

# KK takes on important UNHCR project—and much more



KK recently accepted a contract to manage education provision in a number of longstanding Refugee Villages - some more than 40 years old - for people from Afghanistan. There are 60 schools and 15 Alternate Pathways (ALPs) (where girls after primary graduation can continue their education) across 7 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The work will be complex and demanding. KK has recruited and inducted more than 50 staff as well as having responsibility for around 350 teachers. They will of course draw on their extensive experience in education.

In the meanwhile, their other work continues apace...



Above: KK's humanitarian work serving cooked food continues, here after one of their school's Annual Results Day

Below: One of the girls' schools in the Afghan refugee camps recently taken over by KK



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

# FROK newsletter



Above: A meeting of mothers in the Parent Teacher Council at KK's Zoe Bibi School

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

## Another prestigious award for Maryam Bibi



HUM TV 40m



Founder of an NGO called Khwendo Kor that helps women become self-sufficient Maryam Bibi receives The Kashmir HUM Women Leaders Award from Hareem Farooq And Mohammad Shahnawaz Malik.

Maryam Bibi founded an NGO in 19... See more



# FROK Trustee and wife join KK for '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' events.....

FROK Trustee Del Hussain and his wife Maureen write:

"During our family visit to Islamabad, we took time out to meet KK staff in Dir Upper. On the way, we attended a KK event in Wari held as part of the annual international campaign "16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV)". By holding it outside of a major conurbation, KK hoped to spread the message into the remoter areas. Invited guests included Rubab Mehdi, the newly appointed Peshawar region Federal Ombudsperson for Violence Against Women. She gave an inspiring and forceful speech, reminding everyone that GBV is illegal, immoral and against Islam and that all citizens are equal in Pakistan. Despite this, 50% of women in Pakistan

daily journeys to attend, so had fares to find too. And there was only 1 toilet for 50 female students, leaving many suffering health problems as a result of avoiding its use.



Next came a scenic journey of 6 hours into the beautiful mountains of North Pakistan. It was much more inhabited than we expected, with the roadside lined with shops and houses in places.



suffer from abuse, much of which starts in the home.

At an informal meeting afterwards, we learned about the work of the college and the background of its students, most of whom come from poor families of labourers who had to find PKR5,000 per term (£21.28p) to send their sons and daughters to study there. Many travelled long

The honour of being invited to Wari College and the amazing scenery along our journey made this one of our most memorable trips to Pakistan.

More photos from the Wari event and videos of other events put on by KK as part of the '16 Days'

can be viewed on KK's Youtube channel."

**FROK Annual Report now on our website's publications page—or ask us to post you a hard copy.**

**We were delighted to elect Dr Sundus Yahya as a Trustee at the AGM, after her co-option earlier in the year. See her profile on our Trustees page**

## 'Frock for FROK' clothes swap returns in style....

York members of FROK were delighted to be back 'in person' during York International Women's Week. As well as the clothes swap we showed the film featured on the next page about how KK goods are produced. As a result our KK mazri and embroidery goods flew off the table contributing to our grand total of almost £600!



A gentle reminder to anyone yet to pay that the 2022-3 membership subs are now due. And thank you to all that have paid, including those that pay by Standing Order.

## YOGA Fundraiser

Warm thanks also go to York Iyengar Yoga teacher and FROK member Laura for once again running a fundraiser for us and raising a whopping £400. Thank you Laura!

## “Celebrating Women’s Empowerment and Creativity” – KK reaches the international stage

Readers will remember that FROK’s guest speaker last autumn was the MACFEST founder, Qaisra Shahraz. So we were delighted when she invited KK to become part of MACFEST’s International Muslim Women’s Festival in March. KK chose “Celebrating Women’s Empowerment and Creativity” for their theme. KK’s Imran Kazmi produced a captivating 11 minute film showing the production of “mazri” goods in a rural village, from picking the grass, processing it and finally weaving it into a variety of baskets (see below) and other goods.



It was interesting to the western audience to see only the hands of the women working as it was considered too intrusive to show their faces. One woman revealed that her fingerprints had been worn away!

The film also showed their more urban sisters in a KK centre in Peshawar learning sewing skills, both on



machines and by hand, creating wonderful embroidered cloth for clothes, tablecloths, napkins and other household uses. To date 300 women have learnt skills at the centre. Presently there are 30 students as well as 50 women working at home to produce goods that KK then helps them to market.

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The event then switched to different members of KK’s staff explaining live how these skills allow women to bring economic benefits to their families, giving them the stature and confidence not only to take an active part in domestic matters, but also those concerning the welfare of their communities. It was very moving to see how their lives had the possibility of changing for the better.

As it has been so long since we were able to interact with KK personally, it was a pleasure at least to see staff members on zoom. Those who participated were: Shazia, Senior Programme Manager; Nuzhat, Programme Manager for Education and Women’s Economic Empowerment; Khalid, Director of Programmes; and Maryam Bibi herself. The session was chaired by FROK Chair, Marilyn Crawshaw, wearing a rose-coloured “kurta” from KK’s shop.

You can see 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>. We recommend it!

## Climate change impacts on women.....

In a fascinating and fact-filled talk, FROK AGM Guest Speaker, Emily Beasley, set out the ways in which females are disproportionately affected by climate change. They make up the majority of the world’s poor, do 60% of the world’s unpaid work, are more dependent for their livelihood on natural resources and are more likely to be displaced, sub-

### Why talk about it?

“Environmental sustainability and gender equality are interdependent [...] If you educate girls, for example, then we’re addressing a future where women and girls will be scientists. They will be in government. They will be making decisions that are for the needs of everyone” *Woku.*



jected to sickness and domestic violence and be pulled from school following ‘natural’ disasters or

conflict.

In this decade alone, in Pakistan recurrent spells of floods, droughts, glacial like outbursts, cyclones and heatwaves have taken a heavy toll on life and property and adversely affected economic growth. Emily argued that addressing gender inequality will lead to more success in tackling climate change and construct a better lived environment. Educating and empowering women from an early age can have a quantifiable effect on reducing emissions. Actively involving women in discussions on climate policy is crucial as is shifting the power dynamics between men and women.

Tackling climate change with women in mind needs to be four pronged, said Emily:

1. climate projects need to include more women in consultation and implementation
2. Climate policies need to have social and gender experts. Policy makers need to look beyond just economic and scientific aspects of climate change
3. More women need a seat at the negotiating table to affect focus and the way climate decisions are made
4. Funds should be made directly accessible in the form of loans or grants to women’s groups

You can watch Emily’s full talk at <https://youtu.be/MHVHZkqWH68>—and ask us for links to 2 short documentaries she showed and her Resources Sheet.

“No struggle can ever succeed without women participating side by side with men. There are two powers in the world; one is the sword and the other is the pen. There is a great competition and rivalry between the two. There is a third power stronger than both, that of the women.” — Muhammad Ali Jinnah (Islamia College Lahore- 28 October 1942)



Women students at one of KK's skills centres



## 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 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](http://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.**

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

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