Individual interview 13 – Eleanor

(Full time: 59:00)

Int: Hello, welcome.

Eleanor: Hello.

Int: How you?

Eleanor: I’m good thanks and you?

Int: I’m great. Um, ya, just some ethics, so you have read and understood the informed consent form?

Eleanor: Yes. I’ve signed it.

Int: Great. Do you have any questions, concerns, deep-seated worries that you want to ask you can ask them now.

Eleanor: If there’s a question I don’t want to answer, may I skip it?

Int: Yes, you may skip it.

Eleanor: Great.

Int: It’s not an issue, we’ve got so many questions to get through. Main thing as well, is that this is supposed to sound like a conversation so we’re just going to be chatting for a bit. Ya, if like you’re uncomfortable, you’re more than welcome to skip over it. But ya, we’re going to be sitting and chatting, joking a bit – you are more than welcome swear, you are more than welcome to jump up and down for joy.

Eleanor: Okay.

Int: It’s completely relaxed.

Eleanor: Okay, great.

Int: Okay so just basic overview of what we’re going to do today. We’re going to have a look at the relationship between safety and belonging. We’re going to focus on the emotional side of belonging. And then we’re going to have a look at your sense of safety in South Africa, specifically from being a South African woman growing up in South Africa with all of that.

Eleanor: Okay.

Int: And then we’re going to have a look at how all that impacts your sense of belonging. And ya, that’s basically all that we’re going to do. Any other questions or concerns?

Eleanor: No, no I’m ready.

Int: Okay great, so… like I said one of the things we’re going to be focusing on is the sense of belonging so the emotional side of belonging. What does it feel like to have a belonging, to belong somewhere?

Eleanor: For me, like I think of like comfort. So, either a group of people or a place where you are comfortable with being who you are, and … and you feel accepted, ya. So, I would say like ‘belonging’ is kind of like a comfort and acceptance. Ya, and that’s how I feel about.

Int: And obviously you have had these places, like you said places or people that you feel like you belong to or belong in. What are those places and people you feel like you belong in?

Eleanor: My family, I have a very close family. I definitely feel like I belong there. I can be who I am. Also, I’m really picky about my friends, like over the years obviously you get a few rotten apples but um, I ween them out. \*Laughs.

Int: \*Laughs.

Eleanor: So, ya with my friends I really often feel like I belong in my friendship group.

Int: And that’s the sense of acceptance and you’re comfortable.

Eleanor: Ya, and like I’m literally myself. Like I don’t have to stress about it. And then places, um… my home definitely. I love where I live.

Int: Ya, sorry – continue.

Eleanor: Ya, ya, my house. So, you know, it’s a very, it’s a very homey place, so for me there. Other places… my city Joburg.

Int: \*Laughs. Ooo, Joburg, Joburg.

Eleanor: I love Joburg. I think anyone who wants to leave the country and they haven’t been in Joburg, I’m like, “Of course, because you’re not in Joburg.” So come there.

Int: No, I can’t do Joburg. I’m sorry, the Joburg drivers, you guys are made.

Eleanor: Ah aa.

Int: Absolutely mad.

Eleanor: Ahaa, there’s a general understanding between us.

Int: \*Laughs.

Eleanor: The Pretorian people don’t know what’s going on, let me tell you.

Int: Because we abide by the laws of the road.

Eleanor: Ya, ya.

Int: You guys drive on curbs, ‘why not’.

Eleanor: No, we have our own understanding and it works. So, I belong there because I get the road rules.

Int: You get the Joburg – what’s it, the Joburg people.

Eleanor: Ya, one hundred percent. Um, ya, also I think my school – I think there was a time in school where I really struggled, I really didn’t feel like I fit in. I wasn’t the most popular kid, and at the time I thought that was important.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: You know maybe, ya like I felt like I didn’t fit in and then I like as I got older like, maybe when I was fifteen, I started feeling like this school was like another family. And that church as well, my school church. I often – I don’t feel, when I got to other churches I don’t feel like I belong. I find like a lot of ya like religious people I struggle to feel like I belong just because like, I’m relaxed about being Christian, like it’s not a… obviously it’s a big part of my life, but I don’t make it who I am. And I struggle a bit-

Int: Mm, multifaceted.

Eleanor: Ya, exactly. I struggle a bit with people who are very, almost narrow minded when it comes to it. So, ya. So, sometimes I don’t feel like I don’t belong in my own religious because like I’m like, ‘I don’t do the right things’, but I’m starting to realise that it’s not what religion is supposed to be.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: Um, I’m trying to think like, ya I mean like – oh ya, anytime I’m on a horse because I horse ride and no matter where I am, if I’m on a horse that’s it for me like.

Int: So, there is a belonging that is a attached to horse riding?

Eleanor: Yes, definitely.

Int: So, would you say there’s a horse riding community?

Eleanor: Ya, definitely, but I think ag… sometimes… ya, there is like a community and like some people you get on with and some people you don’t like, so I have different groups – some I belong in and some I don’t – but, I think in general, like just the horse itself, like I feel um… the most raw person I can be like I feel like most myself when I’m on a horse. And when I haven’t ridden for a while I feel like I start getting this sense of like restlessness and stress, and I’m like, “I don’t know what I’m supposed to be doing with my life.” I lose a lot of purpose, and then I ride and them I’m like, “Oh, okay. Like actually you’re fine, like you’re happy, this is what makes you happy.” Um… but ya, can I give you a place where I don’t belong?

Int: Ya, ya, of course – actually, that’s one of the questions. So, where do you feel like you don’t belong?

Eleanor: I find for me the biggest – growing up was actually just the country, South Africa, I felt like I didn’t belong. I felt being white in South Africa is hard.

Int: Ya. I think so too, I think there is a difficult way for you to find where you belong and where you fit in.

Eleanor: Ya.

Int: With the country and a lot of people place race and place together, like ‘Why are you white if you’re South African’.

Eleanor: Exactly.

Int: And ya, I understand. Like you say it’s difficult to find yourself in a country. And you’ve gone through that I take it.

Eleanor: Mm, ya like at school, especially … I mean, at school I was always like, “Ah, I wish I was black.” Because I felt like they had a better sense of community, you know, they would, you know, they could say that they are South African and be like proud of it.

Int: And not have it questioned?

Eleanor: And not have it questioned. Whereas I was like, “I’m technically not South African. I have to find out where my genes come from and be that person.”

Int: Like, ‘Where are you really from?’.

