

KK and FROK achieve an important milestone.....



We're delighted to tell you that KK's application for a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Economic Affairs Division (EAD) of Government of Pakistan for utilization of UK-FROK funds/project has been successful. This paves the way for smooth transfers of our donations in future. Readers will recall that new government rules were imposed on all NGOs that wished to receive any foreign funding. It is testament to the hard work of KK staff that this MOU has been achieved.

We now want to re-double our efforts to support their work, safe in the knowledge that we can readily transfer the money.

CAN YOU HELP?

Do you know of any funders like The Grail Society (see right) that we might approach? Small or large, every bit helps!



Helping women live with dignity and self-reliance in northwest Pakistan



Above and below left: Serving cooked food is part of KK's pandemic humanitarian effort; in mid November, more than 130 meals were provided at one sitting to women and children

"Totally impressed by your excellent work Khwendo Kor, working with women and young girls -an amazing platform & resource to transform their lives....." the words of an audience participant at our Nov 2021

Breaking news!

FROK is delighted to report that it has been successful in its bid to The Grail Society for a £15,000 grant. The money will be used to extend KK's work to a further 10 villages (approx. 12,000 people), improve the quality and capacity of 3 existing schools and one skill centre and provide the staff training and procedures necessary to support this work. It is hoped that the results will not only be of great benefit to the women, children and communities concerned but also lay the ground for attracting larger grants to extend the work even further.

Thank you The Grail Society! And thanks to our FROK member, Sarah, who put us in touch with them.

'Women, Education and Pakistan: A conversation with Qaisra Sharaz followed by a conversation with KK staff' - a FROK online event 20th November 2021

Our autumn online event on 20th November started with a fascinating conversation between Qaisra Shahraz, noted author and founder of MACFestUK, (<https://macfest.org.uk>) and Claire Chambers, Professor of Global Literature at the University of York before switching to an equally interesting visit to KK staff in their Peshawar office (see next page).

Originally a teacher, Qaisra Shahraz has written many novels including "A Holy Woman" and "Typhoon" (her personal favourite), a collection of short stories, and the script for a 14-episode drama on Pakistani TV. She told the audience that the themes she finds most fascinating come from the lives of Pakistani village women. Qaisra herself came to England at the age of 9, returning 'home'

She spoke movingly of the advantages she herself had from having a family, father



and, later, husband who valued female education. While acknowledging that going to university and becoming a teacher is beyond the reach of many women in Pakistan she also warned against stereotyping Muslim women as backward and oppressed and,



regularly to be with family but also, when she began writing in earnest, to research village life. She also posed the question 'where is home?' and what does it mean: is it a physical place or a heritage or both?

Qaisra has travelled widely, meeting with Muslim communities within the UK and overseas.

more recently, all Muslims as terrorists and all terrorists as Muslims. She reminded the audience that enabling one woman to write her name can be the equivalent of another woman gaining a PhD, that if you educate one

woman, you educate her family too. She talked about her inter-faith work and more generally of the need for mutual respect and of the responsibility of writers such as herself of writing bravely and authentically but not 'recklessly'.

In response to the Manchester Arena bombing in May 2017,

Qaisra saw the need to tackle Islamophobia and bring Muslim and non-Muslim communities together not only to promote social inclusion and overcome barriers but also to celebrate the diversity and the richness of Muslim heritage. And so MACFest, the Muslim Arts and Cultural Festival UK, was born. It now involves many countries and varied institutions such as schools, universities, community groups, art clubs, individuals and communities and its reach keeps on growing within and beyond the UK. There is now a MACFEST youtube channel where you can view past events—<https://youtube.com/channel/UCs-EOVffvjdp7BXRZDNbfMg>

Qaisra was recently awarded an MBE for her work in a ceremony presided over by Prince William and watched by her husband and sons. You can read more about her here—<https://qaisrashahraz.com/>

Here are just some of the comments from audience participants:

"Qaisra is a great and inspiring woman who give us an extraordinary example of how to be strong and courageous to build our personalities and positions in our society"

"Very impressive and inspirational for all of us..."

"We live in a globalized world and should think beyond borders"

"Qaisra, she is SO open minded and welcoming to all. We can ALL learn from her! I have always loved working with people from different backgrounds as my own is mixed (Polish Jewish and German Catholic)" so MACFEST was made for me -

The conversation continues...

