

- **Describe briefly the historical circumstances of the creation of this community in your country**

The Armenian community of the United Kingdom consists mainly of British citizens who are fully or partially of Armenian descent. The modern Armenian diaspora was largely formed as a result of the WWI, when the Armenian Genocide ordered by the Ottoman Empire forced the people living in their homeland to flee or be killed.

Although many Armenians perished during the Armenian Genocide, some of the Armenians managed to escape, and established themselves in various parts of the world.

- **Describe the current status of the community in your country**

Today, London has become the focal point of a vibrant Armenian community, but it was the city of Manchester where it all started taking shape when prosperous Armenian silk merchants began settling there in the early 1800's.

Today, some 15,000-18,000 Armenians live in England. They have two churches in London and one in Manchester. There is an Armenian House, along with the St. Sarkis Armenian Church in London, which was built in 1922 by Calouste Gulbenkian in memory of his parents.

Manchester, the place where it all began, has lost most of its Armenians. Many have moved to London. But the community still remains vibrant. New talent, a younger generation of activists, and the energy after the birth of an independent Armenia is opening new opportunities and a new life to one of Europe's oldest Armenian communities.

Zenian. D. (2003, March 1). *England: Home to generations of Armenians*. Retrieved from <https://agbu.org/news-item/england-home-to-generations-of-armenians/>

- **Define cultural specifics of dealing with community members (in general)**

While most Armenians live outside of Armenia, the population of Armenia today consists of approximately 3 million people, mostly Orthodox Christians. Armenia was one of the fifteen republics of the former Soviet Union. Most people in Armenia today know Russian to some degree, and you will see Russian written in a lot of places, too. Many of the buildings in Armenia still carry a Soviet vibe, as well as some workplaces and the mindset of many people. "Guest is a gift from God" is a famous Armenian folk saying. Armenians are very hospitable, they like having guests and do their best for their guests to feel home. Most of socializing process in Armenia is around the table. They pay special attention to education and find it one of the most important factors for considering them successful. You'll hardly have problems in seeking help in Armenia, as they are rather friendly even towards a complete stranger. Armenians are

rather hot-blooded nation. They are full of passion, and even a single argument sometimes grows to a big quarrel. Sometimes Armenian are too emotional about things and let their emotions talk for themselves.

Research materials adapted by Mrs. Houri Aguilian, from the Armenian community in London.

- **Define cultural specifics in the provision of health care to community members (with an emphasis on women)**

Traditionally used herbs and medicines are commonly used tools for healing in Armenia. They also respect and value the doctor's opinions. We can say they are going through a transitional phase to start relying more on the modern medicine, especially the young generation. It is very common for the low income households to not attend regular checkups, mostly due to lack of finances and knowledge. Armenian women (especially older generation) are not hesitant to show their distress about their health issues yet they hardly take action, this fact is changing though with the young generation. Men are unlikely to attend pregnancy check-ups or participate in sessions involving children as they consider it to be the woman's responsibility. We do witness changes especially among certain demographics.

- **Determine the migrant language's specificities compared to the host country language**

Armenian is an Indo-European language that is the only language in the Armenian branch. It is the official language of Armenia as well as the de facto Republic of Artsakh. Historically being spoken throughout the Armenian Highlands, today, Armenian is widely spoken throughout the Armenian diaspora. Armenian is written in its own writing system, the Armenian alphabet. Though having been influenced by both Russian and Farsi throughout the centuries, is only remotely related to them. There is a rather conspicuous generation gap in terms of language ability: most of Armenians know Russian, but the recent generation are switching to English; and while the latter group will tend to know good English, the former may not.