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**4<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

- The Census is not an intellectual exercise, but a bulwark to protecting and honouring our UK diverse communities as an inclusive multicultural nation.
- We are aware that 100% of the UK Nepali community support having a dedicated Nepali entry on the Census, and that due to the nationally honoured core Nepali population, the heroic Gurhas who enjoy a household name across the UK (comprising an estimated 60%+ of the total Nepali population), that no other ethnic minority community can claim of right due to sacrifice of blood and lives across the world in service to the Crown through the British Army.
- We have seen that the Census / ONS have recommended potential inclusion of four ethnic minority communities in the Census 2021; we feel that Nepali should for the reasons mentioned, have been included, but weren't, because our political leads, ministers, Members of Parliament have democratic sensibilities and duties that do not exist for those who failed to consider our Nepali community. Whilst 100% of our UK Nepali community under the NRNA (official Nepali community representation organisation attached to the Office of the Prime Minister of Nepal, under whom all the main and minor UK Nepali community groups and organisations are officially represented) seek passionately inclusion in the Census, we find that the **Appendix** at the end of this document, that in the case of Sikh and Somali there are major divisions on whether or not to be included, and in the case of the maximum 25% in support of the Sikh community, no prior research appears to have been undertaken by those in the ONS who made the recommendation.
- The data below (detailing representative highlights & issues detailed at length in our UK Nepali community advice access project) in the first section of this document indicates the real practical, services provision purposes of the Census; the results are appalling showing through wont of data, the community and state agencies, public service organisations, local authorities (with just one honourable exception / Rushmoor in North Hants) being crippled in regard to understanding about and the needs of the community, and planning services

Context of needs revealed in survey + broader considerations on the importance of development of more effective UK Nepali community data collection at main population and UK Nepali sub-population levels:

**Some examples of evidence for the need for change & improvement on UK Nepali community data collection, evidenced in the UKNFS facilitated UK Nepali community advice access questionnaire responses:**

What statistics do you have on Nepali community member cases undertaken by your organisation or agency?

I am unable to obtain this detail at this time.

Metropolitan Police (West section):

What statistics do you have on Nepali community member cases undertaken by your organisation or agency? **None**

Dorset Police:

What statistics do you have on Nepali community member cases undertaken by your organisation or agency?

**None available \***

\* Clearly these are not being recorded. The UK Nepal Friendship Society in 2012 received two reports by a respected Nepali restaurant owner on cases submitted under 999 to Dorset Police, in which his life and those of family members & colleagues were in danger. In one case an ASB, violent/risk to life incident was taking place in his restaurant – hours later the police switchboard operator asked the restaurant owner, who had had [with family members & employees] to flee his own restaurant for safety reasons, 'oh is it still going on? ...'

DWP JCP Oxfordshire:

What **record** do you have of Nepalese community members **accessing** your services? **NONE**

**Wessex CPS:**

What **record** do you have of Nepalese community members **accessing** your services? **NONE / DETAILS BELOW:**

Our records are provided by the police and we understand that the data is driven by a list of monitored groups identified by the Ministry of Justice, based on the Census. At this time, we understand that the Nepalese community is not on this list.

**Woolwich & Greenwich CAB:**

What record do you have of Nepalese community members accessing your services? **NONE / DETAILS BELOW:**

No specific records kept.

If so, have you had any feedback from community members on your service. Describe: **NONE**

**Dorset Citizens Advice:**

What **record** do you have of Nepalese community members **accessing** your services?

We do assist with this community however our case recording system does not have a specific category for Nepalese clients. We are currently having to use the term 'Asian' – even though our clients would most likely have categorised themselves when asked as Nepalese.

**Rushmoor Borough Council:**

What **record** do you have of Nepalese community members **accessing** your services?

