
The British Census and Identity

Nations Without States
Supporting a Nations Right to Self-determination
www.NationsWithoutStates.org  admin@NationsWithoutStates.org

National Liberal Party
Self-determination for all

Kesri Lehar
the wave for justice
BRITISH CENSUS:
The TRUE & AUTHENTIC IDENTIFICATION
of the diverse peoples who make up the population of Britain

Sponsors: Kesri Lehar - Nations without States - National Liberal Party

‘CELEBRATING BRITAIN IS ABOUT RECOGNISING THE COMPONENT COMMUNITIES WHICH GIVE BRITAIN ITS STRENGTH, RICHNESS AND SOCIAL SUBSTANCE.’

INTRODUCTION

1. Britain’s current 65 million and growing population, is an active mix of diverse ethnic, religious and social communities. Britain’s territory, ‘society’ and state, is a diverse mix of various settled and established populations (e.g. Greek, Tamil, Italian, Sikh, Jewish, Dalit, Guajaratı, Kashmiri, Kurdish, Tibetan, Panjabi, Caribbean, Somali, Pathan, Afghan, Turkish, Polish, Muslim, Buddhist) alongside ‘native’, indigenous populations (English, Scottish, Welsh, Irish, Etc.). These communities have an enormously active and substantial past and present role in the life and blood of the British economy, military history (including both World Wars), sports, food industry, businesses and social mixture. However, there is a distinct and obvious failure at numerous official, public sector governance levels to include and recognise these very same, grassroots, contributing communities in official ‘diversity monitoring’, ‘ethnic monitoring’, ‘public surveys’ and ‘equal opportunity evaluation’ - across the NHS, Police, Home Office, British Crime Survey, British Social Survey and across central and local government.

2. Many peoples are being excluded from the census, police crime statistics, education statistics. Why this systematic exclusion of real, functioning communities, by official decision-making from the top? Why isn’t official monitoring and information gathering, out of sync with the actual UK population? It is as if these communities do not exist, do not matter and do not count – in the eyes of the public sector and local and central government.

3. By and large, these communities have brought positive benefit to British life and society. The mammoth sacrifice of Sikh soldiers during the two World Wars. The continuing global role of Ghurkha soldiers in the British army. The enormous number of small to medium shops and supermarkets run by Tamils, Guajaratı, Panjabi’s, and Dalit’s. Caribbean migrants working in the London buses, train services and hospitals during the 1950s and 1960s. The numerous Chinese and South Asian food outlets across the UK. The enormity of food, clothing and utility products that we purchase and rely upon from across the world – China, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Jamaica, Mexico, Ghana, Kenya. Understanding and appreciating the diversity of our collective human civilisation, and the valuable contributions each has made over history and time to our collective learning, well-being and resources: makes for a more cohesive and harmonious human world – locally, regionally and globally.

4. Precisely because of this diverse input, Britain is a successful model to the rest of the world of how a society can engage and include peoples into a cohesive fusion, affording them opportunities and equally expecting them to contribute back towards a greater good.

5. Britain is for sure, a home to the willing, hard-working, enterprising, and those fleeing persecution. Unlike anywhere else in the world, Britain has provided democratic freedoms, securities and liberties and law and order, justice and freedom to speak and propagate to its existing resident communities and incoming
communities. All of Britain’s diverse communities have a shared benefit and shared responsibility in this collective, positive way of life.

6. In recognition of this vital diversity, we believe that there needs to be a true and accurate recognition of the communities that make up Britain’s grassroots society. This is both through the 10-year UK wide CENSUS and ongoing central and local government ‘ethnic monitoring’ & ‘diversity monitoring’ assessments, ‘evaluation procedures’ and ‘procedures and official public surveys (e.g. British Crime Survey)’. For many decades and still now, there has been a callous, discriminatory and irrational exclusion of Britain’s Tamils, Dalit’s, Sikhs, Kurds, Kashmiris, Shia Muslim, Pakistani Christians and many other vital communities. These communities remain conspicuously excluded from the official information gathering and monitoring processes. The official monitoring systems are a patch-work of irrational categories, which have been changed and added over time in a piece-meal, selective and whimsical manner, with no explanation nor rational and no attempt to methodically include the multiple excluded communities.

