



**BISHOPSGATE
INSTITUTE**

‘We Weren’t Expecting to Stay’ Oral History Archive

(EM)

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Catalogued by Emmy Tither, edited by Nicky Hilton March 2016**

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EM 'We Weren't Expecting to Stay' 2014

Name of Creator: Everyday Muslim

Extent: 35 digital folders.

Administrative/Biographical History: We Weren't Expecting to Stay' was an oral history project by the organisation Everyday Muslim. The project collected and documented the presence of Muslims in Britain through images, interviews and documents. The aim was to start to build a comprehensive and unique portrayal of Muslim life that allowed the community to take ownership of their history and heritage. The 'We Weren't Expecting to Stay' project only sought to collect and create digital material; hard copies were not collected.

Everyday Muslim is part of the Khizra Foundation. The Foundation was formed in 2010 as an initiative to tackle the lack of representation of the Muslim community in the heritage sector. They aimed to support and empower the many generations of Muslims living in the UK to, build heritage-based roots and create channels of communication, expression of their identity and celebration of their contribution to society.

For the Everyday Muslim project, the Khizra Foundation partnered with Bishopsgate Institute, The Heritage Lottery Fund, and One (a branding agency). The project team included Sadiya Ahmed (lead), Dr Michelle Johansen (Bishopsgate Institute), Fatimah Amer, Irfan Ahmed (One agency), Saba Syed, Yahya Nurgat, Haneen Hammou and Emmy Tither.

Custodial History: Deposited at Bishopsgate Institute by Sadiya Ahmed on behalf of Everyday Muslim, July 2015.

Scope and Content: Digital materials created and collected by Everyday Muslim for the 'We Weren't Expecting to Stay and Other Stories' project, an exploration of the South Asian migration to London 1950-2014. The project sought to document the presence of Muslims in the UK, (2014). The archive includes:

- Oral history interviews, (2014)
- Project archive, (2014)

System of Arrangement: The 'We Weren't Expecting to Stay' Archive is divided into the following two sections:

EM/1	Oral history interviews
EM/2	Project archive

Language/scripts of material: English

Access conditions: OPEN

Copying conditions: Photocopying, scanning and digital photography (without flash) is permitted for research purposes on completion of the

Library's Copyright Declaration form and with respect to current UK copyright law.

Finding Aids: Copy of hand list available in Library Reading Room.

Rules and Conventions: Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

Archive Catalogue

EM/1 Oral History Interviews 2014

Digital oral history interviews for the project 'We Weren't Expecting to Stay' with twenty four Muslims living in the UK, (2014).

Conducted by the Everyday Muslim project, the interviews focus on childhood (both in the UK and abroad), family life, work, religion and identify. For those who migrated to the UK, the interviewees also talk about their experiences of moving to Britain. Most interviews are accompanied by a digital transcript and identifying digital photograph. In some cases the interviewee provided additional digital photographs. These, along with the interviews and transcripts, can be accessed in the Researcher's Area of Bishopsgate Institute.

OPEN

EM/1/2 Faaria Ahmed 2014

Name: Farria Ahmed
Date of Birth: 1983
Interviewer: Sadiya Ahmed
Brief Descriptive Note: Born in Archway, London, Ahmed works for Faith Region Foundation. Her grandparents were Bengali. She talks about religion, her childhood - including her education at a Catholic School and how this forced her learn more about her faith. She discusses the similarity between Christianity and Islam as well as her Christian/English friends. Ahmed goes on to talk about her own young family, who are Sunni and Shiite, and how she will teach her religion to her children. Ahmed believes Muslim women and men should receive the same education.

Gender: Female
Date of Recording: 8 May 2014
Recording length: 0:42:12
Information: NO TRANSCRIPT

OPEN

EM/1/4 Navid Akhtar 2014

Name: Navid Akhtar

Interviewer: Sadiya Ahmed
Brief Descriptive Note: Navid was born in St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London to a house full of single men. He moved to Walthamstow aged three and speaks about his childhood, especially going to a multicultural school, as well as his religious upbringing. He also speaks about his father, who was illiterate, but owned a restaurant. Akhtar followed a career in graphic designer.

