

FROK: UK Friends of Khwendo Kor

Spring/Summer
2011



UK HONORARY DOCTORATE FOR MARYAM BIBI

Maryam Bibi will receive an Honorary Doctorate from the University of York on Friday 15th July. She hopes to arrive in the UK around 25th June, talk at the FROK AGM in Oxford on 9th July and meet FROK members and potential donors at a series of events in Oxford, York and London. As soon as plans are finalised, we will publish her itinerary and hope that as many members as possible will be able

to attend at least one event to celebrate her award with her.

This UK Honorary Degree is the latest in a string of national & international awards to Maryam, and through her to KK, including: UN Recognition of Services Award, 2000; Pakistan National Civil Award Sitar-e-Imtiaz (Star of Excellence), 2001; Human Rights Award from the ILO, 2001; 'Fatima Jinnah Medal' for out-

standing woman in the social sector, 2003; Nominated one of '1000 Women for Peace' for Nobel Peace Prize, 2005; International Union for Conservation of Nature 'Outstanding Women Working on Climate Change' (for introducing energy efficient stoves in villages), 2007; Synergos Senior Fellow, 2008; Sheed Benazir Bhutto Human Rights award, 2011

HUMAN RIGHTS and PEACE

Previous FROK Newsletters have concentrated on KK's work in education, health, micro-credit and emergency relief. The awards listed above show that KK's work for human rights

and peace is also important, so this issue seeks to redress the balance. Overleaf there

are some excerpts from KK's Annual Report that give examples of their work with other small

rights. Pictures illustrate Maryam's role in high level discussions and KK's participation in demonstrations, despite the dangers of taking such a public stand.

Left:
In discussions with Hilary Clinton, Maryam



local NGOs in educating and encouraging both men and women to claim their democratic

Bibi expressed her belief that women's rights are essential to improving the security situation. .

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Special points of interest:

- Picture top left: Young boys with whom KK works in the Waziri IDP camp at Tank demonstrate on Solidarity Day
- Focus on Peace and Human Rights
- Women claim their rights with KK's help
- UNICEF video on KK's work with children
- The role of women in journalism

“Views [on Peace] of a leading social sector personality”.....

Under the above heading, the 2009-10 Annual Report of the Social Policy and Development Centre of Pakistan carried a 4-page interview with Maryam Bibi. In it she stated her belief that lasting **peace** on the Afghan/Pakistan border will only be achieved with the educated participation of village women:

“Maryam has no hopes of the ruling elite, who, in her view, are not keen for any positive change. The reason for hope is among the poor and deprived, whose sufferings have reached phenomenal dimensions and who continue to be exploited. If the people are mobilised, offered possibilities of change and provided with ideas,



KK staff take part in a Peace March in Peshawar

they can play a major role.

“Maryam....does not believe that the solution to militancy and Talibanisation lies in bombing them out of existence with high collateral damage.

She believes in establishing the rule of law and bringing militants to the table and engaging them in dialogue and discourse.....For a counter terrorism strategy, the civil society, and women in particular, are very important players.....

“Women at grass roots level have literally no say and no links to those in power. Education and participation are prerequisites for women to bring any change.... The model of development needs to be looked at.....Progress is said to be achieved only when at least 80 per cent of the population can meet their basic needs.”



Human Rights and Advocacy

Aman Tehrik was an initiative of the civil society organizations, when the situation in KPK was at its worst due to the terrorist attacks. They organised a forum where different organizations including KK could arrange activities to raise the voice of the people at a high level and convey messages to the political leaders on behalf of those who were suffering.

KK and the Aman Tehrik committee conducted an Aman Jirga at Provincial

level to discuss the current situation in Pakistan and highlight the basic issues which play a positive and important role in creating peace in the Province.

Aman Ittehad is another network which works for peace at national level. With its support, KK organized assemblies at Karak, D I Khan and Peshawar in which young leaders from universities and other sectors shared their views on the crucial situation of Pakistan. They demanded support for peace from provincial and federal governments. At Lahore, people from different provinces presented a cultural show to demonstrate unity.

