**2013\_esch\_UgAs\_20**

*OK so this is Lwam Tesfay interviewing Hamida Dean with Ashifa Dhillion, on fiftthteen of er, April, two thousand and thirteen ok.*

Interviewee Speaks in Punjabi.

Int speaks to interview in Punjabi dialogue

Hamida Begum…

Interp talks Punjabi

Date of birth, er…March twenty six, d…nineteen, twenty, four.

Interp dialogue.

*Moy Dean, Moy Dean.*

Mohid Dean.

Yeah.

diagoe

He csme from, her husband came from turkey to Uganda, no father sorry, father came from…

Speaks Punjabi. Dialogue.

He was a business man.

Punjabi.

My father went to uganda, he wanted to get married and there was some elders in the, in Uganda called Mama Resia, and she introduced her mother to him.

Punjabi

Two sisters, hamida, herself and her sister Aisha and one brother.

Punjabi.

The mother was African, Ugandan African.

Mhm.

Punjabi.

She was kabaka’s cousin.

Punjabi.

Who’s kabaka?

He was em…flips through book. He was king yeah, he was king er, king of Buganda and at one time he was president of uganda. She came from the royal family of mutesa the second, king of Buganda and once president of Buganda. Do you want me to carry on from here?

Yeah if you can ask her where she was born?

Again? She’s already said that she was born in uganda, she was…

Punjabi.

She was born in Kibuli, which is in Kampala Uganda.

What was it like growing up in, er…Kampala?

Punjabi

She was a year old when her father died and ….

Punjabi

Because her mother was black the asian community in Kampala em…asked her to leave the house and go. Her father was a businessman and had a lot of money aswell but she was…lets take the children away from her.

Punjabi.

Her mother told her that.

Punjabi.

They gave hundred shillings to my mother expenses and they only gave for two months and then stopped.

Punjabi.

And…all three brothers and sisters went into different, Punjabi homes, Punjabi muslim homes, as orphans and er…

Punjabi.

She remembers from the age of six that she was…businessman called Jamaldin Uqbal who was er…erm, who had er, rifle workshop and he used to clean the rifles, er…in Ugandan but he was my dad’s uncle aswell so I know the story.

Yeah.

And er…he worked for Birish army and he use to take their photographs aswell. And he adopted her, at the age of six.

Punjabi.

Im teling her tell the true story because she will…doesn’t have to tthink that because I am related to him, she has to not say the first bits. Ok

Punjabi.

What she remembers when em….she called my mother, Sakina Begum, ‘pabi’ sister in law. And the first memory of her is when she came into the house as a bride and she was thirteen.

Punjabi

She said when my…when…her adopted parents use to beat her up, em…

Punjabi

Em…mr jamaldin uqbal, who adopted her and use to hit use to say that ‘you have drunk the milk of a black woman’ and as a child she couldn’t understand what is the milk of a black woman, why it is so different.

Punjabi.

And people will…never have any…brain, cleverness

Pujabi.

She remembers when er…sakina’s first son was born…

Punjabi.

She remembers all the children being born to my mother…

Punjabi.

And then they left after two, three children. I want to rbing her back to her story, not my father’s sotry.

Laughs.

Sorry.

Punjabi.

I want to hear what you suffered, and what XXXX…

Punjabi.

Jamaldin who adopted her, he…he tried to abuse her. And…

Punjabi.

She’s saying should I tell her everything laughs

Pun

She wants…

Pun

What I can remember I might be eight or nine years old, and he said to me ‘come into this room’.

Punjabi

He wife was in the hospital and I ran, Punjabi,

And I rain to the hospital. Punkabi. And I said to his wife that his trying to abuse me. Punjabi. And… Punjabi. He brought me home from the hospital and he hit me, with his, with his belt which had spring on and blood came out of my body, from my nose. Punjabi. His wife, jamaldin wife then said to him, that’s her memory, said to him, god hasn’t given us a child because you…you have bad feelings for her. She’s only a little girl. Punjabi. Then somebody made a proposal for her, who was a Pakistani, who was India, he was from India, and…the…jamaldeen’s wife got her married off at a very young age to take her away from the abuser, she was thirteen, fourteen. Punjabi. To sort of get away from the abuse. Punjabi. She said…I didn’t even have boobs!