Eleanor: Ya, ‘Where am I really from’. Like, ‘Oh actually I need to be Scottish and celebrate that, because I can’t celebrate being South African, because of my skin colour’. And that was really tough, like as a kid, like I really struggled with that a lot as a kid. And then I kind of let it go as I got older, but then in university, um because I’m studying vet science at Onderstepoort, and it’s a very conservative… very conservative place. And there you feel like if you’re not Afrikaans then, you don’t belong there. So, it’s hard because I was like, ‘I’m not Afrikaans, I’m not like Zulu too, so I’m not South African’. And then it was literally very recent where I went to another country and I suddenly I was like, ‘Oh shit, I’m South African’. Actually, and I identify that and I’m proud and I have a heritage here, you know.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: So, ya that’s something I think that a lot of people probably struggle with and like and will continue to struggle. I don’t know it’s a – I think we’re unique.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: South Africa is unique because if you go to other places and if they were colonised, you know, they just took over and then everyone, and the cultures that were there everyone became a minority or even died out. Whereas in South Africa, our country wasn’t based or um… born out of violence actually like, you know, there was no mass – like okay, we had a apartheid, yes, but before then.

Int: No one says that’s a good idea.

Eleanor: No, no, but before apartheid, like you know – like even America had their own apartheid, but for some-

Int: Ya, segregation.

Eleanor: Ya, but for some – but, um… I think we, because we have so many cultures and every single one is celebrated and allowed to exist, I think it makes more like tension because you have so many who are celebrating these different so that they can stay different, and then obviously like differences like you get a bit of clashing ya. But it’s actually a good thing, so, it’s a hard thing because it’s good and bad, like you go to a country, I don’t know, like Canada where it was like awful where people were literally like mascaraed.

Int: Ya, ya, the Natives.

Eleanor: The Natives were just taken out. And now it’s a peaceful country because they are all, they are all – they aren’t native, they all just moved there. And now they’re all just one culture and it’s just – it’s easy and they’re not going to fight about it. But then you think about everything else that has happened and there are still minority groups that suffer. Compared to here where cultures are celebrated. So, you get the good and the bad.

Int: It’s like, you were saying. You went to Iceland?

Eleanor: Yes.

Int: Was the diversity one thing you really missed from South Africa or was there something else that you really, really missed?

Eleanor: Diversity for sure, like I realised I’m really good at – I didn’t find, I didn’t get a culture shock.

Int: Oh okay.

Eleanor: Because I’m so used to talking to people from different cultures so, like in my friendship group, I’ve got people from like PE who grew up in like a like very classic coloured home where you have like families living together and like, you know, and then I’ve got my English Pretoria friends, got my Afrikaans Pretoria friends.

Int: And you’ve got your Joburg people as well.

Eleanor: I’ve got my Joburg people, I’ve got Afrikaans farm people, I’ve got people from Limpopo, people who like grew up in a township – like we’re all friends and we’re all like so different, and I know how to chat to different people, so when I met an Australian, or whatever, I wasn’t that like surprised like, “Oh you do things differently.” Because I was like, “Everyone does things differently, anyway.”

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: So, that was interesting. And I missed that, you know… because it was monotonous, easy.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: But… not colourful.

Int: Oo, so like Iceland wasn’t colourful it was just same type of people, same type of whitebread.

Eleanor: Ya. Literally, ya.

Int: So, would you say that like, you’re comfortable with diversity? Is that something that doesn’t stress you out? You grew up with it.

Eleanor: Ya. No, not at all. And I think being from Joburg it’s-

Int: A big melting pot, ya.

Eleanor: It’s very progressive.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: You know, it was normal just to be surrounded by a bunch of different people, and then going to somewhere like OP that’s so conservative; where a lot of people there haven’t been exposed to like more forward thinking and they’re still like living in like…

Int: Little narrow bubbles.

Eleanor: Ya, and you think by now they would’ve, you know.

Int: Woken up?

Eleanor: Ya, but they haven’t. And that’s more of a shock to me is going to these conservative people because like I don’t understand, ‘why do you think like this’, like there’s no logic.

Int: Exactly, there’s no reason.

Eleanor: There’s no reason to it, so that – maybe there I’ll get a little culture shock because of the…

Int: In South Africa you get a culture shock; in the country you are from?

Eleanor: Yes.

Int: Just because of the lack of acceptance, or?

Eleanor: Ya, ya, because I think like I grew up in an environment and I surround myself with people who are accepting, you know.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: And then you – I just presume everyone is like that and then they’re not. You know.

Int: Ya. So, earlier you had said you grew up with this feeling that you can’t be South African you have to be Scottish. Was that a longer period of time where you were trying to identify as Scottish, do you still identify as Scottish.

Eleanor: Ya, no, it was a really long time. Like ever since I was a kid, like my family does have roots in Scotland. So, like we have like a clan and we have a tartan.

Int: Oh cool.

Eleanor: So, ya. So, you know, I would always wear like the kilt for Heritage Day and stuff like that and like my family does do little things, but not big things but the – I tried really hard to fit into something that I realised isn’t really my culture, it’s just my genetics.

Int: Would you even say it’s your heritage or is it just your genetics?

Eleanor: Um, like there is obviously parts of it that I love, and I know that my sister had like travelled to Scotland and Ireland, and she said that she felt very at home in a way but then I felt at home in Iceland just because of the nature. So, for me wherever I’m closed to nature I feel at home, because like people and nature that’s how it’s supposed to be. So, surely no matter where you go if it’s close to nature then you feel at home. So, ya but I think I’m like, I used to say, “South Africa is kind of where I live, but it’s not my heritage.” Now like South Africa is my heritage.

Int: Would you say South Africa is your home?

Eleanor: Yes. One hundred percent.

Int: Always felt that way, is it something recent, or is it something that happened a long time ago?

Eleanor: I think I have always known actually. Like I’ve always – I’m quite patriotic, funnily enough, because like I hate it when people say like they want to leave and like they talk shit about South Africa, I hate it because I’m like, “You guys don’t know what you’re missing.” Um… so, I think like it’s always been my home, I’ve always wanted to stay here. And ya, obviously there are definitely phases where I feel like I’m going to be pushed out of my own country, but then I’m like, ‘I’m being pushed out of my own home’. So, yeah I’m stilling thinking of it as my own home. Ya, I always have.

Int: Do you feel a sense of belonging in and to South Africa? Yes, no?

Eleanor: Yes.

Int: Oh okay.

Eleanor: Yes.