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 7 March 2014

Recording length: 1:06:18

Information: Transcript available.

OPEN

Additional photographs available on request:

- 1) Summary of Navid's dissertation
- 2) With male relatives
- 3) Junior school report
- 4) With siblings/family members
- 5) School certificate
- 6) With parents and sibling
- 7) Front cover of a pamphlet for the Design Show, Interior Design BA(hons)
- 8) As a child with a football
- 9) With parents

OPEN

EM/1/5

Khizar Humayun Ansari

2014

Name: Khizar Humayun Ansari

Date of birth: 22 July 1947

Interviewer: Sadiya Ahmed

Brief Descriptive Note: Born in Lahore, Ansari was Professor of History of Islam and Cultural Diversity at Royal Holloway, University of London, and Director of the Centre for Minority Studies. Ansari talks for his arrival in the UK, his childhood and his family.

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 17 April 2014

Recording length: 1:30:49

Information: Transcript available.

OPEN

EM/1/6

Sara Betteridge

2014

Name: Sara Betteridge

Date of birth: 17 August 1980

Interviewer: Sadiya Ahmed

Brief Descriptive Note: Betteridge was born in Surrey although her parents were living in nurse's accommodation at Brookwood Hospital in Woking at the time. She talks about her childhood, and her parents, who were both born in Mauritius (see EM/1/36 Assam Korim). Betteridge talks about how the culture of her parent's has influenced her life, but the difficulties of doing this in the modern age as well as integrating her religion with British culture. She discusses how she kept her religion private from her non-religious friends until the murder of Lee Rigby in Woolwich, South East London. The event led her to write to her non-religious friends defending her faith. Betteridge notes that she felt there were no positive representations of Muslim's in the mainstream media.

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 28 August 2014

Recording length: 1:11:28

Information: NO TRANSCRIPT

OPEN

Additional photographs available on request:

- 1) Sara as a child with her parents and sibling.
- 2) Sara as a child with her parents and sibling.
- 3) Sara at her University graduation ceremony.

EM/1/7

Nazeea Elahi

2014

Name: Nazeea Elahi

Interviewer: Unknown

Brief Descriptive Note: Elahi talks about his father, Fazal Elahi, who immigrated to the UK in 1963 from Pakistan, then part of British India. Fazal Elahi lived in Walthamstow with his wife and children.

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: NO RECORDING

Recording length: Unknown

Information: Transcript available.

OPEN

Additional photographs available on request:

- 1) Unidentified writing
- 2) Portrait photograph of Fazal
- 3) Portrait photograph of Fazal and another man
- 4) Inside pages of passport
- 5) Inside pages of passport with photograph
- 6) Inside pages of passport

EM/1/9

Ghulam Haider

2014

Name: Ghulam Haider

Date of Birth: June 1933

Interviewer: Sadiya Ahmed

Brief Descriptive Note: Haider was born in Gujranwada. He lived on a farm in a rural area as a child, then went to Punjab University to study engineering. He worked for Pakistan Petroleum, before moving to London to attend Imperial College to complete a postgraduate degree. Haider went back and forth between Pakistan and the UK, living for a while in Harrogate where he drove to Bradford to get halal meat. He eventually settled with his family in southern England. He used to go to Regent's Park mosque every weekend and bring back an Iman to teach his children. He also speaks about his religion and of going on Hajj and Umrah while working in Saudi Arabia. He speaks about his children and faith.

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 27 March 2014

Recording Length: 1:25:57

Information: Transcript available.