All laugh.

That was all, I didn’t know anything about anything. Punjabi. I didn’t even have periods.

(She must have been younger than that)

Punjabi. My husband was nice, Punjabi, my husabdn was very nice to me and we lived happily and… Punjabi. Then he died. Punkabi. And I suffred A LOT, I suffered A LOT. Punjabi. At that time I had six, six children but I’m a mother of nine. Punjabi, no house no money nothing. And it was very difficult. Punjabi. Who ever use to come and see my husband and us, once he died, they started redrawing because we were treadred as Africans, blacks. Punjabi. She said you tell. Punjabi.

Do you want me to read this? Ashi to lwam

Em…we can have a look at it after but if you can just to…

Xxxx

…whatever she can remember is fine.

Punjabi. Ah, the person we had rented the house from he chucked us out and we were homeless with six children. She was homeless with six children. Punjabi. i…the british had em, build some flats there. And I went to them I didn’t know any English. Pujabi. She said my children travelled seven miles to school, please give us one of the houses to live in, I have no money I have, nothing. Punjabi. The helped me, the gave me…Punjabi. The gave me a makan. Punjabi. Then I went to the muslim committee, Punjabi. So I, went to the muslim committee there was a council there, and I said look the british has given me a hosue theyre charging me a rent, please help us…financillay. Punjabi, my children are in school, Punjabi, when my daughter fininshes her education give her a job and she’ll return the money. Punjabi. She did her school, school XXXX was twelve standards in Uganda, she did her, her daughter did her Cambridge and use to have two plaits and she went to those people, the muslim community and she said em…the mother went to the community and said give my daughter a job and they said ‘oh she’s got two plaits’ and they just joked about her, how can she work she can’t do any work so she said…then we walked away from there and went to the Barclays bank and Barclays bank gave her a job. Punjabi. She got five hundred shillings job, her daughter…Punjabi. She can’t remember the years (ashi to lwam).

Ok, another….

Punjabi.

She said I didn’t know anything. Punjabi. She use to work so with that money we paid the rent, Punjabi. Three hundred shillings we paid the rent. Punjabi. Then we got, I wanted her to get married and I saved a little bit of money.

XXXX.

Got her married. XXXX. And she had two children. XXXX. And she died in a car accident, leaving behind wto children. XXXX. The communi…the people her husband knew, people she knew they use to help her a little bit financially, to bring her children up, give her clothes, some things like that.

Xxxx hd

She said I suffered a lot. But I never told her children, go there, bring this for me. XXXX, I suffered.

Phone rings.

XXX hd

XXX ashi

Its fine you can get it, yeah.

XXXX. ashi

XXXX hd

XXXX ashi

XXXX hd

That’s fine no problem

Xxxx hd.

Xxx ashi.

Xxxx hd

Xxxx ashi

Xxxx hd

I use to work er, there was a, a muslim doctor called doctor Mustiak. I use to work for his dad and mum in the kitchen. Helping out in the kitchen. And earn a little bit of money.

Xxxx hd,

They knew my, they knew my father very well.

Xxxx, doctor mustiak, doctor ahmad and doctor laldin hd.

Ashi

Xxxx, London house. Hd

There were few families she’s mentioning there.

XXXX. hd

There was er, London house. XXXX.

XXXXX.

XXXX. ad

XXXX hd.

I’ve asked her what was the biggest er, thing that happened in your life that changed your personality.

XXXX hd.

The biggest hurt…

XXXX

…that I suffered was my father loved us.

Hm.

and when my father died, they threw my mother in African village.