Data is captured for all Rushmoor citizens, which includes service data for housing, benefits and all frontline services. To understand how the Nepali community access and take up Council services there have been extrapolations of this generic data using common Nepali surnames (which were generated by working with a wide range of Nepali community groups and leaders). Additionally, a range of projects have taken place specifically aimed at supporting the Nepali community- for these projects, beneficiary monitoring has taken place. Additionally, the Council employ Nepali speaking workers in our customer services and benefits teams and data is captured in relation to customer contacts related to these roles.

#### **Bournemouth & Poole Borough Council:**

Response to opportunity to participate in the project\*.

*Good Afternoon ... Please accept my apologies on behalf of Bournemouth and Poole Borough Council as I have not had the capacity to complete the questionnaire as requested ... I have had work that I must prioritise and am working to tight deadlines. I therefore do not have the time or the capacity at present within the team to complete the questionnaire and regretfully will not be able to do so on this occasion ...*

Policy & Performance Manager  
Insight, Policy and Performance Team

#### **Dorset County Council / Dorset County Partnership:**

The area covered by the council & partnership includes Blandford Forum, near to which Nepali Gurkha soldiers have been stationed for many decades and are an important part of the North Dorset area community.

**What record** do you have of Nepalese community members **accessing** your services? **NONE**

#### **National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO):**

**What record** do you have of Nepalese community members **accessing** your services? **NONE:**

#### **Greenwich Community Directory organisation:**

**What record** do you have of Nepalese community members **accessing** your services? **NONE**

If so, have you had any feedback from community members on your service. Describe: **N/A**

#### **Poole CVS:**

How do you integrate cultural appropriateness into your service? Describe:

*Completing this questionnaire has prompted a debate here at Poole CVS. For example, staff do attend training and equality issues are discussed during staff and trustee's meetings. However, at the moment we do not have a proactive policy of engaging with some of the specific communities locally, including the Nepali community. As a result, I will be contacting the UK Nepal Friendship Society to discuss whether we can promote volunteering opportunities in a more effective way and also what role we could play in working with the Nepali community ...*

#### **Hampshire Futures:**

**What record** do you have of Nepalese community members **accessing** your services? **NONE**

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In conclusion – a further practical context of cost due to wont of a Nepali category in data collection:

As the UKNFS facilitated UK Nepali advice access questionnaire responses show there is a wide range of best to worst practice engagement where national agencies/entities to local authorities and local level public services are concerned.

The connection between success or failure to deliver on Universal Credit Full Service at applied local level is summed up below on the essentials needed: these particularly stress the importance of knowledge of **local demographics**, and therefore how essential **having mechanisms to record them, in existence and functioning effectively**.

*Local partners are best placed to understand local demographics and the likely needs of UC claimants with (multiple) complex needs and therefore to help review local provision and delivery of local support services so that UC claimants get joined up holistic support.*

**Source:** Page 6, Universal Support Guidance Pack PDF, accessed from Universal-Credit-full-service-a-guide-for-LAs-v1.

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## FURTHER NOTES AND CONSIDERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF A DEDICATED NEPALI ENTRY ON THE CENSUS 2021:

The UK Nepali community engagement is seeking to work with the Census 2021 and the ONS in regard to effective data collection and mapping of the UK Nepali community that can inform both national government policies on inclusion & evidenced engagement & related implementation of the Equality Act 2010 legal obligations in all public service & private sector domains.

We believe the ideal way to do so will be a specific entry on the Census and in ONS data collection forms & research, for the Nepali community of the UK.

We, collectively, as the UK Nepali community organisations, believe that the UK Nepali community has just exceptional basis right to representation to due to the substantial majority of 21<sup>st</sup> Century second-decade UK Nepali community members being or having links to the British Army associated Nepali-Gurkha community.

At this time the Census & ONS, we perceive, don't have a degrees/levels of importance for specific communities' representation strategy or assessment/evaluation criteria, on data monitoring, with the main minorities [numerically, quantitatively-speaking] being revealed through age categories.

