

# THE INTEGRATION DEBATE

Celebrating the Six Decades of Pakistani Diaspora in the UK  
25 June, 2013

includes: In Search of Greener Pastures;  
Past, Present and the Future of British Pakistani Diaspora in the UK





WCOOP

WORLD CONGRESS OF OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS

Celebrating the Six Decade of  
Pakistani Diaspora in the UK

# Contents

<b>1. Felicitation Messages</b>	
a. Message from the British Prime Minister .....	Page 1
b. Message from the Prime Minister of Pakistan .....	Page 2
c. Message from the Chairman Conservative Party .....	Page 3
d. Message from the Chairman Conservative Friends of Pakistan .....	Page 3
<b>2. Brief Profiles of the Speakers</b> .....	Page 4
<b>3. Brief Profiles of the WCOP Board of Governors</b> .....	Page 11
<b>4. A Brief Introduction to World Congress of Overseas Pakistanis</b> .....	Page 17
<b>5. In Search of Greener Pastures: Six Decades of British Pakistanis</b> .....	Page 21
<b>in the UK - A Working Paper</b>	
a. By: Arif Anis Malik & Muhammad Rizwan .....	Page 22
<b>6. Up Coming Programmes</b> .....	Page 39

## DAVID CAMERON

PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY



**Conservatives**

**Rt Hon David Cameron MP**  
Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party



### **Celebrating Integration – British Pakistani Diaspora in UK**

I am delighted to send my best wishes to all those attending today's meeting, organised by World Congress of Overseas Pakistanis and Conservatives Friends of Pakistan, on Celebrating Integration – British Pakistani Diaspora in the UK. I add my support to your objectives in promoting a better understanding of the British Pakistani community.

The relationship between the UK and Pakistan, as I have often said, is longstanding and strong. We share much history and many future plans. Over one million British Pakistanis make a huge contribution to our society – in politics, in medicine, in business, in retail, in education and in so many other fields – and we all have a role to play in strengthening and deepening the relationship between our countries, now and in the future.

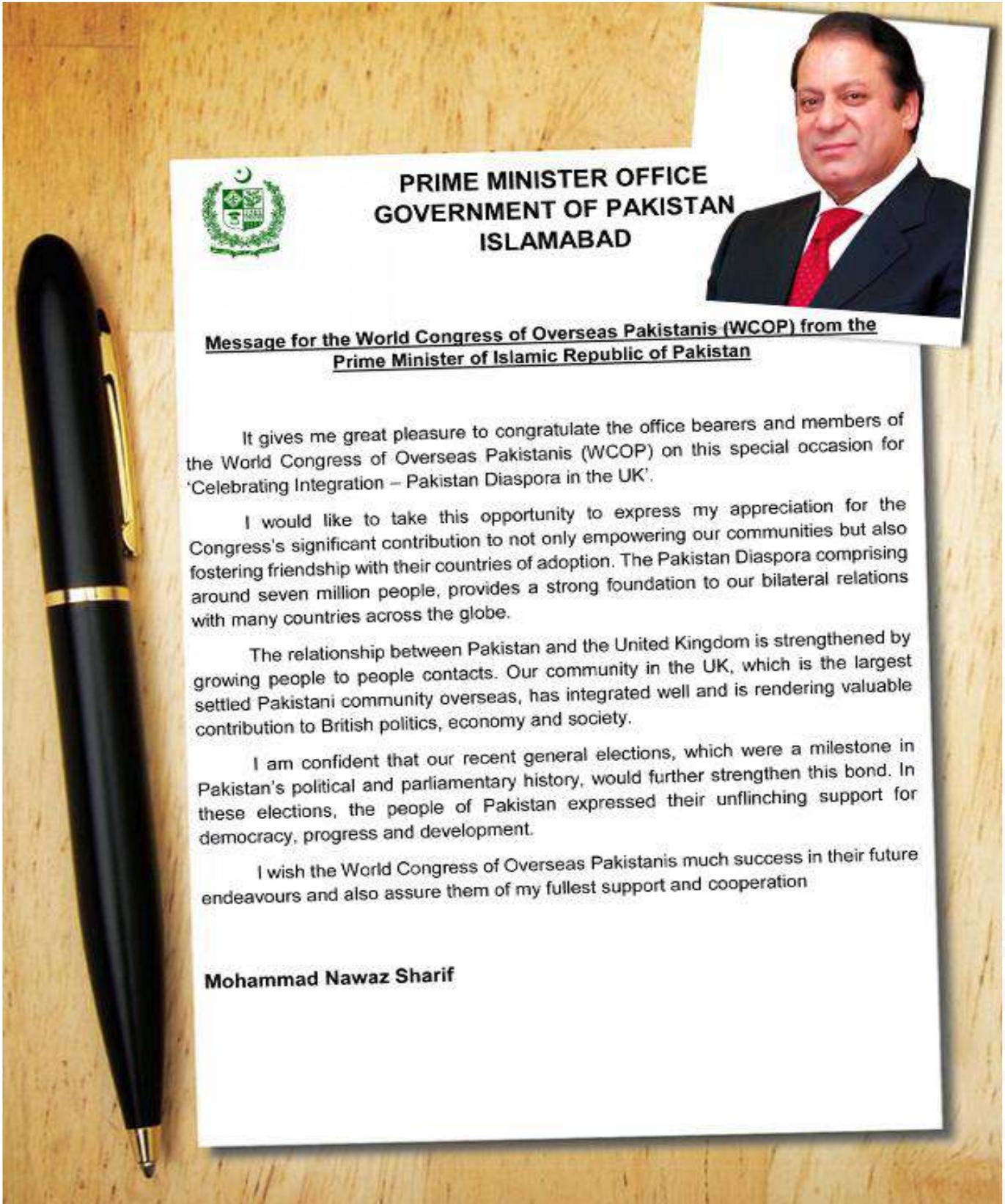
The values British Pakistanis hold dear are those of the Conservative Party values of hard work, enterprise, community, and supporting the family. The Conservative Party should be a natural political home for all those who strive to make a better life for themselves and their families, and who work hard and want to get on. That is why I had such pleasure in launching the Conservative Friends of Pakistan last year.

Britain is committed to a relationship with Pakistan that is deep, long-term and strategic. When I visited Pakistan for the first time as Prime Minister, I pledged to support a new era in our relationship. I hope you all have a successful meeting today as we all work to strengthen that relationship and celebrate that contribution made by British Pakistanis in the United Kingdom.

*David Cameron*

## MOHAMMAD NAWAZ SHARIF

PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN





**LORD FELDMAN OF ELSTREE**  
CHAIRMAN OF THE  
CONSERVATIVE PARTY

"I'm delighted that the World Congress of Overseas Pakistanis has chosen to celebrate the enormous contribution made by the British Pakistani community in the UK. The relationship between Pakistan and the UK is one of common history and common interests"

In Britain the British Pakistani community shares many of the values and ideals that we Conservatives stand for. We are on the side of people who work hard, make a success of their life and take their responsibilities to their family and their community very seriously. These, in my view, are the cornerstones on which the British Pakistani community is based. It is important for us Conservatives to look at what we and the British Pakistani Community can do together and that is why we have formed Conservative Friends of Pakistan to engage with the community and take our common values forward. The successful integration by the British Pakistani community over so many decades is something that should be celebrated and I wish the World Congress of Overseas Pakistanis well in promoting the success of their communities worldwide.



**MICHAEL WADE**  
CHAIRMAN: CONSERVATIVE  
FRIENDS OF PAKISTAN

Celebrating the integration of the broad diaspora of immigrant communities within the UK is a matter close to my heart; originating from a Parsi Zoroastrian family I have some sense of the challenges of immigration and integration.

This is therefore a most personal message to those attending the WCOP event where your origins may be from modern day Pakistan but where, as British Citizens, I think there is such importance actively to integrate into British society without in any way denying one's roots, history or affections. There are many examples of British Citizens of Pakistani origin where they are dynamic, educated, prosperous and contributing to our society – and this is what we are here to celebrate this evening and build ever further on these achievements for the generations ahead.