Int: Okay, sorry I just need you to say that because I can’t not hear nodding – like the proof. So, you feel a belonging in and to South Africa, and then do you feel that same belonging to South Africans? Is it greater, is it smaller, is it non-existent?

Eleanor: Um… do you mean like, do South Africans accept me not the country?

Int: I mean regardless whether South Africans accept you or not, do you feel like you belong with South Africans?

Eleanor: Oh, oh, ya.

Int: You are South African.

Eleanor: Yes, because I am; I am South African and I feel like I belong with South Africans.

Int: And you said earlier that it’s place and people. And that is one thousand percent in belonging, we have this – I don’t want to say battle between place and people but it is a dialogical conversation.

Eleanor: Ya, ya.

Int: For you, is place more influential than people or is people more influential than place?

Eleanor: That’s a hard one…

Int: Because you say you love nature and you feel like you belong there.

Eleanor: Because – I want to say place, to be honest, but… they have to go hand-in-hand because like I can be in nature and loving life and feel at home, and then, you know, it just takes one person to like make you feel unwelcome. And then like, it can like shift your perspective. So, it’s hard. I can’t really separate those to I think.

Int: Oh no, I completely understand, like there’s South Africa and there’s South Africans. And I love South Africans, I think South Africans are so entertaining people, and you just went to Iceland now. Did you realise you were more South African, did you realise you were less South African while you were there?

Eleanor: More.

Int: Were there – more?

Eleanor: I realised that we’re actually have a really strong culture, you know. Like I was teaching people a lot and it was – I was teaching everyone about how we have different South African cultures and I was so enthusiastic about it, and I was like. So, it really – I think it like reinforced-

Int: A lot.

Eleanor: A lot for me, ya.

Int: I mean I just – so, let me get onto this, um, so, one of the main issue we have with South Africa is a safety problem. Do you feel safe or not really?

Eleanor: It’s hard because um… it depends. I think… ag, I hate to say it but I think in general you feel pretty much unsafe. Um, I mean but it really depends on your situation at the time like, um… I’ve worked in like rural communities quite often like doing vet work, like helping the animals and stuff. And I was in a small little town called ‘Kluvakan’), just outside Kruger… just outside Kruger and um, very rural like literally you’ve got people living off what, off the land, and like they bring you their goats and cows, and most people walk, you know, there aren’t cars; you paying small – you’re exchanging small money. It’s R10 for a consultation.

Int: Oh geez.

Eleanor: Whereas in Joburg you can pay like up to R500 for a consultation.

Int: Ya, easy.

Eleanor: So, it’s wild like the cost differences, everything. Cash like – and you know, and you would think you would feel unsafe in an environment like that.

Int: Yes.

Eleanor: You’re driving on dirt roads at night.

Int: There’s no infrastructure.

Eleanor: There’s no infrastructure – ya, there’s no infrastructure, there’s literally… ya. And then the community just made me feel safe and valued. Like, you know I was-

Int: Did you feel accepted in the community?

Eleanor: Ya, like I felt like – ag, language barrier doesn’t help, like it, the language barrier is a massive thing but I found like I’m just respectful of people as much as I can be with my language and my culture, and I think other people just appreciate you being nice, basically.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: I’m just like, “Just be nice and then it’s fine.”   
I mean there were sometimes where I felt, not unsafe but like-

Int: Uneasy?

Eleanor: Uneasy, but like.

Int: Unsettled maybe?

Eleanor: Ya, like where they make jokes like men – but it’s more what I’ve realised, it’s more of a male thing not a race or a culture thing. I find, ya.

Int: That just uncomfortable – someone that is purposefully making you uncomfortable or like?

Eleanor: Men who enjoy power.

Int: Ya, power’s a big thing.

Eleanor: And then, so especially I had an interaction with a police officer, we went to go see one of his cows. And he – he was just giving me a hard time about it. Basically, just showing me that I didn’t know anything about it, stuff like that. And then I was like, ‘Ag it’s because’ – you know, he’s like ‘Ah this little white girl, she doesn’t know what she’s doing’. And then I was chatting to my friend later and I was like it actually – I had met many men, that whole, that whole place, and they weren’t like that, you know. I had met many that were lovely and it was that specific man and he was just exerting a male, his beliefs that he’s dominate. It wasn’t-

Int: It was a police officer as well.

Eleanor: So, he was just throwing his power around, but it wasn’t um… you know, it was just him. Like he wasn’t presentative of the whole community. So, I think I’m learning a lot – like one person isn’t representative of a whole community. Um, and then I’ve recently been working in Mamelodi.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: Which is one of the biggest like informal settlements in Pretoria. And again, I felt – driving everyday through, like you’re driving though and there are people like selling stuff on the side of the road and everything, and I’m… if I stop to get out to like buy something, okay I would be a bit concerned about my car because that’s a big – I think you are more – I’m quite worried about my objects, which is bad, but anyways. But I think if I got out, I think I would have gotten definitely looks, but I also have a feeling that if I went to buy something I would have just bought the banana, mango, whatever it was, and gone on my way and it would’ve been like – maybe I would’ve been like a little bit nervous, but like I feel nervous just going into a shop because like anxiety, not because I’m scared like something is going to happen. It’s just.

Int: Anxious.

Eleanor: It’s just – ya. it’s just anxious, social anxiety, it doesn’t matterlike where I am. So, ya so I think it’s hard. You feel in some places you feel safe and in some places you don’t, but like I think in general, there’s always a sense of just like watching, looking after yourself. Like I realised going to Iceland, like, you know, it’s fine if you have a backpack or if you like leave your bag on the chair if you go to the bathroom, you know, stuff like that.

Int: Ya, it’s weird.

Eleanor: And it’s weird because I wouldn’t do that, but then it’s not like this big deal like, because like they’re, overseas people are like when they go to South Africa they have to make sure – they’re like super careful, you know, all these precautions, ‘it’s like super dangerous’, bla, bla, bla. But I’m like, ‘surely it’s just ingrained in you not to be an idiot’.

Int: \*Laughs.

Eleanor: ‘And not to walk with your phone, and not to’ – whereas there you can do that because it’s not a thing. I realised that that’s all because growing up here it’s instinctual. So, for me I feel safe, and that stuff is just habit I’m not doing it because I’m scared all the time. It’s just how it is. Whereas for other people it’s like, people like out of the country, it is a scary thing because they didn’t grow up having to think about that. Ya.

Int: So, one of the things that you’ve touched on now is the safety conscious. Like South Africans are very safety conscious and you walk around and you do have your head in a swivel, you’re always kind of looking for a dangerous place or ‘where’s my phone’, ‘can someone take my bag’; we are constantly aware of our unsafety if we can put it that way. Is that something you’ve felt or is that something that you don’t really feel you kind of just have in the back of your mind?