We see that through this exceptional engagement and building of a relationship with the Census & ONS at direct community level with a specific UK ethnic minority [Nepali], that this strategy and related criteria can be developed, with benefits to the whole population of the UK, and for the Census & ONS on direct diverse communities' engagement.

We can help on an overview and detailed breakdown of the population and its sub-population groups. We would look forward to seeing a balance of the need to record what makes the population distinct, and at the same time that the population itself as with all other main population groups is broken down into an extensive range of sub-groups, that reflect the reality of diversity.

We are aware that is an assimilation and integration continuum from first generation New Citizens (identifying as first & foremost British per se), and that in each of the continuum's phases particular issues and needs exist for the individual in regard to living a successful life and feeling fully counted and enjoying good quality of life. Actual and perceived difference to others, where those who are poorly educated on social competence of course is an external factor of importance that manifests in different forms of overt prejudice (racism, islamophobia, homophobia, disphobia, etc.) and indirect discrimination on the same grounds of fear or hatred, or uncomfortableness with those who are perceived to be different to oneself.

The remedy for such ills is of course in the domain of effective diversity and social competence education from primary school age right up to University of the Third Age levels and many other areas such as in the public services. From a Census & ONS point of view, it is accurate to say that whilst one cannot change how one's fellow citizen / human being

reacts to you if they are prejudiced & discriminatory, if one isn't counted for belonging to a distinct main population category and under it specific distinct sub-population, then one is vulnerable to the effects of prejudice & discrimination without having the protection from these that being counted, provides. Being counted means that government & local government have the data they need to respond to the particular needs and/or vulnerabilities of a given population or sub-population group in terms of policies, maybe representation on panels & with consultations, and on strategy for implementing & monitoring implementation of relevant policies.

Having data also therefore can assist in remedies to de-facto not consciously pursued discrimination in services & communication.

The better the sub-population group level data collection, the danger of the 'one size fits all' unintended but in practical terms (from the given community's side) carried out unconscious thinking of everyone in a given major population group must be or act the same, is removed. In so doing many ills are counteracted, such as not when one hears news items or reads news articles.

On the Census & ONS outreach to our UK Nepali and UK Nepali-Gurkha community side, we are collectively aware that technical English language can be a major mountain to cross for most [but not all] first generation UK Nepali new citizens, and that it is essential on any citizen & diversity data collection to undertake the following:

- a) Respect my Privacy and Confidentiality
- b) The Reasons for collecting the data are given, and that this links directly to national and/or local policies evolution and related services adjustments that serve directly, tangibly, in their own particular life at practical level
- c) That I feel empowered as a human being as well as British citizen, through taking part in sharing my personal data

In other words in summary from a UK citizen of Nepali ethnicity perspective, 'I knew my privacy was respected in completing this personal information request form(s), that it was worth my time to complete, and that medium to long-term as a result of taking part I will see improvements and adjustments relevant to me as a UK citizen in my day to day life.'

The UK Nepali community through its numerous main to minor community organisations, and UK Citizens who aren't members of those organisations too, look to the Census & ONS to:

- a) help realise these outcomes
- b) have Census & ONS support and empowerment through being connected in a structured way with the main national [public service organisations and national agencies] and local areas levels public services, agencies and entities that call on Census & ONS data, to improve UK Nepali community inclusion, integration and direct citizen & taxpayer empowerment at local, direct, applied levels

These two results in realising the three outcomes detailed, are sought through the next stage of the Census & ONS engagement, which the UK Nepali community at direct community level looks forward greatly to see developed and noted at national and local levels with reference to Parliament with the relevant Select Committees and with Ministers & Permanent Secretaries of the relevant Government departments. On our UK Nepali community side, we will be able to assist with UK Nepali news media and our extensive social media networks in sharing and in conveying messages on Census & ONS (and their main national & local contexts partnering & data-receiving organisations/agencies) actions and initiatives in support of the UK Nepali community.

