# An unforgettable tale

## By Nadia Nurmohamed

Around the dining table this weekend, my grandmother, Yasmin Nurmohamed, age 68 told our family about life growing up and getting kicked out of her home country, Uganda.

Yasmin, Who was born right on her kitchen floor, was a happy young girl who grew up playing in the open fields of a small city called Hoima. She and her siblings used to make their own toys, including her prized possession - a doll made with felt and other materials found around the house. it wasn’t until she was 21 that the bad news came.

There was a new president in Uganda, Idi Amin. He was the leader of the army and when he heard that the current President was going to arrest him, He used the army to force the president out of power and become the new President instead. Idi Amin decided that he was fed up of the South Asians in Uganda and declared that in three months time they all had to leave the country so that he could “give Uganda back to the ethnic Ugandans.” This meant that 60,000 South Asians including my grandmother and her family had three months to leave their home and find a new place to live. Because the army had taken over and hatred against South Asians was being spread it was a very dangerous time and people did not want to stay even a minute later then they had to. “People were scared that they will be hurt or killed so they left everything and fled the country leaving all their things behind,” said Yasmin, remembering the difficult time. Kenya, India, Canada, and the UK were the main countries to take the Ugandan refugees in.

Yasmin and her family were all split up while they escaped their home country. Some people ended up in different parts of Canada and some were spread around England. Thankfully she had family here already that could help her and siblings stay close by to one another until they could find a place to live together as a family again.

My grandmother Yasmin is such a strong woman. She came over as a refugee, educated herself, worked hard, had children, helped her family and is now a successful business owner with lots of grandchildren who have a better start in life thanks to her being accepted into this country.

If I have learned anything it is that when you are privileged enough to have everything you should always accept others who are less fortunate than you and give them a chance at what you have. I am so thankful to England for accepting a large share of those refugees from Uganda because without them my family wouldn’t be here today.