

Asian Bradford

00.00 REPORTS IN ENGLISH

00.06 After major race riots in 2001, race relations reports described Bradford as a 'divided city'.

00.14 ASIAN BRADFORD

00.22 Bradford's inner suburbs are largely populated by ethnic Asians who migrated here from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh in the 1960s and 70s.

00.34 Many Asians have also created their own business worlds and have limited contact with the white community.

00.44 In this separate world, it's the young Asian women who feel most oppressed by the cultural conflicts they experience every day.

00.56 Tahira Bidi fought against the traditional Asian values of her parents to become more independent.

01.05 Tahira has been lucky enough to have found a good education and independence without being totally ostracised by her family, but this has not been easy.

01.15 O-TON **Tahira Bidi**. *There's still an enormous amount of social pressure on women here in Bradford. It's quite difficult being a woman and trying to fit into society because of all the pressures that are there, mainly from the men. It's just that there are a lot of women who are in refuges because they can't seem to get away from the family, unless they cut off all contact. Because the parents wouldn't really accept them. There is a high rate of divorces now as well. I think it's really sad that they don't have the support of their families. There's not enough understanding. They are brought up in these two cultures; one the western and one the traditional Asian. They do conflict. They are conflicting cultures, and it's really difficult to find a balance.*

02.19 Progress in defusing the conflicts is slow, but there is room for optimism.

02.26 The Asian Women and Girls Centre is a community support project which helps women of all ages to deal with conflicts between Asian traditions and British women's rights.

02.38 This group of teenagers from the centre are taking part in an excursion to Bradford's Industrial Museum.

02.48 They are learning more about the living and working conditions their parents and grandparents found when they emigrated from the Indian Sub-Continent.

03.08 Most of the workforce were brought in from the poorer areas of the Indian Sub-continent to work in the Textile Mills.

03.18 As white workers drifted away from low paid factory labour, whole communities migrated from Asia into cities like Bradford to keep the old industrial economy alive.

03.34 These teenagers are now a long way from that world, and are keen to discover more about their roots, before much of their own cultural heritage becomes forgotten.

04.45 *Q. What were the working conditions like?*

04.49 *A. The working conditions were pretty much as you see them now. The looms were fairly close together. There's not a lot of room for people to get between them. They were very dusty and very oily. Okay? So their hands were black most of the day. Just generally dangerous really.*

04.06 *Q. What was the pay like?*

04.09 *A. About ten shillings a week. Really that's peanuts. It's nothing really.*

04.15 Today the Asian population makes up almost 30 per-cent of greater Bradford and the difference in the two life styles is obvious.

04.24 Asian teenagers often find that they cannot adopt western fashions without upsetting their parents.

04.31. How oppressive do these young women find the conflict between Muslim and Western culture or having to wear traditional Muslim dress?

04.41 O-TON SG: Billy. *Living in Bradford, you get classified as a Pakistani... Whereas if you go to Pakistan you're British. So you really don't have an identity.*

04. 55: O-TON SG Bilkis: *In new situations for instance, if you start university and there are a lot of white people, you feel insecure about yourself. You think, will they accept me because I'm different? Things like that. To me personally culture is really important. I want to keep aspects of my culture with me all the time. So no it's not a problem at all.*

05.20: O-TON SG Waheeda *If you look at fashion trends etc., trying to keep up with them every single day, or trying to fit in and dress a certain way, that is oppressive in my opinion. That is oppressive. Whereas a Muslim woman doesn't have to do that. She can just be herself. She is not judged by the clothes she wears or the designer labels. She's judged by her mind.*

05.44 Styles of Islamic worship in Bradford are as varied as the communities that migrated here.

05.54 Still alienated from the white community the most working class Asians see the Mosques as their source of culture and identity

06.04. Now faced with high unemployment many Asian men fear losing their traditional role, and have stuck rigidly to traditional attitudes.

06.15 Thus many families are living more conservative lives than their relatives in Pakistan.

06.27 Community leaders are thinking hard about how to remove these cultural barriers. Set up to ease the pressures on Asian Women, The Asian Women and Girls Centre has been careful in defining its goals.

06.40 -TON TAHIRA *The purpose of it was to allow women and girls to come to a centre where they can mix freely with other women and girls, where the parents and partners weren't threatened that they were mixing with men or having their ideas changed from the way they were brought up. I remember as a little girl walking past it - I didn't actually come in at that time- thinking; 'I wonder what they do in there' always having this image in my head of wanting to go in and do things.*

07.13. Sabiha Hussain of *Careers Bradford* is a careers officer who maintains close contact with the Asian communities.

07.23 Her careers advice service is looking into the problems of young women caught in ghetto-like situations.

07.33 Under the surface, Sabiha is noticing major changes in a growing minority of young women from traditional Asian families.