7. We are calling for an inclusive, representative and equal inclusion of Britain’s communities. This equally includes the native Irish, Scottish, English, Cornish, Welsh communities. THIS IS ABOUT BASIC FAIRNESS, INCLUSION AND EQUALITY!

8. It is very evident that, decision-makers at the top, have chosen to exclude those very communities who do not constitute a state or country of their own, and are stateless and often oppressed, persecuted and displaced communities (e.g. Kurds, Tamils, Sikhs, Dalit’s). The British Government and British officialdom, likes to conform to official, politically correct labels and categories. It seeks to avoid upsetting the delicate and fragile homogenous labels of INDIAN, PAKISTANI, CHINESE, SRI LANKAN, IRANIAN, TURKISH, etc. In a world where states and their respective governments have exclusive say and representation (for example, UN members are exclusively made up of official states, not communities and nations), the real communities which populate the actual territories over which these over-arching governments administer and rule, get discounted and are lumped into an indeterminate, singular mass. The actual, living, breathing communities which visibly exist beneath the official classifications get ignored both in these foreign territories and in the UK as well. IT IS A SUPERIMPOSING PATTERN OF FAVOURING STATES OVER PEOPLE.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE AN ACCURATE MAP OF BRITAIN’S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES?

9. In any state and society like Britain, where there is a mixed population, there is an obvious and compelling necessity to identify and address discriminatory and uneven experiences – health, education, employment recruitment, housing, crime. Equally, there is a need to recognise and commend the identifiable contributions and achievements of communities. This is both morally and legally imperative (Equality Act, 2010). To date Britain has a positive, progressive train of engaging and including diversity, and addressing discrimination. However, in order for that ongoing good work to be truly fulfilled and optimised, Britain’s unrecognised communities need to be given equal inclusion!

10. There needs to be a clear means of being able to identify and monitor those patterns and trends, where particular communities are making a distinct contribution (such as soldiering, small to medium
businesses); have particular health or education needs (e.g. high levels of diabetes and alcoholism amongst Panjabi’s); have particular social support needs or crime related issues (e.g. sexual grooming amongst some Pakistani males); discrimination suffered by Dalit communities from other South Asians and employment discrimination and hate crimes suffered by social-religious communities like Sikhs and Muslims. There needs to be a clear means of being able to identify and monitor those patterns and trends. This is as against ad hoc, reactive responses by government, public services and local authorities. This equally includes the native Irish, Scottish, English, Cornish, Welsh communities (unemployment etc.).

11. A community and more fully and widely a nation, is essentially and functionally, about a group of persons (small, medium or big in number) who feel a common affinity and purpose and share a common lifestyle. Such communal and national feeling is drawn from various factors like language, history, territorial home, religion, tribe, caste, socio-economic class, shared migration, shared oppression, fleeing persecution. Anyone of these factors can be bigger than others, but all combine and amalgamate to create a community and a nation. Communities and nations come in various shapes and sizes. Formed organically over centuries, over time ahead, such communities and nations will change their shape and size and re-form gradually into new communities and nations (through social mobility and interaction with new culture, migration, languages, religions, war, persecution, territorial partition). Communities and nations change from within and without.

THE 10-YEAR CENSUS

12. Every 10-years we have a national ‘CENSUS’. The purpose is to try and get a close picture of the size and characteristics of the people that live in Britain – age, men or women, religion, ethnicity, and more.

13. The last CENSUS took place in 2011, and the next one is due in 2021.

14. One of the great, increasingly burning contentions about this government led and configured CENSUS; is its stark failure, to include in its sequence of questions and available categories, a comprehensive array of peoples reflecting the diverse map of Britain. Huge and vital sections of the population (e.g. Tamil, Sikh, Kurd, Kashmiri, Dalit, Pathan), are simply missed out.