## EVENT SPEAKERS



**RT. HON. THERESA MAY, MP**  
THE HOME SECRETARY

Theresa had a varied education spanning both the state and private sectors, and both grammar school and comprehensive school. She read Geography at St Hugh's College, Oxford University. She started her career at the Bank of England and went on to hold posts at the Association for Payment Clearing Services (APACS) as Head of the European Affairs Unit and Senior Adviser on International Affairs.

Theresa was elected Member of Parliament for Maidenhead in May 1997. She lives in the constituency and is an active local campaigner. Her local activity has included campaigns to improve the local train service, bring a minor injuries unit to St Marks Hospital, and improve Maidenhead town centre. She has held several positions within Parliament since 1997. She was a member of the Shadow Cabinet from 1999 to 2010, including as Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment, Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, and Shadow Leader of the House of Commons. From 2002 to 2003 she was the first female Chairman of the Conservative Party.

Theresa was appointed Home Secretary in May 2010. In this role she is leading the Government's work to free up the police to fight crime more effectively, secure the borders and reduce immigration, and protect the UK from terrorism. She was also Minister for Women & Equalities from 2010 to 2012.



**THE RT. HON. BARONESS  
WARSI, PC**

SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE  
FOR FOREIGN AND  
COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Born in Dewsbury in 1971, Warsi has been politically involved since her early college days. Warsi was educated at Birkdale High School and Dewsbury College, and then the University of Leeds where she read Law (LLB). She attended the York College of Law to complete her Legal Practice Course and trained with both the Crown Prosecution Service and the Home Office Immigration Department.

In 2004, Michael Howard appointed Warsi as an adviser and Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party. She was appointed a Conservative Peer by David Cameron in 2007 and served as Shadow Minister for Community Cohesion and Social Action. After the 2010 General Election, Warsi became the first Muslim to serve as a full member of the British Cabinet. Sayeeda has volunteered all her life, in mentoring, community groups, and as a trustee of the Savayra Foundation, a woman's empowerment charity. Beginning with the Waves Network Social Action Project in 2005, she has worked with other Conservatives to place social action at the heart of the Party and has led a number of Conservative Social Action projects, including Project Maja in Bosnia.

Warsi believes in aspiration and opportunity, inspired by her father, who arrived in the United Kingdom with almost nothing and founded a local manufacturing firm which still runs as a family business today.



**MR. WAJID SHAMS-UL-  
HASSAN**

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF  
PAKISTAN

Wajid Shamsul Hasan is Pakistan's envoy to the Court of St. James for five years. A journalist by profession Wajid Shamsul Hasan had earlier served as Pakistan's High Commissioner to the UK from June 8 1994 to November 21 1996.

Wajid Shamsul Hasan has a post graduate degree in International Relations. Earlier, in 1968, he did an extensive course for senior journalists in the United Kingdom after he was awarded the prestigious Commonwealth Press Union Scholarship. While he received his practical training in journalism at the Bristol Evening Post and London's Evening Standards, he completed short academic courses at Oxford (Queen Elizabeth Hall) and Thomson Media Foundation at Cardiff. He was part of the Presidential entourage at the crucial Simla Peace Summit with India in 1972.

In early 1989 he left Daily News to become Chairman of the National Press Trust, largest conglomerate of more than 14 newspapers, magazines in Pakistan - both in English and Urdu languages, published from the four provinces including Islamabad. He also served former Prime Minister of Pakistan late Ms Benazir Bhutto as Advisor.

Hasan is a prolific writer and a sought after commentator on South Asia and world affairs including Middle East and make regular appearances on international media networks sharing his views on the developing issues related to South Asia and Middle East.

In the context of Pakistan's domestic politics, Hasan is respected for his secular and liberal views and commitment to the cause of democracy and empowerment of the people especially women and minorities.



**ZAMIR CHAUDHRY**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE,  
BESTWAY GROUP

Zameer graduated from the University of Kent at Canterbury and is a Chartered Accountant by profession. He joined Bestway as Financial Controller in 1984 and was promoted to the Board as Finance Director in 1990. In 1995 he initiated the Group's international business diversification strategy and was appointed Chief Executive of Bestway Cement. In October 2002 Zameer successfully led Bestway's acquisition of United Bank Limited. He now serves as a Director of UBL and Chairman of the Board Audit Committee. Zameer is also a member of the Human Resource & Compensation Committee. In recognition of his efforts Zameer was promoted to Group Chief Executive in July 2004. In January 2005 he successfully spearheaded the £ 100 million acquisition of Batleys Limited. He is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England & Wales and a member of the Institute of Directors. Zameer has also been a member of the Economic Affairs Committee of the Confederation of British Industry from 2004 to 2008. Zameer is a Trustee of Bestway Foundation UK and Chairman of Bestway Foundation Pakistan.





**JAMES CAAN**  
FOUNDER AND CEO OF  
HAMILTON BRADSHAW

James Caan is one of the UK's most successful and dynamic entrepreneurs. He made his fortune in the recruitment industry, which included the global success of his companies, Alexander Mann Group and Humana International, and he has been building and selling businesses ever since. In 2004 he founded private equity firm Hamilton Bradshaw based in London's Mayfair. The company specialises in buyouts, venture capital, real estate and now manages a portfolio of over 30 companies.

James is best known for joining the panel of the hit TV show on BBC, Dragons' Den, where he invested in 14 companies and committed over £1m of investment, over 4 series.

In 2011 James launched a property venture, HB Real Estate, to target investments in prime London residential and commercial real estate assets. James has received various prestigious awards including 'BT Enterprise of the Year', PricewaterhouseCoopers 'Entrepreneur of the Year' and Entrepreneur of the Year in the Asian Jewel Awards.

James supports a variety of government initiatives including The Entrepreneur's Forum; James was selected to join a panel of high profile business people who meet regularly to debate their views on enterprise policy.



**DR. JOEL F. ROGERS**

ACADEMIC DIRECTOR YOUGOV

Joel is the Academic Director at YouGov and an Associate Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute, where his research is focused on public opinion and international relations. He was previously a Fellow on the Donner Atlantic Studies Programme at Cambridge University, where his research focused on military intervention in the Balkans, US foreign policy in Afghanistan and Iraq after 9/11, US-China relations and the rise of state capitalism. Joel has also worked in Washington as a ghost-writer, authoring and co-authoring several best-selling books on international relations...**World Congress of Overseas Pakistanis is grateful to the ground-breaking research carried out on British Pakistanis courtesy to YouGov**



## PROFILES OF THE MEMBERS BOARD OF GOVERNORS



**SYED QAMAR RAZA**  
MEMBER BOARD OF  
GOVERNORS WCOP

Syed Qamar Raza is a high profile British Pakistani strategist, social entrepreneur, business and community leader. He is Co-Chairman World Congress of Overseas Pakistanis (WCOP), Member Board of Governors of the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF), Chairman Services & Welfare Committee Overseas Pakistanis Foundation and a director and former General Secretary & President of UK Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (UKPCCI). He has been instrumental in interfaith, inter and intra community dialogue in the UK. Raza champions the cause of Pakistani Diaspora at different statutory forums in Pakistan, UK and the rest of the world. Last year, Baroness Warsi, Senior Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister for Faith and Communities dubbed him as the 'central figure' in initiating Conservative Friends of Pakistan (CFoP) which brought the British and Pakistani Prime Ministers together in the inaugural meeting in London on 11 May, 2012. He was awarded the Pride of Performance Award for excellence in business and community services by the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 12 February, 2013. Raza is highly revered in community, business, diplomatic and strategic circles for his deep insight and influence in Pakistani Diaspora across the world.



**MUHAMMAD NAHEED  
RANDHAWA**  
MEMBER BOARD OF  
GOVERNORS WCOP

Muhammad Naheed Randhawa With Honours and Master degree in Commerce, Muhammad Naheed Randhawa ventured into entrepreneurship at a tender age where he managed to make his presence felt in a short period of time. Randhawa stood out among his peers due to his leadership traits, insight and business acumen. Due to his proactive and supportive nature, Randhawa became a natural choice as a business leader when he rose from the ranks of directors to be selected as General Secretary of UK Pakistan

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UKPCCI), the premiere body of Pakistani entrepreneurs and businessmen in the United Kingdom. He was later selected as President of UKPCCI and managed to make significant breakthroughs in the outreach, influence and capacity building of the organisation. During his tenure as a president, the UKPCCI endeavoured to successfully host a massive reception for the Prime Minister of Pakistan that became a landmark achievement.

