



For Nepali by Nepali

नेपालीका लागि नेपाली

Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA UK)
(National Coordination Council - UK)

गैरआवासीय नेपाली संघ, यु.के.

President

Mr Yog Kumar Phagami

Vice Presidents

Mrs Punam Gurung

Mr Sher Bahadur Sunar

Dr Prem Bahadur Ale Magar

Mrs Sushila Rai

Mr Lalit Neupane

Mr Prem Bahadur Ghaha Magar

General Secretary

Mr Raj Kumar Tripathi

Deputy General Secretary

Mr Vinaya Adhikari

Treasurer

Mr Sachin Shrestha

Spokesperson

Mr Ramesh Sing Sarankoti

Secretaries

Mr Taranath Bhandari

Mr Narayan Gaule

Mr Suraj Maskey

Assistance Treasurer

Mr Gajendra Gurung

Women Coordinator

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Members

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Dr Dilip Kumar Yadav

Mr Shiba Kandel

Patron Council

Maj Retd Damar Ghale – Chief

Mr Mahanta Shrestha - Founder

Mr Ashok Shrestha

Mr Surya Gurung

Mr Kul Acharya

Mr Yogendra Bahadur Chhetri

Mr Mahendra Raj Kandel

Mr Muchhetra Gurung

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Date: Wednesday 5th of December 2018

Representation by the Non-Resident Nepali Association UK [NRNA – UK] on behalf of the UK Nepali community and in conjunction with the 300+ UK Nepali community organisations to request the UK Statistics Authority to include a Nepali entry on the 2021 Census:

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Non-Resident Nepali Association UK [NRNA UK], which is an international organisation with branches in approximately 80 countries worldwide (the UK and American ones being the largest and most important) that is linked to and derives its authority directly from your counterpart in Nepal, the Office of the Prime Minister of Nepal, I make formally the request concerning the importance and moral duty of our British state, of Census 2021 including a Nepali entry.

We the UK Nepali community are now aware that the UK Statistics Authority will be presenting a White Paper to Parliament this autumn on recommendations for four ethnic minority communities to have their own tick boxes on the 2021 Census form. The NRNA learned of this through a UK Nepali community leads meeting on 22nd August, facilitated by our NRNA Chief Patron, Major Damar Ghale MBE, and initiated by our friends in the UK Nepal Friendship Society (UKNFS) that through a UK Nepali community advice access project received a supportive letter on Nepali community engagement from Mr John Pullinger, the Census/ONS National Statistician. This in turn led to the arranging of the meeting of 22nd August in Aldershot, where the Census 2021 Head of Stakeholder Engagement provided a very informative presentation on the Census, to the attending community leads, that included two vice presidents of the NRNA.

Sadly the UK Statistics Authority through the Census/ONS has not considered recommending a Nepali entry on the Census 2021 form, we learned from Mr Pullinger's letter, and from that meeting and presentation. We through the latter have learned though that out of 55 population groups, four are being recommended for potential inclusion. The criteria for these inclusions was explained on the 22nd August, and that involved not being numeric threshold based, but solely on community member requests and in particular data requests on given ethnic populations. For more than 10 years the UK Nepali community had understood, it appeared wrongly, that a threshold of 250,000+ had to be reached for a representation for inclusion to be justified. Hence no representation had been made.

However, learning about the actual criteria the UK Statistics Authority uses, also involved the revelation of four populations (Jewish, Roma, Sikh, Somali) having met the inclusion criteria of the Census/statistics authority, and that these are going forward as recommendations.

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We know HM Government has ultimate authority on recommendations by UK civil servants of UK Government departments and independent UK state entities such as the Census/ONS and UK Statistics Authority. We are aware too that HM Government takes its lead from such entities, in regard to commending in most cases recommendations by the latter, for Parliament's approval. After the 22nd August meeting, extensive consultations took place across our UK Nepali community and its 300+ specific community groups, on the knowledge and the statements we gained and were informed of, and importantly, undertook research into the statements and the record of two of the four selected communities. This research shocked us for, whilst it had been stated to us that lobbying and campaigning were not considered at all by the Census/ONS/UK Statistics Authority in reaching its decisions, the evidence we found on both Somali, and especially Sikh communities was clearly, unambiguously that successful lobbying and campaigning had taken place, including an All Party Parliamentary Group [APPG]. It appears to us that de-facto there has been doubtless unintended, an attempt to discourage the UK Nepali community representing and lobbying/campaigning for a Nepali tick box on the 2021 Census. We feel that we have been put to the back of the list, overlooked, and discouraged from our voice being heard.