15. Instead, categories are used like ‘Asian’ (with a proviso for ‘Indian’ and ‘Pakistani’). The actual real communities like Tamil, Sikh, Kashmiri, Tibetan and others, do not fit into this crude, amorphous category. The real specific communities are lost and swallowed up into these artificial, political driven select labels. There are multiple different communities that emanate from the territories, for example, of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, but a single tick under one of these labels, does no justice to them. IT IS THE EQUIVALENT OF LUMPING ENGLISH, WELSH, SCOTTISH AND IRISH UNDER THE VASTLY BROAD, INDETERMINATE CATEGORY OF ‘WHITE-EUROPEAN’.

16. This is convenient for the UK government sector, but certainly not democratic and beneficial to the affected communities. How many Dalit’s live in the UK, currently? How many Sikhs are there in the current British armed forces? How many Tamil’s have fled to Britain due to persecution? The UK authorities simply cannot tell you,
because they do not record this. Instead, they seek to use superimposed broad categories, to conveniently box these communities into politically safe and politically pre-determined categories. A Tamil fleeing persecution from the Sri Lankan government, for example, is regarded as an ‘Asian’ – no more, no less. Similarly, a Kurd fleeing Turkish state persecution is categorised as ‘Turkish’. This is dehumanising. Thus, Sikhs are all ‘Indian’. Kashmiris are all ‘Pakistani’ or ‘Indian’. Tibetans are all ‘Chinese’.

17. Whilst religion became less important to the average British citizen in the 20th century, the growth via immigration of hitherto ‘minor’ religions requires greater acknowledgement. The great debate over the impact and standing of Islam within the UK (and elsewhere in Europe) has failed to distinguish between different strands of that religion. The difference, for example, between sects within the Christian religion pales into insignificance compared to that between Sunni and Shia Islam. Few in the UK are aware that ‘Fundamentalist/extreme Wahhabi Islam’ rooted in Saudi Arabia, is a Sunni sect.

18. Successive British Governments have been unwilling to engage and discuss on this issue of diverse, grassroot communities, entirely ignoring massive representations made by communities such as the Sikhs and Kashmiris. The Sikhs have demonstrated through the exacting judicial scrutiny of the UK courts, that they are a full-fledged ETHNIC people and “more than just a religion” (House of Lords, 1983). Yet, the British government, in a suspicious appeasement to the Indian government, has remained obstinately unmoved, and unwilling to comply with this specific, authoritative law on correct ETHNIC recognition. Despite being an ETHNIC people, it has systematically excluded the Sikhs from all ETHNIC categories. Similarly, in turn, all other authentic ETHNIC communities – Tamil, Kurd, Kashmiri, etc.

19. The Sikhs and Kashmiris engaged in an active and sustained campaign for the 2011 Census to be amended to include the above excluded communities. Sikh campaigners argued that such broad-brush categories did no justice to the actual, real communities which represented the actual communities of Britain. Sikh campaigners waged a huge campaign of written representations, parliamentary early day motions, etc. The National Office for Statistics acknowledged that they received the biggest ever representation on this from any one single community, from the Sikhs, some years prior to the 2011 Census.

20. The UK Government, however, remained obstinately unchanged. It was unwilling to discuss the issue, much less explain any rationale for sticking to a very limited and narrow list of categories: ‘White British’, ‘Indian’, ‘Pakistani’, ‘Arab’, and ‘Other’ etc.

21. However, seeing the weight of opinion behind the campaign for change, all three main-stream political parties (Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat), eventually made a public manifesto promise in the 2010 general election to incorporate an official SIKH category into government monitoring systems including the CENSUS. Despite, forming the current coalition government in 2010, both the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats have failed to deliver on this promise. Nor has Labour, in opposition, sought to press the coalition government on this fundamental issue.

22. This game-playing with this vital issue, is a cogent signal to both the Sikhs and all other affected communities that such political promises need to be viewed with upmost caution. Promises only count when they are delivered.

23. This conspicuous and deliberate inaction, demonstrates the aforementioned conformity to official, established states of the world. For example, the Indian Government has over time, specifically protested to the Britain at the specific prospect of separate identification of SIKHS and DALITS – who are two of many oppressed communities in India.
WHO AND WHAT IS ‘ETHNIC’?