Eleanor: I think – I also used to walk from the train to my university campus. And I – there were a lot of mugging on that route, that happened to other people. So, I had that in mind like.

Int: ‘Could it happen’.

Eleanor: ‘Could it happen’, but I mean I was fairly okay walking on my own like I didn’t need someone to walk with me the – I mean my biggest issues is that, is getting just like catcalled by, by men.

Int: Does that happen often or just once?

Eleanor: Often. And that would make me uncomfortable, that wouldn’t make me feel unsafe because, you know, there are cars around and, you know it’s not – but it definitely makes you uneasy. So, I got around that – I just put earphones in, didn’t listen to music because then you still need to be aware of your surroundings, but then if I ignored them it could be like ‘because I didn’t hear them’. And I’m using little quotey fingers. \*Laughs.

Int: So like you – we are safety conscious in South Africa, we can feel it, we think about it.

Eleanor: Ya.

Int: When you go over to Iceland is that something you carry with you or were there moments like, ‘you know what I can leave my bag on the table, I don’t have to make sure my phone’s hidden’ or something like that?

Eleanor: You know, I like carried it with me because it’s like just habit.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: But I suddenly realised I could like relax a bit more. But you see I am quite relaxed about things because, ag you can’t live your life being scared, because then you’re not going to enjoy it. And I know a lot of people leave because they feel unsafe. And I understand the incidences and everything. It’s just, you know… you try to be the a… as safe as you can. But then I also like, also what I always tell people is like, “If you go to another country, you’re not guaranteed to be without crime.” You know.

Int: Yes, the grass isn’t always greener.

Eleanor: Ya, I’m like ‘there’s crime other places as well’. You know, so… you know if you are trying to find the safest place on earth, I’m sure you can find a place but-

Int: I think Iceland actually is.

Eleanor: Iceland probably is. I think it is the safest place on the earth, ya.

Int: But it’s also got such a low population I mean like robs you they probably lived down the road.

Eleanor: Ya, it like 200 000 people. Exactly, everyone knows everyone.

Int: Exactly.

Eleanor: Um… but ya I mean you’re not going to be without crime, so if you’re scared, if you’re just scared all the time – if you go to a new place, you’re probably still going to be scared. So, I try – ya, I don’t think about it too much.

Int: So, have you ever experienced crime, or not really?

Eleanor: No, and I think that’s also why my opinion is also quite biased because I haven’t like experienced something, like you know, it would obviously like change if something – I mean we had a break-in at our house. They didn’t get into the house, but they broke into the property.

Int: Did they take anything or just broke in?

Eleanor: I leave my car unlocked which is not good, and it’s not in a garage. So, they just took cash. They literally opened my purse, too out the cash, left the car, left my drivers license, left my ID, they just took the cash.

Int: Okay.

Eleanor: Ya, so I was, “Oh that was nice of them.”

Int: \*Laughs.

Eleanor: And then I’m like, “Wait, it wasn’t nice.” But then I’m like, “Maybe it could’ve-”

Int: ‘It could have been worse’.

Eleanor: “He could have been a dick and taken my whole purse.” You know, like the cash is okay, you know.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: It’s the other documents that are a mission so, I was like, “Ah, that was nice.”

Int: A thoughtful criminal.

Eleanor: Ya, and I think it effected my sister greatly. My sister has sever anxiety from it and she’s really scared and she never, she feels really unsafe. Um, me… ya, but I also like, ‘If you get out of any situation unharmed’.

Int: That’s a win.

Eleanor: It’s fine, you know. Like if, um… if my phone was stolen or if my laptop was stolen like it’s not ideal, it cost money to replace, a lot of effort etcetera, but at the end of the day, it’s not really what’s important.

Int: It’s a thing ya.

Eleanor: I think in terms of safety, probably the biggest thing that I always worry about is dog poisonings.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: I think that’s actually my biggest – that’s the thing that does, it could keep me up at night definitely because especially being in like the vet field we see a lot of dog poisonings, especially Pretoria. Um… ya especially like in the more like rural – not like rural, maybe like a lower income sections.

Int: Lower income.

Eleanor: Ya. Um, it happens a lot and it’s awful, and the thought of that happening to my own animals that give me hectic anxiety.

Int: That keeps you up at night.

Eleanor: Ya, ya. So, that – I think the safety for them definitely, um.

Int: With this break-in, so obviously you discover, ‘Somebody was in my car’. What was that experience like, what were those emotions going around in that situation?

Eleanor: I was, like at the time I was scared. Like I was like asleep, and I woke up when the security guy had come. So I had heard the security guy and I had though he was the intruder and then I found out he was the security guy, and like um… this was at my parents’ house and I kind of just like – ya, I grabbed my mom. My dad isn’t home very often which makes my mom feel quite unsafe, but I don’t really see the difference. Like what – my dad isn’t really going to do anything, you know.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: There’s not much difference – the only difference is they like the person, if the dogs bark my dad would have to be the person, get up and check, or if he’s not there then my mom does. But um… and then, ya so the security guy was there so, um, the burglar had already left. He took my sister’s laptops because she left both, ya.

Int: In the car or?

Eleanor: Actually on her desk, but her window was open. So, he didn’t actually break into any of the rooms, but he just reached in and took things.

Int: Was she sleeping in there?

Eleanor: She was sleeping ya. so, that’s why she was – that’s why it affected her a lot more than it affected me. Um, our dogs didn’t even wake up. So, I just wanted to make sure the dogs were okay.

Int: Ya, that was your main thing.

Eleanor: Ya, and then… obviously we just improved the security because my family has always been quite relaxed. So, you know, made sure our electric fence actually worked, because I don’t think it had worked for fifteen years or whatever. And ya, I wasn’t – I felt okay. Like obviously the first night afterwards you’re a little bit iffy but then I also live on my own. I lived in a flat in Pretoria North on my own in a complex, and um… I felt safe there and it was interesting because a lot of people would come or all races, which is also interesting, saying, “Do you feel safe here? Should we move in here or not?”  
And I was like, “Ya, why wouldn’t you? It had a few gates, an electric fence, and my door locks. It’s fine, it’s fine.” If they break-in it’s student flat, I’ve probably got a laptop – they can take it. So, ya I have never felt scared feeling in a flat on my own.

Int: Interesting.

Eleanor: Ya, I think also being in a complex, I also think makes you feel safer because there’s-

Int: People.