Randhawa strongly believes in making difference through empowering the community so he is heavily involved in supporting charities and positive initiatives. In the United Kingdom, he is an active member of the community services and supports charities and volunteering. He is one of the founder Directors of the World Congress of Overseas Pakistanis (WCOP) and currently heading the UK Chapter as its president.



**MAJED ISMAIL CH.**  
MEMBER BOARD OF  
GOVERNORS WCOP

Majed Ismail Chaudhry's journey to success has the similar milestones like other high achievers in the industry. His rise as an entrepreneur started in 1990s and then he never looked back. He excelled in setting up retail network in convenience stores and kept multiplying the numbers. Over a period of time, Chaudhry not only succeeded building Thothaal Ltd as a success in the UK but it branched out in Pakistan and later in Morocco as well. Chaudhry's vision of success stems from a strong belief system and he trusts in giving his best to the task. Chaudhry terms the community and friendship support he experienced as extraordinary. He supports lots of charities and is quite passionate about literacy, knowledge and vision. He is Director at UK Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (UKPCCI) and one of the founding directors of World Congress of Overseas Pakistanis (WCOP)



**NAJIB KHAN**  
MEMBER BOARD OF  
GOVERNORS WCOP

With a portfolio of convenience stores, property investments and opportunities in the global food market, Najib Khan has proven that opportunities can be carved out of competitive markets. Najib's family originates from Kashmir and like many British Pakistanis, came to explore the UK as a land of opportunity. He had the support and moral backing of his family, but built himself up from sheer hard work and determination. He had little financial collateral to invest into his ventures, but was always encouraged to try his hand at expanding his business. Khan joined the Costcutter brand in 1987 and once he had made his mark, in 1991 he transferred his sole trader status to a Limited Company under the Sunstar Group. In the initial days of business, Khan gambled everything he mustered to make his way to the top and finally succeeded due to his perseverance and smart reading of the wholesale market. He is director of UK Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (UKPCCI) and one of the founding directors of World Congress of Overseas Pakistanis.



**TARIQ RAMZAN  
CHAUDHARY**  
MEMBER BOARD OF  
GOVERNORS WCOP

Tariq Ramzan Choudhary arrived in the UK in 1968 when he initiated his career from a humble beginning as a 'machine operator'. After ten years of consistent efforts, he managed to rise up to the position of a National Operations Manager at Midas Silencers Ltd with 65 outlets across the UK. However it took him another decade to set off as an entrepreneur by buying the first franchise of Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC). Choudhary managed to strike gold as an entrepreneur that resulted into scores of businesses, franchises and even business on the other side of Atlantic when he managed to set up one of the most sought after restaurant 'Four Seasons' in the USA. Sensing the extensive demand of Halal food, Choudhary was a key player in setting up the Halal Food Authority- a regulatory body for Halal Meat consumers which developed a tagging system to clean up the supply chain and ensure adherence to a code of practice

and industry wide introduction of Halal "Standards". Choudhary is member of several national and international organisations relevant to business and enterprise. He was elected President of UK Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (UKPCCI) in 2005. He is a founding Member Board of Governors of the World Congress of Overseas Pakistanis.



**MAHBOOB HUSSAIN  
CHAUDHRY**

MEMBER BOARD OF  
GOVERNORS WCOP

Mahboob Hussain Chaudhry was born in Pakistan and later moved to the United Kingdom to become a pioneer in the paper conversion industry as the Managing Director of A R Paper Converters Ltd. He made his name in the industry through successful business trading for over 33 years. Apart from his intense activity in entrepreneurship, he managed to remain involved with the democratic political process in Pakistan. Due to his accessibility, empathic understanding and leadership traits, he was elected as a councillor for seven years for London Borough of Redbridge. Chaudhry also served as Public Relation Officer for Pakistan Welfare Association of Barking & Redbridge and played his role in building bridges of understanding between British Pakistanis and the local community. Chaudhry is lauded for his services in promoting the democratic process in Pakistan. He is equally respected by British political parties for playing a vital role in promoting community cohesion, entrepreneurship and integration in the UK.



**ABDUL GHAFOOR  
CHAUDHARY**

MEMBER BOARD OF  
GOVERNORS WCOP

Abdul Ghafoor Choudhry, commonly known as AG Choudhry was born in the early days of Pakistan in Karachi. He was in mid-twenties when he arrived in the UK. Like score of other self-made success stories, his major breakthrough came from the entrepreneurship. He is one of the few British Pakistani entrepreneurs who managed to set up a brand and grew out of the UK. He founded 'Mr. Cod', a fast food chain that gained global popularity with its branches in the UK, Pakistan, Belgium and the USA. AG Choudhary was awarded the 'Business Man of the Year' by the Star Publication in 2010 and 'the Best Value Food Award in 2011. He is a proactive member of Pakistani community in Reading. He is also Co-Director of UK Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (UKPCCI). He is member Board of Governors of the World Congress of Overseas Pakistanis (WCOP).



**CH. AFZAL MAHMOOD**

MEMBER BOARD OF  
GOVERNORS WCOP

Chaudhary Afzal Mahmood is the second generation of an enterprising British Pakistani family. At a tender age, he took a liking to the being the captain of his own ship and joined hands with his father who had started a small business in the drycleaning industry. Chaudhary brought innovation, quality and novelty to the existing business and it triggered a snowball growth. Chaudhary focussed on the top end of the market and competed in the cutting edge drycleaning industry of the five star hotels in London. With a number of outlets in City & West End, his commitment to excellence saw his company London Drycleaners becoming one of the favourites with the top names of the hospitality industry, i.e. The Millennium, Westbury, Gherkins, Hilton, Four Season, Tower42 etc. Chaudhary supports several charities and is a chronic donor to promote the 'virtuous circle'. He is member Board of Governors of the World Congress of Overseas Pakistanis (WCOP).



**ARSHAD MAHMOOD**  
MEMBER BOARD OF  
GOVERNORS WCOP

Arshad Mahmood was born in an entrepreneurial family in Pakistan. He moved to Hong Kong in 1984 and carved out an identity in luxury and exclusive suiting by buying an existing business which was totally revolutionised by him in the process. He moved to the UK after the dawn of the current millennium and acquired a century old bespoke suiting business of Apsley Tailors. In a short span of time, Mahmood made great advances in the most competitive suiting market of the world. Today, his clients include some of the most respected names from royalty, showbiz, football and business. HE the Duke of Kent, Roy Hudson England Football Manager, David Gold, Mohamed Al-Fayed, former Prime Minister Gilani, Bollywood actor Irfan Khan are some of his satisfied clients. Recently, he launched he most expensive suit in the world of worth \$1,000,000 in Hong Kong which was sold on the same day. Mahmood is member Board of Governors of the World Congress of Overseas Pakistanis.



**ZAHID AMANAT KHAN**  
MEMBER BOARD OF  
GOVERNORS WCOP

Zahid Amanat Khan is known for his humility, volunteering spirit and business acumen. Khan is a self-made entrepreneur who made a fortune in the food business as a franchiser. Khan strongly believes in returning the favour to the community so he is quite active in different charities, community organisations and schools. Khan is a big fan of Robert Kiyosaki's approach to network and value accumulation. Khan is also director of the UK Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (UKPCCI) and passionately participates in entrepreneurship events.

## WORLD CONGRESS OF OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS (WCOP)

### VISION

To empower the Overseas Pakistanis all over the world to play an effective role in *national construction & national development in Pakistan along with protecting their legal and constitutional rights and facilitating integration and effective participation in the lands of adoption.*

### MISSION

To provide an advocacy platform for Pakistani Diaspora across the globe to protect interests of the community in the country of adoption and Pakistan while building a positive image by managing perceptions and braving realities.

### OBJECTIVES

#### **The Mission will be achieved by:**

Establishing WCOP Secretariat in the UK to replicate its model for further expansion at international level

Liaising with Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, High Commissions/ Embassies and the statutory organisations, i.e. Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF), Overseas Employment Corporation, etc.

