

## T03 Case Example N.1

### INTERVIEW ON COURAGE TO MS. AZA

*Interviewer:* "There are researchers and scholars who think that confidence in the own abilities is required to face the future. Among the aspects considered important for facing the future there are hope, optimism, that is, thinking in terms *I will do it*, that things will improve, things will go better and courage".

*Ms AZA:* She smiled and said yes with her head.

*Interviewer:* "Do risky things to defend others. I would ask you to express your thoughts on a number of points that I will now be listing to you".

*Interviewer:* "What does it mean for you to be a refugee"?

*Ms AZA:* "Living in a good situation, living in a safety situation, where human rights are respected, where there is democracy and also the ability to use skills and improve vision and expectations for my future. I can also manage the future of my family and mine".

*Interviewer:* "What does it mean to you having hope?"

*Ms AZA:* "I hope to find a good job that will allow me to demonstrate my skills... to have a good attitude and also learn from situations to face the future. I also hope to have positive things and that I can use my contacts for the future that allow me to increase my possibilities".

*Interviewer:* "What does it mean to you having courage?"

*Ms AZA:* "I was working in dangerous places 18 years ago in Afghanistan, and in those dangerous situations I was able to solve very difficult situations and therefore the courage was important to find ways of finding solutions to the problems. Having the ability to develop ways to deal with things and not remain inactive".

*Interviewer:* "Tackling the future can be demanding today. Planning...Have you ever been courageous in your life?"

*Ms AZA:* "Yes"

*Interviewer:* "If yes, please try to describe..."

*Ms AZA:* "When my husband died in Afghanistan in 1991, I was in a bad situation because I had two young children and I was alone. One child had a year and a half, and the twins had seven months and I thought that everything was over, that is, I was alone and I hit rock bottom. For almost a year I stayed in that way. I didn't wash my face for six months. I lost my hairs.... my mother brought me a mirror and I looked at my face and thought I was really over. My mother told me I had to be strong. After this I started thinking about the future, I decided to finish school, to do this for my children, to see the people I knew, not to stay closed at home. Afterwards, I met a friend of mine who worked for Oxfam UK. She told me that I had to leave the house and find a job. About a year later, she also helped me to find a job. After this, I started to feel that I had confidence in myself again. When I regained something to do, I felt that with one purpose I was becoming stronger every day. After that, I also began to do something to fight against what I considered a bad part of Afghan culture. And 'am not saying that the Afghan Islamic culture is totally negative, but that it has been used negatively, in religious or philosophical terms. At the same time, I found myself fighting the culture of my own family. I told to myself that this way of mine to be more courageous and stronger could be an example for other women. Then I have several examples of it, but this is in general the situation in which I found myself ".

*Interviewer:* "What did you get with your courageous act?"

*Ms AZA:* "I got to be able to take decisions more forcefully, with greater confidence in myself".

*Mediator:* "And how did people behave with you?"

*Ms AZA:* "My brother-in-law, who was against what I was doing, took things away from my house. He also took my children away for three months, he had taken them to his house to keep them himself. He wanted to force me to marry him. Actually, when he behaved like that when he was against me, he gave me the strength to continue to do what I was doing ".

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*Interviewer:* "That is, fighting for women's rights".

*Ms AZA:* "He wanted to make me weaker, but I wanted to continue making decisions for my life by my own. So in the attempt to weaken me actually made me stronger because in Afghanistan men make decisions".

*Interviewer:* "How much courage in the situation you described..."

*Ms AZA.:* "Very much courage".

