeking employment
- 5 participants are seeking further training courses to further develop their skills
- 2 participants now enrolled on a NVQ Level 2 hairdressing course
- Congo Peace Fund has now set up a young women leaders group based on the success of this project to further engage with young women in need of support



Georgia's Story



Georgia, aged 28, originally from the Congo is long-term unemployed and has struggled to find work whilst caring for her three children. She enrolled on the training course to improve her existing hairdressing skills and to improve her English and confidence around job searching. Her lack of confidence had prevented her from approaching local salons for work placements. Georgia was able to meet peers and benefited from building her support network. She was able to develop her hairdressing and customer service skills and find out more about her options for employment. Georgia is due to start a work placement at a local salon three days a week and is enrolling in ESOL classes to further develop her English. She now feels more confident and has a clear plan in place to progress with

securing employment.