

Listening to Loss: Grief, Memory, and Refuge Through Children's Eyes

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Where is Cyprus?







My family's story

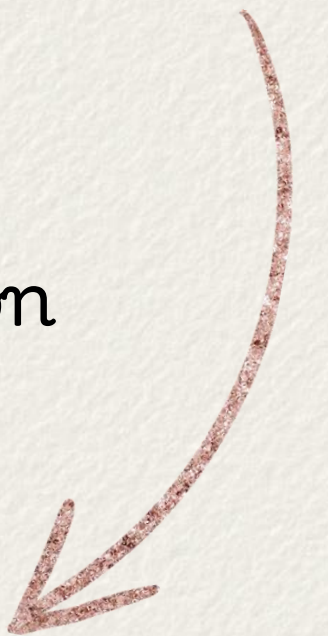
My mother's abandoned house in the occupied north of Cyprus.



Context - Cyprus and 1974



- 1974: Coup in Cyprus, followed by Turkish invasion
- ~200,000 Greek Cypriots became refugees
 - 1,619 missing persons
 - No public mourning or recognition
- Disenfranchised grief (Doka)



How this became a research question

PhD Studies on Grief Literacy

Parents' unresolved grief emerged.

What happens to silenced grief?

If we don't ask, no one tells!

Role as educator and grief pedagogy specialist

If we fail to recognize the grief, we risk repeating the same erasure for today's displaced people...



The research project

✓ Year 6 students interview refugee grandparents.

✓ Prompted to discuss homes, feelings, loss.

✓ Silences observed as testimony.

✓ Based on the story 'The Key'.

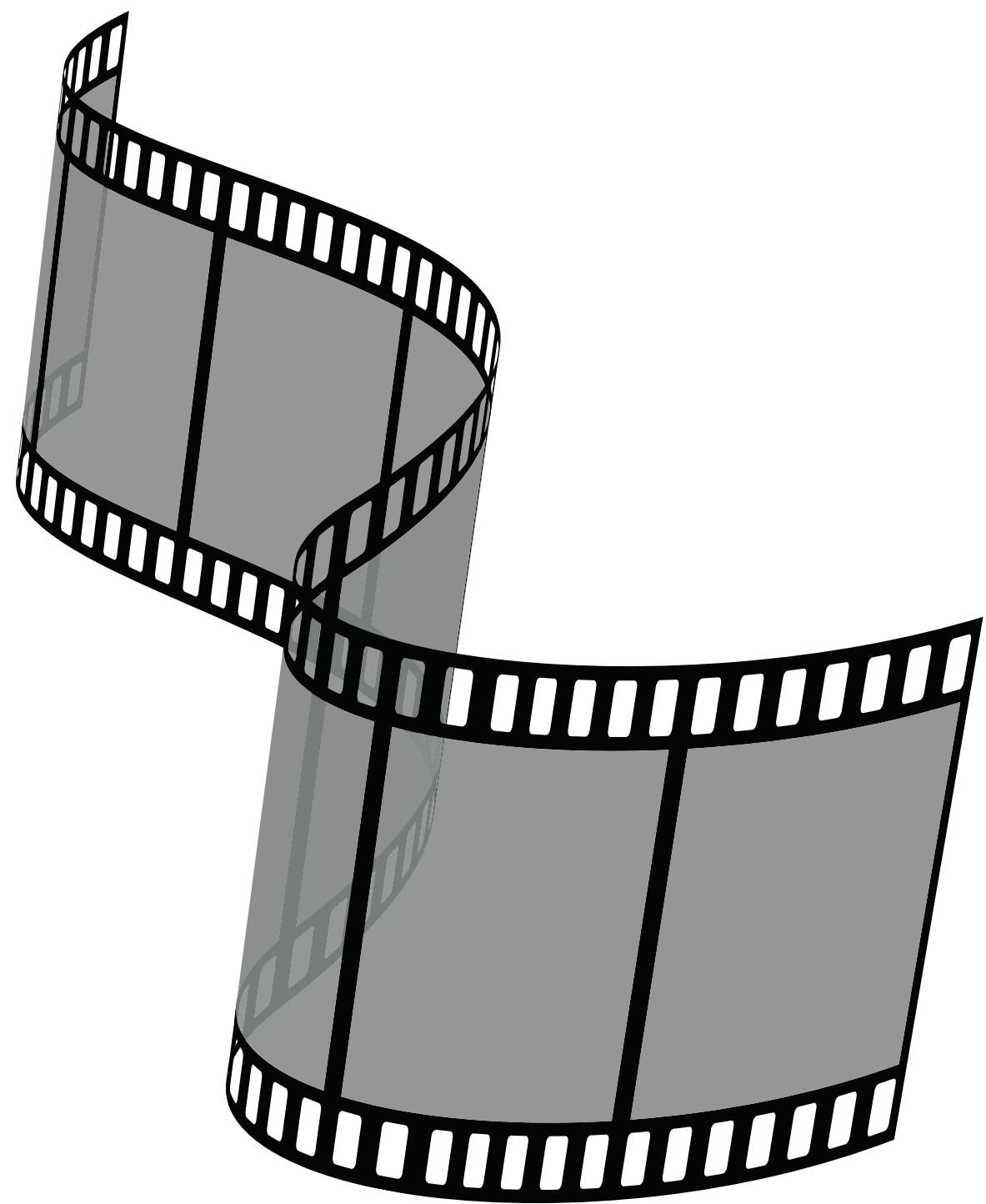


Memory in Objects

"We became refugees - 21.07.1974"

Embroidered cloth by a student's
great-grandmother.





Intergenerational Dialogue



My daughter interviewed my mother

- Q: What might have helped you?
- A: 'We are still waiting for a solution to return.'



What did children learn?

✓ Grief beyond words.

✓ Emotional literacy.

✓ Historical empathy.

✓ Conversations that never happened before.



Is this reparation?

- No return or legal justice.
- But recognition and voice.
- Listening as a political and healing act.



Photo by Jean Mohr

Final thoughts

Grief must be recognized to heal.

I did not come alone —
I carry voices.

Our role as educators and human beings.





Thank You

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