24. Central and local government and its departments and public sector bodies like the Police, NHS, etc, use the term ‘ethnic’ in a blindly robotic manner; in direct breach of specific law. Under the landmark House of Lords case of Mandla v Dowell Lee (1983), a clear and precise definition of ‘ETHNIC’ was given. This was case focussing on a Sikh individual, and designed to address whether ‘Sikhs’ were a ‘racial group’ (Race Relations Act 1976) on ‘ethnic’ grounds or just a ‘religion’.

25. The Judgement set out a series of interconnected points, as a social, anthropological criterion to determine whether a social group or community amounted to an ‘ETHNIC’ group. These were that, the group needed to have: a long, enduring history; a common history; a common social way of life of which religion, language were parts but not the sole features; common social customs and practise; and, above all, combined with the aforesaid features, a strong, binding sense of community causing them to feel and act like a community in their own sense. The Judgement held that on the strength of their strong, enduring common and binding characteristics (territory, history, language, religion, social customs and sense of community), the Sikhs were a full-fledged ‘ETHNIC’ group, and “almost a nation.”

26. This was a major, legal judgement, which has been applied as a legal test in respect of other communities, such as Jews, Rastafarians, Pathans, Scottish and English, in UK courts. Indeed, amongst others, English and Scots have been found under the principles of Mandla v Dowell Lee, not to qualify as ‘ETHNIC’ groups in UK law, but rather as a ‘national identity’ instead.

27. The UK Office for National Statistics declares on its official guidance on ETHNIC, that:

“Collecting data on ethnic group is complex because of the subjective, multifaceted and changing nature of ethnic identification. There is no consensus on what constitutes an ethnic group and membership is something that is self-defined and subjectively meaningful to the person concerned. The terminology used to describe ethnic groups has changed markedly over time and however defined or measured, tends to evolve in the context of social and political attitudes or developments. Ethnic group is also very diverse, encompassing common ancestry and elements of culture, identity, religion, language and physical appearance. This guidance highlights some of the complexities that need to be considered when collecting and classifying data on ethnic group. In the main, it provides advice on how to ask questions on ethnic group and how to present data from surveys using the recommended harmonised country specific questions for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The are some differences in the questions due to the requirements of the constituent countries and where this has implications for producing GB and UK outputs, these issues are highlighted. “http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/measuring-equality/equality/ethnic-nat-identity-religion/ethnic-group/index.html#8

28. Startlingly, in this official guidance, from the Office for National Statistics, no mention is made of the aforesaid authoritative legal criteria for determining on whether a group constitutes ETHNIC or not. This is a deliberate omission, by a senior government department, on the instructions of the central UK government. Whereas, official immigration application guidance from the UKBA (Home Office) regularly makes reference to areas of law, as defined by statute and in judicial case law; the Office National Statistics chooses to convenient side step the overriding legal definition of ETHNIC (Mandla v Dowell Lee, 1983, House of Lords) and, instead, present its own version.
29. The Office for National Statistics is not accountable or responsive to the communities of the UK. It is entirely at the beck and call of the central government, and strictly follows the bidding of Ministers. Like other departments of government, it has no independence. Its role is to construct and prepare the bureaucratic mechanisms and machinery for implementing government dictated population monitoring. The Office for National Statistics will be preparing the next census for 2021.

30. The UK government has recklessly and callously, used the legally specific and highly important ETHNIC label, to allow categories like ‘Arab’, ‘Indian’, ‘Pakistani’, etc., to be included; but has systematically excluded real, grass-root ethnic communities like Sikh, Tamil, Kurd, Kashmiri etc. ‘Arab’, ‘Indian’, ‘Pakistani’; simply do not qualify as ETHNIC groups in UK law (under Mandla v Dowell Lee, 1983). They lack the crucial common characteristics necessary required in law. The term ETHNIC, just like the crude broad-brush terms like ‘Asian’, ‘white’, etc., is bandied about in the media and mainstream, without precision and with reckless disregard. Similarly, the Police and NHS have blindly followed this unlawful and irrational approach, in their typical politically correct manner.

