

Greater community engagement with Conservative Party needed: Zameer Choudhary

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LONDON: Bestway Group CEO Zameer Choudhary organised a special interactive session for Conservative Party Members of Parliament & Candidates and leading members of Pakistani community.

In his welcome address Mr. Choudhary urged the audience to take greater part in politics; to engage themselves with issues and to channel their support for the Conservative Party.

Mr. Choudhary believes it is vital for the local community to

participate in all spheres of public life and it is only through active participation and engagement that the community will be able to enhance the image of Diaspora in the UK as well as the image of Pakistan. "The more people that participate in politics, community organisations, local and national elections the more members of parliament we would have representing our shared values".

Mr. Choudhary described the Conservative Party as "the natural home for the British Pakistani"

and spoke proudly of the contribution British Pakistanis make to the UK. "Our community is evolving and now comprises 1.5% of the UK population. We are a young community but we have achieved much; 77% of Pakistanis own their own freehold homes, self-employment is much higher than the national average at 12% - rising to 20% in London - and our children have reversed previous academic failings so much so that the 3.3% of university intakes were from our community."

"The Conservative Party's core beliefs of family, flag and faith are also the values which pervade our daily lives; family is extremely important to all of us, faith shows us the way to lead our lives and we are all proud of our national identity and roots. The Conservative Party is also the party of small businesses wealth creation and lower taxes and it is these synergies which makes the Conservatives the party to support at the next general election."

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Mr Choudhary then told the audience that there are 16 key seats where British Pakistanis will play a decisive role in the outcome of the next election. This provides the community with the unique opportunity to establish itself in the mainstream of British politics and make its voice heard

He further elaborated that he sees a 'genuine effort' by the Conservative Party to reach out and engage with the Pakistani community and this commitment has been the catalyst in the establishment of the Conservative Friends of Pakistan. He then urged the community to 'reciprocate and

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initiate a political relationship' with the Tories.

Lord Tariq Ahmed echoed

the story of the boat slowly floating down the river. There were those people who jumped

pick up a paddle help propel the boat. The Pakistani community in the UK is the latter and I urge

share" The special lu organised at the Bes



LONDON: Group pictures taken on the occasion of special session on Thursday, Michael Wade, Mrs. Tariq Ahmad, Lord Tariq Ahmed, Cllr, Mehboob Choudhary, Younus Sheikh, Muzaffar Choudhary and Tariq Dar. (Nation pictures)

Mr Choudhary's sentiments and said "My father used to recall

from the bank and merely sat on the boat adding to its weight, contributing nothing. There were others who would jump,

us all to engage with our community and support the common ideals that Pakistanis and the Conservative Party

Group's head office in London was attended by number of senior business leaders, s and business entrepreneurs



LONDON: Zameer Choudhary, CEO, Bestway Group, and Co-Chairman of the Conservative Friends of Pakistan, Michael Wade, Chairman CFoP and Lord