Eleanor: Other people. I think having other people – also, other people can be responsible and stuff like that, but ya. I mean like obviously there’s just some areas, everyone’s got areas of town that you just don’t want to go into.

Int: Hillbrow.

Eleanor: Ya, Hillbrow. Let’s not go there.

Int: \*Laughs.

Eleanor: Don’t go to Hillbrow. Ya, lots of places. I mean I know a lot of people don’t like driving through areas like, let’s say – what’s it, Sunnyhill?

Int: Sunnyside?

Eleanor: Sunnyside. I drive through Sunnyside. \*Laughs.

Int: And what’s that like?

Eleanor: It’s fine.

Int: Just not Hillbrow.

Eleanor: I keep my doors like and my phone’s not on display.

Int: That’s the thing, you, you’re conscious about it – maybe conscious isn’t a good word, maybe just careful.

Eleanor: Ya, I think if you’re just careful and not an idiot; and I’m not saying it means that something won’t happen.

Int: But you can prevent it the best you can.

Eleanor: Ya, and like just be aware of your surroundings like it’s um, but you know, and like… safety on the roads, people complain about taxis, I find taxis are the least of the problem.

Int: I don’t mind a taxi, I really don’t. They add some spice to my life.

Eleanor: Also, they are predictable because I know I need to keep, I need to give a little bit of space and then it’s fine like.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: They’re just hustling.

Int: Did you miss – they’re hustling. \*Laughs.

Eleanor: \*Laughs.

Int: Did you miss the taxis while you were away?

Eleanor: Um, no I didn’t miss them. I wouldn’t say I missed them. It was interesting how many cars were on the roads there, I wasn’t expecting them to have proper highways and stuff like that. They did have like walking, like zebra crossings that people actually listen – like abided to.

Int: Shocking.

Eleanor: I know it was weird. I almost – I like jaywalked and I was like, “Shit, like I’m not supposed to.”

Int: ‘I’m a South African’.

Eleanor: And then it was giving me a lot of anxiety trying to find where I could cross the road, whereas here wherever there isn’t a car, cross the road. My biggest issue on the roads are like other people who aren’t taxis and then you don’t expect them to drive like shit, and then they drive like shit So, ya.

Int: Been there. Well, we’ve touched on this, but like South African homes are built in a very specific way, I mean they are very fortified. We have high walls, we have electric fences.

Eleanor: Ya.

Int: Like you said, your electric fence. Do you a have any other safety measures within your house?

Eleanor: No.

Int: So, it’s just the electric fence.

Eleanor: We don’t have an alarm because of the animals – it sets them off.

Int: Yeah.

Eleanor: I ideally would like to have an alarm, um, I mean my neighbours have like laser beams in their garden, and then the guy who broke into our house actually broke-in through their house.

Int: Yeah, hopped the wall.

Eleanor: Hopped the wall, but and he set off their lasers and they were like, “Ah oh well.” They didn’t think anyone was there so that was fucking stupid.

Int: Yeah.

Eleanor: Because like, I do hold my neighbours accountable for some of it because-

Int: They could have stopped it.

Eleanor: It was like their tree that he could climb to get onto our property. There was their alarm that went off and they didn’t do anything about, like that kind of thing, um. But ya, I would probably ya – I like the idea of having an alarm as just an extra. Extra sense of safety like I have it where I live now, alone. And it gives you a little bit of comfort when you hear the like ‘beep’ when you turn it on, like you know.

Int: Ya, like easier to sleep at night.

Eleanor: But then it gives me, ya – ya no, ya.

Int: So, you kind of touched on this again but there are like daily safety precautions that some people take, like I never drive with my handbag on the front seat, like it’s always in my boot.

Eleanor: Yes, ya.

Int: Do you have similar daily safety precautions that you take?

Eleanor: Mm, I don’t always have my bag in my boot but I do always make sure you can’t see it. I also think like, my windows are tinted, I think most people tint their windows just a little privacy is nice. Driving at night, I have to drive at night, I work sometimes sixteen hour shifts or fourteen hour shifts, ya I can’t not drive at night and like I work at a, a fairly, ah… rural area, so I will be driving without street lights etcetera. You don’t have a choice, you just do it, and I’m starting to find that, ‘okay it’s not that scary’.

Int: Okay.

Eleanor: Obviously, just be aware. Like my thing is just being aware of your surroundings. And ya, like not long, not very long distances and stuff like that, but um… ya, just be careful in South Africa – I also think like hitchhike and stuff like that, you don’t pull over.

Int: You don’t pick up a hitchhiker, especially if you’re a girl in the car alone. It’s just not a good idea.

Eleanor: No. So, obviously there’s things, but um, I don’t feel unsafe driving at night because I have to – if you have to do it just do it.

Int: Yeah, there’s no choice. Did it take you a while to get that, ‘okay I’m fine, I’m alright’, or was it kind of a week or two and then?

Eleanor: Um, I think driving at night wasn’t a safety thing it was me being like, ‘Oh my word, I can’t see at night’.

Int: Okay, an anxious thing.

Eleanor: It was more getting used to – ya, it was more of an anxious thing of getting used to driving the dark, I think it wasn’t like, ‘oh my word’, like waiting for like something to like pounce. Like ya, because at the end of the day, like you’re in a solid like vehicle.

Int: Vehicle, yeah.

Eleanor: Like don’t get out. Don’t think – keep you doors locked. If someone like – I don’t have any, like I’m not scared of doing like some four by fouring shit to get out the way something like.

Int: You’ve said you’ve never experienced crime except for this one times when someone broke into your car. I was speaking to another participant and she had someone break into her house and then kind of go through her cupboards and stuff like that and she said – her stuff just felt dirty afterwards. She didn’t say that the guy was like dirty, it just felt contaminated.

Eleanor: Ya, like violated.

Int: Violated. Is that something you felt as well with your car, with your purse?

Eleanor: … No.

Int: Okay.

Eleanor: I mean, maybe briefly I was like, you know, he could have seen like an ID and a picture of me, I think that’s more of like a look. I think a thing about more if people see you, but then again we post stiff on social media all the time so your face is out there. It’s really not hard to find a face. Um, I don’t feel violated because I couldn’t get over the fact that he took out the cash and left everything else. So, I-

Int: So, you were more like happy? \*Laughs.

Eleanor: Ya, ya, I was like, “Aw nice of him.” So, I didn’t, I didn’t feel like – maybe, maybe for like a couple of days, maybe I was like, “Uh” – you know, someone sat in my car.