Open Minds Project

In April 2009, KK began implementing a one year Open Minds project in Peshawar district for schools and Madrassas. The students were encouraged to train in journalism and enabled to express their views through their writings, which were sent to Open Minds for publication in different newspapers.

72 discussion clubs were set up. Professional journalists gave lectures on basic journalism and discussions were conducted on terrorism, extremism, violation of rights due to violence, and peace in Pakistan

Awaz-e-Haq, National Endowment for Democracy

A two year Project “Awaz-e-Haq” has been implemented in D.I Khan and Karak to make the local communities aware of their Civic and Human Rights and sensitise government officials to respect and protect the rights of vulnerable communities. The project is being funded by NED.

20 constituency relation groups

Encouraged by Khwendo Kor, women from the Waziri IDP camp at D.I. Khan emerge from strict purdah in their tents to claim their rights

have been formed in 20 villages of both District D. I Khan and Karak. The communities are mobilized on the importance of female participation in the democratic process, including formation of CNICs and voter registration.

KK's work with Waziri disabled children in the IDP camps

Stories from KK's monthly Newsletters show that, against all the odds, for one special group, disabled children, their journey to the IDP camps has transformed their lives for the better.

Sara is eight years old. When she was three, she was disabled by polio and started using a wheelchair. She became depressed and withdrawn. On her arrival at the D.I. Khan camp, she was referred to a Child Protection Centre (CPC). Now she enjoys joining in recreational activities with the other children and her rehabilitation has begun.

Haroot lost his hearing when his home was destroyed by a drone. He is a bright boy and says he wants to be educated and work for peace. When his family fled the war zone, he arrived at a CPC, where KK has en-

abled him to start treatment and resume his education.

Hafiz is a 13-year-old boy from a very poor family. When polio caused him to lose the use of his legs, his family could not afford treatment or a wheelchair for him. Since his arrival in Tank, he has attended a CPC where KK have provided both treatment and a wheelchair. He is no longer isolated from other children.

Sadia is 5 years old but still unable to speak. Her parents were too poor to seek treatment for her until the war drove them from their home to the IDP camp. Now she is receiving help at a KK Child Centre and will be able to achieve her ambition of going to school with other children.

It is not only the disabled children who can benefit from the upheaval in their lives. Niswara, a disabled

woman of 40, had lived with her mother and brother all her life until the military operations swept them out of their village in South Waziristan and into D.I.Khan. On the long, difficult journey, her brother was lost and her mother's sight became very poor. When KK registered them, they were both referred for treatment, medicines and food. They say that it is Allah's blessing on them that KK had established the Centre, because without it they would not have survived.

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UNICEF has made a short video in one of the KK Child Protection Centres which it funds. To see it, go to

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=iL5HJZjmHs4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iL5HJZjmHs4)

or Google "YouTube - UNICEF's Child-friendly Centres help rebuild young lives".

Alison's Everest Base Camp climb for KK



Alison Leaver was a VSO volunteer with KK in its early days in the 1990s. She has visited many times since, was involved in the setting-up

of FROK and was a Committee member until recently. Last autumn she asked for sponsorship for a climb to the Everest Base Camp. Our photo shows her on the climb. So far she has raised over £700, with cheques still coming in. If you would like to support her, go to www.justgiving.com/

ALISON LEAVER. It would be great if we could help her to reach £1000. We will let you know the final total in the next Newsletter.

Norwegian Church Aid Project on Gender Based Violence

Khwendo Kor is running a one year project on "Gender Based Violence" in 50 villages of District Mansehra. Based upon women's GBV issues, it focuses on women's rights to inheritance and consent in their marriages.

Khwendo Kor has realised, through its grass roots work, that while religious institutions are used to justify discrimination against women, they could equally be used in women's favour. KK is working to bring this about.

Your funding is crucial for KK's work—Please: Renew your membership! Make a donation! Do some fund-raising! Ideas overleaf.....££££££££££££££££

Inter News project

This Khwendo Kor project supports conditions for stability and development in conflict prone and other priority areas of Pakistan. It is funded by Inter News Network, an international organization, whose mission is to empower local media on a worldwide level. Khwendo Kor focuses on issues which affect females who work in the community and has implemented the project

with features and news reporting at grass roots level. It has established a well-equipped and designed radio studio, which is used for audio recordings of community news from women reporters to highlight their issues. The staff of Inter News have been trained on Basic Radio Journalism and the concept of Women and Radio.

