

BYC11 RT 19.4.89

INTERVIEWER: Tell me about yourself first? General things about yourself?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I'm twenty. I've got a little girl and I live on my own.

INTERVIEWER: You live on your own? Do you live in Blackley?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: What happened to you to get to where you are now?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't understand the question.

INTERVIEWER: Well just start out, I was wondering about your life history, up to now, so tell me when you left school, what you did at school?

INTERVIEWEE: Oh I went to [NAME OF GIRLS' SCHOOL]. I left there when I was fifteen.

INTERVIEWER: Did you take an exam before that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes I took exams in dance, child studies, maths and English. I got four CSE's, two grade II's and two grade III's. I went to college for year.

INTERVIEWER: Was that [NAME OF COLLEGE]?

INTERVIEWEE: [NAME OF COLLEGE], yes, doing hairdressing. A two-year diploma, but I had to leave after one year.

INTERVIEWER: Did you, why?

INTERVIEWEE: Because I was pregnant.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, did they make you leave or..?

INTERVIEWEE: They don't like it yes, they didn't like it.

INTERVIEWER: So you couldn't actually finish your training?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I didn't finish my training.

INTERVIEWER: Would you have wanted to stay and finish that?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: You wouldn't?

INTERVIEWEE: No I can't stand it. How anyone can do it I will never know.

INTERVIEWER: We were in here yesterday talking to them, some of the hairdressers at [NAME OF COLLEGE].

INTERVIEWEE: Oh was you. I wanted to know whether one of my teachers is still there.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, what's her name?

INTERVIEWEE: [NAME OF TEACHER].

INTERVIEWER: Is she very slim and wears glasses? I talked to one called DEBBIE, do you remember her. There was her and there is another woman, but I can't remember what her name is.

INTERVIEWEE: There was a MRS. GREEN there. Is she still there?

INTERVIEWER: There was a MISS PHILIPPS. That's beauty therapy though. She talked to them as well. So you didn't think much of hairdressing then?

INTERVIEWEE: No. I might have liked it better if I was in a shop, but not doing it full time at college.

INTERVIEWER: Was that on a YTS then?

INTERVIEWEE: No. It was.

INTERVIEWER: Because now the two courses are on YTS.

INTERVIEWEE: Oh no, we never got no money. That was one of the main reasons.

INTERVIEWER: Did you get a grant?

INTERVIEWEE: I got a £50 grant a year.

INTERVIEWER: A year? So how did you afford to do that?

INTERVIEWEE: Because of my mum. I was still at home with my mum and dad and they could still get family allowance for me.

INTERVIEWER: I thought that was really..

INTERVIEWEE: But there again the equipment that I had to buy cost over £200.

INTERVIEWER: Did you feel it was a waste time?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I've still got all my stuff, I still do a bit now and again. If people are really really mad.

INTERVIEWER: Everything except the perms.

INTERVIEWEE: But I can't say I'm marvellous doing it. But I learnt a lot in that one year. You learn all the perming and things. I think the second year is just to get your speed up but other than that. I'm an hairdresser with hair like that.

INTERVIEWER: I did it as well when I, well I did it at my last year of school we did hairdressing.

INTERVIEWEE: What did you think of it?

INTERVIEWER: I chucked it.

INTERVIEWEE: Everyone loathes it.

INTERVIEWER: Well you think it's really glamorous at a certain age.

INTERVIEWEE: Well I didn't want to do it actually at first. My mum and dad wanted me to do it. To get trained in something. I think that made me resent it more because it wasn't my choice of what I wanted to do.

INTERVIEWER: What would you have chosen to do? If you had the choice yourself?

INTERVIEWEE: I got offered a job in [NAME OF BUSINESS] in town.

INTERVIEWER: Where's [NAME OF BUSINESS]?

INTERVIEWEE: Next to the ..., the chiropodist.

INTERVIEWER: Oh yes.

INTERVIEWEE: I went there for an interview on the YTS scheme, you know it was not typist, I mean the filing, clerical assistant. And I didn't get on the scheme or something because I, well I don't know what happened but the interviewer, who interviewed me, I got on really well with her and she phoned me up about two weeks later and she said, 'I've got a job here, it's not YTS, it's like a junior but you're not on YTS money, do you want it?', but I had to say no because I'd got a place at college and I'm dead sick now.

