

Transcription

"We'd grown up in a village. We lived in a village, a river close by. Fantastic childhood I must say! The best childhood anybody could have; all the freedom, the space, the environment. It was just a very small house. We weren't very well off at that point, just one small house. So the change coming from a village way of life to a complete city was a big change. A big change, as a child. Everything just looked so big. Huge!"

[Interviewer: Did you feel scared? Were you excited?]

Very excited, never scared. Very excited and very enthusiastic about coming here. First of all, the actual journey as well. Leaving my grandparents, my grandfather coming to the train station in Jhelum to see us off. And we were in the train, you know, and I see him waving us goodbye. He's running along - you know, one of those typical scenes that you see in movies where he's running along with the train waving us goodbye. And at that point we didn't realise what we were going into and what was going to happen. And whether we were going to see him again. Which we never did. He died soon after that."

Jamila Anwar was born in Jhelum, Punjab, Pakistan in 1960. Her father came to London in 1964/5, finding a job and place to live. The family came to join him in March 1970, Jamila, her mum, brother and sister.

She recalled that it was difficult for her to imagine what London was like before she came, since there was no television in those days.

The family moved to Cricklewood, with their first house near Staples Corner, sharing with another family.

Jamila went to Braintcroft Junior School. As a girl, she wanted to be a teacher but got married first, starting a family of her own. She worked with her husband running a restaurant for many years. She later went back to fulfill her dreams, training as a teacher and working in a further education college teaching English, numeracy and IT and working with Special Needs learners.