FROK Fundraising News

It will be clear from news items in this and previous Newsletters that KK receives grants both large and small from a variety of sources. Why then do we need to raise funds for it?

One answer is that FROK raises money not just for specific projects, such as the Pinner ambulance, but also for KK's core costs. Project money is only of use if an organization is there to apply for and use it. Staff have to be paid wages while they are preparing and costing proposals, not all of which will be successful, and teachers need to be paid when the grant for starting a school has come to an end but it cannot yet be fully supported by the community or government. Grants may be available to deliver the education for democracy and peace described in this issue, but one funded project may not follow immediately after another and it is important to keep good, experienced staff employed in the interim.

FROK money is also important where a small pioneering project can lead to a large grant from an international charity; and it enables a swift response in an

emergency. KK's work in the Waziri IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camps illustrates both these uses. When the war was at its worst in the Tribal Areas, other NGOs withdrew their workers. KK's local contacts from their previous work in Waziristan volunteered to distribute supplies. FROK money enabled these supplies to be bought immediately. When UNICEF saw that KK was still working in the area, they invited them to submit a proposal for funding. FROK money for "core costs" helped pay for staff time to prepare a proposal and UNICEF agreed to support a large scheme to register 30,000 unaccompanied women and children and provide centres for them. A year later, when the floods swept through these camps, UNICEF continued to provide support. **The harvest from this particular "seed corn" can be seen in the short video UNICEF made of KK's work in one of the camps (see page 3).**

FROK has undertaken to raise at least £12,000 a year towards KK's core costs and reserve funds, in addition to any money for specified projects. This "untied" money comes from membership fees, bankers' orders, sponsorship, fundraising events and stalls. So far this year we have raised £8,000.

Will you help us raise the remaining £4,000 before the AGM in July?

Fundraising ideas

AMNESTY and NEW INTERNATIONALIST TO SELL KK BASKETS—Can you sell some too?

The *New Internationalist* magazine produces a catalogue of Fair Trade goods which is also used by Amnesty. The buyer for the catalogue saw the KK baskets at a FROK stall in December and has now placed a large order for changairs and bread bins. It is planned that they will be added to the online catalogue in September to coincide with an issue of the *New Internationalist* focussing on Pakistan. **Tell your friends! Or run a stall in your community or workplace!**

BOOK AUTHOR DONATES ROYALTIES

The Open University textbook by our member Richard Blundell, which contains a section on KK as an example of micro-enterprise, has now been published. Richard has generously offered to give his royalties for the book to FROK.

JEWELLERY STALLS—Starter packs now available

Could you collect second hand jewellery for a stall? Could you spare a couple of hours to run a stall or pre-

pare jewellery? Could you suggest an event or place for such a stall?

At FROK's launch in 2002, Lesley Delagana ran a jewellery stall. Since then, jewellery stalls in York have raised several hundred pounds each year for KK. Lesley still collects and prepares the jewellery while other volunteers now run the stalls. This is such a reliable way of raising funds that FROK would like to extend it to other areas. If you were willing to have a go, then we can send you a 'starter pack'. From then on, you need to collect donations of jewellery, clean it where necessary (such as earrings) and mount it on cards. Lesley has prepared an Instructions Sheet, reproduced in part below:

'I mount the cleaned earrings on to a fairly good quality card. I print strips of label to stick on to the back of the card, or you can handwrite individual labels with the price: where there is room for more information, I print "Thank you for supporting projects for women and children in the tribal areas of Pakistan –

www.khwendokor.org.pk " and where only a small amount of card is available, I just print the website address, and add the price of the item..... Brooches are mounted on to card in a similar way to earrings. Bracelets and

necklaces have a label attached with a pretty ribbon, silver string or tape – I fasten the labels on by punching a hole in the label with a hole puncher. Again, information about Khwendo Kor is printed on to the label.....'



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Helping women and children in North West Pakistan
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