



Pakistani Professionals' Forum
Strengthening Community—Building Relationships



Issue 1
June 2006

Editorial

Wherever you are in the world, to form a bond with someone who shares your identity, be it through race, language or religion is one of man's natural instincts. This bond allows people to come together and strive for social betterment and cultural understanding not only for themselves but also for others. It is with this in mind that a group of Pakistani professionals have formed the Pakistani Professionals' Forum (PPF), a group which encourages people of all backgrounds to explore and discuss social and cultural issues which are current within the Pakistani Community in Britain and indeed within wider society.

Our Mission

To help improve the image of Pakistan and enhance the standing of the Pakistani community by being the most effective organisation in providing leadership and direction to the Pakistani professional community in the UK.

What We Strive For:

- *Provide opportunities for professionals to get together and develop networks.*
- *Support and promote professional development activities.*
- *Develop opportunities for knowledge and skills transfer.*
- *Provide vision, leadership and direction to the Pakistani Community in general.*
- *Enhance and increase awareness about Pakistani culture in the UK.*



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Chairman's Note

It gives me a great pleasure to see the first ever PPF newsletter to go in email and in print. The PPF has come a long way since its inception and creation. We, Dr Amanat Hussain, Mr Arshad Ali and I, started working on the idea around March/April 2003 when we called it the 'AAA' (Amanat, Arshad and Aziz) meetings. I had the honour of being nominated as the Chairman with added responsibilities of a General Secretary.



Our first AAA meeting was on 13th June 2004 which, by the courtesy of Her Excellency Dr Maleeha Lodhi, was held at the Pakistan High Commission, London. The meeting started with a presentation from Arshad Ali on "Personal Effectiveness" and was followed by a workshop on "How the Pakistani community is perceived by others?". Encouraged by the very positive feedback from all attendees, we decided to continue with our approach and format.

Around August 2004 Dr Rizwan Maniar joined the team at which point the name was changed to the 'Pakistani Professionals' Forum' (PPF). Despite very busy work commitments, we invested many hours of personal time to lay the foundations for a successful organisation that could strengthen the community in which we live. The real driving force behind us was the commitment to our objectives.

Our journey has just started. I wish to thank each and everyone of you for sacrificing your Sunday afternoons – precious family time to attend and support PPF. Without your support and encouragement, I know we would not be here today.

The future looks bright for the PPF. Our immediate priorities are to:

1. Bring a fresh look to the Executive Committee – new people; new roles and new ideas to build on the excellent start we have made to date.
2. Increase our membership and
3. Arrange meetings, social gatherings and outdoor activities according to the wishes of our members.

Therefore, I would like to appeal to our members to come forward and help us in this mammoth task. Please spread the word about PPF and encourage your family and friends to join; email us with your suggestions and above all, help us in the running of this worthy Forum.

Dr Aziz Shaikh
Chairman

The money matter.....the treasurer reports.....



I am delighted to report that currently the PPF proudly retains a reasonably healthy bank balance despite organising three forum meetings; one barbecue and an Iftar evening largely due to the generous sponsorships from the Executive Committee.

I would also like to thank the members who have paid their subscriptions for last year and take this opportunity to remind all current and future members that this year's subscription fee will be due from 1st July 2006. In addition, the Executive Committee should welcome any ideas for raising funds to help support future activities.

I look forward to receiving your moral and financial support in the coming month!

Arshad Ali
Treasurer

Would you like to recommend

Honorary Member

This year we will be introducing an Honorary membership of the PPF. The membership will be by invitation only and will not be restricted by race, colour, religion or geographical location. The Honorary member will be linked with Pakistan or Pakistani community in the UK or elsewhere.

The objectives of offering an honorary membership are:

1. To enhance the visibility and profile of PPF
2. To get skills and expertise rarely available otherwise
3. To get help in promoting the objectives of PPF

If you have someone in mind, please let us know.

Executive Committee



Dr Aziz Shaikh – Chairman

Dr Rizwan Maniar – Secretary

Mr Arshad Ali – Treasurer

Dr Zarrin Shaikh – Executive Member

From the secretary's desk.....

The new Executive Committee plans to achieve a lot this year. We have set ourselves an ambitious programme of activity. We have crossed our first milestone of publishing the PPF Newsletter. The next milestone will be the launch of our website www.ukppf.org in June 2006.

In the next twelve months we plan to organise:

- Three forum meetings
- Iftar evening
- Eid Milan Party

In addition, we plan to play a proactive role in addressing some of the key challenges faced by the Pakistani community. We encourage all our members and friends to engage and support these activities.

How can you contribute ?

We always need help in organising these events and any contributions towards them would be most welcomed. Please contact any of the Executive Committee member directly.

Dr Rizwan Maniar
Secretary

**Portraying the image of Pakistani Professionals in the UK...
Dr Aziz Shaikh**



Increasing the awareness of issues specific to the Pakistani community. Our guest speaker and research scholar from Oxford University—Dr Alison Shaw



Our past Chairman Dr Amanat Hussain mingling with the members.....



Networking opportunities.....