31. Both central and local governments and public sector bodies like the police, seek to manipulate, misuse and distort such categories, and use them in an abusive and opportunistic way. The current, ongoing revelations of sexual grooming by Pakistani gangs across many UK cities, is a prime example of this. Here, not only has grotesque, systematic failure by local councils and police over many, many years, come to the surface; the same public bodies coupled with large sections of the media have reverted to using the broad-brush term of ‘Asian’ to refer to this significant array of systematic and widespread grievous sexual abuse. The deliberate use of ‘Asian’ as against ‘Pakistani’, demonstrates again the manipulative nature of the government and public sector approach to this matter. Clearly, obscuring the real source is considered a safer option. Instead, laying the blame across all ‘Asian’ communities, which is not only grossly insensitive, morally criminal, but entirely racially disparaging to the non-responsible ‘Asian’ communities (e.g. Sikhs, Bengalis, Guajarati’s, and Tamils). It is the equivalent of attributing the notorious violent behaviour of England football fans, to all ‘White-British’ people across the UK.

The authorities are too afraid to apply the crime to the correct category, and, instead, invent and manipulate categories to disguise and blur the picture. It is implied that Sikhs, Tamils, Indians, etc., are as equally involved in the sexual grooming as the Pakistani perpetrators identified. This is a horrible distortion.

SUMMARY

32. The current, lop-sided ethnic monitoring, and community information gathering systems, is self-evidently out dated and unrepresentative of the real British population. This needs a comprehensive overhaul. It needs to match the real Britain we live in. CELEBRATING BRITAIN IS ABOUT RECOGNISING THE COMPONENT COMMUNITIES WHICH GIVE BRITAIN ITS STRENGTH, RICHNESS AND SOCIAL SUBSTANCE.

33. After the census in 2001, campaigners successfully achieved the introduction of national identity in the following census in 2011, to allow the recognition of the various nations of the UK e.g. English, Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish. They also added a new Ethnic group of ‘Arab’.

34. We, thus, call upon the UK Government to further widen the descriptions of identity for the census of 2021. For example, introduce a new category of ‘South Asian’ (as distinct from the existing ‘Asian’, which should cover the Orient i.e. Chinese, Filipino etc), with named identification categories such as Sikh, Tamil, Kashmiri, and Dalit (being large and distinct communities), plus including existing ‘Asian’ categories such as Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani. A new ethnic category for ‘Kurds’. ‘Cornish’ should be added as a box under national identity and under the ‘White’ ethnic category. Nationalities should be encouraged to self-identify themselves under the
category ‘national identity’ as their actual, rather than the state to which they may have been originally born into e.g. Southern Cameroonian, Matabelen, and North Bornean rather than Cameroonian, Zimbabwean, and Malaysian respectively. Under ‘religion’; Shia and Sunni Muslims should be distinguished from each other.

35. These suggested additions to the census are a substantial step forward to how our citizens identify themselves. It is not perfect nor the ‘finished article’ and may never be, since certain communities may emerge as significant in the future and may wish to assert themselves e.g. Amazigh not Arab. The census will therefore always need reviewing but our suggested changes are long overdue, to keep up to pace with the current and ongoing population map of Britain.

36. Government and other public bodies, including councils, should be encouraged to use this updated approach for all questionnaires and public surveys at the earliest opportunity.

-End-

FURTHER READING:

- [http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKHL/1982/7.html](http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKHL/1982/7.html)
- [http://www.hrcr.org/safrica/equality/Mandla_DowellLee.htm](http://www.hrcr.org/safrica/equality/Mandla_DowellLee.htm)
- [https://www.opendemocracy.net/ourkingdom/david-rickard/if-youre-english-youre-white-thats-according-to-national-census](https://www.opendemocracy.net/ourkingdom/david-rickard/if-youre-english-youre-white-thats-according-to-national-census)

Sponsors Link

* [http://www.kesrilehar.co/](http://www.kesrilehar.co/)
* [http://www.nationswithoutstates.org/](http://www.nationswithoutstates.org/)
* [http://nationalliberal.org/](http://nationalliberal.org/)
Person 1 - continued

