



## KK are turning the corner....

We have been telling you for some time of the challenges faced by Khwendo Kor as a result of new government requirements for NGOs who receive any funding from foreign donors. In their Annual Report for 2019, KK aptly called it 'A year of *struggle and survival*'. But survive they have, even while some other NGOs have gone under.

We're delighted to tell you that KK recently successfully renewed its registration under the Societies Act and that its application for a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the government's Economic Affairs Division is now firmly in the pipeline. The significance of this is that it has been able to get started again with foreign-funded projects and with putting in proposals for new such work.

As many of you will be aware, KK has also been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are delighted to tell you that the FROK Appeal to support KK's humanitarian efforts—to which so many of you generously donated—eventually reached **£5,088**. That money will be used to provide food, direct cash handouts, and support to female businesses in making facemasks and more.

Read more about the humanitarian response inside.....



Masks made by women with the help of KK

As readers will know, FROK had to cancel its AGM in June in York because of the pandemic. We are now planning an on-line **national meeting on the afternoon of Saturday 14th Nov..** We are delighted to tell you that **Professor Claire Chambers from the English Dept at the University of York has agreed to be our speaker.** Claire teaches literature from South Asia, the Arab world, and their diasporas and has authored many widely acclaimed books and articles.

Claire writes a regular literary column for the Dawn newspaper and spent over a year living in Pakistan, especially Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

We're sure you'll find her an entertaining speaker. Details will follow nearer the time.

**FROK's 2019-2020 Annual Report is now available on our website or in hard copy**

www.frok.org.uk—Reg Charity No: 1095857

# FROK: UK Friends of Khwendo Kor

### Maryam Bibi continues to influence others!

Women's Voices Pakistan is here to invite you to an inspiring conversation with Maryam Bibi, Founder & Chief Executive Khwendo Kor.

Maryam Bibi is a dauntless woman & a true symbol of resilience !

Join us Thursday, June 12 at 8pm (PST) on our Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/WomenVoicesPakistan/>



Shad Begum (Host)



Maryam Bibi (Guest)



## KK's humanitarian response to COVID-19

Maryam Bibi, CEO of KK, has been organising the serving of cooked food on the roadside since the start of the pandemic, with the support of individual philanthropists. The money raised through the FROK Appeal will enable KK to provide humanitarian aid on a larger scale, including in the further flung communities in which they work. Here are some of Maryam's experiences to date, in her own words:

**25th June**—"Around 8 women and girls and 25 poor boys and men enjoyed the dahl curry and naans. Some curry was left so we bought 20 additional naans and took all this to feed the drug users living under a half built bridge near where I live. It was quite dark by the time we arrived but when I called for them loudly, 5 or 6 came out and seemed happy to see food. They were taking quite some time in eating due to chewing/teeth problems and weakness due to addiction. I asked what happened to your colleague that you told me last time I was here was dying. They said he died.

Around 13 naans and dahl curry was still there so we went to a market and despite it being so late in the evening, around 10 labourers were waiting for getting some work. They really appreciated and finished the food".

**2nd July**—"As you know, unlike men it is hard to access poor women, including labourers and domestic workers, in one place. Men can be found everywhere. Due to cultural constraints, women can't stay in public places like on roads so it is hard to access them. How-



ever one can see women domestic and other workers in late afternoon rushing home carrying leftover food for their kids.

I have been making efforts to reach out to all and so for the last 3 Thursdays have been serving food around tandoors (traditional naan bakeries) where at evening times, poor women and girls gather in hope that some buyers will buy them one or two naans.

The place we went to today was near a tandoor. One shop owner very kindly provided a space with sufficient privacy so the women and girls felt secure and came with me for eating.



Three of them were Afghan refugees married to Pakistani men. In severe heat, they were all covered in burqas and sitting on bare floor waiting for naans.

When they moved with me to the eating place we had set for them, they uncovered faces for eating. One told me her father has had pistol bullet in his body since long and can't work and that's why she has to come. Another said her father is too old to earn, next said her father was disabled so can't work. All of them said there no electricity where they live. They also said they strictly cover their faces as people take them as professional beggars and make fun out of them".

**9th July**— We served the cooked food in 3 different places. First went to a market where men labourers really enjoyed the food and a few little girls and scavenger boys joined them. Then we went to outside a hospital and served around 16 drug users who were hungry and consumed all 22 naans. After that our next stop was exclusively for women and children on the road. Though it was quite dark by that time, 9 women covered in burqas were still there waiting for naans. We spread the plastic sheet in front of the shop shutter and all women, including little children and one breastfeeding baby in lap of her mother all wrapped in a traditional way, came comfortably. Almost all food was consumed and some dahl which was left,

## Local community support for girls' education

As most of the Zoe Bibi Girls Primary School's children are poor and their alternative is child labour, KK invited some local influential people to various events in a bid to enlist their support.

As a result, one such man, Mr. Kifayat Ullah (*pictured*), donated writing books and pencils to 24 children whose parents were too poor to provide them. He then went further and committed to help with future supplies of stationery and uniforms.

When the question came up of how domestic violence can also affect educational performance, he reflected on his own home life and experiences and vowed to do what he could to influence this and help with psychosocial support to affected students.



### Three Day training in Social Cohesion and Harmony

KK is running a project funded by Norwegian Church Aid intended to improve social cohesion and harmony. It recently ran a three day training workshop (*some participants on the right*) where the participants included transgender people and representatives from Hindu and Christian as well as Muslim communities.

Training topics included asking for forgiveness, tolerance, personal differences, relationships, anger, stress management and human rights.



### Basic teacher training still being delivered, July 2020



Teachers from Bannu and Mathra recently attended KK's Dr Hazel Bines Training Centre at Head Office (*see left*). For those travelling from Bannu, this involved a lot of organisation. Family members had to agree to them coming, male

family members were required to accompany them, and all had to be prepared for the lengthy journey of more than six hours. There was careful attention paid to what their learning needs were to make sure all that effort paid off! We're pleased to say that it was indeed successful!

**2019 'A Year of Struggle and Survival' for KK  
but now things are looking up again**

Right: Men and boys enjoying cooked food at the roadside



**Thanks to everyone who  
donated so generously to  
the FROK  
COVID-19 Appeal**

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

### **Advice from our Treasurer**

**There are many ways through which you can support KK financially:**

- ◆ Set up a membership, standing order, or make a donation by cheque (made payable to FROK please) or bank to bank through our **website** ([www.frok.org.uk](http://www.frok.org.uk)) or by **writing to me**.
- ◆ **Use an on-line** banking transfers using 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.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Donate either a one-off or regular amount through **Just Giving** ([www.justgiving.com/frok/Donate](http://www.justgiving.com/frok/Donate)). If you declare you're a UK tax payer, Justgiving will add gift aid to any donation.
- ◆ Support **FROK** when you make on-line purchases by using the THEGIVINGMACHINE.

**You can also now donate to FROK each time you buy through Amazon if you select Amazon Smile as we are now one of their registered charities.**

#### **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](http://www.frok.org.uk)**

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