

Ramgharia Leicester Ladies' Sikh Tapestry Project.

In the spring of 2014, Leicester City Council Community Education engaged with a group of Sikh ladies from the Ramgarhia Board in a one-off craft event. Seeking to develop this partnership, the Council and Board supported Nottingham University's successful bid to establish an AHRC First World War engagement centre. Their [Centre for Hidden Histories](#) now focuses on the role of minority ethnic groups in the war.

The engagement centres aim to foster co-production between researchers and community groups. Consequently, the Centre and Ramgarhia developed a co-produced project to create an embroidered tapestry representing Sikh involvement in the war. With input from a tutor from the Council, the tapestry has been designed to reflecting Sikh culture, faith and art.

In partnership with the Centre, the group organised research visits to museums, collections and memorials, gaining knowledge to inform their work. They also shared stories from their own families, which the academics augmented with documentary history to explain its context and significance. This blend of folk memory and academic history ensured that the project reflected different pathways of memory and took advantage of the differing expertise of the professionals and the knowledge of the community.

Representatives of the group and university would be proud to give a twenty-minute presentation to share details of their co-production methodologies, the role of the council as a 'broker organisation' and discuss their experiences in their productive new partnership. Images of the tapestry will also be shared. PowerPoint will be required.