Int: Uneasy.

Eleanor: Ya, you know. Someone climbed over – like someone’s like, that I didn’t want has walked here, you know, just that kind of.

Int: ‘They’ve been in my space’.

Eleanor: That invasion of your personal, your safe bubble. Ya, I think, ya I did have that feeling, not extreme.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: But I think it’s normal for everyone to have that feeling with something like that ya.

Int: It’s quite a traumatic.

Eleanor: Because even like – ag I’m so irritated – like I don’t like my mom unpacking my bag.

Int: Ya, same.

Eleanor: Like I’m not saying there is – there’s nothing in there that’s going to cause an issue, but I just don’t like the idea of someone like going in your stuff, like no one likes that.

Int: No, it’s your stuff.

Eleanor: Ya.

Int: So, um, let’s check over here… How would you describe life as a South African woman living in South Africa?

Eleanor: I want to say tough, but it’s – again, because we are such a diverse country it depends.

Int: It does depend.

Eleanor: I think for some scenarios you are almost lucky, in some scenarios it can be easier being a girl – ag. I don’t know if I want to say that, but like… no, like ag. It’s, it’s tough. I think also the problem is in a lot of the cultures women are seen as inferior.

Int: As objects.

Eleanor: As objects. And I know that people are, women are treated horrifically, definitely. Like maybe not myself directly. Just knowing that like women are treated that way-

Int: It’s annoying, it’s frustrating, what is it?

Eleanor: It makes me angry. Like I think anyone who mistreats an animal, mistreats a woman, they should just not exist. I think if we just like… like I’m an advocate for the death penalty because we are on a world with precious resources and why are we wasting them on people who don’t deserve it? That’s what I think. Also, like, ya – oh, interesting, actually about safety, I just suddenly had a thought.

Int: No worries.

Eleanor: For work I had to go to a prison pig farm in, it was – I forgot the name of the prison – it’s in Pretoria. And they have a-

Int: Could be Pretoria Prison.

Eleanor: \*Laughs. No. It’s – they have a big farm, a pig farm there and an abattoir. And the workers work with the pigs , and there I didn’t feel. Going in there I felt pretty relaxed I’m not going to lie, but started making me feel unsafe was like the other girls were really panicky; the other girls were unhappy we were going there.. the other girls felt like, ‘Why are we going here? There is no reason for us to be here. This is stupid’. And I was fine but then like that energy feeds off on you. But I was kind of like, ‘Ah this is fun, we get to go to all sorts of places, like, ‘huh, I’m in a prison’’, you know. And then, so that was fine; and then we had to go into the abitur, which I hate anyways.

Int: Ya, I don’t blame you.

Eleanor: And what was interesting there was like the inmates work in the abitur. So, we were walking on the floor next to inmates who had knives and hacksaws.

Int: Okay.

Eleanor: And you’re seeing them like cut the pigs, skin the pigs right in front of you, and you’re like literally standing next to them. It’s like, you know…

Int: Quite scared.

Eleanor: Ya, ya. I was scared like obviously like the rational side, ‘Obviously they’re not going to let a murderer or someone who assaulted someone handle a knife. It’s probably someone who stole bread for their family’. But, you know, there is that part of you, ‘this is someone whose serving time and they’re standing next to you with a knife, a big knife’.

Int: Ya, ‘a really big knife’.

Eleanor: But I was a little bit – I was scared and I was, I was nervous. But I mean, you don’t have to be in South Africa to feel nervous standing next to a prisoner with a knife.

Int: No. I think that’s a rational thing.

Eleanor: I think every single place, even a first world country, feels scared. So, I – its, it’s, ya. But, um, it was interesting. I found the weirdest part for me – well, one of the things that didn’t help was that the vet in charge told the white girls we were targets because we were white girls.

Int: That doesn’t help.

Eleanor: And that we mustn’t wear jewellery and that we must stand between the guys. That was awful. That wasn’t nice.

Int: Ya, no, being told that.

Eleanor: But then I didn’t experience any issues while I was there, you know. There were, ya no problem. The weirdest part for me of that whole trip was going into – was the wardens who were all Afrikaans males who look like they had stepped out of Apartheid times.

Int: \*Laughs.

Eleanor: That was weird for me because it was literally like going back in time, because you go into their office and there’s a flipping, there’s a like a… like a buck head on the wall, there’s like crusty desks, you know, those old tin draws, like a fridge from like the 80’s. Everything was like so screaming like 80’s Police Force, which is obviously Apartheid police enforcing Apartheid rules. So, that was weird, I didn’t enjoy that, and then the wardens were also talking about how the resources for the pigs are so scarce because they can’t have needles because then like ‘all the guys are going to steal the needles’, and like, like take drugs, bla, bla, bla. And I was just like – so, that was a lot, that was a bit weird for me, was the office of the wardens and the attitude of the wardens, it was very dated. But, um, I suppose that’s what happens in a third world country prison.

Int: Ya, also in the middle of nowhere, kind of get left behind a bit.

Eleanor: But I mean the head, the guy who ran the abattoir, he was actually really nice.

Int: Prisoner as well or?

Eleanor: No, no, warden. And he was respectful with the guys, and they worked hard and, um… you know, I think it’s good that they’ve got a job to do, so it was a very, very interesting experience. I wouldn’t say I felt unsafe, except that I felt scared at times like a normal, rational.

Int: Person would.

Eleanor: Ya. Um, ya.

Int: So, except for this one time you had to deal with this police officers cow.

Eleanor: Ya.

Int: I feel like that is such a vet-sentence to say.

Eleanor: Oh ya, I know.

Int: Have you ever had to interact with the South African Police Force.

Eleanor: Yes.

Int: And your point of view with them, like how did it go?

Eleanor: I have always been scared of the South African police because – and it’s sad because I think that they should always, should be a comforting site.

Int: Yes.

Eleanor: But I think in South Africa it’s hard because you don’t really know who you are going to get. I’ve had… I mean often I don’t get stopped on the road, mainly traffic police like.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: I’ve gone – I mean I’ve had to go into a Police Station to get docs signed or whatever, and they’ve always been really nice, and I’m like, “Great, thanks for your help, bye.” Like, stuff. Um, and then I’ve had mixed experiences, like on the road. Like I’ve had one guy – like I wanted to cry, but like to be fair, I was in the wrong. I hadn’t renewed my car license and I though COVID gave you an extra 21 days or whatever and it didn’t.

Int: No.