Setting up a think-tank dedicated to the issues, problems, challenges, and solutions for Overseas Pakistanis

Designing and directing media programmes to promote Pakistani Diaspora, its culture, values and positive news

Engaging with the Federal and Provincial Governments of Pakistan to protect the property, investment and legal interests of the Overseas Pakistanis.

Supporting the international development and humanitarian agencies and globally recognised institutions to play an effective role for Pakistan

Initiating twinning projects with cities, schools and universities in Pakistan with their counterparts across the world to build bridges of understanding, build their capacity and share the best practices.

### OBJECTIVES – WCOP GLOBAL

Providing an international platform to Pakistani Diaspora led organisations worldwide through the Central Secretariat in London and its six regional other chapters

Recognising the best Diaspora talent and professionalism across the world in science & technology, education, thinking process, art, literature, philanthropy, sports and innovation through annual international awards

Creating 'National Achievers Congress' with 100 most successful businessmen, scholars, investors, politicians and sportsmen of globally recognised icons of Pakistani Origin to create models of inspiration for our next generation of diaspora.

Selecting World Assembly of Overseas Pakistanis (WAOP) to represent the wide spectrum of the Diaspora in diverse professional categories

Setting up Overseas Pakistanis Consortium and organising annual Pakistan Investment Conference to attract investment in the most profitable\ emerging industries in Pakistan

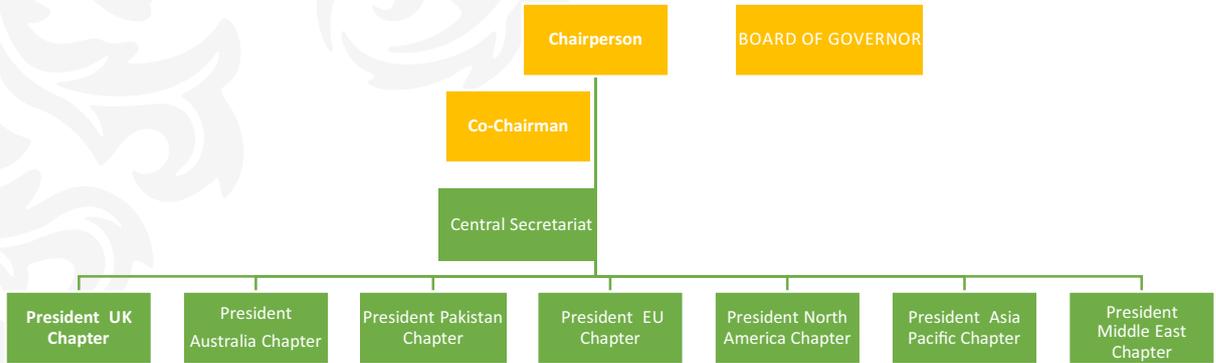
Appointing the high achiever Overseas Pakistanis as Overseas Ambassadors to create spheres of influence

Forming a global assembly of young Pakistanis (Overseas Youth Assembly) to create and empower the next generation of young leaders through Pakistan Future Leaders Initiative

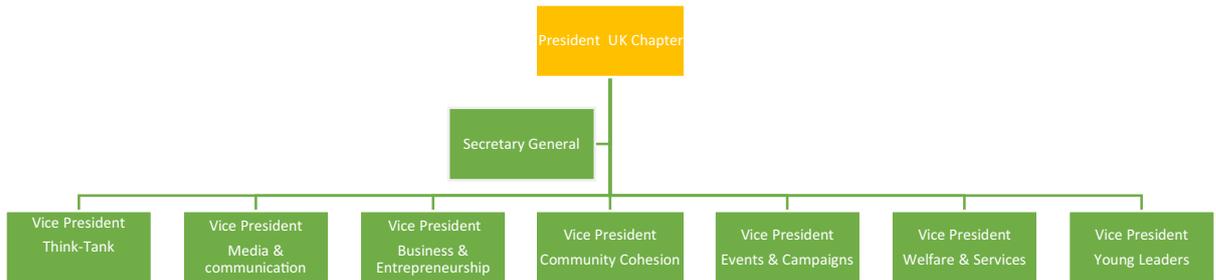
### WCOP FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE



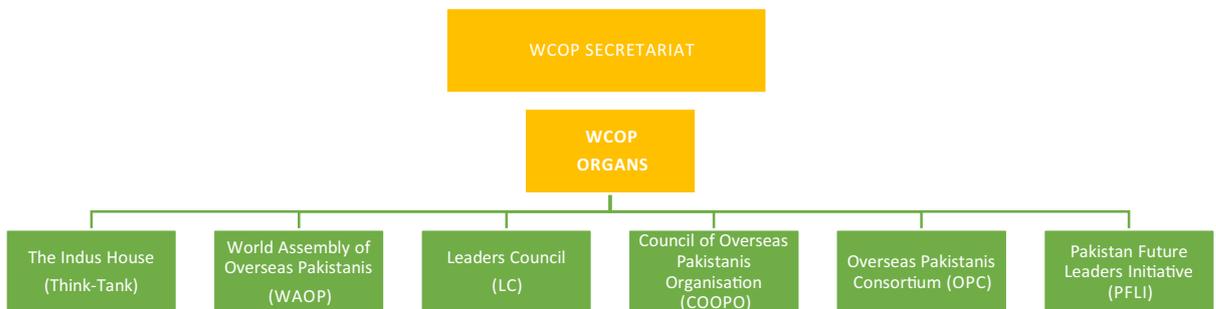
**WCOP – ORGANOGRAM**



**WCOP – UK ORGANOGRAM**



**WCOP FUNCTIONS & ORGANS**



**WCOP STANDS FOR :**



**THE WCOP STAKEHOLDERS :**

- Overseas Pakistanis across the world
- Government of Pakistan
- Non-profit organizations and charities
- Businessmen and investors
- Educationists & Academics
- Overseas Pakistani students
- Intelligentsia and media persons
- High Commissions and Embassies
- Blue collar workers
- Lawyers, Doctors, Engineers
- Chartered Accountants
- Governments of the Diaspora's lands of adoption
- Philanthropists and volunteers
- International development agencies

**IN SEARCH OF GREENER PASTURES**

*PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF PAKISTANI DIASPORA IN THE UK*

BY: ARIF ANIS MALIK & MUHAMMAD RIZWAN

## IN SEARCH OF GREENER PASTURES PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE PAKISTANI DIASPORA

BY: ARIF ANIS MALIK & MUHAMMAD RIZWAN



**Arif Anis Malik**  
Director WCOP  
Secretariat

Arif Anis Malik is a think-tanker, international conference speaker, best-selling author, columnist and qualified executive coach with background in psychotherapy, entrepreneurship, policy analysis and strategy. He developed assorted interests ranging from non-verbal communication, peak performance, leadership, NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming), dialogue and conflict resolution. Arif holds certification from the World Bank Institute Washington DC. He is an expert mentor with the Institute of Enterprise and Entrepreneurs (IOEE), UK. As a certified coach by International Coaching Federation (ICF) Master Practitioner NLP, he trains business leaders in national and multinational corporations worldwide. Arif is member of the Royal Commonwealth Society and a fellow of the RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce).



**Muhammad Rizwan**

Muhammad Rizwan is a research and advocacy specialist with deep interest in immigration studies, multiculturalism, neo-colonialism, and acculturation. As a business graduate from institute of Management Sciences (IMS), Bahauddin Zakariya University, he proceeded to Norway to complete the degree in Supply Chain Management, from Norwegian school of Logistics, University College Molde. Currently as a PhD scholar at the Middlesex University, he has attended and contributed to several international conference including 'Evaluation and implication of South Asian Immigrants Diaspora in the UK: Influence of grandparent country of origin (GCOO), 5th Global Conference' and 'Diasporas: Exploring Critical Issues (July 2012, Mansfield College, Oxford University, United Kingdom)'.

