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 **P r e s s R e l e a s e**

**“HOW DO YOU HAVE a happy life?”**

**HULL – FREETOWN 2017**

The city of Hull has a deep relationship with Sierra Leone that can be traced back over 200 years to William Wilberforce, the slavery abolitionist who was born in Kingston-upon-Hull and who was a key figure in establishing Freetown as a safe haven for over 50,000 emancipated slaves. Freetown and Hull have been twin cities since 1981.

Hull won the bid to become the **UK CITY OF CULTURE** in **2017** and has implemented an arts and cultural programme for the year which celebrates the unique character of the city, its people, history and geography. **Freetown**  is sharing in a series of cultural and educational projects that will build stronger relationships between the people, institutions and governments of the twin cities. The programme in Freetown is organised by the British Council, in partnership with Freetown City Council and the Hull Society (Freetown), in close collaboration with Hull 2017, Hull City Council and the Freetown Society (in Hull).

**‘*How Do You Have a Happy Life?*’ is a series of 12 short (3 minute) films about six sets of working people - two hairdressers, two drag artists, two taxi drivers, two boxers, two tailors and two cooks - one set in Freetown and the other in Hull. These captivating shorts depict the differences, similarities, humanity, vulnerability and diversity of the lives and experiences of its subjects.**

The films were made by Nova Studios (Hull) in collaboration with WeOwn TV (Freetown) and the British Council as part of the Hull City of Culture 2017 project. These must-see films will be streamed in both cities with one pair of films being uploaded onto You-Tube periodically. Links to the films can be found on our website ([www.britishcouncil.sl](http://www.britishcouncil.sl)) and on our Facebook page ([www.Facebook.com/BritishCouncilSierraLeone](http://www.Facebook.com/BritishCouncilSierraLeone)).

***‘How Do You Have a Happy Life?’*** will also air on AYV-TV in Sierra Leone – Check our website and social media for more details.

***Stay connected to the British Council to learn more about other exciting cultural activities planned for Hull-Freetown 2017!***

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