INTERVIEWER: So do you regret that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. I've regretted it ever since.

INTERVIEWER: So what happened when you finished college, well you got pregnant, before that, tell me about that?

INTERVIEWEE: From school to college?

INTERVIEWER: Well about getting pregnant?

INTERVIEWEE: About getting pregnant? Well I just got pregnant.

INTERVIEWER: Was it by mistake or planned?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I was on the pill.

INTERVIEWER: You got pregnant whilst you were on the pill. Oh, that's bad luck isn't it?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, bad luck, Marvelon. Don't have it.

INTERVIEWER: Marvelon?

INTERVIEWEE: Marvelon it was called.

INTERVIEWER: Right, I'll remember that one.

INTERVIEWEE: I tell everyone. No, it's different with people but my next door neighbour, the girl that used to live next door to me. She was only a year older than me and she got caught. People didn't believe me though when I said I was on it. You know, even when I went to the doctors, I never missed it.

INTERVIEWER: Did you think of having an abortion or do you not agree with that?

INTERVIEWEE: I did. Well my mum and my sister wanted me to have one, but my dad didn't even know I was pregnant until I was about five and half months because I wasn't big, so what was the point in letting him worry. So my boyfriend, he didn't know what to do. He just said do what your mum says. Do whatever you want. You know what I mean, he was a bit shocked and I was as well. I was going to have one and then again I thought I know what I'm like, and if I would have had one I would never have got over it and I would have just blamed my mum and my sister for letting them make the decision for me. So now I make all my own decisions.

INTERVIEWER: Was that what changed it then, that it was your decision?

INTERVIEWEE: No when I moved into my own house, moved away from my mum and dad.

INTERVIEWER: How long ago did you do that?

INTERVIEWEE: Oh about twelve months ago.

INTERVIEWER: Was it a good break, was it a good move to do?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. I would never go back. Well I stay there on a Tuesday night now and I stay there now and again but I am glad to come home. Because I'm like the youngest and I still get treated like the baby. I should do this, I should do that, but I just ... now because I know I'm coming home out of it and I know they will phone me and I don't have to phone them an apologise.

INTERVIEWER: Tell me about, if we can go back to when you were at school and everything, and talk about your relationships with, when was the first relationship you had, the first boyfriend you had?

INTERVIEWEE: Sexual relationship?

INTERVIEWER: Well, the first sexual relationship but also before then being, what would you call the first sexual relationship as? When were you first becoming aware of that type of thing?

INTERVIEWEE: When I was about fourteen. I was in the pubs from fourteen. No, you know about it all the time though don't you. I have only, the lads who I had been out with from being fourteen, it has mainly been three lads and it's been the same three lads, but I have only had sex with one, and that's who I'm with now and who I got my little girl to.

INTERVIEWER: So it's the same man?

INTERVIEWEE: I'm still with him, yes.

INTERVIEWER: So when was the first time you had sex with him? How old were you?

INTERVIEWEE: Sixteen. I was a good girl you know, I waited until I was old enough. I was about, I found out I was pregnant in July, yes I found out the day before my seventeenth birthday.

INTERVIEWER: A nice birthday present then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I found out then I was pregnant, so I started having sex from about after sixteen.

INTERVIEWER: Were you using contraception all that time?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Was it on the pill?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So you went on the pill before you actually started having intercourse with anybody?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. I have two sisters older than me who both fell for the same thing as me.

INTERVIEWER: Did they?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. One was still at school and she had her first one, and the other one she was twenty. All unmarried mothers we were.

INTERVIEWER: So what does your mum think about that?

INTERVIEWEE: She was pregnant when she was married. We have all followed suit. We are all with the same lads though, the other two are married now to the same, they are still with the same lads.

INTERVIEWER: Do you want to get married. I mean when you got pregnant did that seem important?

INTERVIEWEE: No. Not at the time because he is two years older than me, but he was like a big kid. I'm more like his mother. He's away at the moment. You see he has never seen the house what I'm in now, and he's been away for eighteen months.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think you will get back together again?

INTERVIEWEE: Well he comes out this Friday just 'til Monday. To my house. Released into my arms, to my security.