“These days, it feels to me like you make a devil's pact when you walk into this country. You hand over your passport at the check-in, you get stamped, you want to make a little money, get yourself started... but you mean to go back! Who would want to stay? Cold, wet, miserable; terrible food, dreadful newspapers - who would want to stay? In a place where you are never welcomed, only tolerated. Just tolerated. Like you are an animal finally house-trained.”

— **Zadie Smith, White Teeth**

“In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American...There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language... and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people.”

— **Theodore Roosevelt**

“As I would learn later on, developed countries will always welcome the Einstein's of this world -- those individuals whose talents are already recognized and deemed to have value. This welcome doesn't usually extend to the poor and uneducated people seeking to enter the country. But the truth, supported by the facts of history and the richness of immigrant contribution to America's distinction in the world, is that the most entrepreneurial, innovative, motivated citizen is the one who has been given an opportunity and wants to repay the debt.”

— **Alfredo Quinones-Hinojosa**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Pakistan emerged on the map of the world in 1947, so the studies of the life of the British Pakistanis technically can only start from the year of independence. However, Muslim immigrants from the shores of colonial India now known as Pakistan entered the British land as early as the mid-seventeenth century. The UK has the second largest overseas Pakistani population after Saudi Arabia and the largest settled population of Pakistanis in the world. Pakistanis make up a large subgroup of British Asians largely due to historical and colonial links and Pakistan still being part of the Commonwealth of Nations. In the last 20 years British Pakistani population grew by 100%, making it 2<sup>nd</sup> largest ethnic minority in the UK.

The British Pakistani population is very diverse and differs from region to region. West Midland, Yorkshire and London are the largest pockets of British Pakistani population. The Pakistani diaspora in the UK has marked its success in all walks of life, especially politics and entrepreneurship. They are making contributing for their own ethnic group as well as mainstream population. They feel more British than their white counter parts. Besides their constructive participating in the society, they consider themselves an endangered species in the UK and they feel isolated from the mainstream society.

British Pakistanis, especially after 9/11 and 7/7 incidents, remained target of Anti-Pakistan sentiment (also known as Pakistan-phobia or Pakophobia) and they attracted lot of negative attention from the media, which is often perceived as anti-Muslim and anti-Pakistani by the majority of British Pakistanis. The generations of British Pakistanis don't want to be "pigeon holed" or ghettoized, as they feel marginalized by the mainstream society. Second and third generations of British Pakistanis, are more concerned about the situation. Their educational attainment is below the national average. They complain discriminated on the job opportunities, so they prefer to remain self-employed. It is worth noting here that British Pakistanis have the largest percentage of self-employment in any ethnic group that is almost double of the national average.

British Pakistanis are in the news for radicalization, terrorism, poor educational performance, gender issues, sex abuse, honour killing, match fixing and all negative bites. On this account, there is a great need to develop such programmes that encourage dialogue, engagement, and integration beyond the smoke screen of stereotypes on the part of British Pakistanis community and the community at large.

Integration of the British Pakistani diaspora is an important issue that requires attention of both the state and diaspora itself. Even though British Pakistanis have lived in the UK for several decades they have not become part of the broader society. Integration may not be an issue for those who can "*pass as a White*"<sup>1</sup>. Second generation Caucasians immigrants may or may not feel compelled to consider their ethnicity, however for the "visible minority" groups like Pakistanis, the ethnic identity may remain meaningful even for second or third generation<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> DeVos and Banaji, 2005

<sup>2</sup> Phinney, 1996

### 1. PAKISTANI DIASPORA IN THE UK

United Kingdom has a long history of migration of South Asians who come to the UK for primarily employment, education and marriage. This migration started during the colonial times, a large wave of migration started in the period following World War Two. Due to the economic boom and the labour shortages, in the post-war period, many people from the subcontinent migrated to Britain to seek opportunities. After the migration of families and children that greatly changed the presence of the South Asian community in Britain.

According to the 2011 census, the total ethnic minority population of the UK was 6.6 million or approximately 10% of the total population<sup>1</sup>. Within this South Asian groups make up 5.3% of the population, the biggest among all ethnic groups in the UK. Pakistani diaspora in the UK is second largest ethnic minority group after Indian with more than 1.1 million population in England and Wales. Pakistani diaspora in the UK consists of largely those who migrated to the UK and those who were born in a family who has their cultural ties with Pakistan. British Pakistanis are a subgroup in the Asian/Asian British classification of Office of National Statistics<sup>2</sup>. The growth in the British Pakistani

population in the UK since the 1960s can be accounted for by births rather than immigration; by 2012 more than half (58.5% per cent) of Great Britain's Pakistani population had been born in the UK<sup>3</sup>.

In the following sections we describe the immigration trends of Pakistani migrants in the UK, analysis of major pockets of Pakistani Diaspora in the UK, achievements of Pakistani diaspora in the field of politics, entrepreneurship and education, racial tensions and major challenges faced by the Pakistani diaspora and recommendations to integrate Pakistani diaspora with the mainstream society of the UK.

This study report mainly focuses on Pakistani diaspora. At the same it is important to mention that before 1947, Pakistan was part of Indian Subcontinent, while discussing issues related to pre-independence year, so academically speaking, Pakistani diaspora may be referred as part of large Indian or South Asian group. In such cases, India should not be confused with the present state of India.

### 2. PRE-INDEPENDENCE IMMIGRATION:

Slavery was abolished in Britain in 1833; other colonial powers like France, the Netherlands, and Portugal also followed this act. Britain

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<sup>1</sup> ONS, 2012

<sup>2</sup> Yoong *et al.* 2011

<sup>3</sup> ONS, 2012, Estimated overseas-born population resident in the United Kingdom, by country of birth

needed more manpower in her colonies and to meet this demand, the British established the system of “Indentured labour Migration” from the Indian Subcontinent.<sup>4</sup>

In the beginning, Indian labor was exported to Mauritius in 1834. This small-scale migration became a mass movement in a decade. Now Indian subcontinent was providing cheap labour to British and other European colonies. To exploit opportunities and to gain better living, poor but motivated people of Indian subcontinent became labourers and started working in the Britain and her colonies.

The Johnson–Reed Act of 1924 in the USA put restriction on immigration in the USA<sup>5</sup>; this act was primarily to restrict migration of Jews of Eastern Europe, who wanted to escape persecution in Europe<sup>6</sup>. This act served as collateral damage for the other migrating groups in the USA, and they started to search for opportunities in the countries other than the USA. Europe in general and Britain in particular was a new destination of sojourners and immigrants from the Indian Subcontinent. There were more people for Indian Subcontinent, who were coming to Britain as sailors,

factory workers, and unskilled labourers<sup>7</sup>.

It is important to clear a misconception that, it was not only the labourers who were coming to Britain, a number of people from Indian subcontinent were coming for education and at the same time nobility in exile from Indian princely states was also living in the UK. Contribution of Second World War Heroine, Noor Inayat Khan GC<sup>8</sup> is worth mentioning here. Sophia Duleep Singh the profound Suffragette in Britain was daughter of Maharaja of Punjab, Dulip Singh who exiled in Britain after the fall of Sikh Empire in Punjab.<sup>9</sup>

A number of people from Indian subcontinent were migrating to Britain for business purposes, particularly restaurants and curry houses. Curry had already become part of menu of mainstream coffee houses in Britain. Hindustan Coffee House, on George Street, Portman Square was first ever dedicated Indian restaurant owned by an Indian Sake Din Mohammad, who also served as “shampooing Surgeon to both King George IV and William IV<sup>10</sup>.”

Indians from Subcontinent continue to migrate to Britain, by 1804 the number of Indians in London was

<sup>4</sup> Allen, 2003

<sup>5</sup> Koven and Frank, 2010

<sup>6</sup> Holmes, 1995

<sup>7</sup> British Library, Indians Overseas

<sup>8</sup> Basu, 2006

<sup>9</sup> Singh and Darsham, 2006

<sup>10</sup> Svoboda and Robert, 1992

quoted as 471 and yet by 1810 it had risen to over 1400, many of them were living in very poor conditions. Meanwhile students from affluent families of India were also coming to study Law and Sciences. These people made valuable contributions in their fields both in Britain and back home. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan is one of those notable students who created history in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The inter-war period saw a growth, though numerically still insignificant, of both working-class and professional Asian migration to Britain. By then Asian organisations and institutions, places of worship, 'ethnic' shops and restaurants had also been established.

