

RESOURCE 2.5

Contemporary issues among young Hindus (additional data)

The following comments show how Hindu young people responded to the 2023 Hindu Youth Survey. Note that it does not comprise a weighted, representative sample of young Hindus in Britain.

Living in British society 2023

What is the hardest thing about growing up in the UK? n.26

Some young Hindus say they have not faced any hardships

I was born in the UK so I haven't faced any real difficulties, but I think what I understand from my parents is adjusting to life here, as it is entirely different in every aspect. (MP, F, 17, Leicester)

More young Hindus suggest that there is an element of isolation in the UK

Being separated from my family in India I only have my mom and dad; my grandparents and others are all located in India. This means I don't get to experience celebrating festivals/traditions properly. (HV, F, 14)

It's easier to lose touch with your roots because of the surroundings compared to somewhere with more Hindus. (Anon, F, 15, Leicester)

To be myself, I mean I'm kind of culturally displaced and I find it really hard to keep up with my Hindu beliefs. (PV, M, 16, Leicester)

Others suggest that cultural pressures can make things difficult

Hinduism has so many festivals which are not acknowledged by the UK. Meaning for many Diwalis and Holis I have been unable to celebrate because of school and work commitments. (PS, F, 19, London)

Others are concerned that people do not understand Hindu worldviews

Lack of knowledge that people have about Hindu Dharma. it's so difficult to have to explain every time why certain traditions are followed and eventually some people even criticise it (AS, F, 19, Manchester)

Some people not understanding some of my practices, eg. pressure to eat meat (HM, M, 18, Leicester)

What changes would you like to see for Hindus in Britain?

Our 2023 Hindus suggested:

- Better understanding of Hindu dharma
- More freedom/inclusivity to celebrate festivals etc (e.g. days off work/school)
- More accurate representation
- More widespread recognition and appreciation of community

I live in one of the most diverse cities in Britain, so I love the fact that there are indeed many spaces for all religions to practise. However I know this is a luxury I have that others don't have, and so I would ask for wider recognition. (MP, F, 17, Leicester)

I want to see Hindus in Britain being more open in nationally broadcasted events, such as politics or business – not by whitewashing, but rather by being good in their own field yet simultaneously close to their religion. (RA, Other, 15, Kolkata, India)

More of the Hindu festivals and events being celebrated. For example different cultures have different celebrations. *Ugadi Telugu*, New Year, was celebrated but no one knew until I told them. (HV, F, 14)

CHANGE IN THE CURRICULUM – there needs to be more teaching in school about Hinduism, not just a one-off lesson about the Rāmāyana when it is Diwali. I mean an in-depth exploration into traditions, beliefs etc. Also, remove the westernised meanings of words such as karma, namaste and yoga. I feel these words are now readily interchanged for other meanings, and it's taking away the roots that they have in thousands of years' of history. For example, 'puppy yoga'; some companies are using dogs in yoga as a form of entertainment. But yoga is meant to be a way to connect with your inner divine, and the teaching of yoga needs a special guru. (AS, F, 19, Manchester)