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## Appendix:

Sikh community issues, and somali ones regarding the Census inclusions:

### Information on controversy around Census considering Sikh ethnic entry:

Information from three main news articles, with important details + comments indicating the incendiary nature of the Census considering this and under THE WRONG heading.

Two related articles: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sikhs-to-get-ethnicity-status-in-census-6n9pq9t8s>

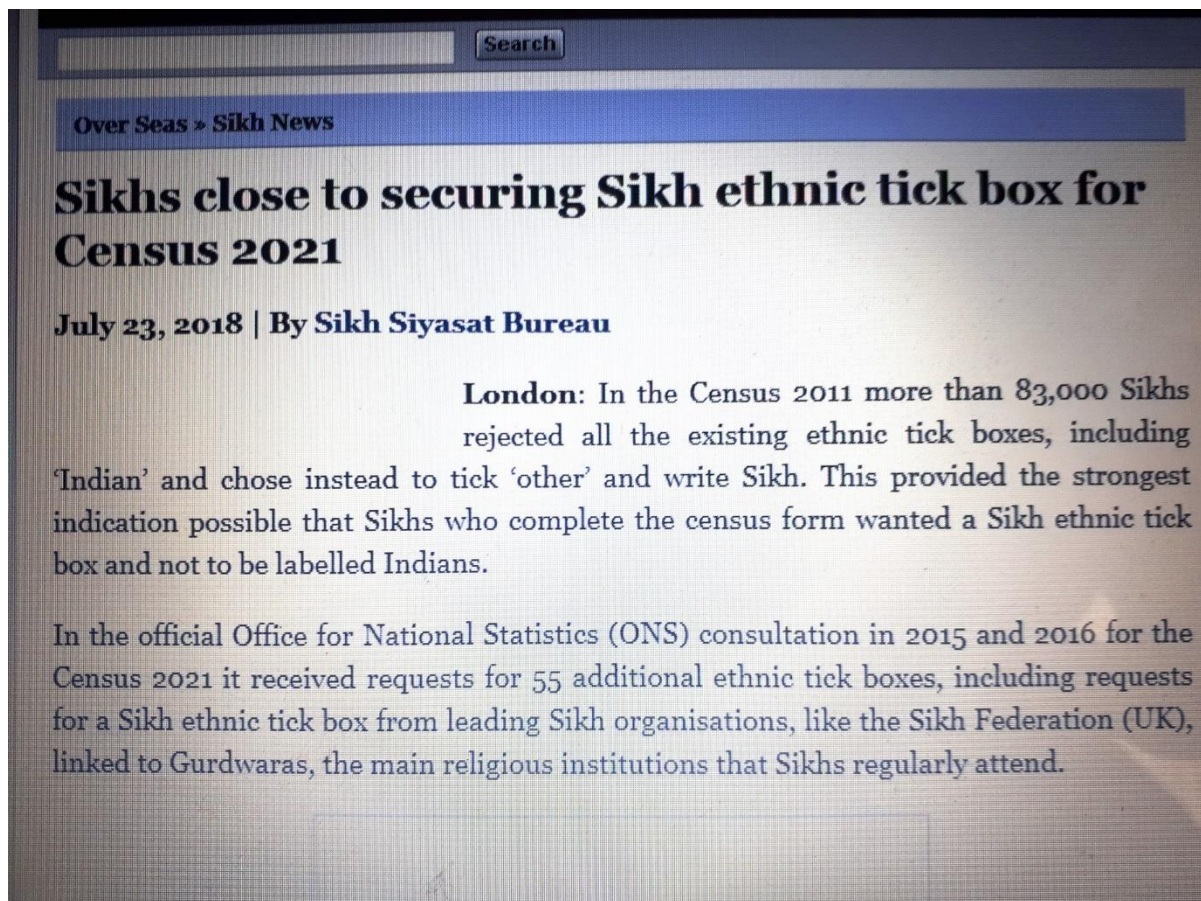
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/25/should-the-uks-2021-census-have-an-ethnic-tick-box-for-sikhs>

