



**Press Release**

28 July 2003

**New Website Explores Migration History**

The last 200 years of Caribbean, Irish, Jewish and South Asian migration to the UK are explored on a new interactive website, "Moving Here", [www.movinghere.org.uk](http://www.movinghere.org.uk), to be launched on 30 July at London's City Hall.

"Moving Here" makes over 150,000 digitised sources from 30 museums, libraries and archives in England available online for the first time. You can download free scans of original documents and images such as:

- selected Asian and Caribbean ships' passenger lists
- military service records for footballer Walter Tull and Caribbean RAF pilots from WW2
- correspondence with Gandhi about the forging of Indian independence
- some of the registers of residents at the Jews' Temporary Shelter in London
- an advice pamphlet for young Irish girls emigrating to England

You can read about the history of migration to England, get guidance on tracing your family history, send images as e-postcards and contribute your own stories of migration to the website.

Trevor Phillips, Chair of the Commission for Racial Equality, said:

"England has a long history of immigration and I commend Moving Here and The National Archives on creating a website which recognises and celebrates the contribution of immigrants to all sections of our society."

Sarah Tyacke, Chief Executive of The National Archives, said: "'Moving Here' is a step forward because for the first time all this material has been digitised so that you can see it in your living room. Archives are moving away from their 'dusty and musty' image by making these documents available at the click of a mouse."

Historian Simon Schama said:

"It's a TERRIFIC idea, both moving and important."

Sam Walker, Director of the Black Cultural Archives, said: " 'Moving Here' is another in a long list of activities which is helping to dispel the myth which requires the absence of black people in British history. Black Cultural Archives is proud to be part of this illuminating and very necessary project."

Chandan Mahal, Diversity Manager at the Museum of London, said:

"People don't realise how much material about their communities is stored away in museum and archives around the country."

Sarah Jilings, Curator of Collections of the Jewish Museum, London said: "Moving Here is a unique online resource for Jewish people to explore their heritage and draw parallels with the experiences of other immigrant communities. It has brought together a wonderful array of sources from collections across the country, many of which would otherwise be inaccessible, to provide a detailed picture of Jewish community life."

Alison Taylor, of the Luton Museum Service, said: "Through 'Moving Here' we gained important new information on the history of the Luton Irish community, and the community has gained greater recognition for its contribution to the town. The website brings together sources from across the country, many of which would otherwise be inaccessible."

"Moving Here" is funded by the New Opportunities Fund. Further material will be added to the site by the end of September.

**-Ends-**

*Notes for Editors:*

- **For press enquiries, images, or to attend the launch at 2:15pm on 30 July at London's City Hall, please contact The National Archives Press Office on 020 8392 5277 or [press@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:press@nationalarchives.gov.uk)**
- The National Archives [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) is the lead partner on "Moving Here" and the central "Moving Here" team is based at the offices in Kew. The National Archives museum and research rooms are open to the public 6 days a week. It holds over 1000 years of documents including sources for family history research.
- **The Moving Here partners are:** Birmingham City Archives; Black Cultural Archives; Bradford Heritage Unit; British Library; Croydon Museum & Heritage Service; Hackney Museum; Haringey Museum and Archive Service; Imperial War Museum; Hull City Archives; Jewish Museum, London; Lancashire Record Office; Leeds Museums & Galleries; Liverpool Record Office; London Metropolitan Archives; London School of Economics; Luton Museum Service; Manchester Central Library; Manchester Jewish Museum; Museum of London; The National Archives; National Maritime Museum; North West Film Archive; Oxfordshire Museums; Public Record Office of Northern Ireland; Royal Geographical Society; Tower Hamlets Local

History Library and Archives; Victoria & Albert Museum; Walsall Local History Centre;  
Wandsworth Museum and Local History Service; West Yorkshire Archive Service

- The New Opportunities Fund is the biggest of the National Lottery good cause distributors, providing Lottery funding for health, education and environment projects across the UK, with a particular focus on improving quality of life, particularly in disadvantaged communities. To date the New Opportunities Fund has committed over £2 billion in funding to schemes across the UK. For further information see [www.nof.org.uk](http://www.nof.org.uk), call 020 7211 1888 or e-mail [pressoffice@nof.org.uk](mailto:pressoffice@nof.org.uk).