

# Pakistan - UK

## Minority - Majority Project



A Muslim - Christian dialogue on how faith traditions in the UK and Pakistan are understanding and addressing issues of conflict and consensus



**Islamabad - Lahore, Pakistan**

19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2013

**London, United Kingdom**

12<sup>th</sup> March 2013



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

An Olympic Truce project supported by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Working in partnership with the London Boroughs Faith Network, Stockwell Green Community Services and Wandsworth Community Empowerment Network.



# Islamabad - Lahore, Pakistan

19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2013

Led by Toaha Qureshi MBE, we will visit a number of Government and civic society organisations to listen, share and exchange learning on resilience and reconciliation; exploring issues impacting on minority and majority communities.

We are pleased to be working alongside the Pakistan Ministry of Harmony, University of the Punjab, the Church of Pakistan and Wafaq-ul-Madaris, who will host and participate in open seminars and workshops.

Visits will also be arranged to development projects that are being supported by the UK Government, as well as those that are being maintained through remittances from the UK Pakistani community.

We will build and extend relationships and experience on the processes of conflict resolution. Identifying opportunities and pathways for joining up collaborations across the Pakistan-UK diaspora, we will surface ideas and insights on how existing resources and social capital can be utilised in better and smarter ways

# London, United Kingdom

12<sup>th</sup> March 2013

A one day conference to be attended by Justine Greening MP Secretary of State at the Department for International Development. Other participants will include Sadiq Khan MP and other leaders from across the UK political and civic sectors.

We will reflect on learning from Pakistan and extend opportunities for a range of civic society organisations to share knowledge, experience and understanding on the development of more purposeful relationships across the UK's Pakistan diaspora.

We will hear about UK programmes to support the building of peace, stability and democracy in Pakistan, along those championed by civic society organisations and communities.

"The project's journey" and the stories heard and told will be recorded and shared across multimedia platforms. A short film will be made and utilised as a tool for continued dialogue and reflection across the many Pakistani communities across the UK and as a record to inform next steps.

# PROGRAMME

## PAKISTAN 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2013

Four events will take place in Pakistan, involving senior and local religious and community leaders from minority and majority groups, opinion-formers, academics and head teachers. Smaller meetings have also been arranged.

Film recordings will be made of the visits, workshops and interviews.

The UK team

Toaha Qureshi MBE (SGCS), Catriona Robertson (LBFN), Malik Gul (WCEN), Revd Rana Khan (Anglican Communion) and Umar Mahmood (SGCS).

### Islamabad

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Meetings with **Dr Paul Bhatti, Minister for National Harmony**, and with the **British High Commission**.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February

The UK team will join Pakistan's minority and majority faith leaders at the **National Conference on Religious Tolerance**.

### Lahore

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

**Rt Rev Irfan Jamil Coadjutor, Bishop of Lahore**, at the Cathedral Church of the Resurrection with Christians and Muslims in Lahore.  
**Dr Mujahid Kamran, Vice Chancellor of the University of the Punjab**, with staff and students at the University.

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

**Moulana Muhammad Hanif Jalandhry, General Secretary of Wafaq-ul Madaris Al-Arabia** and Principal of Jamia Khair-ul-Madaris, Multan, with senior and local representatives from seminaries and madressas in Lahore.

The UK team plans to attend part of the **Lahore Literary Festival**.

# PROGRAMME

**LONDON 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

A one-day conference will take place in Tooting, London with local and senior religious and community leaders from the Pakistan diaspora, academics, school and madressa head teachers, scholars, representatives from minority and majority communities in the UK and visitors from Pakistan.

Film recordings from Pakistan will be shown at the conference.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Keynote Speech

**Rt Hon Justine Greening MP**

Minister for International Development

Speakers

**Rt Hon Sadiq Khan MP**

**Lord Michael Bates of Langbaugh**, patron of London Peace Network  
(tbc)

**Rafiq Abdulla MBE**, South West London Mental Health Trust

**Anwar Akhtar**, The Samosa

**Prof Iftikar Malik**, Bath Spa University (tbc)

The conference will include interactive sessions on:

## **What Is Your Story?**

Personal life stories of resilience and readiness from members of the Pakistani diaspora and minority and majority communities, using personal memorabilia and reflection.

## **Our Communities**

What is the wider picture?

## **What Is, What Might Be?**

Reflections from our guests from Pakistan and consideration of smart, strategic and beneficial links between communities in the UK and Pakistan.

# Why a Minority-Majority Project?

Part of the London 2012 Olympics, the Olympic Truce set out to bring understanding and tolerance across and within global communities.

Many challenges that face us emerge from the majority and minority status that communities hold and how this often serves at different turns to empower as well as undermine. The Pakistan Muslim community has a minority status in the UK, whilst the Muslim community is a majority in Pakistan. This brings with it many challenges and tensions to civic society building in both countries.

