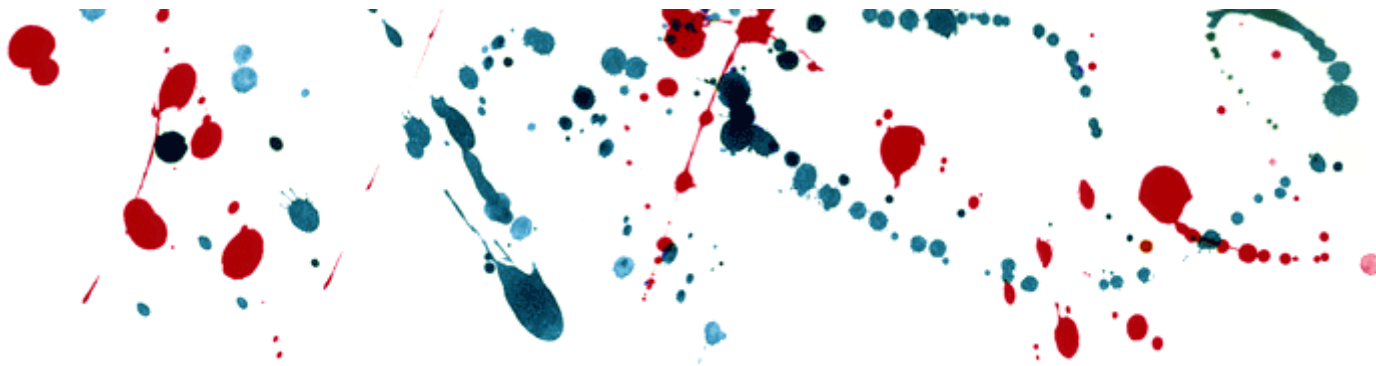


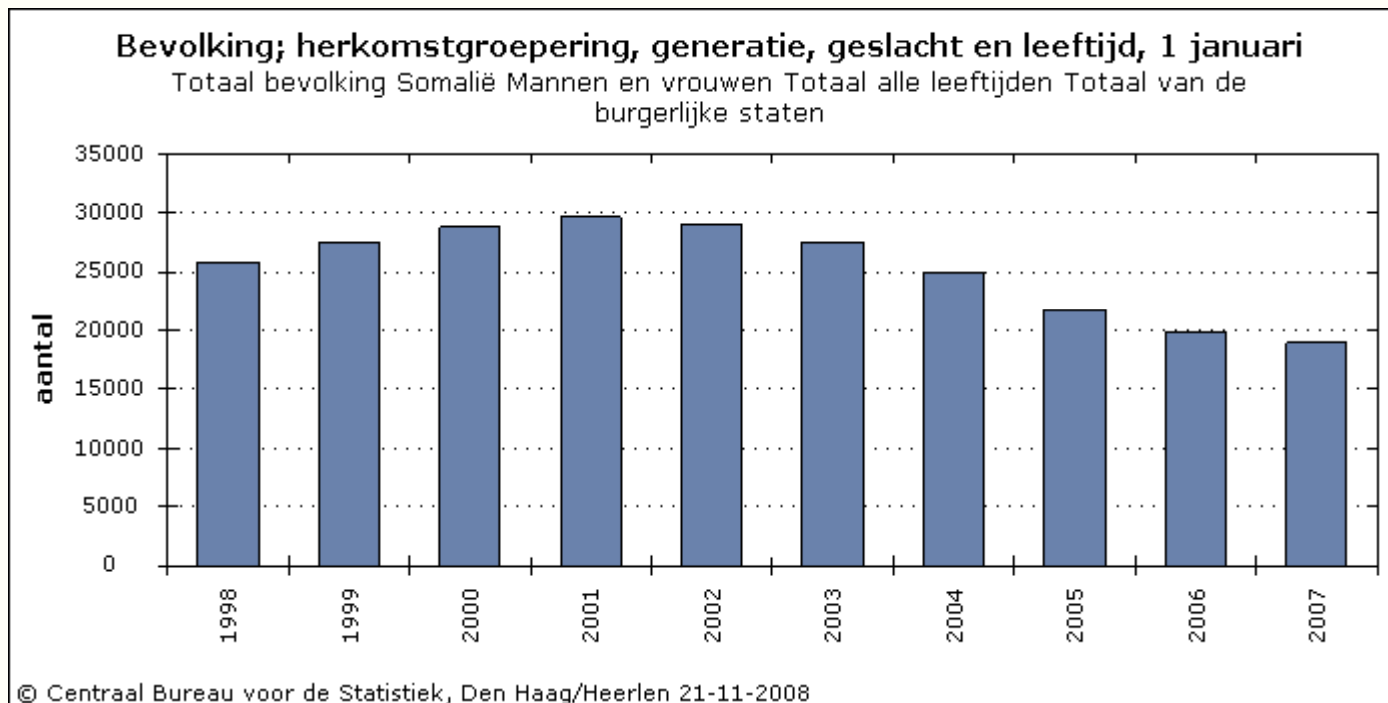
Motivations for migration of Dutch Somalis to the UK

