**WORKSHOP 3 / ROOM 3 *Respect, tolerance and dealing with “difference”. Breaking down intergenerational, intercultural, economic, gender, ethnic and other types of barrier. Cross-sectional approach*.** Claire Morphet**,** PossAbilities Homeshare, Manchester, UK

**About this session:**

Style: Highly participative; interactive; fun.

**The Context of this session: The world seems to be putting up more barriers**

The launch of our Homeshare programme coincided with the Brexit vote, in which the UK opted to leave the European Union. One of the unintended consequences of this has been an increase in hate crime, against non-British nationals, something which has pre-occupied the media and which has fuelled fear and uncertainty. Similar things are happening in the US and elsewhere in Europe.

It seemed ironic that after months of trying to create our first match, it came as a counterpoint to the general background of fear and suspicion of foreigners.

Doreen, a 78 year old lady had been in a care home for ten months after suffering a fall. Her greatest wish was just to go home and sleep in her own bed, yet without someone to prepare her meals this was not possible.

Meanwhile Anouck 22 from Paris was wondering how she might be able to perfect her English and found us via Google.

Now Doreen and Anouck are Homesharers. They go to bingo and singing group together, whilst Doreen who has never been abroad now enjoys French food.

The media took little interest in this story. It was after all good news about how people from different cultures can get on when they see each other on a human level.

It’s helped us to shape our plans to develop Homeshare as something which is more than just a convenient arrangement for both parties. It gives us an opportunity to remind ourselves that we are all human, that other cultures can be a source of wonderment rather than fear, and that in a post-Brexit world, we need to do all that we can to build bridges.

**In this session we will explore: -**

* + How we over estimate differences and underestimate similarities
  + Stereotyping and ways to reverse it
  + The benefits of being curious
  + 101 ways that Homeshare can break down barriers

This session will be conducted in English with French and Spanish translation available if required.