We have through our research (attached) learned that a substantial degree of susceptibility to sectarian [non-whole community] lobbying has meant the Census, through not researching into the composition and issues in given UK ethnic minority communities led to an apparent bitter, division in the UK Sikh community (and indeed that in error, through wont of study, that a religious category is also being entered as an ethnicity, offending clearly the vast majority of that community, and moreover, in the age of Brexit, risking internecine division in the UK with that community, and potential offence to India, that yourself Prime Minister, and your government, have identified as a particularly important trading partner after 29th March 2019). HM Government needs to be aware, we argue, of how important it is for government departments' agencies/entities to involve in the fullest prior research when considering public and given ethnic communities contexts (including international & diplomatic ramifications) in approaching such matters as those of the Census.

The need for specific representation of a Nepali tick box is not only a deeply felt emotive one across the community and indeed back in to Nepal, but a one that involves highly important practical one, for without being counted we have no policy or programmes & services support, as the UKNFS enabled UK Nepali advice project findings has demonstrated across all statutory sector domains; which is why, through the Gurkhas, who have and continue to render such exceptional support to the British State, defence of the realm & Crown, we continue to enjoy a second class status, unacceptably, where voice and services support are concerned.

The NRNA has a unique and official status as representing all residents & citizens who are Nepali. This is the reason that the NRNA UK takes the exceptional step of laying before you our request on behalf of the entire UK Nepali community for including Nepali as a tick box on the 2021 Census, at the heart of our community is the name of the illustrious Gurkhas, commonly referred to across the UK in military and non-military contexts, as the 'bravest of the brave' and 'more British than the British.' As you will be aware from history the Gurkhas are Nepali, and the core UK Nepali community are Nepali Gurkha. With all respect to government civil servants

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and associated authorities and agencies, knowledge of modern UK history, and the socio-political currents and factors it details, may not be to the fore in assessing choices relating to their work, but outside of their cloistered circles very clear knowledge about history, and concepts such as Honour and patriotism Do matter to the nation and electorate. Of all ethnic minority communities of the UK, only the Nepali one through the Gurkhas has a 200 year history of fame, in which a dedicated section of the British Army, the Gurkha Regiments (currently 4,000 strong, and growing further) has a unique.

Brexit context to including/overlooking a Nepali entry on our Census 2021:

As the UK moves forward on the opportunities of Brexit for greater non-EU, and especially South Asian region, context trade and deeper mutually respecting relationships, communities such as the UK Nepali/Nepali-Gurkha one count in a new and important way.

Prime Minister, you will doubtless have been informed by the Department for International Trade (DIT) of our UK Nepali community organisations and UK Nepali businesses (especially one of the 20+ UK independent energy supply companies, working without government support, but in the awareness of Government of Nepal to bring new wealth, prosperity, employment to the UK and Nepal across a number of sectors in both countries.

Including a Nepali entry in the Census 2021 form, will only further these most welcome links, which the NRNA (that has a network in over 80 countries) and our friends in the UK Nepali community organisations and the UKNFS (whose patron is HE the Ambassador of Nepal to the UK) that is actively involved in both direct community empowerment/voice enhancing projects – including facilitating the Parliamentary Democratic Process initiative at the request of a Tamu Dhee Association advisor Mr Ekendra Gurung, whose report has been presented to the Speakers of the UK and Nepal parliaments -- such as the advice project referred to that brought us in to contact with the Census leads, and the trade & business initiatives referred to,

Conclusion on representation: for the reasons given, we as the official organisation that represents the UK Nepali community (estimates range from a 130,000+ to in the area of 200,000+ at the heart of which are the Gurkhas for historic and continuing special British Army service-linked reasons) we the NRNA UK, which as mentioned is directly linked to the Office of your counterpart, the Prime Minister of Nepal, on behalf of the UK Nepali community and following extensive liaison amongst the UK Nepali community associations (300+) make the request that if any new tick box additions to the Census 2021, are made, for the reasons of the honour of the name of the UK and out of respect to those who have shed their blood and continue to put their lives in the balance for UK and the Crown, that Nepali be included. We believe that these accords with the political will of most of British voters, the political parties and Parliament. Direction to the Census/ONS/UK statistics Authority is therefore politely but unambiguously requested, for this adjustment to be made, and referenced in the upcoming White Paper.