By the end of the Second World War several thousand Asians had been living in Britain for generations, and an 'Asian Community' was already in existence. There were Asian professionals, industrial workers and labourers, students and activists, petty traders, merchants and businessmen, artists and writers. Asians then (as now) were not a homogenous community. There were different religious, ethnic and linguistic communities from south Asia and the diaspora in Africa and the Caribbean. Others were born here, some having families across the racial divide. The official India Office records document some aspects of

their lives and struggles as imperial British citizens living at the heart of the imperial metropolis.

14<sup>th</sup> of August, 1947, British India was divided into Pakistan and India. In 1971, West and East Pakistan became Pakistan and Bangladesh respectively. Migration from Pakistan to the UK continued and according to census 2011, there are more than 1.1 Million people British Pakistanis live in the UK. The next section discusses the post-independence migration from Pakistan to UK.

### 3. POST-INDEPENDENCE IMMIGRATION:

Pakistan became an independent country in 1947. In contemporary Pakistan, as in the colonial period, migration of Pakistanis continued even after the independence. The post-independence migration can be divided into two phases. First wave of migration is between 1950-60 and second major wave is more contemporary. During early times large number of families from Mirpur (AJ&K) migrated after completion of Mangla Dam during 60s. Second wave, that is more recent, is under highly skilled migrant program. During 1970s, large number of Pakistani descent people immigrated to the UK as a result of exclusion from East African countries, particularly from Uganda and Kenya.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Husainy, 2011

UK faced severe shortage of labourers after the Second World War. It was easy for the Pakistanis to come and work in the UK as Pakistan was a member of Commonwealth. Large number of Pakistanis were invited by the UK based employers to work in the factories, particularly in the textile industries of Lancashire and Yorkshire, manufacturing in the West Midlands, and car production and food processing industries of Luton and Slough. According to an estimate, Pakistani immigrant population in the UK grew 150% from 1951 to 1961. During the construction of Mangla Dam in Mirpur (AJ&K), large numbers of villagers were displaced from their homes<sup>12</sup>. Around 5000 people were given jobs by the contractors working on Mangla Dam. Those 5000 people and their families migrated to the UK after 1961. The size of Pakistani diaspora in the UK showed ever largest growth during 1961 to 1971<sup>13</sup>. The Pakistani immigrants' population was around 25,000 in 1961, and in 1971 the population estimate was 119,000.

In the more recent times, large number of migration was a result of Highly Skilled Migrant Programme, which started in the January 2002. Under this scheme people with certain education and skill level can enter in the UK with any specific job offer. Immigrants under this

programme can live and find work in the UK. Large number of Pakistani youth, especially doctors, pharmacists, engineers, accountants and business professionals migrated to the UK under this programme. According to the census 2001, there were 747,000 British Pakistanis in the UK, in census 2011, British Pakistanis population crossed the million mark and now 1,125,000 British Pakistanis are living in the UK<sup>14</sup>. The current population (2013) is believed to be above 1.3 million.

#### 4. TRENDS AMONG THE MIGRANT DIASPORA:

There has been constantly growing migration trend of Pakistanis to the UK. The figure 1, shows that in 1991, there were less than 600,000 British Pakistanis in the UK and in 20 years, this population grew by approximately 100%.



**FIGURE 1 : POPULATION TREND OF PAKISTANI DIASPORA IN THE UK FROM 1951 TO 2011 (ESTIMATED FROM 1950, ACTUAL FROM 2001)**

<sup>12</sup> Shaw, 2000

<sup>13</sup> Werbner, 2002

<sup>14</sup> ONS, 2012

**5. MAJOR POCKETS OF PAKISTANI DIASPORA IN THE UK,**

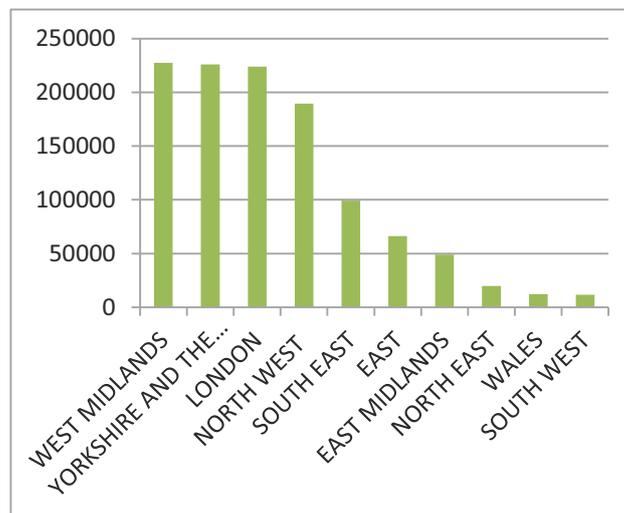
Pakistani diaspora in the UK is distributed in the most of the parts of UK. It is prevalent particularly in West Midlands, Yorkshire, London and the North West. In these 3 regions population of the British Pakistanis is more than 200,000 each. Table 0-1 presents the population of British Pakistanis in the different regions of the UK, and the data is shown graphically in the figure 2.

Region	Popul ation	Region	Populati on
West Midlands	227248	East	66270
Yorkshire & Humber	225892	East Midlands	48940
London	223797	North East	19831
North West	189436	Wales	12229
South East	99246	South West	11622

**Table5-1: Population of British Pakistanis in the different regions of the UK (Source ONS: 2012)**

**6. ACHIEVEMENTS OF DIASPORA IN POLITICS:**

The Pakistani diaspora in the UK is actively involved in local and national politics. Generally speaking, Pakistanis are considered 'political animals' due to their intense interest in politics. Before 1970s, participation in the public and political sphere was largely a result of their concerns about racism and discrimination faced by ethnic minority groups especially Pakistanis in the UK. Political affiliation also developed along UK mainstream party political lines, with the majority of the Pakistani community traditionally viewing the Labour Party as a natural home. This has changed over time and affiliation now cuts across all three major parties as well as new ones such as the Respect Party led by George Galloway. Whilst engagement has



**FIGURE 2: POPULATION OF BRITISH PAKISTANIS IN THE DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE UK (SOURCE ONS: 2012)**

predominantly involved men, recent years have seen a rise in the number of Pakistani women occupying positions in the public and political realms in the UK. They are not only representing Pakistani community on various political forums, at the same time they are representing mainstream British population on different national and international forums. The combined list of high achievers in politics includes Mohammad Sarwar, Lord Nazir Ahmed, Lord Tariq Ahmad, Lord Qurban Hussain, Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, Sajjad Haider Karim, Atta-ur-Rehman Chishti, Shahid Rafique Malik, Anas Sarwar, Sadiq Aman Khan, Khalid Mahmood, Yasmin Qureshi and Shabana Mahmood, who served as a representative in the British Parliament. In addition to these people, there is a very long list of politician who served as representatives in the local government, as city mayors, and councilors.

Baroness Warsi remained Co-chairperson of the Conservative Party from May 2010 to September 2012. At present she is Senior Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Minister for Faith and Communities. Shahid Malik on the other hand became the first elected non-Caucasian member of the National Executive Committee

of the Labour Party- a position which he held until he became MP in 2000.

Sajjad Haider Karim, Conservative Politician, has enjoyed a steady political career over the years. He became member of Member of European Parliament in 2004. He is the first Muslim from the United Kingdom to sit in European Parliament. His services as MEP are widely acclaimed; presently he is serving as Committee on Legal Affairs, delegation for relations with the *Mashreq* countries in the European Parliament<sup>15</sup>.

Another famous political figure from Pakistani origin is Lord Nazir Ahmed who has been attracting lot of negative and positive press. He became Labour Peer, British House of Lords in 1998. This made him the first Muslim to become a part of the House of Lords. In 2011, Lord Tariq Ahmad and Lord Qurban Hussain were also made members of British House of Lords. Lord Tariq Ahmad is Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party (Cities). Lord Qurban Hussain is the deputy leader of Liberal-Democrat group.

