



Ethnic Minorities in Britain

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introduction

Our society in Britain is one of the most diverse-multi-ethnic and multi-religious societies in the world. The communities in Britain represent a vast wealth of different inheritances, backgrounds, influences, perspectives, faiths and experiences. This diversity is what makes Britain what it is.

An important part of being a successful diverse society is to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions and achievements of all communities. However on many occasions we forget the extent to which Britain has benefited from ethnic diversity throughout its history. From industry and commerce to art and dance, from sport and music to science and diplomacy, the activities of individuals and groups from ethnic minorities has enriched life in Britain for all. Britain's diversity also strengthens and enhances our image and position in the international community. Our diversity provides us with strength of knowledge and experience that very few countries in the world can match.

This booklet jointly produced by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the Commission for Racial Equality is meant to provide a small snapshot into some of the contributions of people from minority ethnic communities and to celebrate their achievement.

The 2001 census showed that British ethnic minorities constitute 7.9 per cent (4.6 million people) of the United Kingdom's population.

Indians were the largest minority group, followed by Pakistanis, those of Mixed ethnic backgrounds, Black Caribbeans, Black Africans and Bangladeshis. The remaining minority ethnic groups each accounted for less than 0.5 per cent but together accounted for a further 1.4 per cent of the UK population.

Ethnic group data were not collected on the Northern Ireland Census in 1991. However, in Great Britain the minority ethnic population grew by 53 per cent between 1991 and 2001, from 3.0 million in 1991 to 4.6 million in 2001.

Half of the total minority ethnic population were Asians of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi or other Asian origin. A quarter of minority ethnic people described themselves as Black, that is Black Caribbean, Black African or Other Black. Fifteen per cent of the minority ethnic population described their ethnic group as Mixed. About a third of this group were from White and Black Caribbean backgrounds.

facts

- The size of the minority ethnic population was 4.5 million in 2001/02 or 7.6 per cent of the total population of the United Kingdom. Indians were the largest minority group, followed by Pakistanis, Black Caribbeans, Black Africans, and those of Mixed ethnic backgrounds.
- Minority ethnic groups have a younger age structure than the White population. In 2001/02 the Mixed group had the youngest age structure - more than half (55 per cent) were under the age of 16. The White group had the highest proportion of people aged 65 and over at 16 per cent.
- In England people from minority ethnic groups made up 9 per cent of the total population in 2001/02 compared with only 2 per cent in both Scotland and Wales. Nearly half (48 per cent) of the total minority ethnic population lived in the London region, where they comprised 29 per cent of all residents

adrian lester

actor

Adrian Lester was born in Birmingham in 1968, to Jamaican immigrant parents. His diverse acting talent in musicals, theatre, dramas and films has won him many accolades over the years.



He was the winner of the much coveted Laurence Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Musical (1996) for his role in 'Company'. Adrian soon left for Hollywood, where he landed the lead role in 'Primary Colors' (1998) alongside John Travolta. His film biography now includes Ben Elton's 'Maybe Baby' and Kenneth Branagh's 'Love's Labours Lost'.

Though he had purposely avoided television dramas, the BBC offered him the role as Mickey Stone in their new drama 'Hustle' (2004-), a role he found too demanding to refuse. Adrian is both a graduate and member of the RADA Council. With a continuing growing fan base, it is clear that this actor has yet much more to offer, and is on the brink of international stardom.

parminder nagra

actress

Parminder Nagra was born in Leicester in 1975. Her parents are originally from the Punjab, India. She has had no formal training in acting, but fell into the profession at the age of 17. This culminated in her breakthrough crossover role in America and England as 'Jess' in her feature film debut 'Bend it Like Beckham' (2002). She played a young English girl struggling to balance her career as a footballer with traditional Indian values.



She recently joined the cast of American hit TV show 'ER', playing a third year English medical student 'Neela'. Parminder is also known for her roles in Channel 4 drama's 'Twelfth Night' (2003) and more recently, 'Second Generation' (2003). The drama was a modern remaking of King Lear, with an Asian twist.