Sikh News:

Link:

<https://sikhsiyasat.net/2018/07/23/sikhs-are-close-to-secure-ethnicity-tickbox/>

Screen captures showing ONS National Statistician response to lobbying by a minority (25%) of the UK Sikh community (the two main Barfi articles indicate the scale of division on the issue in the Sikh community that Whitehall is either unaware of or indifferent towards, and its UK – India relations implications):



The findings of the UK Sikh Survey 2016, the largest survey of Sikhs that had over 4,500 respondents, was conducted by The Sikh Network and shared with ONS. It found 93.5% of all Sikh respondents wanted the inclusion of a separate Sikh ethnic tick box in the Census 2021.

In September 2017 in just one week nearly 140 MPs signed a letter to John Pullinger, Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, who is also responsible for the ONS calling for the inclusion of Sikh as an ethnic group, as well as a religion, on the 2021 census form. MPs indicated the number of MPs could easily have been doubled or tripled given the level of cross-party support for the Sikh community on this issue.

After national and international publicity surrounding support by MPs a handful of individuals in the Sikh community no doubt encouraged by the Indian High Commission, including one unelected member of the House of Lords, woke up to the fact that the ONS were to make a decision in 2018 on whether or not to introduce a Sikh ethnic tick box in the Census 2021.

There was no opposition to a Sikh ethnic tick box in the official consultation, but ONS entertained the idea there might be some opposition that resulted in the ONS hosting a large meeting in London on 23 October 2017 regarding a Sikh ethnic tick box.

The ONS write up of the meeting states "at the meeting there was strong support for option 1 (to include a Sikh tick box in the ethnicity question and the religion question) over the other options suggested. In a vote taken at the end of the meeting only two (the Lord and his assistant) people voted against option 1."

Following a debate 11

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## *Are British Sikhs getting an option to be an 'ethnic group'? Not anytime soon*

By: **Barfi Culture Team**

Published: 24th July 2018

Link: <http://barficulture.tv/people/276>

Yesterday the Times sparked an angry debate online after [running a story](#) titled 'Sikhs to get ethnicity status in Census'.

The story was over-blown, and the headline was later changed to 'Sikhs may get...', but that did not stop some from getting over-excited.

Here is the background.

Some British Sikh groups are campaigning for an option to tick 'Sikh' as their ethnicity in the next UK Census, in 2021. Around 12% of Sikhs (83,000) chose 'other' as their ethnicity on the last Census in 2011.

It's these Sikhs the campaign wants to give a voice to. It is being led by the Sikh Federation UK, and supported by the two Sikh MPs Preet Gill and Tan Dhesi.

The Times learnt that the campaign managed to get 112 Gurdwaras in the UK to sign up. The newspaper added: "It is understood that the ONS was likely to back the move if it received backing from more than 60

per cent of the gurdwaras that responded."

But there are estimated to be *at least* 300 Gurdwaras in the UK, plus many more Sikh organisations and charities. So that number represents less than a third of Sikh institutions.

Surprisingly, the Times did not ask the Office for National Statistics (which is in charge of all this) for a comment, which wasn't as enthusiastic in its backing as the newspaper of the campaign.

The ONS simply said its recommendations for the Census will be included in a White Paper to be published later this year. A White Paper is a government document that presents firm government policies while inviting opinions upon them.

"Sikhs may get ethnicity status in the (next) Census," was all it said. The ONS is also looking at how to classify other groups such as Roma, Somali and Jews.

Sikhs are deeply divided on the issue even if the news coverage does not reflect it.

When the ONS did a test, it found that just 24% who identified as Sikhs (by religion) also ticked Sikh for their 'ethnicity'.

And there were plenty on social media yesterday who questioned the campaign.

