



WHOSE CITY? OUR CITY!

Glasgow's own origin story tells of a city founded by migrants: St Mungo and his mother St Theneu, who survived patriarchal violence and escaped to build a new community.



Glaswegian Jewish radicals fought fascism in Spain with the International Brigades (Alexander Markowich), were key figures in Red Clydeside (Manny Shinwell, Sadie Span) organised garment workers trade unions, brought anarchist legend Emma Goldman to the city in 1885.



2026



Migrants

from the Highlands, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, the Russian Empire, India, Poland, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Chile, Bosnia, Ukraine, Uganda, Kosovo, Palestine, Iran, Kurdistan, Albania, Iran, Kurdistan, England and hundreds of other places



Lascars, "the most exploited vagabonds of the sea", were sailors from the Indian subcontinent, and tens of thousands of them passed through Glasgow, working on the docks along the Clyde, with many making their homes here. Surat Ali, an Indian Communist, freedom fighter and organiser living in Glasgow in 1941 addressed a huge meeting of the India League Conference on Bath Street on the treatment of Lascars in the city, who for years had struggled against institutional racism from employers, the trade union movement and wider society.



LP is the only statue of a named refugee in Glasgow - she went into exile in 1938 following the fall of the Spanish Republic



White Scottish people played an outsized role in the British Empire, and racialised people from that empire who made it to the "mother country" were subject to repression, racism, violence up to and including murder. The early migration experiences of Asian seamen, pedlars and students in Scotland were filled with racist hostility, including trade unions and politicians organising against their presence in the country, and the imposition of a colour bar in Edinburgh dance halls restricting the entry of Indian and Black students.

made Glasgow