**Cambridge English B for the IB Diploma: Teacher resource**

**Audio scripts**

**Audio track 6**

**Host:** Good morning. On today’s edition of ‘Human Interest’, we are going to hear from Adad Ashkar, a Syrian refugee. Listeners may remember that I spoke to him last month, after he had emigrated to Sweden. We spoke then about his hard journey as a refugee, fleeing war and violence, smuggling himself through many countries, dealing with government and non-government organisations. I talked to Adad again yesterday to discuss the issue of terrorist attacks. This is a recording of our conversation.

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**Host:** Adad, what are your thoughts when you hear about the attacks in Europe?

**Adad:** I am sick to my stomach, literally. And emotionally, I break down. I watch news reports of these attacks with a mix of anger and sorrow, frustration and sadness. It’s disgusting to think that these people are responsible for the same kind of violence that we, refugees, are trying to flee from. I feel betrayed by them. How will Swedes see me when I’m walking the streets of Gothenburg? It’s not fair.

**Host:** Have you noticed that Swedes have a negative attitude towards you and other refugees?

**Adad:** Not directly, but there is a lot of talk on the TV now about taking in fewer refugees to Sweden. Even this country, which has been very welcoming, is hardening.

**Host:** When you were living in Syria, did you ever experience the same kind of violence?

**Adad:** Yes and no. It’s difficult to compare the two. But you see... In Syria I lived in fear every day, and I was used to it. I heard gunshots. Mortars hit buildings all the time. And there were bodies in the rubble. But that was my reality. People going about their daily lives in European cities do not expect this level of violence. They do not see it coming. And now they live in fear too. It’s not fair.

**Host:** On your journey across the Middle East and Europe, did you ever meet any terrorists?

**Adad:** No, not at all. Quite the opposite. Look, we refugees are religious moderates and political moderates. We’re simply stuck in the middle. I know that at first, most of us were fleeing government oppression. But now there is another, growing group of refugees fleeing the terrorists. We are caught between two evils. We simply want a chance to have a stable, peaceful life.

**Host:** You are familiar with the situation on the ground in Syria. How can the terrorists best be defeated?

**Adad:** That is a difficult question. I don’t know. How do you talk to someone who refuses to listen? How do you make peace with someone who wants to make war? All we can do is show the world that most Muslims are peaceful people.

**Host:** And how do you do that, when people constantly see images of Muslim terrorists on the news?

**Adad:** You know, a picture was recently taken of me for a magazine. It was with a rainbow flag during the Pride Week in Gothenburg. That is something I would not have taken five years ago. But Sweden has changed me. I understand that life in Sweden is about accepting others. My brother was angry at me for having the picture taken. But those are the kinds of things we can do to show the world that Muslims are peaceful people.

**Host:** Do you think that you will ever return to Syria, after the war?

**Adad:** I don’t know. I don’t see that the war is going to end anytime soon.

**Host:** What kind of work do you have in Gothenburg? Could you potentially do that kind of work in Syria?

**Adad:** I’m an auto-repairman at a garage, and in the evening hours I work at a restaurant with my brother, who has made it here too, thankfully. But yes, I could do this work in Syria if I had to.

**Host:** Are some Swedish people resentful of you, claiming that you took their work?

**Adad:** I have not seen any of that, but I know what you’re getting at.