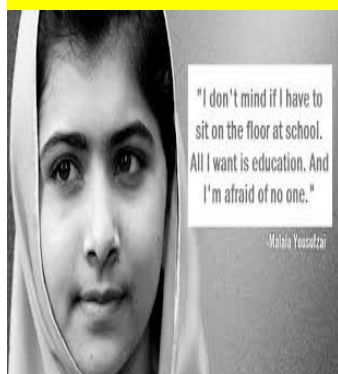


Autumn/Winter

2012



Contact us at: www.frok.org.uk—Reg Charity No: 1095857

FROK: UK Friends of Khwendo Kor

SOLIDARITY WITH MALALA

The shooting of schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai by the Taliban has had the unintended consequence of uniting people strongly behind her cause – the right to education for girls in Pakistan. 15 year old Malala nearly lost her life, but has become a national and international hero.

KK staff, who knew Malala, organised an



KP Information Minister Mian Iftikhar Hussain joins the demonstration; KK Board Ruhkshanda Naz, speaker at FROK AGM 2011, is on his right and Khalid Usman on her right.

immediate meeting of local women's NGOs. Minutes of the meeting record their proposed actions:

'Participation in protest rally..... 3 days symbolic hunger strike and signing of the press release Bringing on board other segments of society and developing alliances with other organizations including trade unions, professional unions etc.'

Those attending the meeting will have been well aware of the danger of these actions. In 2009, a demonstration outside

Contd on p2



Maryam Bibi (3rd from left) and KK staff join hunger strike outside the Press Club, Peshawar

FROK's 10th Birthday Appeal

In October, FROK launched its 10th Birthday Appeal—the shocking treatment of Malala underlines the importance of financial and moral support for KK!

UK Friends of Khwendo Kor joins the voices

around the world in condemning this senseless act of violence against a schoolgirl whose sole "crime" was to promote the right to education for girls in the Swat valley in Pakistan. Once the spotlight of

the media turns to a new subject, FROK will continue to tirelessly promote the importance of girls' education in Pakistan.

See page 3 for more background on 10 years of FROK.....

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Special points of interest:

- Focus on Malala—the right to education
- UNAIDS adopts KK Centre as Model site
- FROK's 10th Birthday—Looking from past achievements to the future
- More fundraising ideas

SOLIDARITY WITH MALALA



globalvoicesonline.org/2012/07/07/pakistan-woman-rights-activist-killed/).

Following the shooting of Malala, FROK emailed members asking them to sign the petition on girls' education

to be presented to the President of Pakistan by the UN Envoy for Education.

Caroline Pym from the J.A. Clark Trust and one of FROK's members, put a *Sun* reporter in touch with KK's Dir Office for a proposed article on Malala. We hope for valuable publicity from this.

Some FROK members heard Maryam being interviewed about the shooting of Malala on the BBC World Service or saw her on TV leading a demonstration in Peshawar.



KK male and female staff at the protest

Contd from p1 ... the Press Club against the destruction of girls' schools by the Taliban led to a number of fatalities. This June, the CEO of another women's NGO was shot dead outside her office only a short distance from KK HQ. (<http://>

Fighting for the right to education

Following the shooting of Malala, **UN Envoy for Education, Gordon Brown**, has placed the subject of girls' education in Pakistan at the centre of his agenda this December in New York.

UK Foreign Secretary, William Hague, on visiting Malala in hospital in Birmingham, stated: "The people of Pakistan have paid a high price for terrorism and extremism. We will stand by all those who, like Malala, are courageously defending the rights of women in Pakistan."

Over the past 19 years, Khwendo Kor has opened hundreds of girls' schools across North West Pakistan in its attempts to empower girls and women, to lift them out of abject poverty and to give them choices which would be denied to them without literacy and numeracy.

Adult Education

Education of mothers also has proven to have a significant impact on the health of their children and on the wider community at large.

Last June, Maryam Bibi reported to FROK on a visit to one Women's Learning Centre in Gul Rehman village, funded by the J.A. Clark Trust. Here women and girls are able to learn making baskets, embroidery, and knitting skills as well as literacy.