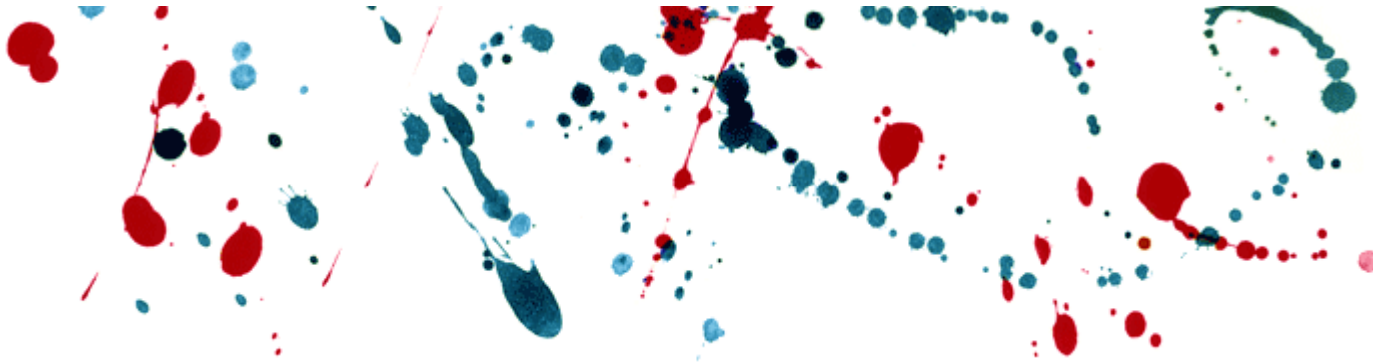
New migrations to the UK and
complexities of integration