Large number of Pakistani diaspora is participating in the local politics, Muhammad Afzal Khan, remained Lord Mayor of Manchester during 2005-06. Presently Naeem ul Hassan J.P. is the Lord Mayor of Manchester.

<sup>15</sup> European Parliament / MEPs

#### 7. ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CIVIC RELATIONS:

Pakistani diaspora in the UK actively participates in business and entrepreneurial activities. There are many success stories of people of Pakistani origin who made valuable contribution in the British society. From Sake Din Mohamed to recent day stories of Sir Anwar Parvez and James Caan, large number of Pakistani origin high achievers and pathbreakers created an impact.

Sir Anwar Pervez OBE, is the Founder Chairman of Bestway Group with an annual turnover of more than GBP 3 billion. As of 2010 Bestway Cash & Carry is the largest independent wholesale group in the UK<sup>16</sup>. Mr. James Caan is investor of BBC programme "Dragons' Den". This programme run from 84 episodes from 2007 to 2010. James received fame as a recruiter. He founded the recruitment company Alexander Mann Group in 1985. He wrote bestselling books on getting jobs. He is Chairman of the Start-Up Loans initiative, a high-profile £120 million Government scheme to give startup loans to 18-30 years old people in the UK, who face difficulties to start a new business venture because of unavailability of finance. Because of his passion to support small businesses, he launched a free app, *James Caan Business Secrets* to help other entrepreneurs on their journey to success. The app was one of the

the fastest downloaded business app of 2011 and is regularly ranked in the Top 100 business apps ever in Apps Magazine.

Mohammed Ishaq "Mo" Chaudry is a property investor, former financial advisor, motivational speaker and fitness enthusiast. He is ranked as one of the UK's top 100 Asian business people. His notable ventures are Waterworld Aqua Park, in Stoke-on-Ternt, M Club Spa and Fitness and MIC Properties. Another Pakistani origin entrepreneur is Afzal Kahn, who made his mark by introducing Kahn Design Limited, which is an engineering company that specialises in producing bespoke vehicles.

Mohammad Adil, another Pakistani origin British, Chairman of Adil Group, owns more than 80 branches of different franchise chains including Burger King, Wimpy, KFC, and Costa brands. His group is employing around 2000 people throughout the UK. He started his career as a bus driver and became millionaire before the age of 40.

British Pakistani entrepreneurs have made their name not only in business affairs, they also contributed towards society by involving in charitable work through the organization of repute. In 1987 the Bestway Group established the Bestway Foundation. Every year the Group contributes

<sup>16</sup> The Telegraph, 08 May 2007

approximately 2.5% of its profit to the Foundation, which helps support charities and contributes to help the local community. In the last decade Bestway Foundation has invested in 35 inner city schools in as part of the Specialist Schools & Academies Programme.

James Caan Foundation was founded in 2006. The Foundation promotes entrepreneurship and education as a way out of hardship and poverty both in the UK and abroad<sup>17</sup>. JCF works in the partnership with Citizens Foundation, Care Pakistan, Cancer Research UK, Children In Need, Sport Relief, Comic Relief, NSPCC and E – ACT.

These prominent British Pakistanis are contributing in the society over all and their services are well recognized. In addition to this, there are large numbers of British Pakistanis who are working as entrepreneurs. 22.7% of British Pakistanis are self employed, as compared to 12.1% of national self-employment rate<sup>18</sup>. They are creating opportunities not only for themselves but also for other population groups.

High self-employment rate on the other hand can be seen from a different perspective. Although self-employment is popular among the British Pakistanis, it has not proved a panacea to the labour market

disadvantage of Pakistanis. Discrimination has also had an impact on their labour market outcomes. Ethnic penalty is most severe for Pakistani and Bangladeshi men and women<sup>19</sup>.

#### **8. CHALLENGES TO PAKISTANI DIASPORA IN THE UK:**

Despite of many success stories of British Pakistanis in politics, business and civic affairs, large proportion of Pakistani diaspora in the UK face several challenges for all ages and genders. Pakistani community in the UK is economically marginalized and socially segregated. For the mainstream society, the major issue is, whether the British Pakistanis could integrate the mainstream society. For British Pakistani community, major issues are education of their children, their career, and being part of collectivist paternalistic social group. They seem concerned about finding the appropriate partner for their children. At some point parents appear anxious about the racism in society. For the British born children, identity is an important issue. They are stranded between Muslim Pakistani identity and the British identity.

In the section below, major challenges faced by the Pakistani British community are discussed. The Pakistani population is one of the most economically disadvantaged

<sup>17</sup> The Express, June 16, 2013

<sup>18</sup> LFS Annual Survey, 2003

<sup>19</sup> Department for Work and Pensions, 2006

ethnic groups in the UK, and are more likely to be considered 'poor' under official classifications than their white counterparts. There is a substantial gap between the educational attainments of pupils of Pakistani heritage and the national average.

#### 9. IDENTITY ISSUE AND THE BRITISH PAKISTANIS

Buddha of Suburbia, is story of a Pakistani decent boy, who is born in the UK, Karim, the protagonist of the story narrates, "*My name is Karim Amir, and I am an Englishman born and bred, almost*"<sup>20</sup>. This narration reflects the identity concerns of British Pakistanis in the UK.

The identity is an important issue for the different generations, and this issue varies from one generation to the other. While the elders from the first generation of the British Pakistanis still have strong connection towards their country of origin, their second generation, lies somewhere in a complex situation, where they feel connected to both Britain and Pakistan. The third generation of young people perceive themselves as a part of primarily British society and this forms a strong part of their identity. Pakistan, being the country of birth of their parents or grandparent, due to collectivist, male dominant, paternalistic family structures, they still have association with Pakistan on psychological

grounds, but one that is a substantially diminished part of their own personal identity in comparison to their parents. However, the majority of Pakistani community in the UK of all ages and generations unequivocally defines themselves as British Muslims.<sup>21</sup>

An interesting study about the identity issues of people living in the Britain revealed that white people living in Britain feel less British than their neighbours from ethnic minorities. 77.6% British Pakistanis define their identity as being British as compared 65.8% for the White population in the UK<sup>22</sup>. Identification with Britishness is higher among the children and grandchildren of migrants.

The identity issues for Pakistani community in the UK became more critical for young people after post 9/11 and 7/7. The massive increase in Islamophobia and Pakophobia, negative image and the general perception of other population groups towards Muslims, caused youth to feel unsupported by the British system and culture. They considered sometimes like strangers in the society and faced difficulty to integrate with the mainstream society. They are influenced by multiple identity positions, both ethnic and religious. These positions are linked to their historical past and

<sup>20</sup> Kureishi, 1990: p.3

<sup>21</sup> Gillespie *et al.* 2009

<sup>22</sup> Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) 2012

cultural present. They are not solely influenced by their Pakistani origin or the Britain as the country of their establishment. For a generation of young Pakistanis growing up in the UK, a 'pan-ethnic' identity, informed through contact and interaction with the wide range of cultures that form the Muslim diaspora in the UK, is part of the process of being British.

Identity and integration become one of the most daunting challenges for the British Pakistani youth. They feel alienated from the British system. On the contrary they have distant feelings with their immediate communities. It also gave rise the generation BBCD (British Born Confused Desis) who is perplexed while looking for answers and explanations in life; whether this be in Islamic history, Western conspiracy theories or Islamic revival movements or lobbies.

#### **I O. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN THE BRITISH PAKISTANIS**

Jobcentre Plus in Bradford gave statistics on qualification levels in Bradford. Of the working age population aged 25 to 64, 74.5 per cent of Pakistanis have no qualifications, compared to 34.3 per cent of the White population. For the 16 to 24 age group, 27.4 per cent of Pakistanis had no qualifications, compared to 19.1 per cent of the White population<sup>23</sup>.

<sup>23</sup> Department for Work and Pensions, 2006

Children of Pakistani diaspora in the UK are challenged in their educational achievements. In a longitudinal study, the YCS (Young Cohort Study) published the attainment of five A\*-C grades at GCSE of young people in all cohorts from 1992 to 2002 by ethnicity. The results showed that in 1992 only 26 per cent of British Pakistani heritage pupils achieved this level, compared with 37 per cent of white pupils and 38 per cent of Indian-heritage pupils. The performance of Pakistani origin girls is better than boys in GCSE, in summer 2003, 48 per cent of Pakistani origin girls achieved five A\*-C grades, but only 36 per cent of Pakistani boys performed at the same level<sup>24</sup>.

