

Exercise 1:

- a) Read the texts in the boxes below and underline texts/sentences that articulate the historical backgrounds of Indians and Nepalese community in Hong Kong
- b) What do you think about their histories? How are their histories valued in Hong Kong?
- c) When did your family come to Hong Kong? Interview your parents or grandparents and write a short story of your family's history in Hong Kong (250 words).

Box 1 **On the history of Nepalese community**

“Although no Gurkhas died during active service in Hong Kong, they form an integral part of the city's defence history. The local Nepalese population numbers around 30,000 at present, including hundreds of Gurkhas who chose to stay beyond the handover in 1997. But they complain that their contribution to the city has not been given due recognition, as evidenced in the lack of a proper memorial in the cemetery (SCMP Editorial, April 13, 2015)”.

<http://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/1765023/hong-kong-should-give-gurkhas-proper-memorial>

Box 2 **On the history of Nepalese community**

“Before 1997, there were 9,000 Gurkhas in Hong Kong, said retired Gurkha Khimding Ratna, who served in the city in the 1980s and 1990s. Some 500 to 700 Gurkhas remain here today. “We are good [soldiers] because we are willing to do any task and we are very tough,” Ratna said. Gurkhas who served in Hong Kong were given residency after the 1997 handover, but many chose to emigrate to Britain, Ratna said. The Gurkhas date back to 1948 in Hong Kong, but had been denied a place in the city's history, Ratna said. “We are unrecognised,” he said. “Ours is an incomplete story.” Ratna said Gurkha history should be taught in schools. “Our children have the right to know the history as well,” he said (SCMP News Report, April 6, 2014)”

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1465924/purkha-diwass-gurkhas-commemorate-their-past>

Box 3 On the history of Indians in Hong Kong

“A colleague at work, who hails from Hong Kong’s Sikh community, took me to their gurdwara, or temple, this week to give me a taste of the charity work it’s doing and to prove there is such a thing as a free lunch. The Khalsa Diwan in Wan Chai, built in 1901 by Sikhs from the British army, is still going strong. It stands testament to the historic role of their community in the development of this city, starting as some of the first police officers” (SCMP article, October 20, 2016).

<http://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/2038712/how-sikhs-are-fighting-bigotry-bread-around-world>