INTERVIEWER: Do you want that?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know. Eighteen months is a long time.

INTERVIEWER: Have you been happier since he's been inside?

INTERVIEWEE: No. I have just been on my own. I've been happy but I've never been out. I have only been out, he has been away eighteen months, I've only been out, say, over the weekend six times in eighteen months. He was out over the two Christmases he has been away. I have never been with anybody else while he has been in there. Just stuck by him but I just think now I'm just quite happy on my own to be able to get up, cook when I want, do my own washing and ironing and I don't know whether, perhaps if he went to his mums and we started again from fresh, but it just seems that he's going to come in and he's just going to be banged right in front of me and I don't know whether I want it.

INTERVIEWER: Would you be able to say to him not to, I mean the relationship?

INTERVIEWEE: Not this weekend, I wouldn't say it just for the weekend, I shall just have to see how I get on at the weekend. But then after that. Yes, if he comes out properly and we are together and we don't get on I will just say to him.

INTERVIEWER: So in terms of your relationship who is the one that's in charge, you're saying then it's you?

INTERVIEWEE: It is me. Because whatever I say I always get my way.

INTERVIEWER: You and me.

INTERVIEWEE: It's not spoilt it's just that I'm right, I'm the one that's right aren't I because he was like, not a big kid but what he is he is just daft, he is so helpful, he will do anything for anyone and that's how he has ended up in there, helping people out.

He's too helpful, I've told him that anyway. None of his mates are coming near the door when he comes out. I will just throw a bucket of water on them and I will do it. He knows I will. I am very strong like that.

INTERVIEWER: So if you decided when he came back that you weren't interested, that it wasn't going to work out, would you be looking for someone else or would you be happy on your own?

INTERVIEWEE: Happy on my own.

INTERVIEWER: Do you plan to get somebody else in the future?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know. I am quite alright on my own.

INTERVIEWER: Can we go back to when you were at school, can you remember what type of sex education you got when you were at school?

INTERVIEWEE: Just the basics. Unit 6 it was called.

INTERVIEWER: Was that separate from any other classes then?

INTERVIEWEE: No we had it in our science lessons, biology lessons. But you went through like units. Unit 1 was all about plants and stuff like that, but Unit 6 was all sex education. It was just the basics everyone knew. It was just the basics.

INTERVIEWER: Which was just, what did they talk about?

INTERVIEWEE: Rabbits and plants.

INTERVIEWER: They didn't talk about in terms of human beings then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. But they didn't talk much. We had a male teacher in an all girls' school. Not very ...

INTERVIEWER: Teaching sex education to all girls, right, so nobody was asking many questions?

INTERVIEWEE: Oh yes, we asked him plenty of questions, we had him very embarrassed. We asked him, but he didn't answer any. 'Show us Sir, what do you mean?'

INTERVIEWER: Did they tell you about contraception?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. We did that in child studies as well. We did quite a bit on sex, contraception.

INTERVIEWER: And did they talk to you about sexually transmitted diseases and things like that?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: So you didn't get any information, it was just on reproduction?

INTERVIEWEE: No, just on reproduction.

INTERVIEWER: I suppose when you were at school had AIDS come out then?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: So they didn't talk about it?

INTERVIEWEE: No AIDS wasn't out. I've been left five years.

INTERVIEWER: Oh right, yes. So did you get any sex education or advice from your parents?

INTERVIEWEE: No. I give them the advice. No, they are very embarrassed my mum and dad. Very embarrassed.

INTERVIEWER: They can't talk about anything like that?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Did your sisters talk to you, tell you?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: So where did you, I mean what you knew at that age, where did you get your information from?

INTERVIEWEE: Just from schools.

INTERVIEWER: Did you and your friends used to talk about?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes I got it from friends. You just learnt about that.

INTERVIEWER: So did you think you knew enough when you were that age when you first started to have sex, did you think you had enough information to look after yourself?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. I knew what I was doing.

INTERVIEWER: You were on the pill as well. Where did you go for that?

INTERVIEWEE: The doctor.

INTERVIEWER: You didn't go to the family planning clinic or anything?

INTERVIEWEE: No, just to my doctor it was.

INTERVIEWER: Did he give you advice about anything else other than pregnancy?