She can be currently seen in the feature film 'Ella Enchanted' (2004). Parminder's success now makes her a role model for aspiring Indian actresses in England.

ragehomaar

television reporter / correspondent

Rageh Omar was born in Somalia, and was educated at Oxford University. His journalistic career began in 1990 at the 'Voice' newspaper in Brixton. From 1991 he freelanced as a foreign correspondent in Ethiopia, and followed this as a producer on 'Focus on Africa' for the BBC World Service.



His work as a BBC reporter has made him a household name.

As a Developing World Correspondent he covered stories from Africa. However, he is widely known for his coverage of the Iraq War, watched by nearly 90% of Britons. Viz magazine dedicated one issue to Rageh, calling him "Britain's best-loved bullet-dodging dreamboat", and the BBC continuously receives e-mails from adoring fans.

Rageh's reports from Iraq were made easier by his Muslim and Arab speaking background. He has recently published his story in 'Revolution Day' which chronicles the Iraq war. He hopes to return to reporting from Iraq in the future.

darshna soni

reporter

During Darshna Soni's three year span as a reporter she has been nominated for several awards, including Journalist of the Year in the Royal Television Society (London) Awards. Her continued dedication to journalism won her the RTS (London) Award for Best News Story.



She began her career as a West London reporter for BBC London News, where she broke numerous exclusive stories including that of the desecration of a Muslim woman's body at Hillingdon Hospital mortuary. She also reported the capital's Iraqi community's reaction to the declaration of the Iraq War.

Darshna currently works for ITN News as part of the Channel 4 News team. Before her career in journalism, Darshna worked for the late Bernie Grant MP. She also managed the Global Trade Centre in London, which encourages small businesses in London to trade with small businesses in Africa and the Caribbean.

afzalamin

army officer in the Education
and Training Services

Afzal Amin grew up in the West Midlands, and is the son of migrant parents from Pakistan. His grandfather was a military policeman in the British Indian Army, serving several tours in Europe during World War II.



Afzal was commissioned from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst into the all-officer, all-graduate ETS Branch. His first posting was to Germany. There he devised and delivered Arabic language and cultural training for the British Army's operations in the Middle East. He deployed to military operations in southern Iraq, where he worked closely with the Interim Governing Council.

Afzal's language abilities and cultural knowledge make him a valuable asset to the British Army. He currently works as an Instructor Officer in a military education centre, teaching Defence Knowledge, Military Management and Communication on the Army's promotion courses.

mikefuller

chief constable of Kent

At the beginning of 2004, Mike Fuller became Britain's first black Chief Constable. His career began in 1975 as a Metropolitan Police Cadet. As a constable he went on to serve in a number of London boroughs.



After the Macpherson Report, which accused the Metropolitan police of 'institutional racism' over the Stephen Lawrence case, Mike set up the Met's Racial and Violent Crime Task Force. He was also the founding chair of the Black Police Association. After being promoted to Deputy Assistant Commissioner in 2001, he went on to set up and command Operation Trident, investigating black on black crime.

Throughout his service, he has served in uniform, Special Branch and CID branches. He has also been awarded a Queen's Police Medal in the New Year honours (2004), and previously won the G2 'Man of the Year Award' (2001) in recognition of his dedicated contribution to policing in London.

simon woolley

national co-ordinator of Operation Black Vote

Operation Black Vote (OBV) was set up by Simon Woolley in 1996, out of a genuine concern that the Black community's needs and concerns were not being addressed by British politicians.

Simon along with the co-founders of OBV, set up the organisation to bring attention to the importance of the 'black vote', and to promote the right to vote in the black community. The organisation was set up in his spare time and with limited funds in London.

