



**Press Release**  
28 July 2003

### **South Asian heritage website launched**

The last 200 years of South Asian migration to England are explored on a new interactive website, "Moving Here", [www.movinghere.org.uk](http://www.movinghere.org.uk), to be launched on 30 July at London's City Hall.

"Moving Here" makes over 150,000 digitised sources from 30 museums, libraries and archives in England available online for the first time. You can download free scans of original documents and images such as:

- The Lascar seamen, who set the pattern for 20<sup>th</sup> century Indian migration
- Extensive records, including correspondence from Gandhi, charting the struggle for Indian independence
- Earnest Dyche's photographs of Asian families in England in the 60s and 70s
- Asian suffragettes
- Photographs of some of the 1 million Asian men who fought in World War 1
- The plight of indentured Indian labourers in the Caribbean
- British government policy on the migration of Ugandan Asians
- Selected ships' passenger lists

You can read about the history of South Asian migration to England, get guidance on tracing your family history, send images as e-postcards and contribute your own stories of migration to the website.

A second generation South Asian woman said:

"I'm extremely proud that I have been born in an age where I can recognize both identities and I can take the best of both worlds."

Chandan Mahal, Diversity Manager at the Museum of London, said:

“People don’t realise how much material about their communities is stored away in museum and archives. When I have gone into community groups and been able to show them images of the Asian lascars in the Docks and the Asian suffragettes on the Moving Here website they get really excited.

Sarah Tyacke, Chief Executive of The National Archives, said:

“Moving Here is a step forward because for the first time all this material has been digitised so that you can see it in your living room. Archives are moving away from their ‘dusty and musty’ image by making these documents available at the click of a mouse.”

Trevor Phillips, Chair of the Commission for Racial Equality, said:

“England has a long history of immigration and I commend Moving Here and The National Archives on creating a website which recognises and celebrates the contribution of immigrants to all sections of our society.”

Historian Simon Schama said:

“It’s a TERRIFIC idea, both moving and important.”

“Moving Here” has been funded by the New Opportunities Fund and also provides information for the Caribbean, Irish and Jewish communities in England. Further material will be added to the site by the end of September.

**-Ends-**

*Notes for Editors:*

- **For press enquiries, images, or to attend the launch at 2:15pm on 30 July at London’s City Hall, please contact Clea Relly or Jaclyn Boshoff at The National Archives Press Office on 020 8392 5277 or e-mail [press@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:press@nationalarchives.gov.uk)**
- The National Archives [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) is the lead partner on “Moving Here” and the central “Moving Here” team is based at the offices in Kew. The National Archives museum and research rooms are open to the public 6 days a week. It holds over 1000 years of documents including sources for family history research. The National Archives was created in April 2003 when the Public Record Office and the Historic Manuscripts Commission came together to form one organisation.
- **The Moving Here partners are:** Birmingham City Archives; Black Cultural Archives; Bradford Heritage Unit; British Library; Croydon Museum & Heritage Service; Jewish Museum, London; Hackney Museum; Haringey Museum and Archive Service (incorporating Bruce Castle Museum) Imperial War Museum; Hull City Archives; Lancashire Record Office; Leeds Museums & Galleries; Liverpool Record Office; London Metropolitan Archives; London School of Economics; Luton Museum Service; Manchester Central Library; Manchester Jewish Museum; Museum of London; The National Archives; National Maritime Museum; North West Film Archive; Oxfordshire Museums; Public Record Office of Northern Ireland; Royal Geographical Society; Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives; Victoria & Albert Museum; Walsall Local History Centre; Wandsworth Museum and Local History Service; West Yorkshire Archive Service

\* [www.EnrichUK.net](http://www.EnrichUK.net) is a gateway to the collection of websites like [www.movinghere.org.uk](http://www.movinghere.org.uk) supported with National Lottery money by the New Opportunities Fund. Their contents range across the very best in culture, history, art, science, and social and economic development of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales and make a major contribution to lifelong learning.

\* The New Opportunities Fund is the biggest of the National Lottery good cause distributors, providing Lottery funding for health, education and environment projects across the UK, with a particular focus on improving quality of life, particularly in disadvantaged communities. To date the New Opportunities Fund has committed over £2 billion in funding to schemes across the UK. The Fund supports sustainable projects that will:

- Improve the quality of life of people throughout the UK
- Address the needs of those who are most disadvantaged in society
- Encourage community participation
- Complement relevant local and national strategies and programmes

Funding for programmes is divided between England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales on the basis of population, weighted to reflect levels of deprivation.

Further information about New Opportunities Fund can be accessed at [www.nof.org.uk](http://www.nof.org.uk): Press Office 020 7211 1888; email [pressoffice@nof.org.uk](mailto:pressoffice@nof.org.uk); Out of hours media line 07867 500572.