

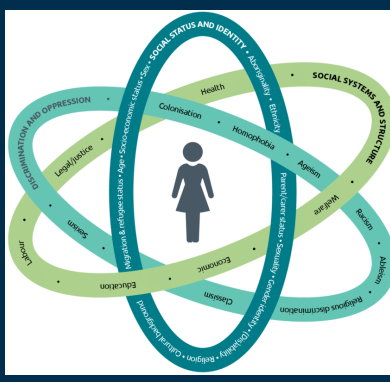
# Labour & Marriage Migration



**Population: 9 million**

Number of languages spoken: 300 (does not include sign languages)

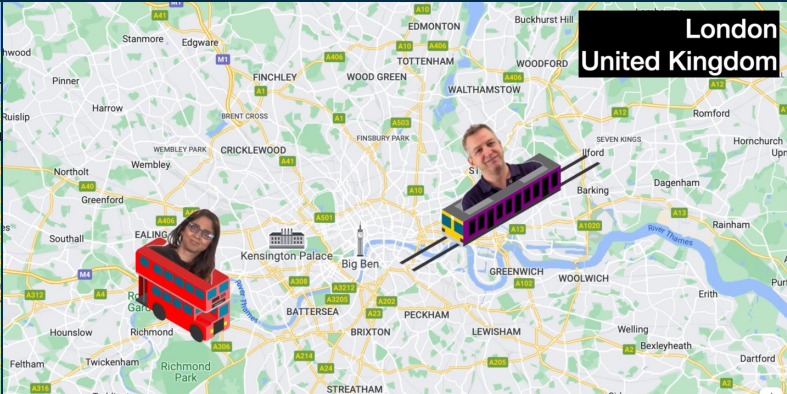
Percentage born outside UK: 40%



**Steve Emery** (he/him) was awarded his PhD on 'Citizenship and the Deaf Community' in 2007. He has published on genetics, group rights, diaspora, citizenship and education. He is currently a Lecturer in BSL and Deaf Studies at York St John University

**Sanchayeeta Iyer** (she/her) holds a BA (Hons) in Development Studies and Geography and MSc in Children, Youth and International Development. She did voluntary work for the Philippine Federation of the Deaf (PFD), Aurora Deaf Aid Africa (ADAA) and Deaf Ethnic Women's Association (DEWA). She is pursuing a PhD on India-UK marriage migration within the MobileDeaf project.

**Publication:** Emery, SD & Iyer, S 2021, 'Deaf migration through an intersectionality lens', *Disability and Society*.



**Translocal connections between India and the UK:**

- British Indian searching for life partner in India
- Using a family member in India as online interpreter
- Online emotional support
- Joining English course in Indian Sign Language while in the UK
- Obtaining funds in India for a new business in the UK



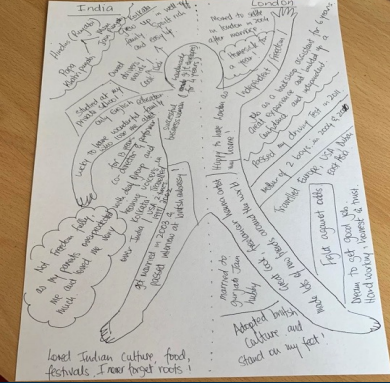
Moving from India to England, new wives experienced shifts in self-perception captured through **portraits and collages**

Value family, friends, neighbour, Deaf & hearing, social, can communication, gesture, respect, help, Strict culture, No out night, catchup lots of, Psychology, long time chat Deaf people, invite lots of friends, wedding, party, Birthday, various festivals, meet Deaf associations, B2 prenat culture foods

**We met or interviewed deaf migrants from:**

Lithuania	Albania	Tanzania	Sri Lanka
Bulgaria	Portugal	Kuwait	Bengali
Poland	Czech Republic	Lebanon	Mongolia
Ukraine	Somalia	Iran	Venezuela
Ireland	Somalland	Iraq	Colombia
Slovakia	Ghana	Syria	Guatemala
Romania	Kenya	Lebanon	Brazil
Russia	Tunisia	Israel	USA
Italy	Sierra Leone	India	Canada
Hungary	Sudan	Bangladesh	Australia
Estonia	Algeria	Pakistan	
Latvia	Burundi	Nepal	

**BSL Language learning happened** before arrival or after arrival, but some did not feel the need to learn fluent BSL, while others felt not able to learn due to barriers (e.g., care duties, racism, lack of classes).

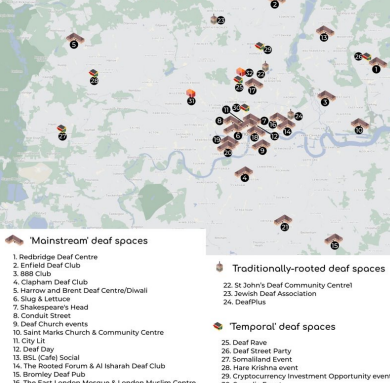


**Constraints from participating in deaf spaces in London:**

- Household and familial obligations
- Long working hours
- Hypermobility internationally
- Negative attitudes
- Fear of COVID

Deaf migrants are **dispersed** across London

Over time they become part of the **fabric** of deaf networks and spaces across the capital



**City Lit College:**

'There are not enough courses to learn BSL or British culture and there is a long waiting list to join a class.'