At the same time there is much hope and optimism and a great deal of effort from right across the Pakistan Diaspora supported by international development support. With our close bonds and common experiences in mind, we are seeking to explore:

How can the Pakistan Diaspora in the UK make a positive contribution to the future of Pakistan?

And how can the people of Pakistan support the Pakistan Diaspora in the UK?

How can we realise, in the UK and in Pakistan, our common humanity, whatever our heritage or religious tradition?

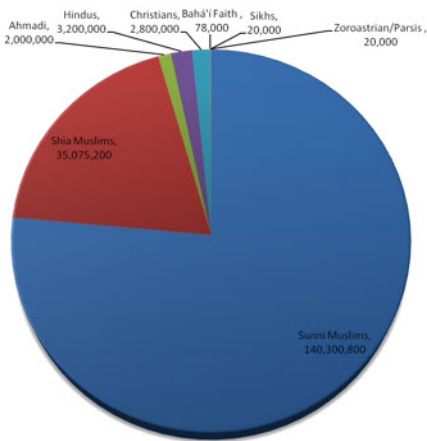
What do we need to create opportunities to work together in practical and positive ways?

## Some key facts:

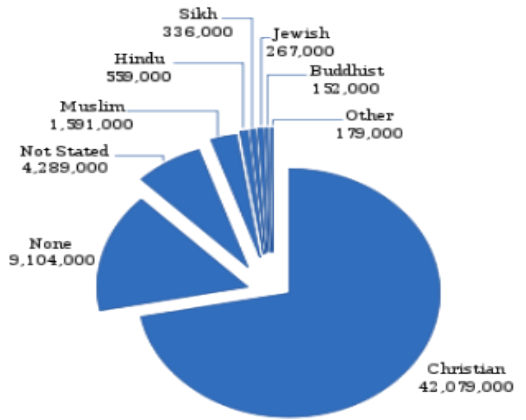
- With over 180 million people, Pakistan is the 6th most populous country in the world
- UK is home to the largest community of Pakistanis outside of Pakistan at 1.2 million people, with a projected population of 2.63 million by 2031
- Pakistanis in the UK send £60 million annually in remittance to families and friends
- Some 60 million people (one in three) live in poverty in Pakistan.
- Half of all adults, and two out of every three women, are illiterate.
- UK development funding in Pakistan is expected to rise to £446 million by 2015
- Pakistanis in the UK have the second highest rate of relative poverty and in the bottom quartile across a range of health indicators.

The UK has deep family, historic, and business ties with Pakistan. This complex and intertwined relationship presents profound challenges in relation to the communities' minority status in the UK and their majority status in Pakistan. In the UK there are important issues pertaining to rights and responsibilities, whilst in Pakistan, there appears to be a crisis of confidence, manifested in tribal and communal conflicts.

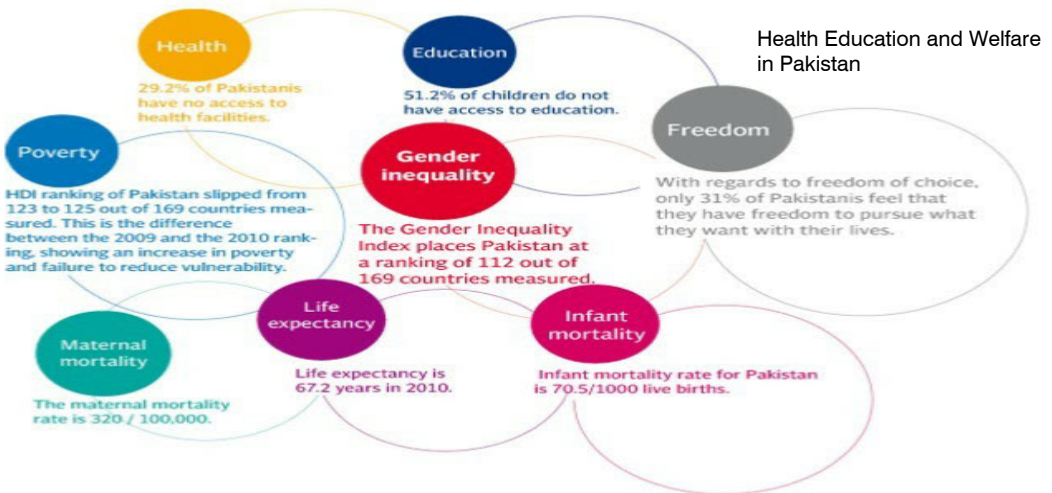
This interconnected, interdependent relationship also presents unique opportunities for Co Production which has hitherto been unexplored; how do we unlock the resources and talent held across a wider range of social, civic and governmental sectors towards better and smarter working?



Religious population in Pakistan



Religious population in the UK



### Remittances from UK to Pakistan

Chart provided by [www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk](http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk)

