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Vital role migrant workers play in NHS is focus of exhibition

An exhibition marking the 75th anniversary of the NHS opened in Leeds on Friday.

The Migration Museum's *Heart of the Nation: Migration and the Making of the NHS*, a national touring exhibition, opened at its new pop-up museum in Trinity Leeds.

It celebrates the role that international workers play in the NHS, since its creation in 1948.

Today, around one in six NHS workers has a non-British nationality. Many others are the children and grandchildren of migrant healthcare workers, forging multi-generational legacies. But their crucial role has largely been ignored.

Heart of the Nation features personal stories contributed by people who have come from all over the world to work at all levels of the NHS from the 1940s to the present day.

These include Dr Arnab Seal and Dr Sunita Seal, who moved to the UK from India in 1992 and have spent much of the past 30 years working as doctors in Leeds and Bradford, with Dr Arnab Seal also a lecturer in child health at the University of Leeds; Josie Cauldfield, who arrived from Ireland in 1958 and worked as an A&E nurse in Leeds for 30 years; and the Dimov family, originally from Bulgaria via New Zealand, five of whom spanning two generations now work for the NHS.

The centre-piece of the exhibition is SPEAK, a newly

commissioned interactive music and video installation co-created and performed by seven people currently working in the NHS.

It runs until February 18 2024.



Dr Arnab Seal and Dr Sunita Seal. Picture: Christian Sinibaldi