The women's learning centres also serve a social function as a welcome meeting place for girls and women, who due to the increased security problems would not go out other than to fetch water, graze the cattle or search for fuel. Women are able to come together and listen to each other's problems and gain solidarity *contd on back page.....*

WOMEN'S RIGHTS: GRANT EXTENDED

Our last Newsletter concentrated on KK's work for women's rights in marriage and inheritance. Elspeth, a FROK member who responded to our spring appeal for editing help, worked with KK staff on a booklet of case studies from this 'Gender Injustice' project, funded by Norwegian Church Aid (NCA). In Sept we were delighted to hear that NCA had agreed to continue the project for 3 years and extend it geographically to cover Karak as well as Mansehra.

KK's 'MODEL'

On 22nd October, KK received a message from Save the Children:

'I am pleased to inform you that KK's CHBC Kohat Centre has been taken as a **Model Site** for Global Fund Phase II proposal development.....KK has achieved this in very short span of time....

'This has strengthened our partnership and will definitely broaden and expand the scope of KK work in future ventures. On the request of UNAIDS Consultants we invite you to tomorrow's meeting for phase 2 proposal development.' 33 families living with HIV/Aids are currently registered for Community Home Based Care (CHBC) at the Kohat Centre.

HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY FROK!—THEN *and now*

UK Friends of Khwendo Kor (FROK) was launched in September 2002 with a fundraising dinner at the Friends Meeting House in York. *How have the hopes and aims of that event survived the past 10 years?*

Political Influence and Publicity

FROK'S launch was performed by Hugh Bayley, M.P. for York and member of the parliamentary International Development Committee. *Hugh has continued to meet Maryam Bibi (CEO of Khwendo Kor) in the UK and in Pakistan, and has organised meetings for her in the House of Commons. On Maryam's 2011 visit, FROK arranged interviews for her with David Milliband (ex-Foreign Secretary), and senior DfID officials.*

The York Evening Press covered the 2002 launch. *FROK events continue to gain press and radio publicity for KK's work, most recently in Oxford during International Women's Fortnight 2012.*

Professional Support and Education

At the time of FROK's launch, Maryam was completing a further degree at York. Contacts made then continue to help KK with proposals, publications and strategic planning, while York social work students have had placements with KK in Pakistan. *In 2011, the University of York awarded Maryam an honorary doctorate for her work for human rights. This year, KK's deputy CEO took up a Human Rights Defenders Fellowship in York. FROK continues to fund training for KK staff in Pakistan, especially through the Hazel Bines Fund.*

Donors and Fundraising

Before the launch, our first Chair, Simon Gillett, had arranged a meeting between Maryam and Caroline Pym of the JA Clark Trust. The Trust joined FROK in enabling KK to buy their own HQ building, before moving on to women's projects (see page 2). *Caroline and FROK still actively re-*

cruit support from other Trusts and wealthy individuals.

The launch dinner, which raised around £1000, saw the first of Lesley's jewellery stalls, a constant source of FROK income. *FROK members continue to raise money through dinners, suppers (see page 4), concerts, stalls (see below), sponsorship for events including the Swedish marathon, Tour de France and a climb to Everest base camp, and donations ranging from book royalties to wedding gifts.*

FROK Appeals for the Pakistani Earthquake in 2005, the Waziri refugees in 2009 and the Pakistani Floods in 2010 raised around £40,000, enabling KK to open a new office in the earthquake area and become involved with special provision for women and children in the refugee camps resulting from floods and international conflict.

Please support FROK's 10th Birthday Appeal to support KK's core costs, the least glamorous but most essential aspect of its funding MORE FUNDRAISING IDEAS OVERLEAF

butter biscuit in star shapes with a sprinkling of hologram dust (available at any good cook shop). *Contd on back page.....*

A stall of jewellery collected by Lesley

Can you run a 10th Birthday stall?



Jacqui, one of our York members, makes £100 to £200 for FROK each time she runs a stall for us. She usually augments her home produce with jewellery collected and cleaned by another York member, Lesley. Jacqui has given us the following hints to encourage others.

Jacqui's Hints

'Publicity: Email friends and col-

leagues. Arrange laminated posters (A3) for vicinity of stall and locally, eg. Post Office, church, village notice board, etc. Have leaflets nearby for people to take.

Tables: For produce, I use an old white cloth overlaid with a contrasting (eg, dark green) cloth, or at Christmas, a festive paper cloth with sprigs of holly laid amongst goods. Preserves displayed in wicker hamper with string tag labels bearing details on each jar.

For jewellery, drape a piece of dark green voile type material & lay the "jewels" upon it! If possible, jewellery stands on which to hang necklaces, bracelets & earrings, plus a mirror.