Dr. Ilse van Liempt
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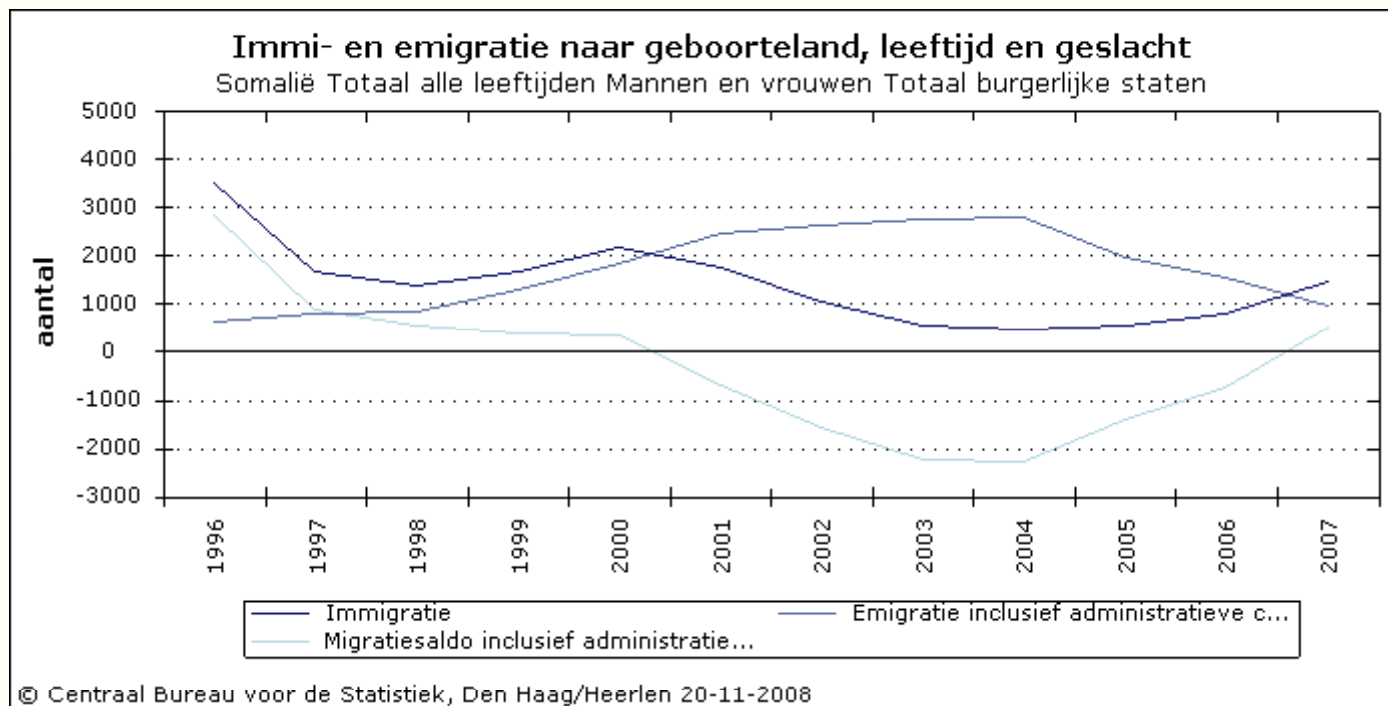