After a short break, our online meeting heard from the staff of Khwendo Kor who gave an overview of their work including how it has been strengthened by their unique Viable Village approach (see diagram on next page) We heard from Maryam Bibi herself, giving a brief history of KK; Khalid Usman who described the geographical and political context in which KK works; Durre Shahwar talking of the partnerships KK has developed over the years and their future goals; Nuzhat Amin who told us about the present situation of KK's education programme; Ms Sidra telling us about KK's economic development project for women; and Imran Kazmi whose work with the Business for Equality and Empowerment (BEE) company brings income to KK.

“So wonderful to see this very much women led organisation..... what you are doing is amazing - making a difference to thousands of people's lives including women and young children - hats off to you all and your amazing team “

What was striking was the dedication these staff give to KK and their shared vision: Khalid with his 26 years' service, Nuzhat for 10 years, Imran for 13 years, Durre Shahwar who learnt so much as a young woman with KK and recently returned to 'give back' after an illustrious career—and Maryam Bibi of course since the beginning.

It was wonderful to see the staff almost in person and to be

reminded of everything they do in such difficult circumstances.

Some more audience responses:

“Such inspiring work in very tough circumstances. The trust Maryam Apa talked about is well deserved.”

“I am very glad I attended today's event, wonderful to see women helping and supporting each other in different ways.”

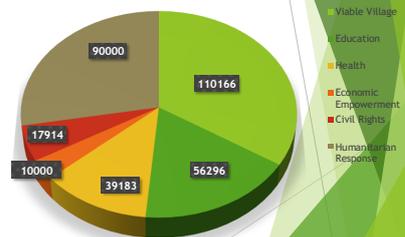
“please continue-, to make their voices heard and valued as citizens of Pakistan - they need visibility and need to promote tolerance.”

Did you know? KK's achievements over the years.....

Achievements/Impact at a Glance

1. Partnership with 34+ international NGOs, government department/agencies, 10 corporate sector organizations and 100+ philanthropists.
 2. Government of Pakistan and UN agencies recognitions and conferred awards to KK.
 3. Membership with 30+ national and international networks and alliances
 4. 323,000+ people, including women, girls, youth and men, benefited from KK programs
 5. 54,000+ children, including 90% girls, acquired primary and secondary education in KK schools.
- Developed social capital at grass root level and 800+ women and men organisation formed and engaged in development processes.

Program wise details on People facilitated



A new KK school in Bannu...

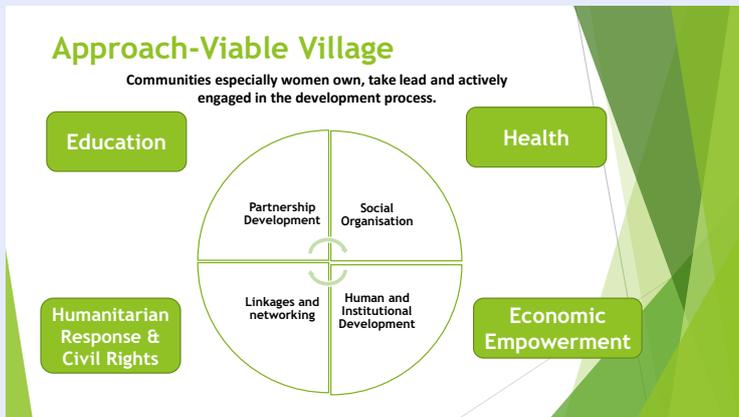


Left: Girls eagerly awaiting admission to Musa Khel girls' primary school, Bannu

Below: School inauguration day August 2021

Below left: KK staff visiting their nearby school at Chashmai, now in its second year and thriving





Right: A Christian women's group visiting Deen Dunya Zoe Bibi school and participating in the Muslim event of EID-Milad un Nabi

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) or by **writing to me**.
- ◆ Use an **on-line banking transfer** (bank account details on the website or on request) 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). If you declare you're a UK tax payer, Just Giving 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
by selecting us at Amazon Smile.**

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) 2018

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*Helping women live with dignity and self
reliance in northwest Pakistan*

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