

Press Release

For Immediate Release: 16th July 2013

Encapsulating the rich culture and experiences of Women Double Celebrations

Go-Woman! Alliance CIC (GOAL) is delighted to have been awarded a £34,200 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the 'Home Away From Home' project. GOAL has subsequently secured a slot at Birmingham Museums and Arts Gallery (Community Gallery) to exhibit the results from the project. The project runs through to September 2014.

The focus of the project is to capture experiences of migrant Mirpuri/Kashmiri women arriving in the UK between the 50's and the 70's now living in the Saltley and Washwood Heath area of Birmingham, looking at number of elements that affected women settling into a new community, including issues around language, health and well-being and employment.

This project will specifically look at the Mirpuri (not exclusively) community and capture their rich culture and experiences .Very little has been recorded and documented around the communities in the Saltley and Washwood Heath areas.

Selection of the case studies will be showcased at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, with all the recordings being deposited with Birmingham Archives and Libraries for generations to come.

The project will create a wonderful opportunity for volunteers to develop new skills. Volunteers will be trained by Oral Histories, to prepare them in capturing case study.

Very little exists in terms of post-war history in Saltley and Washwood Heath area specifically from the 1950's onwards, with migration and settlement of the different communities.

This project will help fill the gap in Archives and address the shortage of valuable material capturing the experiences of south Asian women arriving in the UK.

Nelum Akhtar, project administrator at GOAL said "As a mother of 4 children living in Saltley area of Birmingham I believe this project will provide wealth of information for today and future generations.

I believe our younger generation need to know how hard it was for our parents and grand-parents to leave all their loved ones behind and come to a new country, to start a new life facing some difficult challenges.”

Reyahn King, Head of Heritage Lottery fund West Midlands, said: “ We are pleased to support this project that will record details of a local history that has been largely overlooked. It provides skills training for those involved and helps span the generations with young volunteers recording, and keeping alive, the memories of community elders.”

ENDS

Notes to editors

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported almost 35,000 projects with more than £5.5bn across the UK. www.hlf.org.uk.

About Go-Woman! Alliance CIC

GOAL strives to work with individuals, to provide provisions in both formal and informal learning opportunities throughout their lives, in order to foster the continuous development and improvement of the knowledge and skills needed for employment / self-employment and personal fulfillment.

For further information about GOAL, please contact Yasmin Akhtar on 0121 327 2997 or log on to www.gwacic.com