



SID-0011X0002M0

Date: 29 January 2013
Interviewer: Helen Hughes
Respondent: Brij Gandhi

So, Brij, tell me some of your involvement in your Hindu place of worship please.

Yes, I did say to you that I'm from a Hindu background. My parents are Hindus, they were Hindus and all that, so I followed in the religion and we have got a big temple in [0:00:19] Street, a very beautiful one - this was before it was in Bank Street, very close to where I was living in the West End. And I'm involved in the temple with the women's group and with people coming in the temple and I think I love doing part of my work there, going and seeing people, helping with- helping them or helping, actually in the Hindu temple, with our statues and idols and talking to the priest and getting some information because I'm very much interested in all religion, it's just not the Hindu and I like learning about things so I usually spend my time with the priest there and since I'm retired now I've got a lot of time on my hand. So I just help there with other women and we have got a women's group there which meet there on Tuesdays, so anything we want to do we just discuss among ourselves and then we go the second day, or any other day, to go and help there with the running of the temple, with the priest and with women.

So that way I'm so glad that I've got somewhere to go to, you know, because I've got spare time now and Tuesday's a must so I'll just go on Tuesday and any other day if I've got time. On Sunday, I do go on Sunday but not that much before, the way I used to do before, because of my health reason, I'm pulling out and then I become very slow also, so I am very concerned and very much into my own religion and so it pushes me to go to the Hindu temple and do some work with other women and all that. That's all.

You've lived in Glasgow now is Bearsden for thirty years.

Thirty years.

What would you say are the main changes you've seen over these years, Brij?

I see- what makes me really happy about it is because I have been working in the community and there were different hats I use to wear at different meetings. I used to go to women's organisation, I used to work with children organising play scheme when I was working the International Flat in July for the whole six weeks, so I had- and then I had to go to meetings where there were different projects in the community, to the City Council and all that. So I used to wear different hats at different times living in Glasgow. So I have made friends, I have actually generated lot of goodwill in the community and I'm so glad to see that there's so much goodwill in the community, it's not that in one community, in the communities of Glasgow while it's Muslims, it's Hindus, it's Sikhs, it's Christians, the black African community, the Chinese, it's so much goodwill now that things have changed. When I started working thirty years ago, when I was in Glasgow, they were scattered, people were scattered. Even now they're scattered where



SID-0011X0002M0

there is outside of city, there's south side of the city, west side and north side, but when something comes together we have so much equality now, goodwill among them ourselves that I feel very proud and happy about Glasgow communities here.

Because if there's something like, there are different things which are celebrated: there's Diwali celebrated in a big way, Mela is celebrated, Eid's celebrated, Christmas of course was celebrated every year at the right time, but these other festival from other communities are celebrated in a big way and that this is a race equality which has brought people together and I feel very proud and happy in Glasgow and about Glasgow people and I'm one of them.

Thank you very much, Brij, for all you have shared with us today. Thank you very much indeed for welcoming me into your home.

Thank you, Helen.

Transcript ends 0:04:32.6