

Spring-Summer
2018



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FROK: UK Friends of Khwendo Kor

Friends, relationships, reaching the unreached....

Sitting unobtrusively on a low chair in front of about 30 members and supporters, Maryam Bibi told FROK's AGM in June how much it meant to her that we'd come to see her. She noted that in today's world, making friends for the sake of humanity is very important.

Maryam reminded us of her background in the tribal areas, a region largely ignored and known only for "bad" things: being backward and physically remote, a place of war and difficulties, where all social indicators are bad and possibly getting worse. From there, she has gone on to experience life in Peshawar, Islamabad, England and the USA. Now she asks herself how can the world remain connected with such differences of gender, economy and society?

Through her work with KK, Maryam struggles with the challenge of how to 'reach the unreached' and reminded the audience that many international organisations at the World Humanitarian Summit which she attended in Turkey in 2016 were failing in this. Maryam remains passionate about the position of

women in the tribal areas and the need for KK to remain rooted in rural communities. One major problem is the lack of a natural forum for women to come together as men do at the mosque or in the jirga, leaving women's conditions unknown and unshared even amongst each other.

In the past, they could meet at the well or when working in the fields, but the security situation of the past 30-40 years has prevented even that.

So how to create a place where women can gather without appearing to attack the rest of the society, how to ensure that they thrive to the benefit of all? KK's challenge is to do this in the face of suspicion that they have foreign ties and nefarious intentions. KK workers must gain the trust



of villagers so as to enable them to work together, gain power and speak with one voice: an individual is vulnerable, but a whole village together can get things done.

It is also necessary to identify where the blockages are: for instance, is the resistance because of local custom or is it government bureaucracy? Once that is clearer, effective strategies to overcome the resistance can be developed.

Maryam also spoke of the value of forums for tribal women beyond village level. One supported by KK is called TQK or "Brave Tribal Sisters", a network with members – men as well as women – throughout the area. While they work together to give

'Losing an argument is far less important than losing a relationship'

women a voice, they also strive to keep families and hope alive.

At the same time, Maryam reminded us that while advocacy involves taking issues to those in power in the region and beyond, it stops being effective if not rooted in the communities it strives to represent. Advocacy also requires looking for solutions and avoiding the trap of defensiveness; relationships are key.

Maryam concluded that we must try to work collectively, building institutions across the world. We must make space for each other, to survive while staying grounded and supporting each other, looking for friends rather than seeing enemies everywhere. Changing mindsets takes time and progress is hard to quantify when required for funding bids or achievement reports. However, when she has the chance to meet us, she knows we have come a long way together.

We must make space for each other, looking for friends rather than seeing enemies everywhere.

FROK AGM welcomes Maryam Bibi.....



Left and Right: FROK Trustees met with Maryam Bibi (centre) in York ahead of the AGM on 23rd June

FROK'S ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE— FROM WWW.FROK.ORG.UK OR CONTACT US FOR A HARD COPY

Rotary York Ainsty 'Days for Girls' fund recently made a donation to KK for which we are most grateful



KK'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

As reported in our Annual Report, here is a flavour of KK's achievements in 2017:

- ◆ More than 5,000 children benefited from KK's education-related activities
- ◆ Over 1,000 women took part in KK's women leaders' development events
- ◆ Almost 9,500 women were assisted to obtain CNIC cards enabling them to vote and access humanitarian aid in their own right
- ◆ More than 13,000 people were reached through KK's health-related activities
- ◆ Members of local community organisations in Dir Upper raised almost 10,000,000 PKR (£63,000) for their Viable Villages schemes from sources other than the project itself (e.g. Public Health funds)
- ◆ 40 projects in Dir Upper were handed over successfully to the community to run



Left: Rachael Maskell, York Central MP (left), met with Maryam during her visit to be updated on the situation facing KK. Ms Maskell recently highlighted the work of KK in the House of Commons and urged the Government to grant visas to enable KK's female leaders of tomorrow to visit FROK

Thanks to the person who made a very generous anonymous donation for KK's work in girls' education, helping girls like these below on their enrolment walk

Right: The outside of the new Head Office in Peshawar—built with the support of FROK—which is now complete



KK signs MOU with Economic Affairs Division, Govt of Pakistan

After much hard work, KK was successful in signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Pakistan Economic Affairs Division, thus gaining the coveted Non Profit Organisation status for 2018 and 2019. This allows KK to receive foreign contributions, and open, maintain and operate accounts for the execution of its work. KK is hopeful that this will open new doors for potential funding.

