Making, playing and belonging

Intergenerational arts and crafts at Apna Haq



Zlakha Ahmed MBE
Founder and CEO

The families we work with

Black and minoritised women and girls in Rotherham

35 nationalities

represented among women we supported last year

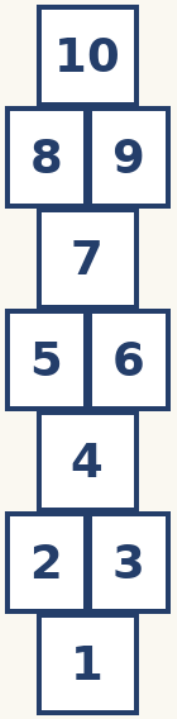
Our approach is anti-racist, feminist and culturally informed.

Growing up in Britain

I was born in Luton.
My parents came from Pakistan.

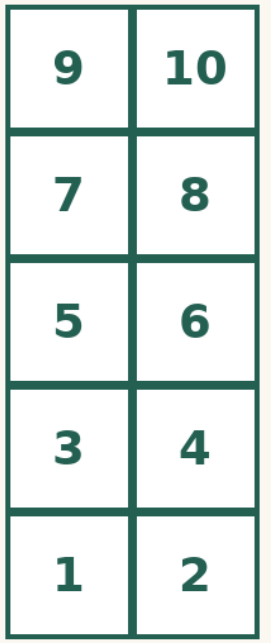
Hopscotch

English version



Pita Pita

Pakistani version



Jacks and Punjigita

Punjigita

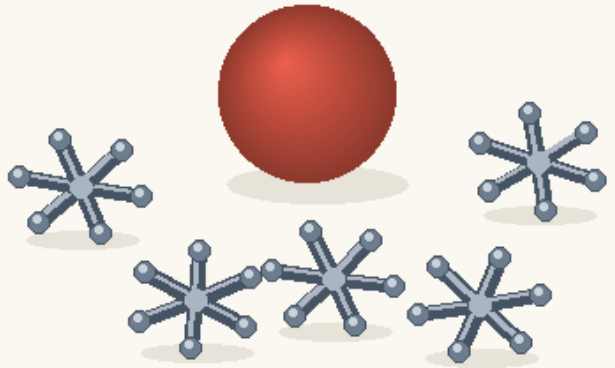
Pakistani version



Five round stones

Jacks

English version



Metal jacks and a ball

What families told us about safety

“You don’t belong here.”

What mothers told us their children regularly heard

What the women taught me about clay









Pottery glazing with Ange Made Ceramics, October 2025

Our partnership with Flux

The women brought their own cultures and histories into the work.



Picnic blanket made in partnership with Flux

Nine months of making and playing

Games day

Cricket, itti danda and Ludo

Jacks and Punjigita

Hopscotch and Pita Pita



Swinton Lock boat trip

Doll-making across generations

Women shared the ways they had learnt to make dolls growing up.

Families dressed the dolls in clothing from their different countries.





Four days exploring our histories

British colonial rule in India

Partition in 1947 and Bangladesh’s later independence

How earlier generations helped shape Britain

What we heard at the launch

“Now we know our history, we know we have a right to be here.”

What I heard families say as they rehearsed for the launch

Finding what we have in common



Apna Haq group quilt

The group’s posters on racism and safety



Where to go if you face racism at school



Safety workshop poster