15 How would you describe your national identity?
   ➔ Tick all that apply
   - English
   - Welsh
   - Scottish
   - Northern Irish
   - British
   - Other, write in [ ]

16 What is your ethnic group?
   ➔ Choose one section from A to E, then tick one box to best describe your ethnic group or background

A White
   - English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
   - Irish
   - Gypsy or Irish Traveller
   - Any other White background, write in [ ]

B Mixed/multiple ethnic groups
   - White and Black Caribbean
   - White and Black African
   - White and Asian
   - Any other Mixed/multiple ethnic background, write in [ ]

C Asian/Asian British
   - Indian
   - Pakistani
   - Bangladeshi
   - Chinese
   - Any other Asian background, write in [ ]

D Black/African/Caribbean/Black British
   - African
   - Caribbean
   - Any other Black/African/Caribbean background, write in [ ]

E Other ethnic group
   - Arab
   - Any other ethnic group, write in [ ]

17 This question is intentionally left blank ➔ Go to 18

18 What is your main language?
   - English ➔ Go to 20
   - Other, write in (including British Sign Language) [ ]

19 How well can you speak English?
   - Very well
   - Well
   - Not well
   - Not at all

20 What is your religion?
   ➔ This question is voluntary
   - No religion
   - Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)
   - Buddhist
   - Hindu
   - Jewish
   - Muslim
   - Sikh
   - Any other religion, write in [ ]

21 One year ago, what was your usual address?
   ➔ If you had no usual address one year ago, state the address where you were staying
   - The address on the front of this questionnaire
   - Student term time/boarding school address in the UK, write in term time address below
   - Another address in the UK, write in below
   - Outside the UK, write in country [ ]
   - Postcode [ ]
The sponsors of this booklet (Kesri Lehar, Nations without States, and the National Liberal Party) have been campaigning for human rights and self-determination for a number of years. Some of their more significant activities have been:

- Sikh human rights group Kesri Lehar (KL) initiated a debate in the Houses of Parliament in February 2013 on human rights in India by raising a 100,000 strong petition calling upon India to abolish the Death penalty.
- KL supported All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF) & Sikhs for Justice, in presenting 10,000 victim affidavits to the United Nations offices in New Delhi, India.
- KL supported Sikhs for Justice, in presenting a 1 Million petition to the United Nations offices in Geneva, Switzerland, on 10\textsuperscript{th} December 2013 (International Human Rights Day).
- KL and the Sikh 1984 Genocide Coalition released secret British Government letters at the beginning of 2014 revealing the Government’s complicity in India’s attack of the Sikh’s holy Harmandir Sahib in 1984.
- Self-determinist pressure group Nations without States (NwS) hosted a conference on Self-Determination in the House of Lords on the 13\textsuperscript{th} November 2013.
- Self-determinists stood as candidates in London for the European Parliament under the National Liberal Party (NLP) list in May 2014.
- All the groups came together for a candlelight vigil on behalf of political prisoners in Trafalgar Square in November 2014.
- All the groups have backed a petition in support of the call to widen the scope of official questionnaires and censuses:

  We, the undersigned, support the call for a comprehensive inclusion of all ethnic, social and religious communities in Britain, into government and public sector diversity and equality monitoring processes, including the forthcoming Census in 2021. For example, Sikh, Tamil, Kurdish, Kashmiri, Dalit’s etc. have been excluded from this for a long time so as to appease large states that are suppressing such communities overseas (e.g. India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan). The British government is favouring such states over actual peoples who make up their diverse, constituent populations. This is an injustice. It is inequality and discrimination. It is a systematic failure of equal opportunities, failure to comply with the letter and spirit of the Equality Act 2010, and a failure to comply with the major ruling in Mandla v Dowell Lee (House of Lords, 1983), which accepted Sikhs were a, as yet unrecognised, nation. This is also true of other peoples living in the UK and must be addressed in future censuses.

Sign via:–


Contact Emails :-

info.kesrilehar.co , admin@nationswithoutstates.org , admin@nationalliberal.info