INTERVIEWEE: No he didn't give me that, he just gave it me. He took my blood pressure and gave it me.

INTERVIEWER: Right, typical of what they do.

INTERVIEWEE: But when I was pregnant he was very good. He was very good with me and he talked about abortion and I was in the surgery room for forty minutes. The people outside were loving me. He was, he was very good with me.

INTERVIEWER: And he had time to spare which is quite unusual.

INTERVIEWEE: I wouldn't have expected that of him.

INTERVIEWER: You were saying you didn't get any AIDS education at school, when was the first time you heard about AIDS?

INTERVIEWEE: In the papers. In the news and things like that.

INTERVIEWER: And what did you think about what you read about it?

INTERVIEWEE: It doesn't bother me.

INTERVIEWER: Do you not think it was relevant to you, like you ought to do something to change your behaviour?

INTERVIEWEE: No because I'm a good girl. No. I just, it doesn't bother me because I know I'm with him and he has never messed about, because he wouldn't chance it because he knows anyone would come back and tell me.

INTERVIEWER: So you're the only person who he's slept with, you know that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: What type of people do you think are at risk from AIDS?

INTERVIEWEE: The promiscuous ones.

INTERVIEWER: What would you call promiscuous?

INTERVIEWEE: Dirty little slags.

INTERVIEWER: What would you say counted as that, as being promiscuous?

INTERVIEWEE: Girls who sleep with anyone. And your bisexuals, fellas, them are.

INTERVIEWER: Do you know any ways or protecting yourself against AIDS?

INTERVIEWEE: Off the adverts, use a condom. That's all isn't it. And staying off.

INTERVIEWER: Would you say if you weren't with the fella you are with at the moment and you met somebody else, would you feel that you could say that they would use a condom?

INTERVIEWEE: I would make them go for an AIDS test first.

INTERVIEWER: Would you?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes I would.

INTERVIEWER: Would you have one yourself?

INTERVIEWEE: No, because I'm clear.

INTERVIEWER: Right, but would you insist on someone having a test before you slept with them?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. I could come straight out with it, I wouldn't hold anything back.

INTERVIEWER: What if somebody said that they would take offence that you were saying that they might be at risk and they would need one?

INTERVIEWEE: I'd say you have got to be safe, haven't you? You have got to make sure.

INTERVIEWER: But you wouldn't sleep with anyone again now. Would you see it as a real risk then these days?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Do you know people who have got it or are HIV positive?

INTERVIEWEE: I have done a bit work telesales, and you get a lot of gay men there, and I know one of the lads who used to work there DEAN, he died from it about eighteen months ago.

INTERVIEWER: Did that change how you thought about it?

INTERVIEWEE: No. But you see, they never said that what was he died of. His boyfriend, he never said ought about it.

INTERVIEWER: It was just what everyone suspected then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. Because they kept very quiet.

INTERVIEWER: Would you think that there are people who are straight people, not gay people, who have it?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes of course there is, easy.

INTERVIEWER: So you see it.

INTERVIEWEE: The gays are alright, they keep themselves, the proper gays are alright, they will keep themselves to themselves, it's them who are bisexuals who I think are the worst, the fellas, because they are just going from one to the other. But I think it is them who's spreading it more because that's how it can get spread to a woman really, through a bisexual man.

INTERVIEWER: Well I suppose not necessarily, you can get it from drug users as well, so it's not only in the gay community.

INTERVIEWEE: There a lot of drug users around here.

INTERVIEWER: But if you were having a relationship with a man who was straight and hadn't had that many partners, you wouldn't call it promiscuous. You wouldn't think he had slept around, then do you think it would be alright to have unprotected sex?

INTERVIEWEE: I would have a look at his arms first. No.

INTERVIEWER: But you wouldn't actually change the way, you wouldn't use a condom or have different types of sex, not actually have intercourse because of that?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know.

INTERVIEWER: Have you ever bought condoms?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think you would be able to?

INTERVIEWEE: I would laugh and joke about it rather than buying them. I could get them but I would have to laugh and joke about it at the same time. Misbehave with the sales assistant or something, I couldn't just go in straight faced and ask for something.

INTERVIEWER: But would you carry them around or something?

INTERVIEWEE: We did use to, when we was about fourteen or fifteen, this sounds disgusting now, but at the time we used to buy them, and blow them up.

