

10 King Henry's Road, NW3

The property is 4 storey traditional mid-terraced house built around 1856 by Samuel Cuming that has been split into two with one-bedroom lower ground and the upper floors being arranged as one unit. At the time of the purchase, upper floors were in dilapidated condition.



Proposed memorial of Dr Ambedkar

The property was purchased by the High Commission of India in London on behalf of the Government of Maharashtra (GOM) on 24 September 2015 to preserve the property of one of the founding fathers of the republic of India. This followed a proposal in September 2014 by Ms Santosh Dass MBE, President of the Federation of Ambedkarite and Buddhist Organizations UK to government of India that the house where Dr Ambedkar had lived from 1921-22 be turned into a memorial of Dr Ambedkar.

The house has a Blue Plaque on the outside inscribed with the words *“DR BHIMRAO RAMJI AMBEDKAR 1891-1956 Indian Crusader for Social Justice lived here 1921-22”*.

The Plaque initiated and organised by the Federation of Ambedkarite and Buddhist Organisations UK (FABO UK) was unveiled by Rt Hon. Roy Hattersley MP (now Lord Hattersley) – the then Deputy Leader of the Labour Party on 6 December 1991. There were many dignitaries present including Ms Glenda Jackson, an actress who later on became Labour MP and the then Acting High Commissioner for India, Mr Krishna V. Rajan.



There are busts of Dr Ambedkar at the London School of Economics and at the High Commission of India in London donated by FABO UK and two portrait paintings (one of them donated by FABO UK) of him at Grays Inn.

Dr Ambedkar lived at this house, from 1921-22 whilst studying at the London School of Economics and Gray's Inn.

Dr Ambedkar was an Indian jurist, economist, a prolific writer, staunch egalitarian, non-violent revolutionary, a progressive humanist, politician and social reformer who inspired the Dalit Buddhist Movement and campaigned against social discrimination against Untouchables (Dalits). He was Independent India's first law minister, the principal architect of the Constitution of India and a founding father of the Republic of India.

In 1990, the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, was posthumously conferred upon Ambedkar. Ambedkar's legacy includes numerous memorials around the world and depictions in popular culture. In 2012 Ambedkar was voted "the Greatest Indian" in 2012 by a poll organised by History TV18 and CNN IBN. Nearly 20 million votes were cast, making him the most popular Indian figure since the launch of the initiative.

Dr Ambedkar is a figure on par with William Wilberforce and Dr Martin Luther King when it comes to civil rights.

Dr Ambedkar also has an entry in the UK's publication – the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

On 14 November 2015, Prime Minister of India Mr Narendra Modi visited 10 King Henry's Road.

The day before on 13 November in the UK Parliament Mr Modi said in front of the UK Prime Minister Rt Hon. Mr Cameron " *in defining the purpose of our partnership, we must turn to a great son of India, whose house in London I shall dedicate to the cause of social justice on Saturday. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, whose 125th birth anniversary we are celebrating now, was not just an architect of India's Constitution and our parliamentary democracy. He also stood for the upliftment of the weak, the oppressed and the excluded. And, he lifted us all to a higher cause in the service of humanity; to build a future of justice, equality, opportunity and dignity for all humans; and, peace among people*".



10 King Henry's Road is very significant for the Government of India because Ambedkar's legacy as a socio-political reformer is deeply rooted in modern India. His socio-political thought is respected across the political spectrum. Ambedkar's initiatives have influenced various spheres of life and transformed the way India today looks at socio-economic policies, education and affirmative action through socio-economic and legal incentives. His reputation as a scholar led to his appointment as free India's first law minister, and chairman of the committee for drafting India's Constitution in which he enshrined the principles of social equality, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

In the UK there are a number of organisations dedicated to Dr Ambedkar and spreading his legacy. His birth anniversary is celebrated annually by organisations and Guru Ravidass Gurudwaras all over the UK, at the High Commission of India and at the Houses of Parliament.