



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 30 JUNE 2010**

**Runnymede and the London School of Economics and Political Science**

**First teaching resource on Bengali migration to be launched in Parliament**

The UK's first teaching resource on Bengali migration will be launched next week in the House of Lords. Compiled by race think tank Runnymede, the website and teaching pack is based on an extensive multi-site research project led by researchers at London School of Economics and Political Science. Bangla Stories is aimed at Key Stage 3 pupils of all backgrounds.

It focuses on the remarkable journeys of eight individuals who left the state of Bengal after 1947. The stories told include that of 75-year-old Anwara who is a landless refugee living in Satkhira, south-west Bangladesh, Aleya Parveen who arrived in Britain as a bride in 2006, and Jubair Ahmed who came to the UK as a teenager in the 1980s and now runs a takeaway in Essex.

These case studies paint a vivid picture of the changing experiences of migration and aim to teach children why ordinary people move from country to country.

The launch of Bangla Stories, to be held on 6 July between 10.30am – 12 noon, will be hosted by Baroness Uddin who herself migrated from Bangladesh to the UK in 1973. A class of children from the Mulberry School in Tower Hamlets will also give their reactions to the resource at the event.

The resource is the result of a major study into Bengali migration, which was undertaken by the London School of Economics and Political Science.

The lesson plans are primarily focused on Key Stage 3 English but also provide a cross-curriculum experience linking Citizenship, History, Geography and PSHE.

Commenting on Bangla Stories, the lead researcher on the project, Dr Claire Alexander of LSE's Sociology Department, said: "We are hoping the material from the research will inspire young people, whatever their background or

heritage, to learn more about their families' histories, and engage creatively with the journeys and struggles that have helped shape multicultural Britain today".

She added: "Through these powerful personal stories of Bengalis in Britain, India and Bangladesh, we can view some of the experiences of migration and settlement that have defined the late 20th century, to think about how and why people move, and how they create new homes in unfamiliar places. Migrants have always played a crucial role in making Britain, and these stories recognise and celebrate the contribution of one community to this rich tapestry".

Rob Berkeley, Runnymede Director, noted, "Immigration policy is politically sensitive but we cannot lose sight of the individuals and families involved in migration. This resource enables young people to understand the dynamics of migration and the contribution that migrants make to our society".

### **Notes to Editors**

- 1) For press inquiries, or to attend the launch please contact Vicki Butler at [vicki@runnymedetrust.org](mailto:vicki@runnymedetrust.org) or 020 7377 9222

For further information about the project contact Dr Claire Alexander at [C.E.Alexander@lse.ac.uk](mailto:C.E.Alexander@lse.ac.uk) or 020 7852 3765

- 2) The Bangla Stories website is available here: <http://www.banglastories.org/>
- 3) Runnymede is a social policy research organisation focused on race equality and race relations. We work by:
  - Identifying barriers to race equality and good race relations
  - Enabling effective action for social change
  - Influencing policy at all levels through providing thought leadership and robust evidence

Further information is available on our website: <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/>