COMMENTS:



[Karate Hero @Sengh](#)

Sikhi is not an ethnicity

It is a religion, you are NOT ethnically Sikh

Your ethnicity is Punjabi, French, Bihari, Sindhi

If you don't want to write Indian in the ethnicity box, write your actual ethnicity rather than Sikh like an idiot

You aren't born as a Sikh

[9:53 PM - Jul 22, 2018](#)

•

[204](#)

•

[64 people are talking about this](#)



[Dr Jagbir Jhutti-Johal @JhuttiJay](#)



A vocal minority exploiting religious illiteracy to advocate for something it wants. Debate has been hijacked, and when people say that there has been a wide ranging consultation – utter nonsense. Lobbying dominated by the vocal minority @ONS <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sikhs-to-get-ethnicity-status-in-census-6n9pq9t8s> ...

[2:23 PM - Jul 23, 2018](#)



[Rupinder Kaur @RupinderKW](#)

I understand many British Sikhs reject being called Indian but this is just misleading. Sikhi is not an ethnicity... <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/british-sikhs-given-ethnicity-status-in-census-d3vjqmdkc> ...

[10:38 PM - Jul 22, 2018](#)



[Amandeep Madra @amanmadra](#)

· [Jul 23, 2018](#)

[Replying to @sunny\\_hundal @bbcasiannetwork](#)

I tend to agree with you Sunny. I'm not sure you can be any more ethnically a Sikh than you can be ethnically a Chelsea supporter. Religion is choice, ethnicity isn't. I totally understand the antipathy of identifying to a nation state (how can anyone be ethnically Pakistani?)



[Jay Singh-Sohal](#)

✓ [@JSinghSohal](#)

Use of Mandla vs Lee by @AppgBritSikhs @SikhFedUK also inaccurate <http://www.equalrightstrust.org/ertdocumentbank/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20Mandla.pdf> ... in it Sikhs accepted to be defined as a racial group by reference to ethnic origins to suit purposes of RRA 1976 and show recourse to discrimination. Never intended to prove ethnicity!

[10:30 AM - Jul 23, 2018](#)

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## A bitter row has broken out between UK's two most senior Sikh politicians



By: **Barfi Culture Team**

Published: 4th February 2018

Link: <https://barficulture.tv/politics/151>

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An extraordinary and bitter row has broken out between two of Britain's most senior Sikh politicians: Lord Indarjit Singh of Wimbledon and the first woman MP, Preet Gill.

The reasons are slightly complicated, but important for British Sikhs. *Barfi Culture* reached out to both repeatedly last week to get their responses to each other.

The row is over a campaign led by Preet Gill MP and the campaigning group Sikh Federation UK to have British Sikhs designated as an ethnic minority in the next UK Census. Lord Indarjit Singh opposes this move, for reasons we explain below. He also accuses Preet Gill MP of rebuffing his calls for a proper debate on the issue with MPS so he can explain his concerns.

Moreover, both say they are considering further action against each other.

*Barfi Culture* is reporting on heated row because it's newsworthy that two of Britain's most senior Sikh politicians are publicly opposed on an issue that may have big repercussions. Secondly, we hope this report sheds more light on an issue that has barely had much discussion amongst British Sikhs.

\* \* \* \* \*

Lord Indarjit Singh is a broadcaster, writer and director of the Network of Sikh Organisations (NSO). He has been a prominent Sikh voices for decades, advising governments on issues around race and religious equality. In 2011 he became the first turban-wearing member of the House of Lords.

Preet Gill has represented Birmingham Edgbaston since 2017 and was the first Sikh woman MP. She had been a local councillor in Birmingham since 2012. **She is also chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Sikhs.**

*These responses were sent to Barfi Culture by email. They have been edited for brevity.*

### **Lord Singh**

"I had contacted both Preet Gill and Tanmanjit Singh welcoming their election and hoping we could work together on Sikh issues. I then heard that Preet had pushed the Sikh Federation demand for Sikhs to be considered an ethnic group in the meeting and had subsequently secured some 120 MP signatures.