Eleanor: So, then I was like arguing – not arguing with the police officer but like I was confused because I thought it was this, and then I wanted to cry. And then he was like, “Listen, like you have to pay the fine.”   
And I was like, “Noo.” But he was doing his job, he wasn’t a dick about it, so and then… ya.

Int: So, positive experiences, mixed experiences?

Eleanor: I think, mixed experiences. I think now I feel quite safe because, um, where I live now, one of the routes I take is straight through like – I don’t even know what it is, it’s like a ‘vending point’. So, like a lot of – and there’s like a taxi rank on both sides, there’s like a spaza shop and stuff, and I have to drive through there. And often in the morning when there’s heavy traffic there’s always a police car there. And I’ve realised I was actually, I was like, ‘cool, actually like I feel good that there’s police here’.

Int: You feel safer.

Eleanor: Ya, so that was – so, my perception has shifted actually, ever since then ya.

Int: So, um… we did mention Hillbrow. Are there some places in South Africa you feel like you just cannot go.

Eleanor: Yes.

Int: I guess Hillbrow?

Eleanor: Ya, there’s definitely places where you can’t go.

Int: So, Hillbrow, where else?

Eleanor: I don’t know, like…

Int: What are the type of areas-

Eleanor: Don’t walk into an alley anywhere. Some place – I think at the moment like, especially like KZN like, not the whole of KZN, but I know in the more smaller towns, especially near the boarder to Mozambique; because the probable is it’s not even South Africans, it’s people coming over from Mozambique who are hijacking cars to take back to Mozambique for their war, whatever is going on there. And that’s scary because, you know, you – it’s not even a South African problem, but because of like the location.

Int: It is our problem.

Eleanor: Ya.

Int: It’s a South Africans problem.

Eleanor: And then I think, any, ya.

Int: Would you go to Pretoria CBD?

Eleanor: I drive through it like – like I mean, I’ve walked around Joburg CBD and it’s been fine, but it’s like you’re in a group. I’m not going to like, I wouldn’t walk on my own in the CBD, but then I’m also like these are just people just busy doing their lives, like.

Int: Hustling.

Eleanor: Why are you going – ya. Why are you going to think… ya.

Int: That they’re going to be dangerous?

Eleanor: Ya.

Int: Do you plan on staying in South Africa for the foreseeable future-

Eleanor: Ya.

Int: Or would you like to leave?

Eleanor: No, I’m staying.

Int: Firmly rooted here.

Eleanor: I like the – I love South Africa. I’ve got – I can do what I love. I’m close to nature. I’m surrounded by amazing people. I want to travel just because I want to travel. And I do want to work overseas, like locally a bit, just for the experience but – I mean, I’m not one of those people who can’t wait to leave. Like that’s not me.

Int: No, you’re very happy with where you are?

Eleanor: Definitely.

Int: So, you said you felt safe here. You’ve always felt safe here or is that something that has changed?

* You good here hey?
* All perfect thank you.

Um, you said you felt safe here. Is that something you’ve felt your entire life or is that something you’ve realised?

Eleanor: I think as a kid I didn’t feel safe but it’s hard to distinguish when you were a kid, because I was scared of the dark as a kid.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: And every night until I was like fifteen I couldn’t sleep through the night because I was scared.

Int: Fifteen?

Eleanor: Ya. I couldn’t because I was scared; I would lie awake and I would think something was going to happen. If I heard a dog bark – and I had this immense fear, and like it didn’t have a…a… root. It was almost literally just like almost a childhood phobia of the dark, which went away with age.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: So, I don’t know.

Int: What is your biggest fear living in South Africa?

Eleanor: Um… I’ve got two… three. It’s, it’s hard like to pinpoint, like I’m trying to think. Um… sorry, I know I’m taking long-

Int: No, take your time.

Eleanor: I’m just trying to think… it’s – okay, I’ve got like a couple of like physically safety ones and then the one I’m thinking of is, um, like a social one. My biggest fear is being… called… like being called like a racist. Being told I don’t belong here; being told…

Int: It’s like a rejection of sorts.

Eleanor: I don’t know anything – a rejection from my country, ya. I think that’s my biggest fear is actually being rejected from my home.

Int: That’s a very normal fear to have ya.

Eleanor: That’s my biggest fear. And then my other fears that are more like in terms of physical safety are. My dogs being poisoned and – just because I see it everyday – and… what was the other one? I had another one, but obviously it isn’t that bad. Never mind. Like rape – that’s is a big thing.

Int: Ya, I think that’s a big.

Eleanor: Ya, I mean like obviously… you know, you can be – you can think about it, like where. Like there are places, like ‘don’t walk as a girl, in the middle of butt fuck nowhere’. Don’t get out of a car, don’t let a stranger in the car, you know, things like that. But like what scares me is like the subtleness of how it can happen and that’s not a limited to South Africa thing, that’s a worldwide thing. Where I think a lot of non-consensual sex happens, and it’s not classified as rape because it’s done by a…

Int: A partner .

Eleanor: Huh?

Int: Like a partner?

Eleanor: Ya, a partner or an ‘appropriate’ person as in someone the same age as you, someone with the same background as you, someone as the same culture as you. Whereas it almost can’t be considered as rape because it’s not a classic ‘dark alley stranger’.

Int: The ‘rapist vibe’.

Eleanor: Ya, like full-on physical force. I think that scares me because I don’t think people realise enough that, how often it happens.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: I’ve spoken to friends, where like I’ve found out like two thirds of my friends have all experienced like one sexual assault.

Int: That’s a lot.

Eleanor: By people.

Int: You wouldn’t expect.

Eleanor: By people who study with us, are our age, have lives, have families, have money, can get any girl they want. And they don’t think it’s assault. So, that’s scary.

Int: That’s a rough conversation to have with somebody, like with a friend, like “Hey, listen that is assault.”

Eleanor: And that’s scary because that’s a worldwide problem.

Int: So, you’re an OP student.

Eleanor: Ya.

Int: I’m sure you go on campus, or heard about the #AmINext?, the Uynene story. The UCT student who was raped, murdered, mutilated, in a Post Office.

Eleanor: Ya.

Int: So, the big question, this big movement that followed, was this #AmINrxt?. Is that a question you find asking yourself; am I next, will I be the next victim?

Eleanor: Ya. I think every woman who doesn’t ask that… is… ya.

Int: Like is not aware?

Eleanor: Not aware, ya.

Int: Not sure of what’s going on?

Eleanor: Ya. Then they aren’t trying to be safe.