OPEN

Additional photographs available on request:

- 1) Unidentified woman
- 2-16) Labelled 'Warsak Dam'
- 17-27) Labelled '1933'
- 28) Labelled '1942'
- 29-34) Labelled 'Eid'
- 35-41) Labelled 'Family'
- 42-48) Labelled 'ID'
- 49-54) Labelled 'Jack Wade'
- 55-58) Labelled 'Kids'
- 59) Labelled 'Jesus'
- 60) Labelled 'New Year article'
- 61) Labelled 'Retirement article'
- 62) Labelled 'Scholarship article'

EM/1/10

Habib Hussain

2014

Name: Habib Hussain

Date of Birth: 1930

Interviewer: Yahya Nurgat

Brief Descriptive Note: Son of soldier during War who served with British army until 1946/7, Hussain arrived in Britain in October 1957. His childhood dream of becoming a Station Master

was realised when he was promoted to Station Master for London Transport at Marble Arch having begun employment as a railway shunter in a goods yard. Hussain retired in 1992 from London Transport. He was appointed Magistrate for Walthamstow and served for 20 years. He enjoyed his magistracy period as it was an educational experience and provided opportunities to visit interesting places like Cambridge University. He was the first Pakistani to become both a Station Manager and a Magistrate. He was also one of the founder members of the Lea Bridge Road Mosque in Walthamstow.

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 8 August 2014

Recording length: 01:13:41

Information: Transcript available.

OPEN

EM/1/11

Muhammad Iqbal Mughal

2014

Name: Muhammad Iqbal Mughal

Date of Birth: 1944

Interviewer: Michelle Johansen

Brief Descriptive Note: Mughal was born in 1944 in the industrial town of Wazirabad sometimes called the 'Sheffield of Pakistan'. He learnt the cutlery trade by helping in his Father's business. Later in his twenties he travelled to East Africa and arrived in England in 1968. He worked in a number of jobs including as a delivery boy, before he purchased a shop with the support of family in 1991. The shop was a successful meat and grocery shop on Walthamstow High Street. He was among the first generation of Muslims to sell halal meat and food products to cater for the needs of the local ethnic community. Mr J Sainsbury, owner of Sainsbury's visited Mughal's shop to view the array of Asian foods on sale there. At his wife's prompting he bought his first family house in 1981 in Walthamstow. As a first generation Muslim in Walthamstow he saw the community develop from a few houses to an increase in private homes, commercial centres and Mosques as the population grew in his area. He is a Hajji and has a wife and four sons and a daughter. He enjoy the freedom of being able to practice his faith in his home country which is England.

Gender: Male
Date of Recording: 6th March 2014
Recording length: 0:56:54
Information: Transcript available.

OPEN

Additional photographs available on request:
1-8) Labelled 'Family'
9) Labelled 'Grand-daughter'
10-21) Muhammad and friends as young men in
different locations [around the UK?]

EM/1/15

Karrar Hussain Kardar

2014

Name: Uncle Karar Hussain Kardar
Date of Birth: 1939
Interviewer: Sabah Syed
Brief Descriptive Note: Kardar was born in Benares, India in 1939. He worked for the airline KLM until he came to London on 8 August 1963. He came for a three month holiday and tried to find a job; he found a well-paying one after four weeks. He lived in South Kensington, 2 Crangleigh Gardens. He speaks about the challenges of living on his own for the first time, including getting halal meat from a shop in Earls Court. He got married in Pakistan on 1 December 1966 and had two children. He then speaks about founding the Islamic Cultural Society (ICS) in 1976. It came about after a friend died. Kardar and his friends realized they did not have a support network in the UK. The Society ran classes and events for adults and children. He then speaks about his faith, portrayal of Muslims in the media and his experience of living in Houston for a few years.

Gender: Female
Date of Recording: 16 March 2014
Recording length: 00:41:56
Information: NO TRANSCRIPT

OPEN

EM/1/16

Fatima Sadhek Khan

2014

Name: Fatima Sadhek Khan
Date of Birth: 1978
Interviewer: Emmy Tither and Sadiya Ahmed
Brief Descriptive Note: Khan was born and raised in the east end of London. Her family owns a halal store (Salaha Grocers, 52 Cannon Street Road). She talks about her childhood,

marriage, food, her career (multicultural and anti-prejudice education), religion, her experience of racism and how Muslims are perceived in the media.