INTERVIEWER: Yes I remember doing that.

INTERVIEWEE: Blowing them up. You used to go to Old Trafford afterwards waving them in the crowds.

INTERVIEWER: You went to see the football?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So you are not that worried about it and you don't see it as much of a threat on your life?

INTERVIEWEE: No. Not at the moment anyway.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think you will be doing in the future?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know. I can't sort my life out now, my life out until I have sorted it out him, you know, but at the moment I don't know whether I'm coming or going. So until we sort our lives out, whether it's going to be together or separate, I just don't plan nothing.

INTERVIEWER: Have you not had any ideas about when your daughter gets a bit older and things like that, what you are going to do when she is at school, do you go back to work?

INTERVIEWEE: I want more kids though.

INTERVIEWER: You want more?

INTERVIEWEE: More than ever. I don't just want the one, I would rather, I am hoping that we will stay together because I won't have another baby to someone else.

INTERVIEWER: Why is that?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know, I just don't agree with it. I don't think it's fair on the first child because I don't care what he says, she will still get left out.

INTERVIEWER: So you have got your hopes pinned on this bloke then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. It's not feeling nought for him, I know he will stay in, it's me. It's my feelings that have changed. He thinks when he comes out everything is going to be alright. But you can't start writing that to him. He will be hanging himself. I'll be getting telegrams, one hung.

INTERVIEWER: Was he working before he went down?

INTERVIEWEE: No. He has worked though, he has had lots of jobs. He has just never known what he wants. And he is very sensitive.

INTERVIEWER: So if anyone is rude to him or anything then he chucks the job in?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Has that happened a lot?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. He was doing all sorts really, mainly he has done a lot of gardening, you know gardening at the hospitals and YTS's and he's a joiner. He has got his City & Guilds for joinery. And he's done that now and again, but he's talking about fencing, making his own. Because he can make that waney(??) lap fencing. He has talked about that, trying to set up business, because when he goes out and goes for a job he can't put any record down. He's got a four-year sentence behind him.

INTERVIEWER: What was that for?

INTERVIEWEE: Robbery. A four-year sentence. He shouldn't have got four years.

INTERVIEWER: No, that's a lot isn't it?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. He ended up with.....do you know him?

INTERVIEWER: I heard actually.

INTERVIEWEE: It was the eighteen. I don't like the number eighteen, he got caught on the eighteenth, he got denied bail on the eighteenth, he got committed to the Crown on the eighteenth and he got sentenced on the eighteenth.

INTERVIEWER: Is it all down to bad luck then?

INTERVIEWEE: All down to the number eighteen, it is. I put it all down to the number eighteen and he is due out on the eighteenth.

INTERVIEWER: It's a bit weird, isn't it?

INTERVIEWEE: I know. It sounds really stupid but I don't like it though.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think you will be able to work things out?

INTERVIEWEE: I would like to think we can but it's me, because I know what I want from him and if he can't give it he will have to go.

INTERVIEWER: And what's that?

INTERVIEWEE: I just want him to be there. I don't want him pottering here there and everywhere.

INTERVIEWER: It's security?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes I think that's the main.. It's like now everybody knows who he is, there is a great big family of them and when I go out and everything, they say oh that's his girlfriend and that is what I'm labelled as now. I have not got my own identity, it's just oh that'sgirlfriend. Like you go out and people say ...

INTERVIEWER: What is your actual relationship, is it not like that in your relationship?

INTERVIEWEE: No. He's good, he is as good as gold. We have argued and things like that, but he has never raised his hand to me. And sometimes when I think back now, I have asked for it because I can push and push and push, and all he's done, the only thing he's done is when I have known and I've given him a push and he has just turned round and said, 'I'm off', which I think for lads today you don't get, many a lad who will turn round and clock them. That's the respect I've got for him because I know, and that's how I would like it to be. I know I will be alright. But I have also learned now though, I know where I went wrong all the time and I did push him and push him to cause the argument, because I can be very argumentative and I want the last word. And even if I've got the last word and even if he says OK, I have still got to say something. I still have to have the last word all the time.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think you are a stronger person than he is then?