Takra Qabailee Khwanday (TQK – Brave Tribal Sisters)

Conceptualised and supported by KK, TQK (pronounced Tuck) was established in 2012, the first ever network in support of tribal women in Pakistan. It creates spaces for tribal people to come together, discuss issues for women, evolve strategies, raise voices, and influence government policies, laws and resources. TQK runs Fellowship Programmes to equip women with knowledge about Pakistan’s constitution, legal and political frameworks and skills in community mobilisation. They return to their villages, tasked with sharing their knowledge and skills so that local people, especially women, can become more involved in decision-making and shaping their own futures with fairer distribution of resources. TQK also consults with stakeholders - including government departments, political parties, civil society representatives and social activists - on the inclusion of women and the KP-FATA merger. Some tribal women are now sufficiently confident to travel from far flung areas and raise women’s issues in press conferences and the like.



Crucially TQK’s strategy is to also engage activists, parliamentarians and professionals to work alongside grassroots women to develop a gender sensitive Charter of Demands focussing on: Tribal Women in Decision-Making; Access to Development Resources and Social Services; and Access to Justice and Protection.

In May 2018, it was announced that the proposed merger of The Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) will go ahead. This offers very real opportunities to improve the prosperity and stability of FATA but they will only be achieved if the voices of women are heard. TQK and KK are set to take on that task and we wish them every success.



Thanks to the SharntiTrust for enabling TQK to run a Fellowship Programme for female candidates from each of the Tribal Areas (see above). The SharntiTrust, a small UK-based Charity, provides support and funding to projects which enable the rights and wider health and wellbeing of children, young adults and communities.

**DO YOU KNOW ANY TRUSTS THAT MIGHT HELP
KK’s FUTURE WORK?**

Taking care of children’s vision in KK schools

Teachers in Dir Lower have been trained in eye health and screening and a programme rolled out in all KK



Reaching out to the poorest women

Funded by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, one of KK’s regional teams recently ran 3 days of training on enterprise development for women below the poverty line. This included identification of business ideas, market survey, feasibility study, selection of business/trade, development of business plan, resource allocation, responsibility allocation, arrangement of raw material/stock, costing and pricing, marketing, investment, record keeping, quality control, packing and packaging. Once the women had developed their business plans, assets were transferred to them to move ahead.

**Meeting KK’s vision of
‘Women living with dignity and self reliance’**

Right: World Environment Day was celebrated across all KK's schools; this picture is from a school in Upper Dir



Involving women in democratic processes

KK has recently embarked on a project titled "Citizen Education and mobilization for women voter registration and participation in electoral processes" in Dera Ismail Khan funded by Citizen Voice Project-USAID. In one month alone, they identified 2,412 women who had not registered for a Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) through door to door campaigns, meetings with community influentials and political parties. So they coordinated with the National Database and Registration Authority and arranged Mobile Registration Vans to come to the area and supported women through the process. As a result, 486 women now have their CNIC and will be able to use it in their own right for a range of purposes.

Thanks to all our donors & fundraisers, big and small. Although we pick out some for the Newsletter, we appreciate everyone's efforts.



School children at Deen Dunya, set up with help from FROK

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) 2018

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Helping women live with dignity and self reliance in northwest Pakistan

www.frok.org.uk

Want to Donate to FROK or get a friend to join and not sure how?

Advice from our Treasurer

Through our website (www.frok.org.uk) or by writing to us you can access a form to set up a membership, standing order, or make a donation. You can do so by cheque or bank to bank transfer. You can also send a cheque (made payable to FROK please) direct to me (details below). For online banking transfers, use the bank account details on the website and let me know you're doing this by putting your surname in 'payee reference' or emailing me on the first occasion you go down this route so I can confirm receipt.

Remember to fill in a gift aid form if you're a UK tax payer (If you have already completed one for us in the past, you don't need to do one on every occasion. I'll come back to you if there's a problem).

For those with Charity Aid Foundation (CAF) accounts you can send me a voucher or set up regular payments.

You can also donate up to £10 by sending a text to 70070 with the following message:

FROK10 £[put here the number of pounds you want to donate - choose from 1,2,3,4,5 or 10].

Another online donation route is through www.justgiving.com/frok/Donate—either a one-off or regular amount. If you declare you're a UK tax payer, Justgiving will add gift aid to any donation.

Finally, you can also support FROK when you make on-line purchases by using the THEGIVINGMACHINE.

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