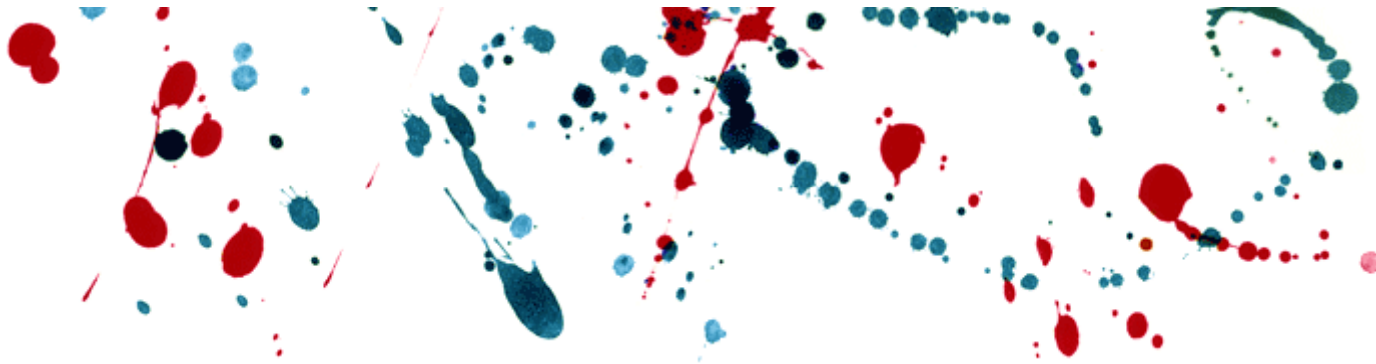
- Somali community in NL





Somalis moving on from NL

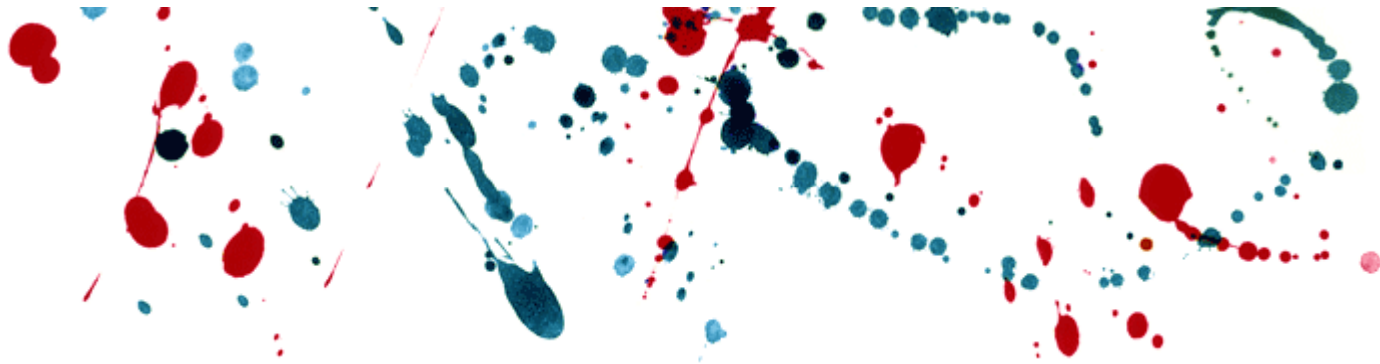




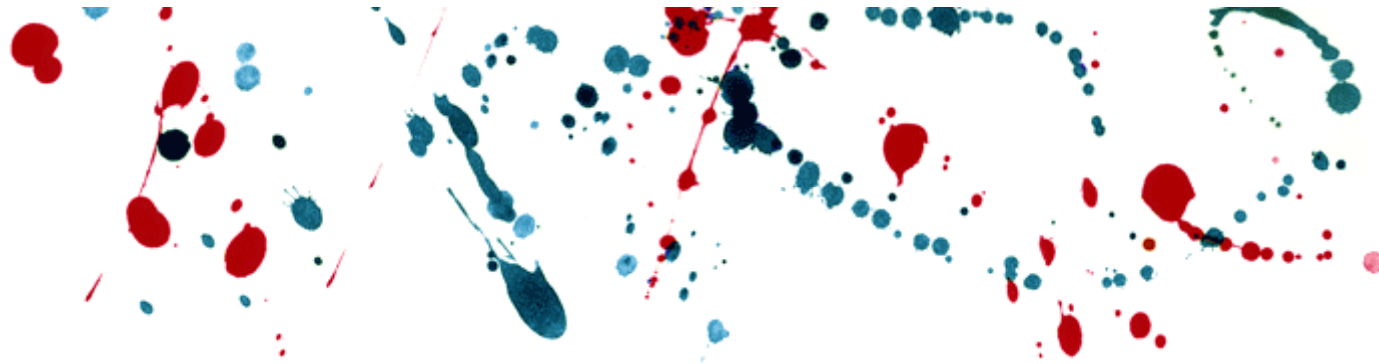
Estimations of Dutch Somalis in UK

Dutch Somali community in UK is said to vary between 10.000 -20.000.

- Somalis have moved from the Netherlands to old settlement cities such as London (East End), Liverpool and Sheffield
- But also new locations, Birmingham, Leicester.
- In Leicester the number of Dutch Somalis is estimated to be around 8.000, 80% of the Somali community.



- **Why** do Somalis move on from the Netherlands to the United Kingdom and how should we understand this new type of migration?

