

# Monica's story

**My name is Monica.** I'm a social care worker employed by Care Concern, and I love my job, but as a refugee my journey to the happy place I am now has been very hard.

**I was born in Eritrea**, which is one of the poorest countries in the world and has a poor record on human rights. When I was about 13 or 14, I worked in Sudan, looking after older people who needed help with caring for themselves. Although I know I was young I worked hard and found that supporting people gave me a very good feeling.

**I came to Scotland on my own**, I have no family here, but I do have 2 younger brothers and a sister who are in Ethiopia and some day I hope they can join me.

**When I was granted refugee status**, I found out about the [Scottish Refugee Council](#) (SRC). They helped me so much to integrate into society, from advice on housing and employment to basic things like using public transport. I wanted to do something with my life so I applied to study ESOL, followed by [ESOL Transitions – Social Care](#).

**I looked for a job in social care** but there were many challenges and disappointments. Some of the jobs were just too far to travel and others I just didn't pass the interview, but I couldn't understand why and was very depressed.

**The SRC arranged for me to attend an information session** with a care provider and then I had an interview with Care Concern. The application process was straightforward, and the care home was close to where I was living, I was so happy when they offered me a job.

**I've been a care worker for over 9 months** now and I am very happy. Caring for people is so good as I feel that I am looking after my mum, and we may all need someone to help look after us one day. I like talking to the people and hear their life stories, it also helps me improve my English.

**I feel like a real human now**, much more confident and I feel good and not depressed. Every day is exciting as I now have money to pay my bills, save some and help my family. I am now proud of myself for what I have accomplished and the independence I have achieved.



**"After I got this job, I am more confident, very happy every day and interested in working extra shifts because I like the job... I'm proud of myself"**  
Monica – Social Care Worker and refugee