07.42 Sabiha Hussain (OFF) *I think these days they don't want to stay at home and have arranged marriages, have babies, and look after the home. I think they are looking for more. In the last 10 to 15 years, things have changed where more women have gone for further education, higher education and into jobs. For those women where there have been barriers, cultural barriers, certainly Careers Bradford has done a lot of work with them to make them aware and their parents aware of the opportunities that are available for them.*

08.18. Looking for positive role models takes Sabiha into the middle class suburbs to visit a successful family.

08.25 Rehana Mizra graduated in Pakistan before coming to England.

08.32 One generation later her daughter Samra graduated in Bradford.

08.37 Rehana and her husband married as new immigrants.

08.42 Samra married as a professionally independent Englishwoman.

08.48 *Careers Bradford* receives active help and advice from both Rehana and her daughter Samra.

08.55 Q Sabiha *There still seems to be a lack of ambition with some of the girls. Do you see that in any of your friends? And how do you think we could work with some of those groups?*

09.10. SG Samra Majid *When I was at school I had a lot of friends who stayed on at basically as a way of staying out of the home for them. And now as soon as they turned 18 .a lot of them got married and settled down and raised families. I think the way to tackle that lack of ambition is to first of all tackle the parents. They need to support their children in going into further education. The role is to settle down and raise a family. That's what these young women have seen their parents do as well. That's what they have seen their mother's*

role as. So they think it's acceptable and probable that that is what their life should entail as well.

09.51 Rehana Mizra *It's that everybody came from a different background in Pakistan, if you are talking about an Asian community. Some of the of the people who came from an educated background their attitudes were different compared to the people who came from a rural areas. Things have changed but it is a slow process, but things have changed. The people who have come from and educated background, their children, most of them are doing well in education. But I'll say one thing, it's not only that some of the parents want to support them but it's a financial problem these days also.*

10.30 One bank which seeks young Asian workers for their 'switcher' centre, where clients change accounts from other banks, invites *Careers Bradford* to bring in groups of Asian parents.

O-TON 10.41 *This basically shows you what they are doing. For example this is where we do switcher. (Bank-Wechsel) People are processing applications (Anträge). And we are doing a lot of admin (Verwaltungsarbeit) here, so look to both sides now! As you can see, it's a very busy floor (Arbeitsbereich) who actually fulfil (ausführen) the switcher process, which can take anything up to six weeks. Some of the jobs that involves is; transferring the mandates (Aufträge) making sure all the bill payments are settled in the account and doing any call-backs.*

11.13. Many Asian parents never mix outside their own community. The first task is to show how religious rights are respected and that the workplace is not hostile to Asian values.

11.26. Thus familiarising parents with the workplace 'diversity managers' enable Asian women to follow careers. Once a young woman has become successful, the family often gains local prestige and becomes less hostile to change.

11.42 After the walk-through, the women question the bank's diversity manager on religious rights and career prospects.

11.50 Q. *What Asian role models do you have?*

11.53 SG: Sarnjit Kaur. *I myself am a very good example of that, because I started work for Abbey National 5 years ago. My first job was actually a customer service adviser. Where I was handling inbound telephone calls from, say 9 till 5. Within 15 months of doing that I was then actually promoted to being a Team Manager. The role of a Team Manager is to manage a team of 15 advisers.*

12.31 Q. *She is asking as a Muslim, if her daughter or son starts working here, what special arrangements do you have for them? Like for prayers and fasting?*

21.41 A. *Sarnjit Kaur. As a direct request from our staff again, we have also a prayer room. We have a designated room in this building, which allows our staff to come down and pray according to their religious needs and beliefs.*

12.58 The difficult period for most Asian children is when they approach

womanhood. Then emotional ties may prevent them choosing their own partners and careers. Even though fewer girls today are forced into arranged marriages, fear of independence is Sabiha's biggest challenge.

13.19 O-TON SG: *Sabiha Hussain* *I believe a lot of Asian girls are brought up in a sheltered environment, therefore they don't know how to live independently. how think independently. I think the thought for them is quite frightening. Therefore it's easier to stay in that situation than go into an unknown situation, and also be ostracised by the community as well. Because once a woman takes that step she is also ostracised by the community and that is very, very difficult.*

13.51 With the white middle class in the outer areas of Bradford and most of the Asian working classes the downtown areas, the potential for social unrest is clearly still there.

14.06 The positive contribution of The Asian Woman and Girls Centre and Careers Bradford is to show that there is a way forward.