

## Moving Journeys



*"My mother is from Amritsar. My father was in India and they boarded a train from there. They had a small attaché case with my mother's jewellery. When the train was attacked my father put the attaché case in the window to block it. Attackers tried to punch it with daggers. The case was all scarred. Anyway these people arrived in Rawalpindi and their baggage was all dumped in the grounds in the open. When these people found a roof over their heads they went back to the grounds to reclaim the baggage. They were amazed to see that the jewellery was still in the case."*  
Member from Muslim Women's Welfare Association, 2008

*"I was resentful that the Punjabis had to abandon their homeland while those people living in other parts of former India had a choice either to stay back where they were settled or to migrate to Pakistan."*

Member from Muslim Women's Welfare Association, 2008



*"I asked one of my neighbours and she was telling me about when she was younger. In India, she had to move during partition to Pakistan; she said they really missed India and can still remember those flowers they used to decorate her dad's shop in the village with and when they celebrated Diwali, she would go out and pick these big flowers with her sister, but they had to move to Pakistan, they really missed all this."*

Member from Bradford Young Ambassadors, 2008



*"It has taken me into my 40's to realise that my life has been defined by partition, not in some abstract sense...but I am a child of refugees and refugee families...people are actually so traumatised or in denial, it almost becomes a life's work to explore it. My healing and that of my immediate family seems to have taken this amount of time."*

Member from UK Punjab Heritage Association, 2008

*"Many Hindus and Sikhs were helped by good Muslims and many Hindus and Sikhs helped the Muslims. If we were to help each other then our governments would tell us we shouldn't.*

*It was a mixed society here. When the partition started in 1946, that's when people started to notice a difference. "*  
Member from UK Punjab Heritage Association, 2008

*"The British were in power and they had a role to play, but one of the problems – and this is something we don't look at – is that the government of India also has to take responsibility ; OK, the British did divide and rule and then they left, but the Indian government and the Pakistan government did not do anything to improve relations either."*  
Member from UK Punjab Heritage Association, 2008

*"Maybe the leaders are happy with dividing the people, but the people definitely greet you with great happiness. There were many Muslims who left when Pakistan was made, they meet us with a lot of love."*  
Member from UK Punjab Heritage Association, 2008



*"We have spent a lifetime just travelling around. Nearly 25 years from one place to another. Living five years here, eight years there, seven years somewhere else. Our life has gone by like this. You would never imagine how disrupting it has been. Our children's education ruined."*

Member from Muslim Women's Welfare Association, 2008

*"I heard the story of an old woman who had to kill her teenage daughters before fleeing to Pakistan...people were being forced to leave their homes; they were being burnt and their young girls were taken away and abused...so people used to kill their own young girls to avoid them being dishonoured.*

Member from Muslim Women's Welfare Association, 2008