

Windrush Generation

In June 1948, the MV Empire Windrush brought a group of 492 Jamaican workers to the United Kingdom. This was the beginning of a policy encouraging mass-immigration from Empire and Commonwealth countries to UK to satiate the labour market. The “1948 British Nationality Act” offered British citizenship to Commonwealth people, and gave them the right to enter into and settle in Britain. According to various sources, the MV Empire Windrush and the image of West Indians coming down its plank now symbolizes the start of Britain’s multicultural society.

Miss Rehanna’s vs. Miriam’s attitude concerning arranged marriages

Although Miriam is a very integrated girl and was born in the western society, she seemingly never questions traditions and values. Her attitude towards arranged marriage is positive, and the only concern she has about it is that the arrangement can be cancelled at will by parents and in-laws. She even is quite happy with her arranged husband. Miss Rehanna, by contrast, questions her arranged marriage somewhat, and finds a way to get around it. It seems, though, like she doesn’t dare questioning it openly, either, but has to use a trick (that is, fooling the immigration officials).

At large, the two ladies’ opinions aren’t very different at all. The main difference is, in fact, that Miriam has been born into the Western society, and complementing that, got to know her future husband before the marriage. Miss Rehanna, on the other side, was born in the East but should have married a man whom she never met or talked to. Generally, one couldn’t say either of them is against arranged marriage as such.