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Mr Muchhetra Gurung

Sincerely,

Yog Kumar Phagami

President

Non-Resident Nepali Association – UK (NRNA UK)

Appendices – Supportive documents attached/enclosed:

- 1) Co-signatory direct UK Nepali community organisations ...See separate list
 1. Non Resident Nepali Association UK (NRNA UK) – Yog Kumar Phagami
 2. Nepali Doctors Association (NDA) – Dr Sabin Joshi
 3. British Nepal Lawyers Association – Barrister Devendra Shrestha
 4. Nursing Nepali Association – Binod Biksha Simkhada
 5. Nepali Engineers Association – Er Tejendra Roka Magar
 6. Federation of Nepali Journalism - Naresh Khapangi Magar
 7. FONIJ UK – Mrs Pramila Labung Raih
 8. NEFIN UK – Janga Bahadur Sunuwar
 9. Magar Association UK – Nem Bahadur Thapa Magar
 10. Tamu Dhee UK – Gyam Gurung
 11. Tamu Pye Lhu Sangh UK – Maj Retd Khusumana Gurung MVO
 12. Kirat Yakthung Chumlung – Tilbikram Samphahangphe
 13. Kirat Rai Yahokkhaa UK – Mrs Kalpana Rai
 14. Tamu Samaj UK – Shreechandra Gurung
 15. Chhetri Samaj UK- Rajan Kumar Chhetri
 16. Tamang Samaj UK –
 17. Sherpa Samaj UK
 18. Sankhuwa Sabha Association UK – Naina Sing Gurung SVP
 19. Golkot Samaj UK – Raju Kandel
 20. Palpali Samaj UK – Bom Bahadur Surwangshi Thapa
 21. Burnt Oak Nepalese Community – Lachhya Gurung
 22. Basingstoke Nepali Community –
 23. Greater Rushmoor Nepali Community – Jib Belbase
 24. Greater Reading Nepali Community –
 25. Woking Nepali Community – Mrs Asha Rai
 26. Nepali Community Nottingham East Midland –
 27. Derby Nepali Society –
 28. BGESN Nottingham –
 29. Srijangshil Leicester Nepali Community
 30. Shajha Nepali Community
 31. Petteborough Nepali Community
 32. Hamro Nepali Community West Midland
 33. Shanti Nepali Community UK –
 34. Newneaton Nepali Association –
 35. Liverpool Nepali Association –
 36. Leeds Nepali Community –

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37. Yeti Nepali Association UK-
38. Maidstone Nepali Community –
39. Sagarmatha Nepali Community Ashford –
40. Folkestone Nepali Community –
41. Wiltshire Nepali Community Swindon –
42. Brecon Nepali Community South Wales –
43. Royal Greenwich Nepali Society –
44. British Nepali Community –
45. Tidworth Nepali Community –
46. Pun Samaj UK – Ek Bahadur Pun
47. Pun Magar Samaj UK – Tej Bahadur Pun
48. Eastleigh Gurkha Nepali Association-

- 2) Information on the Gurkhas and service to the People & Nation of the UK and the British Crown over 200 years
- 3) Findings from the UK Nepali advice project of the costs to our community members and advice & service providing organisations of non-provision of data to inform policy and national and local level services
- 4) Research information on issues detailed above and inconsistency of UK Statistics Authority/Census/ONS approach to different ethnic minority communities.

Copies of letter provided to:

Mr John Pullinger, UK Census National Statistician

Mr KP Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal (the NRNA is attached to the Office of the Prime Minister of Nepal)

His Excellency, Dr Durga Bahadur Subedi, Ambassador of Nepal to the United Kingdom

Mr Virendra Sharma MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group [APPG] for Nepal

The Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee

Nepali media and selected UK news media

The UK Nepal Friendship Society

The UK Nepali community organisations listed on Appendix 1

Yog Kumar Phagami

President

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