A Timeline of UK Migration

43 AD – The Romans
From Romans to Normans, migrants came as invaders, who conquered and settled across Britain. At different times England was ruled by Saxon and Viking Kings.
The Romans ruled Britain for 367 years until 476 AD.

5TH & 6TH CENTURY – Irish Pirates & Saxons, Angles & Jutes (Germanic people)

LATE 8TH TO 10TH CENTURY – Vikings (Norwegians)

1066 – Normans (French)
High levels of death due to The Black Death meant people were invited to come to UK to work. There were foreign-born workers in most towns and villages.
William The Conquerer lead the Normans in the Battle of Hastings as the final invading force to successfully occupy and rule over Britain.

12TH CENTURY – Flemish
To work as skilled artisan weavers.

16TH CENTURY – Romani (North Indian)
Nomadic people who travel from country to country.
Romani people were called "Gypsies", because Europeans mistakenly believed that they came from Egypt. They were scorned and persecuted across Europe. They faced a lot of prejudice and there were several attempts to expel them from the UK. This prejudice towards travelling communities still exists today.

Between the 16th – 19th century an estimated 3.4 million West Africans were enslaved by British Slave Traders and sold within the British colonies.

1560-1575 – Dutch
Fleeing war - The Dutch Revolt.

17TH CENTURY – The Huguenots (French), Walloons (Belgian), Palatines (German), Spanish & Portuguese Jewish People
17th Century England was a Protestant country, many arrived here to escape religious persecution in their Roman Catholic countries. They were welcomed by the British and treated well but Romanie and Catholic immigrants were treated badly.

17TH CENTURY – Laskars (Indian, South East Asian)
The East India Company brought sailors and other workers from Asia. Many married European women and started Asian communities.

1620 – Pilgrims departed on The Mayflower ship
English Protestants emigrated to The New World (North America).

18TH CENTURY – West African Slaves
Expansion of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.
Merchants in London, Glasgow, Bristol and Liverpool rapidly expanded the slave trade. Many Slaves were traded within Britain.

LATE 18TH CENTURY – Black Loyalists from America
American Slaves who fought for the North in the American Revolutionary War arrived in Britain as free men. Upon their arrival in the UK they faced many challenges.

1840'S – Irish
The Great Irish Famine. Irish landlords paid starving workers to emigrate, rather than paying to feed them.
In 18th Century many British chose to emigrate, leaving to live outside the UK but many criminals were sent to America then Australia against their will.

1833 – The Abolition of the Slavery Act
Parliament banned slavery across the British Empire.

LATE 19TH CENTURY – Russian Jewish Refugees
British Jews raised funds to help Russian Jews, who were facing persecution, to settle in the UK.

1905 – Aliens Act
At the beginning of the 20th century Britain tried to slow the flow of immigration by introducing immigration controls.
This Law allowed 'Alien' immigrants to settle in Britain if they had enough money to support themselves or a job to go to. Refugees were still allowed.

1914 – Status of Aliens Act
'Aliens' had to register with police and could be deported.

WHAT IS AN 'ALIEN'?
A foreigner from another country.

WWI
Britain recruited soldiers from the Colonies, promising independence from the British Empire and political reform in exchange. These promises were not upheld and the soldiers were subjected to extreme racism and maltreatment by the British Army.

1914-1918 (WWI) – Belgians
Around 250,000 Belgian refugees came to Britain to escape German invasion. Most returned after the war.

Indians & West Indians
1.3 million Indians and 15,600 West Indian soldiers fought on behalf of Britain and many settled in UK after the War.

1919 – Alien Registration (Amendment) Act
Only certain jobs were open to 'Aliens'.

1925 – Coloured Alien Seamen Order
This created a 'colour bar' which limited the amount of Black and Asian men allowed to take up merchant shipping jobs. This was race discrimination put in place by the British government, a form of Systemic Racism.

