

Losing Pakistani identity (audio clip)

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Mrs Shaheen Unis was born in Pakistan. She married when she was sixteen and came to Britain to join her husband in 1967. They moved to Scotland, first to Glasgow and then in 1971 to Edinburgh. Mrs Unis runs a highly successful Asian food business.

Here, she talks about how wearing traditional clothing causes discrimination and how the younger generation don't want to wear traditional clothing.

< Mrs Unis arriving in London in the 1960s

Mrs Unis: They do look nice but then again, I think, once you're wearing very, very traditional dresses, you do tend to get discriminate outside. People start calling you the names or start shouting out at you, 'go back home, Pakis', and that's what hurts, and I think that's what turned our children against the traditions, is to be blend and not to be known as what we are, and that's where we're losing our identity with our children, but young girls want to, young girls will have their hair open and wear skirts or wear trousers, jeans, 'cause, just, they just want to be part of what they are. It's difficult for them to wear their own traditional dresses and then get the same respect. They feel, that's how they feel, they won't be respected.