

Welcome to **Two Nations** - a big discussion about where you come from, who you cheer for and what it says about you.

In July we'll watch Team GB do their thing at the Olympics. But do we really care if they win? Do they represent us? Would we rather England win at the Euros? Kaspian, as it happens, wants Germany to win. Oliver wants England to lose. Ros doesn't care. What do you think? Maybe you're only interested when India come to play cricket.

These days there's no obvious 'test' for being British. We all have stories that weave in and out of each other that have somehow brought us to this place here, now, to this tiny corner of this amazing city.

Tonight is about celebrating and sharing those stories. Being British, it seems, only makes sense when we know about each other.

- London has 45 non-indigenous communities of more than 10,000 people.
- Only 15% of Britons feel that people who settle here should support 'our' sporting teams.
- British Asians have the strongest sense of 'British belonging' - 70% say they belong to the UK strongly, compared to 66% of white Britons
- There are nearly 1 million mixed-race people in the UK
- Approximately 1 in 3 people living in London were born in another country
- 90% of Londoners are proud to be from London
- 36,000 people in Tower Hamlets were born in Bangladesh - the largest foreign-born community in a London Borough
- Nearly everyone in Headstart (facilitators included) was born in another country or has a parent who was
- 157,000 people living in London were born in Ireland

Sources: GLA/ONS/British Future

"Everyone in Britain has always had the right to at least two identities: everyone's got at least two flags."

Sunder Katwala, Director of British Future

"It's hard. This phrase 'we're all born equal'... This is a myth. The truth is, if you're born poor. Or you're born of colour... It's going to be harder."

David Lammy, MP for Tottenham

"Jamaica in the attic in a dark blue trunk"

Hannah Lowe, Three Treasures

"It turned out that in a class of 30, for 20 of the children, English wasn't their first language. And of those 20, 7 couldn't speak English at all. There wasn't a lot of support for the teachers"

Mandy, 'London-exile' on the Isle of Wight

"London does something so positive, that other cities can't do. Even cities that pretend to be multicultural. The co-existence at times is so incredibly positive - you can't calculate how it's working."

Craig Taylor, Author

"He rubbed on his hand. He put his hand out. I thought he had a bug on it, a bite or something. 'What you sayin' Daddy?'. He said, 'Son, you'll never be able to go because of the colour of your skin'."

John Carlos, Olympic 200m Bronze Medalist, 1968

"But you never forget the ties that bond you to the seamless comforts of another haven,

It's a love for two nations.

But it makes me feel no different."

Kim Nyamhondera, Two Nations

"It's easier for someone to say that I'm Asian rather than Muslim. Muslim and gay is the hardest one. And you put Caribbean on top of that... and then I'm in weird territory. I think it's easier for British society if you're in one 'band'."

Keith Khan, Producer of Hackney's Olympic Carnival

"I'm from Wales. To me, I'm not English. I'm Welsh, but I'm British. I'm proud to be British. I'm proud to be Welsh."

Deborah at a Jubilee a party, Catford

- How many countries do you come from?
- Do you want England to win Euro 2012?
- Should people who compete for Team GB live in the UK?
- Do your family all cheer for the same team?
- What does who you cheer for say about you?
- Is it better to be mixed race?
- How long does it take to become British?
- Do all immigrant communities living here feel the same about being British?
- Is Team GB representative of the UK today?
- Why are some countries better at some sports than others?
- What makes athletes of dual nationality compete for one country over another?

Gemma Cairney presents The Weekend Breakfast Show on Radio 1.

Ruqsana Begum is the British female Muay Thai Kickboxing Champion.

James Massiah is a poet and wordsmith from South London.

Hannah Lowe is a poet based in Brixton. She teaches literature at a college in Islington.

Jasmine Cooray is a poet and training psychotherapist living in London.

Keith Khan is an arts producer, currently working on a carnival for Hackney.

Kayo Chingonyi and Keisi Morina are Headstarters.

A.N.D

“**FREEWORD**”

HEADSTART