Another challenge for the Pakistani diaspora in the UK is, active participation of Pakistani women in employment. At least 20% of Pakistani women in the UK are unemployed - a substantial difference compared to white British women (3%). Those who are working are more likely than white British women to be employed in low paid, unskilled labour jobs such as packers, bottlers, canners and fillers, or to work as sewing machinists (ONS, 2008).

#### **I I. RADICALISM, RACIAL TENSIONS AND CHALLENGES:**

Perception of the UK media and general public is extremely negative and the majority of British Pakistani

<sup>24</sup> Richardson and Wood, 2004

community terms media as 'anti-Muslim' and 'anti-Pakistani'. Most people in the UK believe that the Muslims and Pakistanis make the news as terrorists, extremists or fundamentalists, and media space is generally used by those people who either speak against Pakistani Muslims or to Muslims with distorted radical ideologies of their own which do not reflect the views of the majority. Most believe that Islamophobia increased over a period of time because of such hostile media.

According to "Islamophobia: issues, challenges and action", main features of Islamophobia are <sup>25</sup> : verbal and physical attacks on Muslims in public places, attacks on mosques and desecration of Muslim cemeteries, widespread and routine negative, stereotypes in the media, including the broadsheets, and in the conversations and "common sense" of non-Muslims, people talking and writing about Muslims in ways that would not be acceptable if the reference were to Jewish people, for example, or to black people, discrimination in recruitment and employment practices, and in workplace cultures and customs, bureaucratic delay and inertia in responding to Muslim requests for cultural sensitivity in education and healthcare and in planning applications for mosques, the lack of attention to the fact that Muslims in

Britain are disproportionately affected by poverty and social exclusion, non-recognition of Muslims in particular, and of religion in general, by the law of the land, since up until recently discrimination in employment on grounds of religion has been lawful and discrimination in the provision of services is still lawful. Anomalies in public order legislation, such that Muslims are less protected against incitement to hatred than members of certain other religions and laws curtailing civil liberties that disproportionately affecting Muslims.

Islamophobia in the mainstream society can undermine the self confidence of the British Pakistani society particularly young people, and their self-esteem. It can tarnish their confidence in their families and parents particularly, and their respect for Islam. Islamophobia also contributes to making extremist organisations, however, attractive in ways that they wouldn't be otherwise.

Another problem, that has links with Islamophobia in general and perception about South Asian culture, is negative masculinity. It is perceived by the mainstream society that women in Pakistani families are oppressed; they live a miserable life and do not get equal opportunities as their male counter parts. Negative masculinity, in general terms is also associated with misusing natural

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<sup>25</sup> Richardson, 2004

qualities of enthusiasm, strength and bravery. It is perceived that Muslim youth follows street culture and get involved into crimes. They pretend to be hard, and show off. They have obsession for the designer clothes, the most modern smart phones, the latest trainers, and the flashiest cars. This has created a challenging situation between Pakistani and mainstream culture within the UK.

### 12. IMAGE ISSUES:

Pakistanis, as they perceive, were always misunderstood, misrepresented and even demonized by the society overall. They have deep concerns about the effects of negative mass media portrayals of Pakistanis, and of Pakistan as an exporter of terrorism or unruly tribes and old-fashioned traditions. The prevalence of such depiction was seen to aggravate the prejudice and racism among the wider British public. Media stereotypes of Pakistan were widely seen to have very real and significant consequences for the everyday lives of Pakistanis in Britain. They are of the view that such image related challenges are a constant and daily battle for them. The British Pakistanis have a feeling that, it was their responsibility to project a more acceptable image of Pakistan at work and at leisure and in other social spheres, where they come in contact

with the members of mainstream society<sup>26</sup>.

Another important image related issue is that constantly challenges Pakistani community in the UK is, "war on terror" that has caused lack of confidence and rifts both within and between communities. Insecurity and image related issues have led to some to turn towards their Pakistani heritage as a way of securing and validating a positive identity. Pakistani diaspora in the UK is also concerned about the excessive scrutiny and surveillance of Muslims by UK public authorities by retreating into private and safe spaces of communication and Muslim only social networks.

Recently the convictions in the cases of 'sexual grooming' have made banner headlines in the media across the UK where men of Pakistani origin were found guilty of predatory tactics prying on the 'young and vulnerable' white females, considering them, in Jack Straw's words, an 'easy meat'. Interestingly the Diaspora at large and the community leaders from all fields strongly condemned these unlawful acts and pleas were made that these crimes should not be classified on ethnic grounds to malign the community as 'grooming' was not a particular community specific crime and prevalence among other communities was common as well.

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<sup>26</sup> Gillespie, 2009

Forced marriage is another image related issue, for the both Pakistani and mainstream society in the UK. Generally the White British population and to an extent law making authorities seem concerned about forced marriages, particularly of Pakistani girls in the UK. It is perceived that Pakistani young girls are not given choice to marry the person they like; rather they are forced to marry their cousins, back home in Pakistan. On the other hand, Pakistani community in the UK has a different opinion, which is rooted in the collectivist family structure, where parents have authority to decide future of their children. A recent development in the immigration law related to inviting spouse to enter in the UK has been perceived as a discrimination against South Asian diaspora, especially Pakistanis. Every year around 40,000 persons enter into the UK on spouse visa. There is a view that the new law will effectively force the hundreds of British into exile from their own country for having a relationship with a non-European Economic Area national. On the other hand, Home office is of the view that "family life must not be established here at the taxpayer's expense".

### 13. CONCLUSION

Overall, it seems Pakistani Diaspora could be considered a 'mixed bag' in terms of achievement in the United Kingdom. Significant gains have been made in politics, entrepreneurship, NHS and sports. However, these achievements have done a little uplift the distorted image of the diaspora which is still perceived as a 'ghettoised, secluded, segregated, male dominated, rigid and radicalised bunch of under-achievers. The mainstream media seems to take on 'Pakistanis' as a 'sitting duck'. It appears essential that long term, objective and focussed efforts are made to strike the balance by finding the common-ground of coexistence and integration. Dialogue, engagement, discourse and the perpetual interaction are the pillars of the way forward. Where the mainstream society has to open its doors to welcome the contact, British Pakistanis have to get over the psychological schism and split between the UK and Pakistan. The Diaspora can manage to wield 'soft-power' and make in-roads in education, technology, culture and media and thus becoming more effective in the United Kingdom and for Pakistan alike.

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## PROPOSED UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

### ANNUAL:

1. Integration Dinner(2014)
2. National Achievers Congress (2014)

### CONFERENCES:

1. Pakistan Investment Conference (2013)
2. National Co-Existence Conference (2014)

### QUARTERLY DEBATE:

The Representation Debate - Overseas Pakistanis, Constitution and the Next Elections

### SEMINARS:

The Role of British Pakistanis in the Strategic Dialogue Between UK and Pakistan (October, 2013)

Mirror, Mirror in the Wall - Myths & the Reality Test on Perception & Image of Pakistani Diaspora in the UK (November, 2013)

### ANNUAL TOURS:

British Parliamentarians Visit to Pakistan

### SHORT-COURSES: Quarterly

**UNDERSTANDING PAKISTAN** – a 3 Days Intensive Workshop for international visitors, journalists, investors, and scholars (in collaboration with High Commission of Pakistan)

The logo for the World Congress of Overseas Pakistanis (WCOP) features the letters 'W', 'C', and 'P' in a dark blue serif font. The letter 'O' is replaced by a circular arrangement of four globe icons, each showing a different view of the Earth, connected by a dark blue ring.

WCOP

WORLD CONGRESS OF OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS

# INTEGRATION DINNER

Celebrating the Six Decades of Pakistani Diaspora in the UK  
25 June, 2013

includes:

In Search of Greener Pastures;  
Past, Present and the Future of British Pakistani Diaspora in the UK