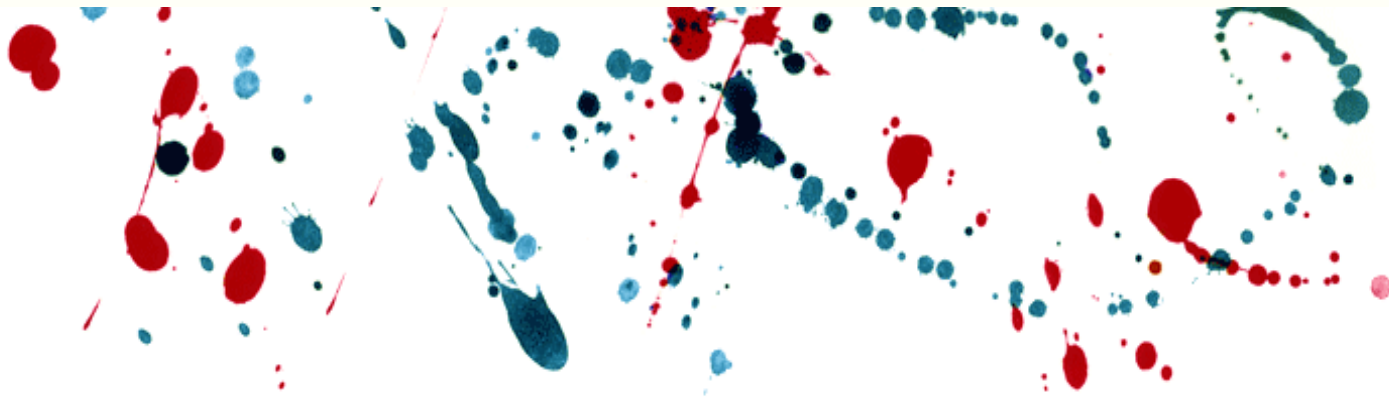


Methodology

Interviews with ‘Dutch Somalis’ in London and Leicester (17 Leicester and 16 in London)

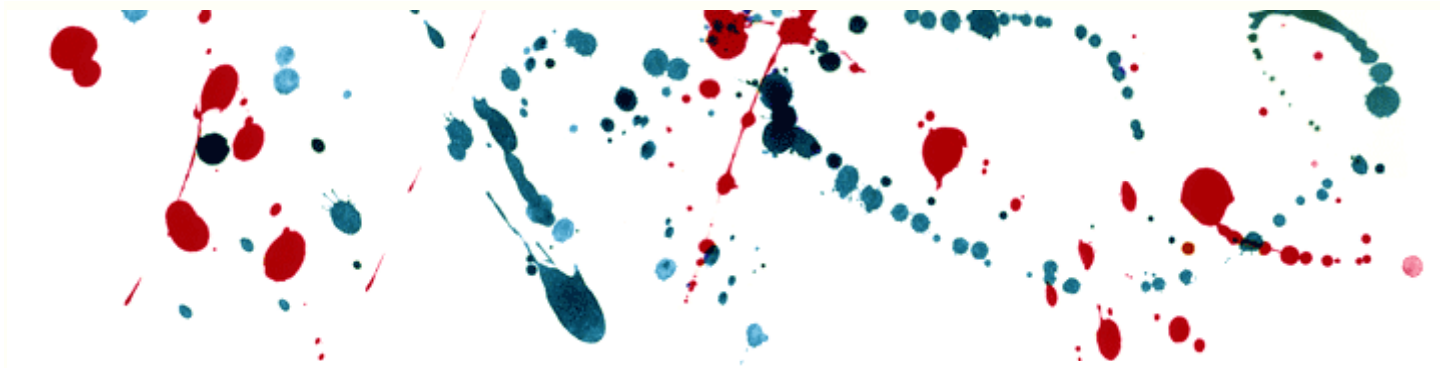
Being Dutch as common ground:

‘Of course I will help you, you are one of us’



