

PROFILES OF THE BRITISH SPEAKERS

Mr. Akram Khan Cheema

Born in Kenya, Mr Cheema moved to the UK in the 1960's. He worked as a teacher at primary and secondary level, and has over thirty years' experience in the British educational system. He has been instrumental in pushing back barriers facing Muslim teachers. Mr. Cheema rose to become Chief Inspector of Schools in Bradford, and as education consultant with the Association of Muslim Schools he has been instrumental in developing schemes to enable trainee teachers to bring Islam to the classroom.

In 2002 he was the recipient of The Muslim News Awards for excellence in Education and he was also awarded an OBE.

Mr. Asim Siddiqui

Mr. Asim Siddiqui is chairman of the City Circle, a network of young British Muslim professionals committed to building bridges between communities. In addition to running local educational and welfare projects, the City Circle organises weekly public discussion forums providing for debate on issues of concern to the British Muslim communities and wider society.

Mr. Siddiqui is a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies and a regular contributor to The Guardian Newspaper's web blog. Asim is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. He works full time for a niche financial services firm and is currently seconded to the Financial Services Authority.

Dr. Bano Murtaja

Dr. Bano Murtuja is a Senior Associate at Vis-à-Vis Research Consultancy, a company she set up following her PhD. Her thesis looked at Social Exclusion from Pakistani Muslim communities in Britain and Germany exploring issues of Islam, identity, community construction and familial care.

Dr. Bano's research interests are diverse, spanning issues of race, ethnicity, diversity, identity, faith, local regional and national governance, participation, community cohesion, inclusion, criminal justice, health and social care.

In addition to her work at Vis-à-Vis, she is a committed community activist, the chair of the BME Health and Social Care Forum and one of 10 commissioners on the POWER inquiry into democratic participation in Britain. She is also an advisory panel member to a JRCT funded project on the state of local democracy and a JRF funded project on migrant communities in Britain. She also sits on the Changeup Mainstreaming Diversity steering Group.

Ms. Shahedah Vawda

Born in South Africa. Ms. Vawda is a lecturer in Occupational Therapy at London's South Bank University, and has practiced as a clinician for the last 12 years, in both mental and physical health.

During her time as a student, Ms. Vawda was a member of various political movements, and has worked in various community cohesion initiatives. She is actively involved with a number of organisations and regularly participates in discussion forums, debating issues such as global warming to radicalisation of Muslim youth.

Mr. Waseem Yaqub

Mr. Yaqub is the UK Director of Islamic Relief, the UK's largest Muslim charity. He was the public face of the Disasters Emergency Committee UK appeal following the earthquake in Pakistan.

Islamic Relief is also receive funding of at least £750,000 per year for the next five years from the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID), under the terms of a new partnership working arrangement. Islamic Relief has been helping to alleviate poverty in Bangladesh since 1991, and plans to work with local communities to develop Disaster Preparedness Programmes, helping to reduce the impact of future floods.

In addition to his work with Islamic Relief, Mr. Yaqub is a highly regarded Muslim community activist.

PROFILES OF THE PAKISTANI SPEAKERS

Dr. Maulana Ataur Rehman

Dr. Ataur Rehman was born on October 21, 1968. Besides being a Member of the National Assembly, he holds various positions which mainly include; General Secretary, Rabitah Al Madaris Al Islamia, Pakistan; Member Shariah Council, NWFP; Principal Jamia Islamia Tafheem ul Quran, Mardan.

Dr. Ataur Rehman received his Masters degree from International Islamic University, Islamabad and later his Ph. D in Islamic Studies from Malaysia. He has served as a lecturer from 1994-1997 in faculty of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences at International Islamic University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; from 1997-1998 at department of Arabic Language, University Putra, Malaysia and at Dawah Academy, International Islamic University, Islamabad; from 1992-1994.