Simon can be found campaigning about the inequality of opportunity faced by ethnic minorities in the United Kingdom. He frequently writes and comments for the national and black press about matters that concern the black community. One of his biggest tasks has been to secure balanced press coverage from what he calls "the predominantly cynical white media", by continuously promoting and motivating the work of OBV.



lord victor adebowale

- co-chair of the National Steering Group for Black and Minority Ethnic Mental Health
- chief executive of Turning Point

Lord Victor Adebowale was born in 1962 and was raised to the peerage as Baron Adebowale of Thornes in the County of West Yorkshire in 2001.

He became chief executive of Turning Point in September 2001, the largest social care charity in the United Kingdom, helping those with mental health problems, learning disabilities and sufferers of substance misuse. Victor's career began in local authority estate management. He became director of the Ujima Housing Association, Britain's largest black housing association, and then chief executive of youth homelessness charity Centrepoin before becoming chief executive of Turning Point.

Victor is also a trustee of RNID, a patron of Rich Mix Centre and also a patron of Tomorrow's Project, to name but a few of the many organisation he is involved in. In 2000 he was awarded the CBE for services to the New Deal, the unemployed, and homeless young people.



anwar choudhury

British High Commissioner to the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Anwar Choudhury was born in Bangladesh in 1959. He was appointed High Commissioner to the People's Republic of Bangladesh in April 2004, making him the first Briton from an ethnic minority background to hold such a senior diplomatic post.



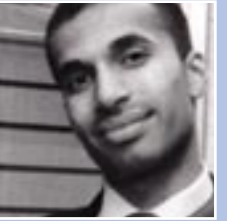
In 1985 he graduated with a BSc in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Salford University and then later an MBA from Durham University in 1995. He began his career as an engineer and consultant at Siemens Plessey Plc., before moving to the Royal Air Force as a Signal Engineer.

In 1995 he became Assistant Director of the Ministry of Defence and then Director at the Cabinet Office (The Office of the e-Envoy), before his appointment as High Commissioner of Bangladesh.

sujeevan satheesan

Press & Public Affairs Officer- British Embassy, Paris

Sujeevan Satheesan was born in Sri Lanka in 1977, and immigrated to Britain in 1980. Due to his father's profession, the family moved around England and Wales before finally settling down in London in 1988.



After finishing his A'levels at a cosmopolitan comprehensive, Sujeevan went on to graduate from Oxford University. Degree in hand, Sujeevan decided to travel the world visiting Sri Lanka, Nepal, France, Italy and Spain, before commencing employment at PriceWaterhouseCoopers. From here he moved to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 2001 to work as a Desk Officer for Kuwait and Oman. Here he compiled briefs for the Prime Minister, and answered parliamentary questions relating to both these countries.

Sujeevan now works as Press and Public Affairs Officer in Paris. After receiving only 5 months language training, he is a confident French speaker and has held his post for 15 months.

amirkhan

boxer

Dubbed a boxing sensation after his performance in the 2004 Olympics, Amir Khan is one of Britain's most talented young athletes. Born in Bolton to Pakistani parents, the 17-year-old Amir has a string of achievements to his name.



Great Britain's youngest team member at the 2004 Athens Olympics and sole boxing representative, Amir was in excellent shape when the lightweight preliminaries kicked off. Amir went on to become the youngest Briton ever to win an Olympic boxing medal after winning a silver medal in the lightweight division.

In June 2004, the 17-year-old from Bolton had already won the world junior lightweight crown in South Korea after five fights in seven days. His Olympic qualification tournament in Bulgaria in April followed his Gold Medal at the European Championships in Lithuania. Amir won the best boxer award at all three events and was compared to his idol, Olympic legend Muhammad Ali.

kellyholmes

athlete

Kelly Holmes is Britain's best female athlete. Kelly started training aged 12, joining Tonbridge Athletics Club, where she went on to win the national schools' 1500 metres in her second season.



Aged 18 Kelly joined the British Army and did a number of roles before transferring to the Adjutants General Corps as a physical trainer, reaching the rank of sergeant. Inspired by the 1992 Olympics, Kelly combined both athletics and her employment in the army until become a full-time athlete in 1997. During this time Kelly won a number of medals at various tournaments including the Commonwealth Games.

