

FROK

The UK Friends of Khwendo Kor

Registered charity no: 1095857

Annual Report for 2021-2022

Welcome to the Annual Report of the UK Friends of Khwendo Kor (FROK). It covers activities undertaken by FROK's Trustees and members during the year from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. FROK was founded in 2002 to support the work of Khwendo Kor through fundraising and other activities, making us twenty years old this year! We are a volunteer-run registered charity so incur minimal expenses. We retain only £1,000 each year for unexpected emergencies and transfer the rest of monies raised directly to Khwendo Kor (KK).

Founded in 1993, KK is one of the oldest women-led NGOs in the region and works with women and their families in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) (formerly the North West Frontier Province and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas). FROK promotes KK's four core values - commitment, accountability, mutual respect and integrity - and its vision of 'A compassionate society where women live with dignity and self-reliance'. KK's participatory development approach and in particular its 'Viable Village' model focuses on the active involvement of communities, especially women and children, in its key areas of Education, Civil and Political Rights, Health, Combating Gender Based Violence, Social Cohesion and Livelihoods Improvement. Key to this is the careful building of trust, and attention to building the capacities of communities to advocate for themselves. Communities, with KK's support, are thus at the core of defining what changes are needed and identifying the means for bringing them about, thereby taking a lead in their own development. You can read more about KK's work on the FROK website (www.frok.org.uk) and on that of Khwendo Kor (www.khwendokor.org).

As always, we want to thank all those who have made contributions this year, financial or in other ways, including members, donors and other supporters. We always welcome suggestions of possible fundraising activities or sources, including personal introductions to the latter. We were delighted, for example, that one such introduction in this reporting year led to the award of a donation of £15,000 from the Grail Community to support KK's work in education, Viable Villages' development and staff capacity building. One year on, the impact of the Covid pandemic is still being felt in FROK and KK. Although infection rates are, thankfully, reducing in the UK, FROK's fundraising has been affected as, for example, some people have only recently been feeling sufficiently confident to attend 'in person' events. And for KK itself, levels of hardship have increased as a result of the pandemic. Recovery even to pre-pandemic levels – which were already far too high of course – will take time. Funding opportunities for crucial non-covid related work also remain

limited. However KK continues to seek out opportunities and their in-country philanthropic contributions have been maintained. KK have also extended their humanitarian efforts through delivering cooked food to people on the streets and this has attracted a number of new philanthropists.

A recent new development for KK has been the award of a UNHCR-funded project to manage educational provision across a number of longstanding camps for refugees from Afghanistan, some more than twenty years old. KK of course has extensive experience of providing education to both children and adults, including in camps for Internally Displaced Persons but this is their first time working with refugees. The project is complex, demanding and has required the recruitment and induction of a large number of new staff alongside the need to pay attention to their other work. We await its development with interest.

As reported last year, FROK and KK now have a formal agreement to cover the use of FROK's donations. This was a requirement of KK being able to apply to the government's Economic Affairs Division for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with respect to its relationship to FROK. We are pleased to report that the application was successful and covers a two year period. This assures us of being able to transfer monies to KK.

Although KK remains under considerable pressure, their support from past employees, in-country supporters and FROK is steadfast. KK's reputation for transparency and integrity undoubtedly contributed to Maryam Bibi, its founder and Chief Executive recently being awarded the prestigious Lux Hum Women Leaders Award at a ceremony attended by the President of Pakistan and his wife.

FROK's activities during 2021-2022

As members are aware, the pandemic led to the Trustees cancelling the 2020 AGM and holding the 2021 AGM on zoom. This year we have returned to an 'in person' AGM with a guest speaker. However we were, sadly, unable to secure a venue that offers hybrid facilities that could have enabled members to attend by zoom if they preferred. We will do our best to achieve this for our AGM in 2023.