INTERVIEWEE: I am a stronger person than what he is. Mind you he has changed now, he is not as soft as what he used to be. No, like with his mates he was daft with them. But from being in here he had never been in trouble before, this was his first offence, well he has been to Court but for daft things like driving without insurance. Nothing like this, and this, like you get when he just says I can't believe....

INTERVIEWER: Do you think prison will have changed him?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: In good ways, not bad ways?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Because a lot of people say about prisons, it teaches you to live like that.

INTERVIEWEE: He said this. He has told me, he could do this dead easy, he could do that dead easy, but it's not that, he said you always get caught in the end. It's when he was first on remand they put him in with a fella of about 50 and the first day I went down and see him and he said, 'I'm in with a fella about fifty'. And I said, 'Oh, I bet he's gay', and he said, 'oh, he's not', and he was, he tried it on with him, and you should see my boyfriend, he's about six foot tall and six foot wide, and a fifty year old man.

INTERVIEWER: But he didn't have sex with him?

INTERVIEWEE: Oh no, you must be joking, he screamed. He screamed and flung him out the cell.

INTERVIEWER: So you are not worried he is going to come out of prison with AIDS then?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Is there a lot of talk about AIDS in there?

INTERVIEWEE: No, it's like it runs rapid in men's prisons because of it's like he says, you get your drug addicts in there now and even if they weren't gay before they go in, he said most of the people who have got drugs in prison are gays. They are the ones that have it all in prisons, and if they are desperate they get their drugs by sexual favours.

INTERVIEWER: He doesn't take drugs then?

INTERVIEWEE: No. He did before he went in, he just used a straw and things like that.

INTERVIEWER: He wasn't taking anything else or?

INTERVIEWEE: No, we did have a phase just before she was born when he was mad.

INTERVIEWER: Was he injecting

INTERVIEWEE: No. It was just up the nose, but he was mad with it, but he came off that really. Well he said he couldn't get off it so in the end I just said to him, don't come off it, you don't see me and you don't have a baby. And when she is older and she says what happened to me dad I will just turned round and say, I will just tell her that you like your drugs better than you liked her. And that was a Sunday night that was, and you see, I never know, that saying is so true, there's a lot to find out but touch wood.

INTERVIEWER: Is there a lot of drug users in this area then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes there is down there, you know down those stairs, there's a lot of them there.

INTERVIEWER: Is that people injecting?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. Well most of them are, but you could just walk in and they would just be syringing all along. They are dirty pigs, I used to go mad at them. I have seen people the same age as me, younger than me, I've grown up with them and to look at them now you wouldn't think they were the same people. I am dead against drugs.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think those people are at risk from AIDS?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. There are some dirty ones, a lot of people who I know they keep themselves to themselves. I know one he has been on it from being sixteen, he's twenty-four now but he is careful. He keeps himself to himself and he doesn't mess about, but he has been on it, he will never come off it now.

INTERVIEWER: In your relationship with your boyfriend is sex a very important part of it?

INTERVIEWEE: It used to be. When I lived at my mums and before I got my own house and everything. But to be honest I couldn't care less about it now. The first three months was agony. I just felt like going out and grabbing someone. But now it does not bother me in the slightest.

INTERVIEWER: But he is the only sexual partner you have ever had then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Did you have a good sexual relationship with him?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, we did.

INTERVIEWER: And you felt that you got as much benefit out of it as he did?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. We could laugh and joke and things like that. No, we, it was, it was alright.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think it is better than most people have then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes because, considering we were only young and everything, we could talk. We could talk about it. I mean you don't at first, you just feel dead daft and you don't talk but like as time went on and everything it was OK.

INTERVIEWER: You were the first person he slept with?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Does that make it better in that he wasn't really experienced, and he knew how to do it and you were totally innocent?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. I think that's it because I don't know, I just think it was better, I was just glad it happened in that way. Because I don't know, it's just me as a person. I don't know whether anybody else does it, but I just think people are comparing and I just don't want ever to be compared with anybody else. I don't need any competition. I am my own person, I don't need no competition.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, I think that's true for a lot of people, they feel that..

INTERVIEWEE: You have got to compete with what the first one was like.

INTERVIEWER: And also because you get a chance to say what you want out of it as well, rather than thinking you have got to prove to the other person you are doing what they want.

END OF RECORDING.