Reasons for moving onward can be understood on different levels

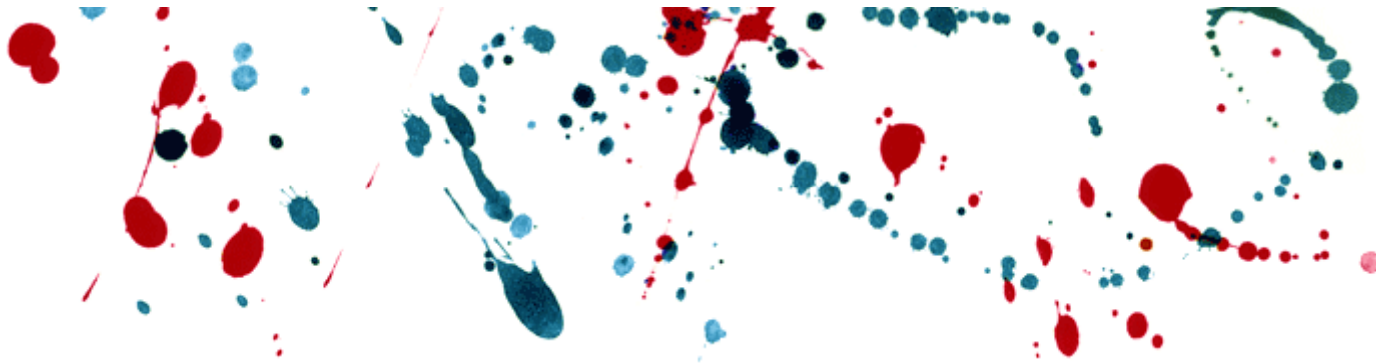
- Economic and political push and pull factors
- Transnational families
- The political/legal context



economic/education

The UK is perceived to have more work and career opportunities

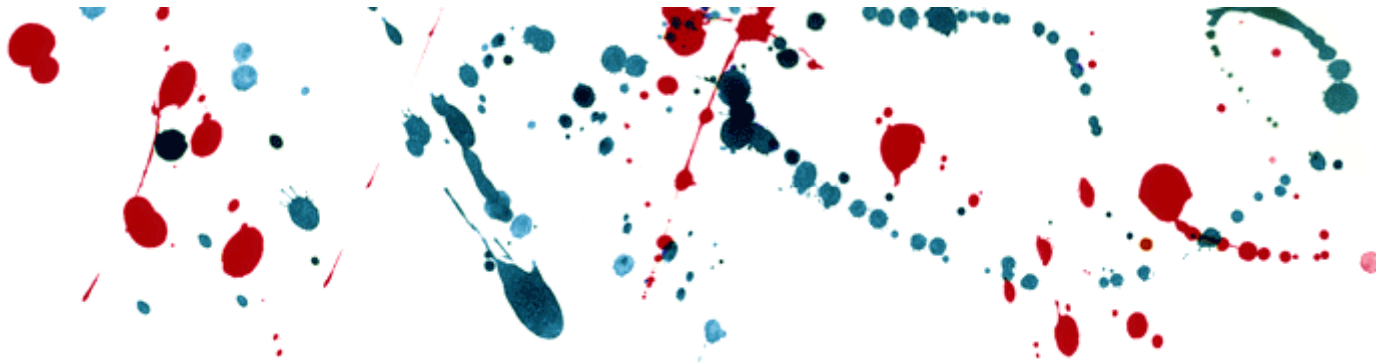
‘Somali people are very active people. In Holland when we came, there was a big house, some money, *een uitkering* [social benefits] and people are all sitting at home, watching TV. People are tools in Holland no human beings. I think that is the main reason why people go to UK. People like to work, to test their productivity, they want to feel they can contribute something to the nation, in Holland you don't feel you can... And education is much better in the UK, there Somali children go to university, in the Netherlands they don't’