In the absence of an AGM in 2021, we again decided to run an online event in autumn 2021 (as we had done the previous year). We were delighted to have as our guest speaker Qaisra Shahraz OBE, author and founder of MACFEST (<https://macfest.org.uk/>), followed by a presentation of their current work by KK staff, as reported in our autumn newsletter. Qaisra Shahraz was so impressed by learning more about their work that she invited KK to deliver an event in March as part of the MACFEST International Muslim Women's Festival 2022. The short film that they created and indeed the whole event, which was called "Celebrating Women's Empowerment and Creativity", can be watched on the MACFEST Facebook and you-tube channels - the film alone on <https://youtu.be/iKbguQKluTM> or the whole event on

either <https://fb.watch/bWKlcs-12T/> or <https://youtu.be/UFmTT-Ps-4k>. It will also be reported on in the next FROK newsletter. It was an impressive piece of work by KK and encouraging that they received such additional exposure to an international audience.

FROK's **Trustees** have held three meetings this year – all by zoom - supplemented by email and phone contact in between. We also maintain regular **contact with KK staff** by email, zoom, and whatsapp in order to keep up to date with developments within the organisation itself as well as in the wider region.

FROK's **membership** remains fairly steady and at 31st March 2022, we had 102 members. Members' subscriptions, donations and fundraising efforts form a substantial part of our annual donation to KK so do spread the word!

We continue to produce a twice yearly **Newsletter** for members, supporters, donors and other interested parties in the UK and overseas.

In addition, the following summarises more of FROK's activities:

Financial Support of KK

FROK aims to raise a minimum of £12,000 each year as a contribution to Khwendo Kor's core costs that is not tied to any specific project or appeal, enabling them to fund activities not normally covered by other donors. This enables KK to take up new opportunities and/or have some protection against emergencies. Normally we seek to achieve that £12,000 by around the end of June each year and then an annual grant is sent to KK in July or August. This will also include other monies that have been raised as well.

As reported to the last AGM, funds were successfully raised by June 2020 to fulfil that target and sufficient donations had also been received to send an additional grant of £11,000, along with the funds raised from the Covid appeal (£5,088) and for the UWIC schools (£440), a total of £28,528. However, because of a much more intensive regulatory regime for NGOs initiated by the Pakistan Government, the transfer faced a series of difficulties and it was not possible to successfully transfer that amount until May 2021.

Despite these problems FROK decided to continue to collect donations for KK and by June 2021 had met its target of £12,000 for KK's core costs along with a £500 additional grant, £370 for the UWIC schools and a small residual of £56 from the Covid appeal. A total of £12,926 was sent to KK in September 2021. FROK also received a donation for a specific project in KK from the Grail Community of £15,000 that was sent to KK in February 2022.

So in this reporting year of 2021/22, £56,454 was sent to KK although this effectively covered two years of support.

It is expected that FROK will achieve its target of £12000 for KK's core costs by June 2022.

Technical Support

From time to time, FROK members provide technical support to KK staff. This includes such as help with written English where needed and assistance with funding proposals or report writing. If any members have technical skills they would like to share, please get in touch.

FROK Website and Facebook page

We continue to run our website in a low maintenance manner to match our available resources. Limited resources also influence our decision to not use social media other than facebook. We are pleased to report our website has a regular flow of website views during this reporting year, with numbers reaching 113 in July 2021. Most of our views come from the UK, Europe and North America. Do let us have any suggestions for its improvement.

The UK FROK Facebook page has around 1,600 people as followers. Approximately 50 are UK residents, so there is scope for increasing the domestic audience. Most of the posts in the year were about UK FROK events and achievements by KK in Pakistan. Ideas for content are always welcome, just message the Facebook page - UK Friends of Khwendo Kor (FROK) (<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=UK%20Friends%20of%20Khwendo%20Kor>).

Links with the Pakistani community living in the UK

We continue to have contacts with UK-based Pakistani individuals and organisations and look forward to extending these where possible.

In summary, we hope that you enjoy reading this Annual Report and that it encourages you to continue your much needed support for KK, both financially and in solidarity with its aims. FROK Trustees, as always, welcome your ideas, suggestions and offers of help as we strive to enhance our work of supporting Khwendo Kor. If you wish to get more involved in any way at all then please get in touch.

Marilyn Crawshaw, Chair

May 2022