XXXX hd

And her qeutions was, we…were orphans. Why nobody looked after us.

Xxxx hd.

She says whenever, ever I see anybody who might be an orphan or who might be on low income I tell my children, to give to them. Because they have no income.

Xxxx hd

Xxxx ash

Xxxxhd

Xxxx ash.

She said I was not allowed to go out and er, the person who adopted me use to lock me in the house and go, and she was only eight years, seven to eight years old.

Xxxx hd.

She said after marriage I saw happiness but when he died it was very hard life.

Xxxx hd.

She said, I, my children all my children…

Xxx hd

I brought them up very well.

Xxxx hd.

I gave them education.

Xxxx hd.

She said because we were black nobody bothered with us.

Long time xxxx .

Nineteen seventy two, should we go onto that? Xxxx?

xxxx.

xxxx ashi

xxxx hd

xxx? Ashi

xxxx. hd

mm.

xxxx hd.

Nineteen seventy two the children were well settled, they were grown up, they were married some of them,

Xxx grandson.

My, I had grand children aswell.

xxxx.

mm.

xxxx.

mm.

xxxx.

my son was working on Ugandan tv.

Xxxx

And he warned me that there would be a lot of problems in Uganda

Xxxx

And I wanted to leave….

Xxxx

I went to the UN…

XXXX hd

She had a grandson who’s mother had left him, and he was six years old and she was, he was with her. And…she went to the UN, when she said, myself and my grandson want to get out of uganda.

xxxx.

and I rbough him with me.

Xxxx

Here, uk.

Xxxx

We came to the airport….

Xxxx

I had one big suit case, one small for the little one.

Xxxx hd.

Xxxx as

Xxxx hd

When I came here, they call me to the immigration side

Xxxx

And they asked me how I have come…

xxxx.

and who is this little boy

xxxx

her daughter, younger daughter was already in England called Safia.

xxxx.

the officer…looked at my luggage and said is that all you have? Then he phoned her daughter, Safia… its hot (fans face with hand).

Laughs (lt)

Xxxx hd

Xxx ashi

Xxxx hd

She said we were very hungry, my daughter came there, they layed a table there for us and they gave us food to eat. Everybody was very good to us in England.

Xxxx.

They told my daughter that your mother has told us the truth. She has not lied about anything

Xxxx

And then

Xxxx

Then we were sent, UN was sent walking,

Xxxx

That’s where…

Xxxx

Xxxx ashi

Xxxx hd

Xxxx ashi

Xxxx hd

All different kinds of refugees were in that property from germany and from uganda

Xxxx

And er, this lady was there was called rosemary, she found a job for her.

Xxxx ashi

Xxxx hd

She was fifty then.

Fifty.

I was fifty and I worked in XXXX called Castle XXXX.

First time XXXX.shuffles through paperwork of letters.

First time, African…

Yeah. Lt

XXXX certificate XXXX…go, go, go, you don’t do this. Then here, this certificate…and this my present [points to ornament on shelf]

From, from there?

Er..

Ehhhh ashi.

xxxX,

which one, here?

XXXX hd.

Ohhhh, she got… then she left work, she worked with CASTLE XXXX limited from nine, seventh may nineteen seventy three, to eighteen to july seventy four. She left this company on her own accord, and they ave her a very good reference which actually said Mrs Dean, to be an extremely pleasant lady getting on very very well with all members of staff. Her standard of work is very good, she has been….engaged…on operations in conjunction with the production of parts for the manufacture of our range of mini, precision, electrics which is… I can’t read.

That’s ok no problem.

Ok. Ashi. Flips paper, that’s where she worked.

Can she remember when she first got off the plane?

### This interview was carried out with an Punjabi interpreter (Ashifa Dhillon).

### The End

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**Interview details**

**Name of interviewee:**

**Project: Ugandan Asians**

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**Venue:, London**

**Name of interviewer: Lwam Tesfay**

**Length of interview:**

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