In peak physical condition Kelly demonstrated her superior athletic form in the 2004 Athens Olympics when she won gold in both the 800m and 1500m race. Kelly is the first British woman to win two Olympic gold medals, and the country's first double gold medallist at the same games since 1920.

dinesh dhamija

entrepreneur

Dinesh Dhamija is founder, chairman and CEO of ebookers and one of Europe's leading Internet entrepreneurs. Having gained a Master of Arts in Law from Cambridge University, Dinesh's worked with IBM before establishing his own business, Dabin Travel Limited in Earls Court, in 1980.



By 1996 the renamed Flightbookers was one of the UK's top 10 travel agencies. But Dinesh had even bigger ambitions and saw his opportunity when a German associate introduced him to an innovative IT software package that allowed online bookings and transactions. The software was quickly installed and Flightbookers.com became the first interactive travel website in the UK - a real Internet pioneer.

In 1999 ebookers was launched as a separate company and quickly established itself as the leading travel website in Europe. In 2003 Dinesh came top in a list of Britain's 100 leading entrepreneurs published by Management Today business magazine.

ruby hammer

entrepreneur

Ruby Hammer is one half of the beauty brand Ruby & Millie, the cosmetic brand with personality. The company has been hailed as the most innovative brand to be launched into the international beauty industry in decades.



The concept of Ruby & Millie is universal and illustrates that creating perfect beauty need not be a tedious and complex task nor only available to the rich and famous. After three years of research and development the first Ruby & Millie site was opened in August 1998 in Harvey Nichols Leeds, and London. The demand for Ruby & Millie cosmetics means the company faces rapid expansion both nationally and internationally.

In January 2004 Ruby starred in an educational documentary detailing her career in the beauty industry and has appeared in many magazines as a recognised, respected voice of the industry.

baroness valerie **amos**

peer

Valerie Amos was born in Guyana, studied at the Universities of Warwick, Birmingham and East Anglia, and was awarded an Honorary Professorship at Thames Valley University in 1995 in recognition of her work on equality and social justice. Valerie was created a life peer in August 1997.



After working in Equal Opportunities, Training and Management Services in local government in the London boroughs of Lambeth, Camden and Hackney, she became Chief Executive of the Equal Opportunities Commission 1989-94. In 1995 Valerie Amos co-founded Amos Fraser Bernard and was an adviser to the South African Government on public service reform, human rights and employment equity.

Baroness Amos was made Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 2001. She joined the Cabinet as International Development Secretary in May 2003 before becoming Leader of the House of Lords and President of the Council in October 2003.

lord **chan** MBE

peer

Lord Michael Chew Koon Chan is a paediatrician by profession and has had a distinguished career practicing medicine in Merseyside. Educated at the Raffles Institution, Singapore, Lord Chan gained his medical degree from Guy's Hospital Medical School in 1964. Lord Chan was raised to the peerage as Baron Chan, of Oxton in the County of Merseyside 2001



Lord Chan has held a number of posts including consultant and senior lecturer, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine 1976-94; Member, Home Secretary's Standing Advisory Council on Race Relations 1986-90; Commissioner, Commission for Racial Equality 1990-95; Director, NHS Ethnic Health Unit 1994-97; Visiting Professor, Liverpool University 1996-; Chair, Chinese in Britain Forum 1996-; Adviser on ethnic health: NHS executive NW region 2000-02, Commission for Health Improvement 2001-02; and Member, Press Complaints Commission 2002. He has also co-authored a number of landmark publications on ethnic minority health.

sumachakrabati

civil servant

Suma Chakrabarti became Permanent Secretary of the Department for International Development in February 2002, the first ethnic minority to reach this position in any government department.

After spending two years in Botswana on an Overseas Development Institute Fellowship, Suma joined the Overseas Development Administration in 1984 as a senior economic assistant providing advice on macroeconomics issues and UK aid projects. In the late 1980s he went as part of the UK Delegation to the IMF and the World Bank in Washington as the Executive Director's Assistant. Suma then returned to England and the ODA holding various roles.