1933-1939 – German, Austrian, & Czechoslovakian Jewish people
Fleeing persecution from Nazi Germany and Austria.

Polish
Fleeing the invasion of Nazi Germany.

1937 – Spanish Children
During the Spanish Civil War approximately 4,000 children came to the UK as refugees.

1948 – British Nationality Act
All Commonwealth citizens could have British passports and come to the UK to work.

1948 – Jamaicans
Jamaican immigrants arrived on The Empire Windrush boat to live and work in the UK.

WWII
After WWII people from across the Commonwealth were invited to help rebuild the UK's hospitals and transportation systems. Although they were told that as citizens of the Commonwealth they were 'British', on arrival they experienced racism and discrimination on a daily basis and were often made to feel unwelcome.

LATE 1950'S – 1960'S – Caribbeans
People from across the Caribbean Islands including Barbados, St Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago arrived in the UK to live and work.

1956 – Hungarians
Fled the uprising against the Communist regime.

1960'S-70'S – Greek & Turkish Cypriots
Fled civil conflict after their independence from the British Empire.

1962 – Commonwealth Immigration Act
This Act removed the right of Commonwealth citizens to freely immigrate and work in UK unless they already had a connection to the UK.

1965 – Race Relations Act
This Act was the first legislation in the UK to address racial discrimination. It only outlawed discrimination in places of public resort, which meant racial discrimination in shops and private boarding houses was still legal.

WHAT IS THE COMMONWEALTH?
A collection of over 50 countries that were once ruled by Britain during the reign of British Colonial Empire.

1968 – Kenyan Asians
Fled government persecution due to their ethnicity and nationality.

1970'S – Afghans
Fleeing Civil War.

1971 – Immigration Act
British passport holders born overseas could only settle in Britain if they could prove that a parent or grandparent had been born in UK. This was a way of limiting immigration from the British colonies to White people only.

1972 – Ugandan Asians
Fled government persecution due their ethnicity and nationality.

1973 – UK joined the European Union
This allowed anyone from the European Union the right to live and work in the UK without any restrictions.

1973-1979 – Chileans
Fled from the persecution of a violent government regime.

1975 – Racial Discrimination Act
The commission for Racial Equality was established to address racial discrimination and promote racial equality.

1980'S – Vietnamese
Fled the Sino-Vietnamese conflict.

1980'S – Sri Lankan Tamils
Fled civil war and persecution.

1990'S – Turkish Kurds, Somalis, Bosnian, Serbs, Croats & Kosovans
Fleeing civil war, persecution and genocide.

1998 – Crime & Disorder Act
This Act introduced harsher punishments for race-related or religious hate crimes.

2000 – Eritreans
Fled The Eritrean–Ethiopian War.

2000'S – Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans & Libyans
Fleeing war, foreign invasion and persecution.

2006 & 2010 – The Equality Act
This Act protects you from discrimination or unfair treatment on the basis of certain personal characteristics.

2012 – The Hostile Environment Policy
This policy aims to make life difficult in the UK for migrants who cannot provide the required paperwork.

2015-PRESENT DAY – The Refugee Crisis
Many who currently arrive in the UK are refugees fleeing war, foreign invasion and persecution in Middle Eastern and African countries. Many have faced treacherous journeys across Europe in search of safety.

2018 – The Windrush Scandal
In 2018 people, particularly from Caribbean countries, were wrongly detained, denied legal rights, threatened with deportation and wrongly deported from the UK. Many of those affected had been born in Britain or had arrived legally during the 50's and 60's.

2020 – Brexit
The UK left the European Union.
In the month after the UK voted for Brexit in 2016 there was a 41% increase in race and religious related hate-crime.

KEY
- Dates and Those Migrating
- Reasons for Migration
- Facts and Figures
- Policies and Acts

KAZZUM ARTS
COMMUNITY FUND
GROUNDWORK CHANGING PLACES CHANGING LIVES
SUPPORTED BY MAYOR OF LONDON