

Beat: News

## Leadership During Covid 19 Crisis in Pakistan & UK Recognising the Significance

### of Interdependence Mutual Prosperity

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**USPA NEWS** - This was the first Universal Peace Federation Pakistan-UK 'Peace Talks' Zoom Conference. We are planning to convene a series of online conferences involving different areas of society in the UK and Pakistan to promote dialogue and understanding. We featured mainly parliamentarians on this occasion to exchange their perspectives on successes and failures in dealing with Covid 19 and recovering from the economic effects. Pakistan and the UK have a close relationship and share a large diaspora in the UK that has had a profound influence on society in the UK. From politics, economics, culture and sport for example, there are many influential figures in the UK from a Pakistan background. We can understand the interdependence of our nations as well as the need for mutual prosperity and universal values that will further enhance our friendship.

Mr Afzal Khan MP CBE:

Mohammed Afzal Khan, CBE is a British Labour Party politician who has been the Member of Parliament for the Manchester Gorton constituency since June 2017. He was formerly Lord Mayor of Manchester for the year 2005-2006, and served as a Member of the European Parliament for North West England from 2014 to 2017. Afzal Khan was elected as the Labour MP for Manchester Gorton in 2017 and was re-elected in 2019. Afzal served as Shadow Minister for Immigration (2017-2019) and Shadow Foreign Office Minister (2019-2020). He is now the Shadow Deputy Leader of the House of Commons. He is also a Vice Chair of several All-Party Parliamentary Groups, including on British Muslims, Adult Social Care, Pakistan, Hajj and Umrah, Greater Manchester, and Poverty.

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Said Mian JALIL Ahmed Sharaquri, MPA Punjab Pakistan ,

The epidemic of Covid 19 has shaken the whole world. The poor have been hit hard. The Pakistani government tried its best to do its best. By the special grace of God Almighty, we have been much safer than other nations, one of the reasons being that our immunity is better. Our people have largely supported each other during this epidemic. Our religion also teaches that before going to bed, make sure that your neighbor is not hungry. I sent messages to people in my area to take care of the ten houses around me, I myself quietly cared for the 100 poorest families closest to me and rations quietly reached their homes at night. This epidemic has taught us a lesson that we have to make every country and every city self-sufficient in food and medicine. The United Nations should also help all countries become self-sufficient in food and medicine. Older countries should spend on self-sufficiency of poor countries instead of arms and all nations should be encouraged to tolerate each other. No religion has the right to be harsh on another. There should be religious freedom and everyone should respect each other. Respected personalities of any nation should not be despised.

Hon Faisal Karim Kundi is a Pakistani politician who served as the 17th Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan from 2008 to 2013. Faisal Karim Kundi hails from a known political family of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He started his political career in 2003 and served PPP as Divisional Coordinator D.I.Khan Division. He had an intrinsic inclination towards politics and was groomed by Late Benazir Bhutto during her stay in London. He contested election from NA-24 on PPP ticket in General Election of February 2008 and was elected as the 17th Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan on Wednesday March 19, 2008. He has the honour of being the youngest Deputy Speaker from amongst so far elected Deputy Speakers.

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Ali Haider Gillani MPA addresses a Universal Peace Federation Pakistan and UK Zoom conference entitled 'Leadership During Covid 19 Crisis in Pakistan and the UK: Recognising the Significance of Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values'

Ali Haider Gillani MPA is the son of former Prime Minister of Pakistan Yousuf Raza Gillani. He is member of Provincial Assembly of Punjab since August 2018. On 9 May 2013, he was kidnapped in his home district of Multan after unidentified gunmen attacked a gathering of the PPP. After three years, Ali, on 10 May 2016 was recovered in a joint operation by Afghan and US forces in Ghazni, Afghanistan.

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Rubab Mehdi Rizvi: Barrister, Human Rights and Interfaith Leader addresses a Universal Peace Federation Pakistan and UK Zoom conference entitled 'Leadership During Covid 19 Crisis in Pakistan and the UK: Recognising the Significance of Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values.'

A human rights barrister and interfaith activist, Rubab organised her first multifaith conference in Pakistan aged just 13, an event sponsored by the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto. Rubab also chairs the International Imam Hussain Council, a Pakistan-based charity promoting interfaith understanding, and is a fervent advocate for the rights of religious minorities. A former European spokesperson for the Pakistan Ministry of Human Rights, Rubab also runs an annual awards event in the House of Lords recognising the achievements of women of faith. Always courageous in speaking out on sensitive issues, Rubab has played a critical role in securing a place for women in settings dominated by men. She was awarded as one of 21 faith leaders for the 21st century in the UK by faith based media.

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Umberto Angelucci, Chair of Universal Peace Federation for the Middle East and North Africa, addresses a Universal Peace Federation Pakistan and UK Zoom conference entitled 'Leadership During Covid 19 Crisis in Pakistan and the UK: Recognising the Significance of Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values'

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Dr Mike Balcomb is the Chair of Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in Europe and the Middle East. He is commenting on the UPF Pakistan and UK Zoom Conference entitled 'Leadership During Covid 19 Crisis in Pakistan and the UK: Recognising the Significance of Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values'. He is also looking forward to the development of this partnership.

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Said MIAN JALIL AHMED SHARAQPURI ( MPA ) PUNJAB PAKISTAN

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