Suma moved to the Treasury in 1996, where he held a number of key posts mainly in the public services and general expenditure. In 1998 he joined the Cabinet Office and was responsible for creating a new central unit (the Performance and Innovation Unit) to support the Prime Minister in examining medium- to long-term issues that cross public sector institutional boundaries.



dr hanyel-banna

aid worker

Birmingham-based Dr Hany El-Banna is one of Britain's most experienced professionals in international development and a leading light in the drive to create greater understanding between Christians, Jews and Muslims. Head of the charity, Islamic Relief, he is also a member of the Three Faiths Forum, and speaks on faith and development in Britain and abroad.

Dr Hany has recently addressed the House of Commons on humanitarian aid, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on open dialogue as part of tolerant foreign policy. He is also actively involved in the peace process in South Sudan.

Islamic Relief was founded by Dr Hany El-Banna whilst still a student in 1984. Since then a total of £11.8m has been raised culminating in an annual figure of £4.5m in 1993. The charity now has 29 offices throughout the world and has Non-Governmental Organisation status with the UN.



nishampatel

sales director, Teletext

Having joined Teletext as Sales Support Executive in 1994, Nishma initially impressed with her drive and abilities far beyond her appointed position. Very quickly Nishma established herself as a key member of the sales team and began a meteoric rise to success progressing quickly through three promotions in one year to the position of Group Head for Holidays Advertising. In 2001, at the age of 27, Nishma was appointed as Sales Director at Teletext, adding responsibility for not only all holiday advertising but also the financial and sports sectors.

During Nishma's time as sales director of Teletext, its turnover has increased by over 800%. This year Nishma was identified as one of the top 30 women in travel by the Travel and Trade Gazette and won the Asian Business Woman of the year award.



nabilasadiq

recruitment consultant

Nabila's career started when she joined John Lewis as a graduate trainee where her calm management style, hard work ethic, sound business acumen and ability to get the best out of employees resulted in a fast track three years. She left retail for the world of recruitment as a consultant with Badenoch & Clark, and then joined Shepherd Little as an Associate Director.

In 1997 she became part of the Joslin Rowe management team and was made managing director in December 2000. She has become one of the most senior Asian women in recruitment and one of the most recognised names within the highly competitive market place. Nabila is responsible for a business with a multi-million pound turnover, in an industry that has historically been dominated by males at board level.



vanessamae

classical musician

Vanessa Mae was born in Singapore in 1978, to a Thai father and Chinese mother. She moved to London at the age of three, and started playing the violin at the age of five. By the age of 10 she was already playing with the Philharmonic Orchestra.



Her first 'pop' album 'The Violin Player' was released when she was just 16, after the release of three classical albums at the age of 12 and 13. The new album introduced the world to Vanessa's unique brand of music, mixing together jazz, pop and classical influences. Her colourful electrifying performances and music videos have also made her a huge television star.

Vanessa was nominated for the 1996 'Best Female Artist' at the BRIT Awards, and in 1997 she was the only non-native invited by Hong Kong to perform at the Hong Kong to China Re-unification Ceremony. She is world famous and her million selling albums make her one of Britain's most popular exports.

davidlammy

MP

David Lammy was elected Member of Parliament for Tottenham at the age of 27 in a by-election on 22nd June 2000.

David is the youngest member of the Government having been appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Constitutional Affairs on 13th June 2003.



Prior to his role at the Department for Constitutional Affairs, David Lammy was Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health. He was Parliamentary Private Secretary for Estelle Morris at the Department of Education and a member of the Greater London Authority with a portfolio for Culture and Arts.

David Lammy was born on 19 July 1972. He studied Law at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in the University of London and was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1995. He achieved a Masters degree in Law at the Harvard Law School in 1997. He has practised in both England and the USA.

David is a trustee of the international development charity ActionAid.



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