Gender: Female

Date of recording: 20 March 2014

Recording Length: 0:9:31

Information: Transcript available.

OPEN

Additional photographs available on request:
1-5) Fatima as a child with her siblings.

EM/1/17

Sadek Ahmed Khan

2014

Name: Sadek Ahmed Khan

Date of Birth: 19 December 1978

Interviewer: Unknown

Brief Descriptive Note: Khan was born and raised in London. He worked as a Community Programmes Manager at the NHS Barts Health Trust. He talks about his childhood, family and religion. Khan was born in the East End. He talks about his schooling, and friends from other religions in his childhood. He also discusses the role religion played in his life.

Gender: Male

Date of recording: 20 March 2014

Recording Length: 0:48:14

Information: Transcript available.

OPEN

EM/1/18

Amber Khokhar

2014

Name: Amber Khokhar

Date of Birth: Unknown

Interviewer: Sadiya Ahmed

Brief Descriptive Note: Khokhar arrived in the UK from Pakistan as a young girl. She grew up in London and worked as an artist. She went to school at the Barbican and in South London. She talks about her childhood, her son, her art and her religion.

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 2014

Recording length: 00:25:37

Information: Transcript available.

OPEN

EM/1/21

Aga Rais Mirza

2014

Name: Aga Rais Mirza

Date of Birth: 3 March 1938

Interviewer: Unknown

Brief Descriptive Note: Mirza was born in Kampur, India. He came to the UK from Pakistan on 24 January 1960, arriving without a definite plan. He lived in Shoreditch, 5 Princelet St, and his first job was at a wine label company in Leyton. He went to printing college in Farringdon while working at Express Deli in Victoria station. He went back and forth between Paskistan, founding a business at one point which later failed. Although his wife was disappointed with London, he settling permanently in Harrow in 1967/1968. He moved to Dollis Hill and got a job in Kent Foil in Wembley. His first born child was send back to Paskistan to grow up, as both her parents had to work (she later came back). He and his wife later founded the Islamic Cultural Society, Harrow, as a social club.

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 16 March 2014

Recording length: 0:48:43

Information: Transcript available.

OPEN

Additional photographs available on request:
1-81) Aga throughout life in various locations, both at work, on holiday and with his family. Includes photographs of his relatives.
57) Labelled as 'family'.

EM/1/23

Zahida Mughal

2014

Name: Zahida Iqbal Mughal

Interviewer: Michelle Johansen

Brief Descriptive Note: Zahida was born in Nairobi where her father was an Inspector of Arms; she used to go on safari with him and speaks about this. She left education at age 20 to get married in Pakistan on Christmas day, 1972. She came to London on 11 January 1973. She lived at 5 Howard Road, Walthamstow. She liked dressmaking and cooking, and taught adult education classes in these subjects at the Markhouse Road Youth Centre. She also worked at her husband's shop, all while raising

nine children. She talks about her life, her children, her religion and her experiences living in London.

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 6 March 2014

Recording length: 01:35:16

Information: Transcript available.

OPEN

Additional photographs available on request:
1-29) Photographs of Zahida throughout her life, including photographs of her family.

EM/1/25

Samina Kardar

2014

Name: Samina Kardar

Date of birth: 25 December 1947

Interviewer: Sabah Syed

Brief descriptive note: Kardar was born in Pakistan. She talks of her childhood, her migration to London, her marriage, her family and her work.

Gender: Female

Date of recording: 16 March 2014

Recording length: 0:31:37

Information: Transcript available

CLOSED (awaiting permission from Samina Khadir)

EM/1/26

Sabia Siddiqui

2014

Name: Sabia Siddiqui

Date of birth: 9 February 1942

Interviewer: Sadiya Ahmed

Brief descriptive note: Siddiqui was born in Hyderabad Dakan, British India. She lived there and in Karachi as a child. She moved to the United States when she got married, as her husband worked for Voice of America. Her two sons were born in the US. She moved to London in 1972 when her husband got a job with the BBC World Service. They lived in Wembley where she worked in the civil service in various capacities (mainly in the legal system). She speaks about her relationship with Islam and of her experiences going on Hajj and Umrah. She also speaks about her life in the US and in Pakistan as well as her career in the civil service.