Political climate

The political climate in the Netherlands has changed

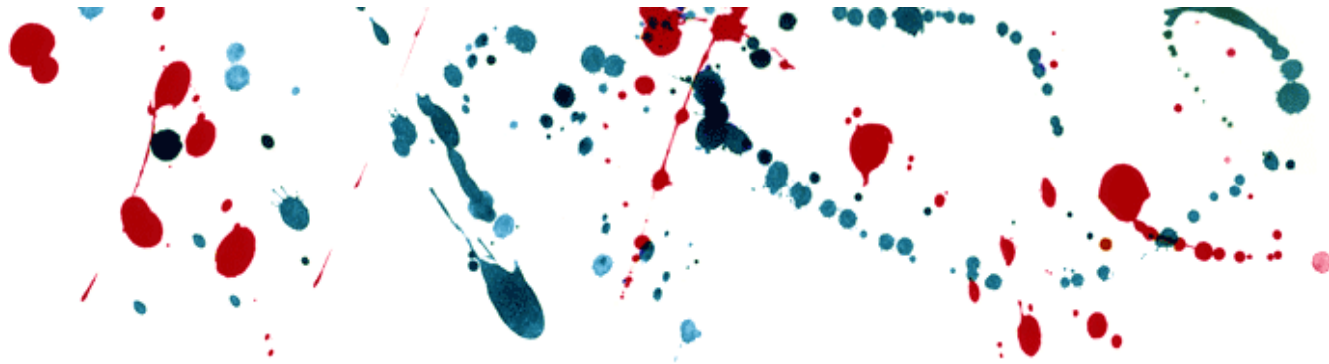
'I really felt at home in the Netherlands, but it is the political climate, the whole country has changed, they keep bothering you about your identity, it is always you, you Muslim, you Somali, they always point at you.... It started with September 11, then there was the famous column of Paul Scheffer, what was it called? the multicultural drama, and then it went from one thing to the other, Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Pim Fortuyn, I thought my life is short and I don't want to be involved anymore, enough is enough. The Netherlands was not the country I knew anymore'.



family

The move to the UK as one big family unification

‘Somali people they moved within the Netherlands, from Groningen, from Amsterdam, from everywhere to Tilburg and then one day they all moved to Leicester. People were calling me a couple of years ago “we are all moving to Tilburg, come here”. But then I stayed in Barendrecht. But now, after 12 years, I did move and now we are all together again, in Leicester. Maybe I go back one day I don’t know, but then we *all* have to go back’.

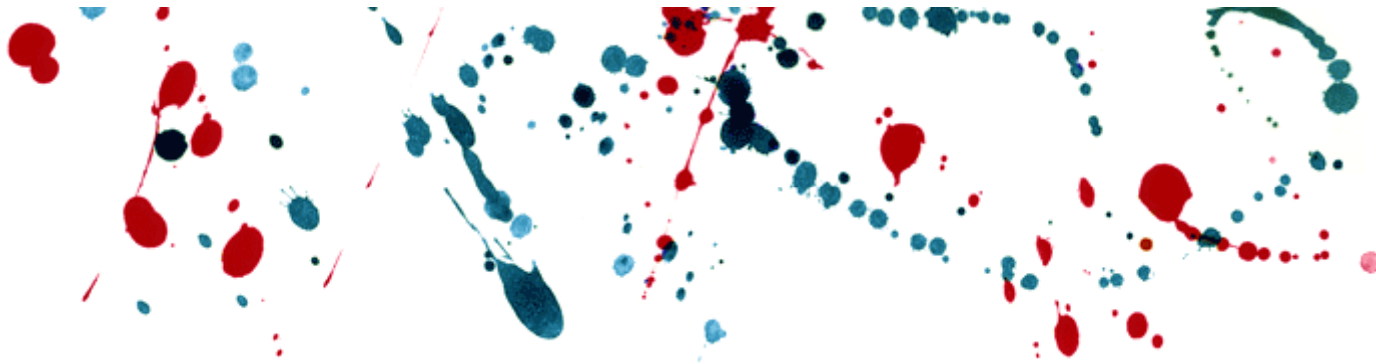


Wider political/legal context

The move to the UK can also be a way of solving the mismatch between preferred destination and the actual outcome of migration process

‘To be honest we never planned on coming to Netherlands but we could not move for a long time because we did not have the right documents to do so’





- Making up the balance
- The job/educational *opportunities* attract Somalis to move to the UK
- Culturally Dutch Somalis feel more accepted in UK
- Socially the move to the UK can be a big family reunification
- Legally it is only possible with the Dutch citizenship to make this move