Produce: Home-made jams, chutneys and relishes. I make dozens of 'stardust' biscuits – a basic



Lesley's hints on collecting and cleaning jewellery for FROK stalls & offer of starter pack featured in our Spring 2011 Newsletter (see website www.frok.org.uk).

Fighting for the right to education ...contd from page 2

At the same time the attendance of the learning centres by men has been high.

However despite these obvious gains, resistance to the women's learning centres has been inevitable by some male villagers, despite the support of the local village chiefs that had been sought and gained by Khwendo Kor facilitators.

The women told Maryam that questions had been raised by some of the male villagers as to why educate girls, when their place is in the home? Why equip them with skills, when time and energy should be focused on helping the jobless men into employment? The potential of women to work alongside men as equal partners is simply not a consideration in the minds of the conservative traditionalists. It is these entrenched attitudes that Khwendo Kor's women's learning centres are trying to address, bringing them to the forefront, bringing men and women together through educational opportunities.

Change is Possible

The struggle has not been easy in the Taliban regions, but with increased resources and support from both within Pakistan and beyond, change is possible, which is why support for Khwendo Kor's remarkable work right now is needed more than ever.

In conjunction with the women's learning centres, Khwendo Kor works on a holistic level, enabling a change in thinking and the silent empowerment of women who now have access through small micro-credit schemes to a sustainable livelihood and escape from dependence on in-laws.

The need for more women to be in the work place is becoming recognised. The self-perception of the women who attend the women's learning centres

is changing,

In their own words to Maryam, the women felt that with the help of Khwendo Kor they could go in greater numbers and with more confidence to local political representatives and government officials in the FATA Development Authority to plead for their share in developmental schemes in their areas. At the same time, remaining realistic about expectations being met by government, the women from the Learning Centres exhibit a strong sense of self reliance. Many women are reported to have started to save money individually and collectively (for example in one village to pay for funerals, to pay for the salary of an Imam and to give food to destitute families.)

"We have learnt from Khwendo Kor many useful things, we now hope we can get out of suffering from poverty in isolation." Women are starting to have a disaster-preparedness approach, no longer waiting for the next emergency to hit and are working collectively to meet the future with hope.

Khwendo Kor continues to strive for this evolving reality.

Elma & Marilyn thank Lisa for responding to the appeal in our last issue and joining our Newsletter editorial team.

Jacqui's Hints contd from p3

Friends make mince pies, date slices, scones, etc. Display on foil trays. Add apples, plums, etc. from the garden when available.

Useful Items Hand written cards (reuseable!) with details of ingredients, cost, description, etc. Flowers from the garden in small vases. Collect and recycle

small clean paper bags and carriers Use small plastic bags on a roll for buns, etc. Borrow secure cash box if poss; remember to collect a £50.00 float (own money) in suitable denominations for change.

And, of course, FROK leaflets!

It will work a treat!

FROK is grateful for recent generous donations of jewellery from Mandy and Carol. Could you help sell these at your school or church Christmas fair? Or at an "at home" inviting friends, neighbours and KK supporters over coffee and mincepies? If so, contact Marilyn Crawshaw (below)

A Delightful Dinner!

On 19th May, Naeema, a new member of FROK, hosted a fundraising dinner at her house in Leeds. About 35 guests were present and £335.00 was raised. Several members of the Executive Committee from York attended which gave them a chance to meet people from Leeds interested in KK and FROK. The food was delicious! Our Pakistani food experts, Sahar and Shehzad, as-

sured us they had never eaten more tasty kebabs!

Naeema was born in Peshawar where she taught English to Afghani Mujahedeen refugees. When she came to England, she worked as a teacher of English as a second language, especially for the workplace, also researching the effect of learning right to left scripts. She is presently studying for a PhD.

Thanks to Naeema for such an enjoyable event.

CONTACT US AT:

Chair: Marilyn Crawshaw
50 Middlethorpe Grove
York YO24 1LD
marilyn.crawshaw@york.ac.uk

Donations to:
Jonathan French
85 East Parade,
York YO31 7YD
jonathan@jfrfrench85.fsnet.co.uk

Membership:
Penny Bainbridge
33 Vyner St
York YO31 8HR
Tel: 01904 659574

bainbridge.penny1@gmail.com

**Helping women and children in North
West Pakistan**