

# **Social Integration Fact or Fiction?**

12th National Conference on Thalassaemia & The  
Haemoglobinopathies

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Turkey

Presented by Mike Michael



U.K. Thalassaemia Society  
Living with Thalassaemia

# So what is Social Integration ?

**Social integration:** is the movement of minority groups such as ethnic minorities, refugees and underprivileged sections of a society into the mainstream of society.

Members of the minority groups thus gain full access to the opportunities, rights and services available to the members of the mainstream.



# Thalassaemia in the 60's

Sharp Suits and crew cuts



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- A Childhood Disease
- Death at a young age
- Lifetime of transfusions & painful therapy
- Image Issues, growth, looks, confidence.
- No prospect of a relationship
- Unable to have a home or family
- No future





- I'm a thal, I'll Never meet someone.
- Who would want me?



- Thals can't have a families, so don't even waste your time



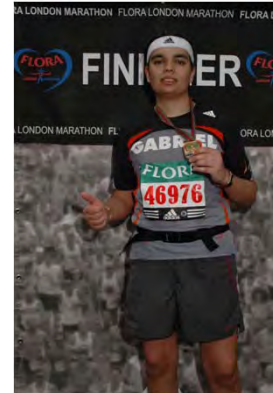
- Your going to do What!



Thalassaemics will lead near normal lives, we will marry, become successful, watch our children grow and enjoy having gray hairs and wrinkles.



OH GOD I'M NORMAL



# Revolution – A call to War

- **Learn**
  - Question and Argue - this is your responsibility
- **Educate**
  - Educate others, Fight for Standards , For Treatment, For Equality for all everywhere
- **Parents**
  - Treat ALL your children the same, have the same expectations for thal's and non thal's
- **Accept**
  - We will lose many foot soldiers and this is fact.
  - Aim to win the War



# Thalassaemia 45+ years later



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**Education is the most powerful weapon you can  
use to change the world**

**Nelson Mandela**



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# The End

No Thalassaemics were harmed in this production



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