

# Multicultural Society - Democracy

Democracy. What is it? What does democracy actually mean? A key characteristic of a democratic society is the existence of free speech. The ability to voice our opinion. Millions of people around the world are not able to do this - their opinions and voices are silenced. Some live in fear for having the most reasonable of viewpoints. Unfortunately, free speech can also voice opinions which hurt others. Just for being different.

Multiculturalism contains lots of differences. Those differences can unite together as one.

When asked to write this blog about how my family feel about multicultural societies, I immediately felt a sense of relief. Why? Multiculturalism has impacted my family's life to an extent that I will not even be able to justify in these few words.

My family's outlook on multiculturalism is a very positive one. I'm not sure how I would feel if it wasn't. Would I feel sad? Ashamed of them? Disappointed?

I'd have to say yes, I would. Multiculturalism has provided our country with so much. On a personal note, I'm so thankful that it has.

My dad, born in Northern Ireland, came to Liverpool in 1978 for 2 weeks. He has remained here ever since, meeting many people of different ethnicities, nationalities and religions.

Liverpool has always been very multicultural. It harbours one of the oldest established Chinese communities in Europe. It also has the oldest black community in the UK. It was the first point of call for thousands of Irishmen and women who suffered from the awful potato famine of 1845. Liverpool is the world in one city; a global port. The integration of people from different backgrounds has helped shape the face of the city. That integration helped shaped my dad's opinion of a multicultural society; one of which comes together to work and benefit all of us. After all, he was another 'outsider'.

My mum's opinion stems very much from the brilliance of two men. In 1999, she was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. Between them, over the next five years, 2 foreign doctors worked hand in hand. Doctor Sun Myint (from Burma) and Dr Jaag (from India). Another example of people with different religions, beliefs and personalities, who thankfully came to live in this country. If ever there was a gratefulness for multi-culture, then here it is. They saved her life and I will be forever thankful to both of them.

When each of us thinks about our own opinion on multiculturalism, we are often shaped by our upbringing, or our personal experiences. Opinions cannot hide the fact that our DNA tells a story. Our DNA, forged over thousands of years, is multicultural. This DNA helped shape our country. It will continue to do so for thousands of years.

I feel lucky that my family have such a positive outlook on this topic. Unfortunately, there will always be those who don't. But ask yourself this question if in doubt. Does a multicultural society take so much away from you and I, or does it add so much more? You only have to see above for one family's viewpoint.

**- Mr McNally**

# Mr McNally's Multicultural Society Task

Task - one of the most multicultural aspects of our country is the people who make up our national health service - over 200 different nationalities. Never have they been more important. Your task is to interview a family member to ask their opinion on why multiculturalism is so important in our NHS.

To help you, you can use the following questions (or ask your own!)

- Have you had treatment in hospital in the last 10 years?
- Were you happy with the care you received?
- Where you treated by someone who was a different ethnicity to you?
- Do you believe that multiculturalism is important in our health service?
- Why do you think this?
- How can other cultures help the next generation of doctors, nurses and carers? (i.e. you!)
- What are the main benefits of having a multicultural NHS workforce? (e.g. wider range of skills, specialist doctors, recruiting the best from all over the world).
- Should there be more funding to allow people from disadvantaged backgrounds to train to be medical professionals?