Gender: Female

Date of recording: 6 April 2014

Recording length: 0.36.11
Information: Transcript available.
OPEN

EM/1/27

Nusrat Syed

2014

Name: Nusrat Syed
Date of Birth: 1943
Interviewer: Unknown
Brief Descriptive Note: Born in Kanpur, India in 1943, Syed was one of eight siblings. She did a high school to MA in Aligarh (1960-1965), coming to London as a newlywed in 1967 to live near Victoria Park. She then moved to West Harrow and worked for Eastern Electricity. She helped found the ICS (Islamic Culture Society) which ran classes and events. Syed had three children while working as a supply teacher.
Gender: Female
Date of Recording: 16 March 2014
Recording length: 0:22:15
Information: Transcript available.

OPEN

Additional photographs available on request: 1-58) Nusrat throughout the years, alone and with her family.

EM/1/28

Riaz Hussain Syed

2014

Name: Riaz Hussain Syed
Interviewer: Sadiya Ahmed
Brief Descriptive Note: Born in Pakistan in 1934, Syed's father was a headteacher, his mother a housewife. He moved to London January 1961. He worked for the London Rubble Company and Plastic Foam and various manufacturers until he started his travel agency in 1974. He got married in Pakistan in 1956, with his wife coming over in 1965. He lived on Markhouse Road in Walthamstow. He started the mosque in Walthamstow in 1965, the Welfare Association of Waltham Forest in 1972, and the UK Association of Pakistan Travel Agents in 1974. He also states that the first Halal shop was on Boundary Road in 1958 or 1959.
Gender: Male
Date of Recording: 15 March 2014
Recording length: 0:37:59
Information: Transcript available.

OPEN

EM/1/30 Ansar Ahmed Ullah 2014

Name: Ansar Ahmed Ullah
Date of Birth: 1959
Interviewer: Faaria Shaikh
Brief Descriptive Note: Ullah was born in Birmingham in 1959. He returned to his parent's native Sylhet, Bangladesh, coming back to Luton as a teenager (aged 15 or 16). His father owned a store. He speaks about his life in Luton, his faith, how he met his wife and his founding of the Swadhinata Trust. He also speaks about his experience being Muslim in Tower Hamlets and in Britain in general.
Gender: Male
Date of Recording: 18 February 2014
Recording length: 1:12:02
Information: Transcript available.

OPEN

Additional photographs available on request:
1-27) Ansar throughout life with his family and at demonstrations.

EM/1/33 Razia Rashid 2014

Name: Razia Rashid
Date of birth: 15 March 1941
Interviewer: Unknown
Brief Descriptive Note: Rashid speaks about her father before starting the interview officially. She then talks about other members of her family. Rashid talks about her journey to the UK with two small children and her first impressions of the UK. She discusses her children's education and how she felt accepted by the other parents. Rashid worked as a teacher and discusses her work at primary schools and as a private tutor.
Gender: Female
Date of Recording: Unknown
Recording length: 1:05:16
Information: NO TRANSCRIPT

OPEN

EM/1/35 Ayesha Rahman 2014

Name: Ayesha Rahman
Date of birth: 26 April 1938
Interviewer: Sadiya Ahmed
Brief Descriptive Note: The interview was

conducted in Hindi or Urdu.
Gender: Female
Date of Recording: 8 May 2014
Recording length: 0:23:35
Information: NO TRANSCRIPT
OPEN

EM/1/36

Assam Korim

2014

Name: Assam Korim
Date of birth: 17 July 1945
Interviewer: Sadiya Ahmed
Brief Descriptive Note: Korim was born in Mauritius. He talks of his childhood on the island and his migration to the UK at 24 years old. He discusses his work at a hospital, his social life and adapting the life in the UK. He also discusses how his wife adapted (she joined him after six weeks). Korim also discusses his religion and the difficulties of retaining his culture in the UK.
Gender: Male
Date of Recording: 28 August 2014
Recording length: 0:35:06
Information: NO TRANSCRIPT
OPEN
Additional photographs available on request: 1-24) Assam throughout life with his wife and family.

