

Name: Jagjet Kaur, Interviewed 5/5/23, Vancouver, Canada

Gardiz: Province

Where did you go to school?

I did not go to school and we studied in Gurdwara. Our children used to go to school and were harassed by Muslims and called by different names. But thankfully, we learned to read and write in Farsi and we never hid our Sikh identity from the people.

Which languages do you speak and which languages do you know?

We chat a lot in Farsi and Hindko in my own language (Hindko), which Muslims also speak and is known as Punjabi

How were the people's attitude towards you? How happy are you with the people who lived in the same area as you?

There was a lot of intimacy and I had a lot of laughs with people from Panjshir and Charikar. And we mostly ate bread at the same table and were together like family members. There was a lot of visiting. We are still in touch and learn from each other because our friendship did not last a day and we have known each other for almost twelve years and they always remind me that when you return home we will miss you a lot.

How many gurdwaras were there in the area where you lived?

In Kabul, there were six Gurdwaras in Shur Bazar, and there was still a temple for Hindus, and we often went to the Dharamsal in Karte Parwan.

How was your childhood in Afghanistan?

I don't remember much about Gardiz, but we had a lot of good times in Kabul and we didn't live in Gardiz and we also had a wedding in Kabul.

Where did you work?

No, I was busy having children at home, but my husband worked in the parliament and represented the people. Khosram was martyred in a suicide attack in Nangarhar and my husband started working in the service of our people instead of him.

How was your relationship with your neighbours? Did you share in each other's happy and sad events?

It was very good and we often participated in every ceremony, but most of the time, our men went to Fatiha and the Muslims came to see how Hindus do weddings.

Which foods do you eat and which not?

We eat all foods except beef because it is not allowed in our religion. In our religion, no meat is allowed, but we still eat sheep and chicken

When did you decide to leave the country and why?

When the Taliban came and we had to go to India and we waited for a year to come to Canada, but at the same dangerous time, my husband went to Kabul again to find out about the condition of our

people. And India did not issue a visa for my husband, but we got a letter of permission from the Indian government

Which institutions cooperated with you? And do you intend to return to your homeland again?

The Canadian government helped us a lot to come here. If I am calm, I will definitely go, even my husband wants us to go now, but because of the bad situation, we cannot return