



THE ASSOCIATION OF MANDHATA SAMAJ, UK.

Established 1972

Registered Charity No. 1055169

President: Hasmukh S Patel

Hon. Secretary: Ashok R Patel

Hon. Treasurer: Dilip M Jina

28th February 2021

Namaste All,

Census 2021 – Why is it important for the Indian Community to participate?

The Association of Mandhata Samaj, UK arranged a virtual ZOOM Session on Friday, 26th February 2021 at 8.00 pm to provide further details on the forthcoming **Census 2021**.

Subhashbhai Rathod – Indian Community Advisor for West Midlands, working on behalf of ONS, delivered a very informative and useful presentation on the importance of the Indian Community taking part in Census 2021.

On behalf of The Association of Mandhata Samaj, UK, we have selected some salient points from the presentation which we feel are very important, not only to Mandhata Samaj UK, but to all the Hindu Communities across the UK.

- All households should complete census questionnaire on **Sunday 21st March 2021 or as soon as possible after.**
- The census is conducted by the office for National Statistics (ONS) every 10 years.
- Census is to be conducted primarily on-line. However, you can request for a paper copy if you wish.
- Each household will receive a letter with a 16-digit Code, which you will need to fill in the Census Form on-line. **Using the same code for the second time, will overwrite the Initial Form Submitted.**
- If you are completing a paper copy questionnaire and you have more than 5 people in a household, it is important that you give the 16-digit code from the paper questionnaire when requesting a continuation questionnaire.
- The census collects data from all the households in England and Wales. And this data enables central and local government authorities to allocate their resources more effectively across the various organisations in England and Wales.
- It is very important for our Hindu Community not only to participate in the Census 2021, but to understand the answers we provide on the questionnaire, since this will have an impact on the Hindu Community, for example, addressing the needs of our Hindu Community, through policies, social and/or legislative changes.
- Have you ever wondered why other communities benefit and we don't? It is because our Hindu Community is underrepresented. The Hindu population in the UK is much higher than the figures suggested in the 2011 Census.
- We therefore need to have a clear understanding on the answers and to tick the right boxes (as indicated on the below picture), on some of the key questions, for example;

Question: How would you describe your **NATIONAL IDENTITY?**

*Please note that **National identity** means countries you think as **Home**. This is different from your **Nationality or Ethnicity**. Yes, we are British because we live in Britain, but we are also **"Indian"** because India is the ancestral home for all Hindus across the world.*

Question: What is your **ETHNIC GROUP?**

*Listing your Ethnicity as **"Indian"**, is very important for monitoring our Community needs.*

Question: What is your **RELIGION?**

*Listing your religion as **"Hindu"**, is very important, since we all follow Sanathan Dharma (Hinduism).*



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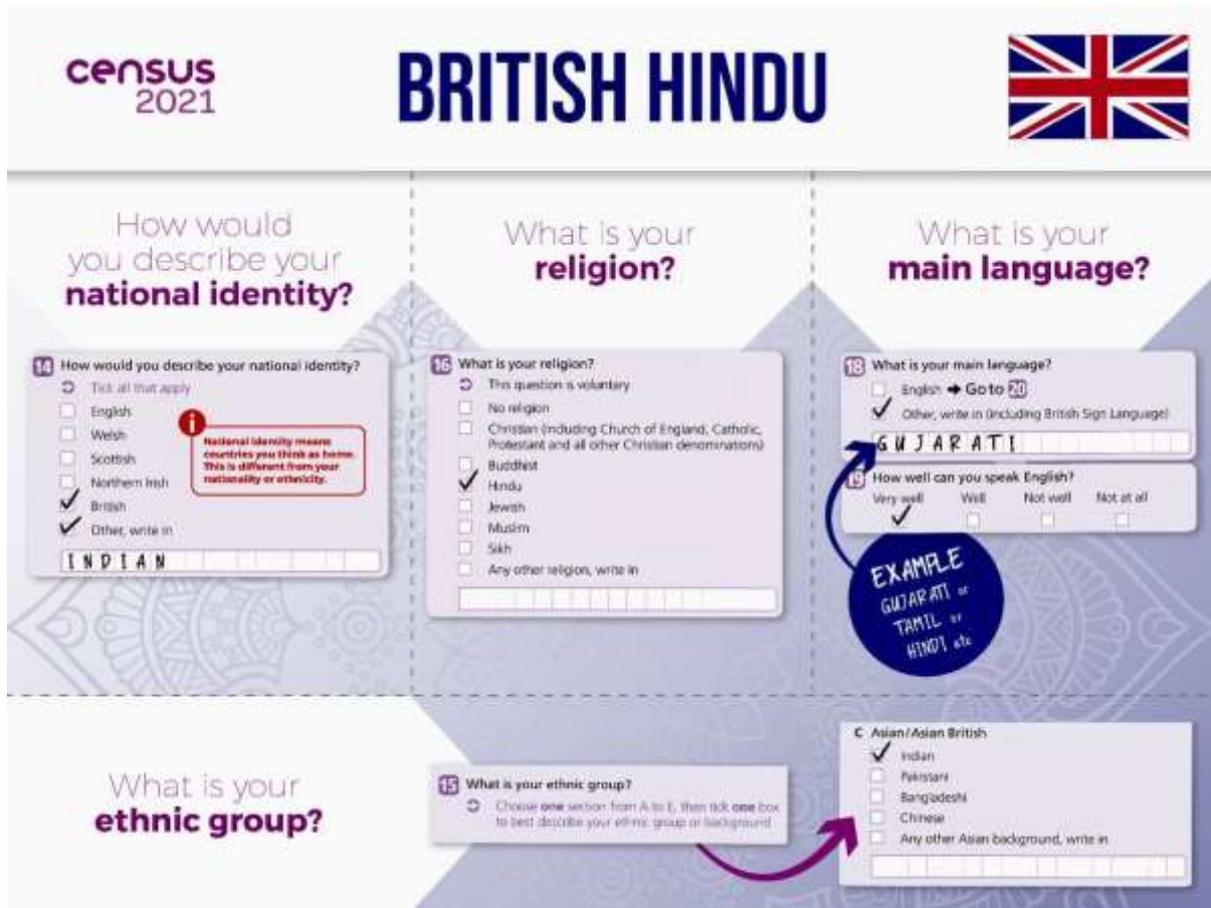
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Question: What is your main **LANGUAGE**?

Yes, we all speak English, but our mother tongue is **“Gujarati”**, which is our main language.



Remember, this Census will have a direct and huge impact on the issues our Hindu Community want addressed, through Local and National Government policies, social and/or legislative changes.

This is our, once in a 10-year opportunity to register our presence correctly and collectively and rectify the mistakes we made in the previous Census.

By taking part in the Census 2021, we collectively will make sure that the Indian Community gets the services it needs from the National and Local Authorities, now and in the future.

If we, as an INDIAN Community, want to uphold our Sanathan Dharma, our Culture, our Values and preserve our rich heritage, be represented and be counted, we MUST fill in the Census 2021 Form correctly, to leave a lasting impact on our present community and for our future generations to come.

You must complete the Census Form by **Law** or you could be fined up to £1,000 for **NOT** completing the Form.

Kind regards,

Hasmukh S Patel,
President – AMSUK

Ashok R Patel,
Secretary - AMSUK