EM/1/37

Muhammad Ahmedullah

2014

Name: Muhammad Ahmedullah
Date of birth: 1962
Interviewer: Saba Syed
Brief Descriptive Note: Ahmedullah was born in Kumradi, Dhaka District, Bangladesh. He migrated to the UK in 1973 with his family - the move was not meant to be permanent. He discusses his education, racism and his career exploring his community's heritage. He also discusses different interpretations of Islam and how he views his own identity.
Gender: Male
Date of Recording: 2014
Recording length: 1:14:49
Information: NO TRANSCRIPT
OPEN

EM/1/38

Jamila Qureshi

2014

Name: Jamila Qureshi

Date of birth: 1930

Interviewer: Saba Syed

Brief Descriptive Note: Qureshi was born in Mirrot, India. She discusses her family and their relocation to Pakistan followed by her own move to the UK shortly after marrying. Qureshi talks about adapting to her new life, her family, her work, and the positive and negative experiences of moving to the UK.

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 16 March 2014

Recording length: NO RECORDING

Information: Transcript available.

OPEN

Additional photographs available on request:

1-20) Photographs of a family celebration

[wedding?] and of Jamila with her family.

EM/3	Project Archive	2014
	Digital images from the Everyday Muslim Project, including events, training sessions and exhibitions, (2014).	
	This material can be viewed in the Researcher's Area at Bishopsgate Institute. OPEN	
EM/3/1	Archives Training Day	2014
	Photographs of the Everyday Muslim archives training day at Bishopsgate Institute led by Library and Archives Manager Stefan Dickers, (January 2015). OPEN	
EM/3/10	Stakeholder's Meeting	2014
	Photographs of an Everyday Muslim stakeholders meeting in the Library at Bishopsgate Institute, (April 2014). OPEN	
EM/3/11	'Suhoor Selfie' Social Media Event	2014
	Photographs and images of a social media event on Twitter which saw Muslims use the tag 'suhoorsefie' during Ramadan to record their early morning meals, (July 2014). OPEN	
EM/3/2	Exhibition: 'We Weren't Expecting to Stay'	2014
	Photographs of the 'We Weren't Expecting to Stay' exhibition at Bishopsgate Institute. Includes photographs of the design planning meeting led by Bishopsgate Institute Interpretation Officer Michelle Johansen, and images of the instillation and social media campaign, (August 2014 - September 2014) OPEN	
EM/3/3	Team Meeting	2014
	Photographs of an Everyday Muslim team 'catch-up' meeting at Bishopsgate Institute, (17 September 2014). OPEN	

EM/3/4	Educational Resources Meeting	2014
	Photographs of the Everyday Muslim educational resources planning meeting at Bishopsgate Institute, (June 2014). OPEN	
EM/3/5	Walthamstow Event	2014
	Photographs and digital poster of a community outreach event at Vestry House Museum, Walthamstow, London, (August 2014). OPEN	
EM/3/6	Walthamstow Art Trail	2014
	Photographs of interior design and art displayed on the Walthamstow Art Trail, (April 2014). OPEN	
EM/3/7	Photography Workshop	2014
	Photographs of a photography workshop for the Everyday Muslim project volunteers. Includes portraits of volunteers, (March 2014). OPEN	
EM/3/8	Gym Classes	2014
	Photographs of a community reminiscing event involving elderly Muslim men exercising, (March 2014) OPEN	
EM/3/9	Exhibition: 'Muslim Front Room'	2014
	Photographs of the 'Muslim Front Room' exhibition held at Vestry House Museum, Walthamstow, London. Also includes images from the social media campaign, (September 2014). OPEN	