**I then wrote to Preet and Tanmanjit asking why Lord Suri and I had not been invited to discuss this important issue and received a categoric response that an invitation to both of us had been sent to both of us by Pat McFadden MP's secretary. When contacted, his secretary confirmed no invitation had been sent to any Sikh in the Lords. The election and policy had been effectively rigged to suit the Federation Agenda.**

I have subsequently contacted Preet Gill on several occasions to be allowed an opportunity to discuss my concerns on ethnic monitoring but she continues to evade my request. I have incidentally, also offered on several occasions to debate the issue of ethnic monitoring with her and or Dabinderjit Singh [chair of Sikh Federation] on Sikh TV but they are clearly unwilling."

### **Preet Gill MP**

"Unfortunately you have been given the wrong information as I have offered to meet with Lord Singh on numerous occasions. His comment was 'I will wait to see if I want to meet you depending on your views of census'. [Lord Singh denies making this comment]

I have had to write to Lord Singh due to bullying and misogynistic [sic] behaviour towards me. I am extremely concerned despite my raising of concerns with him he has made this statement to you.

My predecessor Rob Marris never endured anything like what I have been subjected to and stated that since the APPG inception in 2005 Lord Singh has taken no interest."

We asked for evidence for Lord Singh's alleged behaviour but Ms Gill declined to offer it so. However she did forward two emails, dated Sept. and Dec. 2017, in which she offered to meet Lord Indarjit Singh.

### **Lord Indarjit Singh**

We asked Lord Singh about those emails. He said he had always wanted a full meeting with the Sikh APPG, not just Preet Gill.

"The offer of meeting up for a cup of tea seemed pointless and I ignored it. If she gives a convenient date for Lord Suri and me to discuss ethnic monitoring and other questionable policies of the Sikh Federation with the APPG. I will happily buy her a cup of tea."

### **Preet Gill MP**

"He could have attended the Appg the Lords confirmed the notices go out to them. I checked the procedure. He never attended a single meeting since 2005 and never responded saying he wanted a meeting with the Appg."

\* \* \* \* \*

The row between Lord Indarjit Singh and Preet Gill MP has arisen because the former feels the Sikh APPG is being used as a vehicle by the Sikh Federation and Preet Gill to push their agenda.

In particular he is adamantly against their campaign for the next British Census to classify Sikhs as an ethnic group. Sikhism is already an option in the religion category.

The campaign is being led by the Sikh Federation and supported by the other Sikh MP, Tanmanjeet Dhesi. In addition, over a 100 MPs have signed a petition endorsing the campaign (though that has no legal basis).

Ms Gill wrote a letter [to the Guardian](#) last year explaining her reasoning.

"As there is not a separate Sikh ethnic tick box in the census, the majority of schools, hospitals, local authorities and other public bodies ignore Sikhs when considering jobs and service provision. It also explains why earlier this month the PM's race disparity audit totally ignored Sikhs."

"The Office for National Statistics (ONS) cannot ignore the 83,362 Sikhs who in the last census rejected the existing ethnic group categories and ticked "other" and wrote Sikh, or the stakeholders working in the education, health, local government and business sectors that recognise the need for information on Sikhs to plan and make decisions on service provision."

But Lord Indarjit Singh says this is not true. [In a letter in September](#) he said the campaign would backfire for Sikhs.

"There is no evidence of ethnic monitoring being used to benefit any distinct community in the UK. Muslims and Jews, on the other hand, do well enough without it. Even if ethnic monitoring of Sikhs were a practical proposition, some Sikhs would probably declare their ethnicity as Indian, resulting in under-counting."

"More seriously, in employment, ethnic monitoring would worsen the position of practicing Sikhs. Much of existing discrimination against Sikhs is on the basis of visible appearance. Monitoring of 'ethnic Sikhs' could mask [confuse] and give legitimacy to discrimination towards turban wearing Sikhs. For example, a large organisation like the BBC might pass the ethnic quota test with few, if any practising Sikhs."