Int: Ya, so I’m sure you know what’s happening in Iran right now. A lot of women are fighting back against a really oppressive regime. They don’t want to wear the Hajib anymore, they’re kind of done with it. A lot of them have been burning head scarfs. And that’s been quite a big uprising now. So, do you think it’s going to get to that point in South Africa because we have such a high level of gender-based violence, rape rates, and stuff like that, do you think there’s going to come a time where there are active riots of women in the streets saying ‘enough is enough’?

Eleanor: Oh riots or like suddenly people enforcing laws that oppress women?

Int: Um-

Eleanor: Because I don’t think our country is going to start enforcing laws that are-

Int: Oppressive toward women, no.

Eleanor: No. In terms of riots?

Int: In terms of riots, ya?

Eleanor: Ya, I mean… I think there are things already, I think – but my issue is that I don’t think it’s going to help.

Int: No, I don’t think so either.

Eleanor: Because it’s not coming from an authority. It’s coming from rural areas – yoh, that sounds bad. No, but like I think-

Int: Lower income?

Eleanor: Ya, I think the gender-based violence specifically and the idea that men are more powerful than women, is definitely, like can be related to certain kind of cultural beliefs. And that’s…

Int: That has to change.

Eleanor: A riot’s not going to change, because people love saying, ‘But it’s my culture’, which frustrates the hell out of me, because I’m like, “Maybe it was, but like grow up.” So, I think like what – one of the, ag one of the examples is when we went to Kruger. We went to actually Kruger for a day, like you know, where all the foreigners go as well. And there was one girl with us, like really small girl – not small, but like she was short. Lovely girl, I was - also she was black. And there was a black guy who was one of the rangers, who was there, very nice. And then he started being inappropriate with her; he pulled us aside and was like, “Where are you from?”  
And you know start – and you know, literally like you know, how people do, like offer like, ‘Oh you know, I’ve got this home for you and I want to meet your family’, and this is a girl he just met and he’s like three times her age. And I see that happens a lot between black men in power and black women. A lot. So, more so than with white people.

Int: One of the things we have been speaking a lot about is safety and obviously, you’re young, you go to the clubs, you’re a student. Are you worried about being spiked at a club or not?

Eleanor: Yes.

Int: Is that you’re number one fear or are you worried about your phone getting stolen or being touched inappropriately?

Eleanor: I don’t want my phone – the problem with my phone, because like that’s my biggest hassle because I don’t want to have to buy myself a new phone. But then I’m just careful, I have never had anything stole in a club because I’m not – I’m careful like…

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: You know like I think before I go, and then I’m always fine. I’ve been spiked in a club before.

Int: Oh damn. How was that experience?

Eleanor: I… because I’m aware and like I normally don’t drink at a pub – I drank once. And then I – I suddenly got drunk hella quickly, like really quickly, and I didn’t feel great, and thankfully, you know you have good friends around you and you don’t let your friend go anywhere alone. And I was like, “I think we need to leave.”  
And then I was like vomiting and everything the next day. So I think… I think, like I can’t be sure, but like just the, the – and based on how I usually am when I drink – it didn’t seem normal.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: So like ya, that does scare me. I am careful with my drinks.

Int: You said now that you don’t drink when you go out to clubs, was that the case before you were spiked or was that the case after you got spiked?

Eleanor: I think before because like I just knew it was a thing so I just wouldn’t, but then occasionally, you know, you’re drinking and you decide, ‘okay, I’m going to get a drink here’.

Int: So you wouldn’t drink because of the potential of getting spiked?

Eleanor: Ya, ya.

Int: I think that’s everything, let me just double check here.

Eleanor: Oh, oh, also about the little sexual assault thing.

Int: Yes, go ahead.

Eleanor: Is like clubs as well, because people think if you’re dancing that if they stick their hand like up your skirt, down your shirt, wherever they want it’s classified as ‘fine’.

Int: Ya.

Eleanor: And consensual because, ‘We’re dancing on the dance floor’. And someone your age at the club, did that then-

Int: ‘You’re asking for it’?

Eleanor: Ya. That pisses me off.

Int: Does it happen often?

Eleanor: Yes. And then often the guys are like, “Ah you scared.”   
And I’m like, “No, you’re just a fucking idiot, like,” I’m just angry, “like just fuck off.”  
You know.

Int: ‘I’ve had enough’, ya.

Eleanor: And I think they like the idea like you, that they can scare you.

Int: That’s another thing, like there’s an author or a theorist that I use quite often in my research, and she says, “South Africa lives within a fear factory.” So, there are certain words and phrases used by men primarily to insight fear. And it is for a sense of control. Is that something you agree with or think is misleading?

Eleanor: I think the probable with that is, it’s not all men.

Int: No.

Eleanor: I think – because like, yes it’s a lot of men, scarily a lot. And a lot of men don’t realise that they are doing things, especially in – especially in the power struggle, not ‘power struggle’ but like differences.

Int: Ya, power differentials.

Eleanor: Like even in my degree in my hospital, there are doctors there who are inappropriate with students and they are kept on because of skill. So, one of the best surgeons in Pretoria has notoriously slept with a lot of students, he is married. And, um, they know. And they keep him because he’s got – he’s skilled, and they need him to be a surgeon, and all that means is that he thinks he’s untouchable.

Int: I mean he technically is untouchable.

Eleanor: He is. But the problem is, like in how – is what more is he capable of doing if he thinks untouchable.

Int: I think that is a very, very scary though to have.

Eleanor: And he’s not the only one.

Int: Geez. Um, that’s basically all I have for your today.

Eleanor: Okay.

Int: If you’ve got anything you’d like to add, you are more than welcome to add it now.

Eleanor: Okay… great – sorry, if I spoke more than necessary.

Int: It’s an interview, you’re supposed to speak a lot.

Eleanor: I just have a lot of opinions. \*Laughs.

Int: That’s great. Yeah, so thank you so much for your time and your honesty and your answers, really, really appreciate it. Um, ya like I said if you have anything you would like to add or have any questions you can send me an email; if you are out and about and you see something or have some more opinions, you have my email address you are more than welcome to send them to me, I would be more than happy to add them in.

Eleanor: Great.

Int: Um, but ya like I said thank you so much for your time and your stories and your honesty. I know these aren’t easy conversations to have so it means a lot that you took time out of your day and are willing to.

Eleanor: I like having to – I like having – like talking about these issues, like they’re important to me so I appreciate the time to chat about them, so thank you.

Int: Okay, well have a great afternoon and I will let you know when we will have focus groups and stuff like that.

Eleanor: Amazing, thank you.