Moreover, he says, the Sikh religion was never intended to be specific to just one ethnic group.

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Article published on 4th February 2018 in the Politics section

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[A Somali ethnic tick box is needed in the UK 2021 census](#)

Source: <https://theatm.org/2018/06/04/the-need-to-include-somali-ethnicity-on-national-census/>

Contains compelling arguments which have not been considered to date by the ONS / Census, on need for data (but towards the end refers to some reticence for the tick box in the community.

June 4, 2018

## The need to include Somali ethnicity on National Census

Today, nobody knows the exact numbers of Somalis in the UK with the official numbers being around 109,000 but anecdotal numbers suggesting Somalis in the UK are between 250,000- 400,000.

Every 10 years, [The Office of National Statistics \(ONS\)](#) collects and publishes statistics related to the economy, population, and society at national, regional and local levels. Collected data is then analysed and disseminated to relevant stakeholders including local authorities who use the supplied data to allocated resources.

With that backdrop, it is difficult for local governments to determine the adequate level of support for a specific community if they do not know the exact numbers of Somalis living within their locality. We believe the numbers of Somalis in the UK are far more than what is officially available.

For instance, London borough of Ealing at the heart of West London took a proactive approach with their local data collection by capturing Somali ethnicity and exactly 10% of the borough population are Somalis which is around 31,000. If this is the case for London borough of Ealing, how about London boroughs of Brent, Tower Hamlets, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Haringey and cities like Birmingham, Manchester, Cardiff, and Bristol. We believe each of the boroughs above is closer to 10,000 and those cities have even more Somalis than London Borough of Ealing.

The main problem with lack official numbers of Somali residents is that local authorities cannot undertake reflective equality impact assessment to ensure appropriate services is delivered for their residents. The 2011 [Census](#) in England and Wales did collect information on the Somali population under Ethnic Group write-in option and ONS published bespoke statistics for the Somali population

Over the last decade, community leaders, community organisations, and campaigners bid for Somali ethnicity to be included into national census. To continue momentum gained, over the last 4 years, [The Anti-Tribalism Movement](#) wrote to 9 local authorities in London, 4 local government departments and 17 members of Parliament bidding them send a request to the Office of National Statistics to share the challenges they face locally, regionally and nationally when providing provisions for Somalis as they do not know the numbers of Somalis living within the constituents.

Local authorities, governments departments and Members of Parliament shared our concerns and substantially wrote to Office of National Statistics. ONS will be making recommendations on the content of the 2021 Census to Government later in the year.

We expect the Government to publish a White Paper later in 2018. **ONS is still considering the final format of the ethnic group question but recognizes the need for Somalis and other communities to record their ethnicity.** Recently, ONS had community consultations in London and Leicester, which has been facilitated by the Council of Somali organisations.

Having true official numbers of Somalis in the UK will enable Somalis to access culturally sensitive provisions, more resource allocations, fair equality impact assessments and assessing the real picture of community issues and their proportionality including knife crimes, FGM, and health-related issues with the hope of finding lasting solutions and appropriate support services.

On the other hand, we are living Post 9/11 societies, where community securitisation is a delicate subject and it is no secret that HMG is concern about the frequencies of Somalis travelling to Somalia and the perceived threats that may pose. **Therefore, it is important to ensure individual rights are not infringed while keeping us safe and collectively, we need to continue to hold government accountable both in policies and practices.**

ONS will be making recommendations on the content of the [2021 Census](#) to Government later in the year. We expect the Government to publish a White Paper later in 2018. [The White Paper](#) publication will enable us all to discuss disadvantages, advantages, and the technicality of proposed policy introduction

Adam Matan is the Managing Director of Anti-Tribalism Movement. Follow him on Twitter: [@adammatan](#)

**TAGS: Census, Somali British, Somali Community, Somalis**