Dr. Ataur Rehman was a member of the Pakistani delegation which visited the UK in February – March 2006 to gain firsthand knowledge as to how Madrassas and Islamic schools operate within a state-regulated system in the UK. Dr. Ataur Rehman has also delivered a series of Islamic lectures in the UK, Germany, UAE, Norway, Malaysia, and Brunei Darussalam.

Professor Mufti Muneeb -ur-Rehman

Born on February 08, 1945, Prof. Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman completed his Masters in Islamic Studies. Besides doing Bachelors in Law and Education, he also received education in Arabic Languages. He holds various positions which mainly include; President - Tanzim ul Madaris Al Arbia Pakistan; President, Darul-Uloom Naeemia, Karachi; Chairman, Central Roet-e-Hilal Committee, Pakistan; Professor, Jinnah University for Women, Karachi.

Prof. Muneeb-ur-Rehman serves as a member board of studies Federal Government Urdu University and Board of Intermediate Education, Karachi. He has also served as a member board of studies, Faculty of Islamic Learning, and Arabic Department at the Karachi University. He also has more than 30 years experience of teaching Tafseer, Hadith, Fiqah, Arabic Literature and other Islamic subjects to graduate and post-graduate levels. Prof. Muneeb-ur-Rehman has also authored a number of books including Tafheem -ul-Masail, Qanoon-e-Shariat, Usool-e-Fiqah Islam, and so many others.

Prof. Muneeb-ur-Rehman was a member of the Pakistani delegation which visited the UK in February – March 2006 to gain firsthand knowledge as to how Madrassas and Islamic schools operate within a state-regulated system in the UK. He has also attended a number of international conferences in the USA, UK, Norway, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and so many other countries.

Mr. Wakil Ahmed Khan

Born on June 15, 1945, Mr. Khan holds masters degree in Political Science and Bachelors degree in Law as well. He is currently holding a position of Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Zakat and Ushr. He has also served as Commissioner of Income and Wealth Tax in Lahore and Multan; DG, Wafaqi Mohtasib, Lahore; Member (Direct Taxes), Central Board of Revenue

Mr. Khan has participated in international conferences on “Tax and its Administration” in USA, Japan, Singapore, France, Malaysia, and India. He has also negotiated various

agreements on avoidance of double taxation with Philippines, Austria, Jordan, Vietnam, Lebanon, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and Malaysia.

Mr. Khan was a member of the Pakistani delegation which visited the UK in February – March 2006 to gain firsthand knowledge as to how Madrassas and Islamic schools operate within a state-regulated system in the UK.

Qari Muhammad Hanif Jalandhary

Born on August 11, 1963 in Multan, Qari Muhammad Hanfi Jalandhary gained his Masters degree in Islamic Studies. Besides holding a position of the Secretary General, Wafaq-ul-Madaris Al Arabia, Qari Jalandhary has also been the President of nearly thirty branches of Jamia Khair-ul-Madaris in and around Multan, Rahim Yar Khan, Mian Channu, Vehari and Lahore since 1981.

Qari Jalandhary also teaches various subjects of Dars-e-Nizami like Hadith, Quranic explanation, Islamic Jurisprudence, Principles of Jurisprudence, Literature, Logic and Philosophy.

Qari Jalandhary was a member of the Pakistani delegation which visited the UK in February – March 2006 to gain firsthand knowledge as to how Madrassas and Islamic schools operate within a state-regulated system in the UK.

Sahibzada Naeem Ur Rasool

Born on September 25, 1951, Sahibzada Naeem ur Rasool graduated from the Government College Sargodha in 1970 and later he gained his Masters degree from the Punjab University in 1972 and got first division. He is currently serving as the Project Director of the Madrasa Reforms Project in the Ministry of Education, Government of Pakistan. In addition to serving as the Executive District officer Literacy & IT, Chakwal, he has also been a member of the Discipline Committee – Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Rawalpindi.

Sahibzada Naeem ur Rasool has more than 25 years of teaching experience and has served as a lecturer at the Government Inter College Katas District Chakwal; Government Alberuni College Pind Dadan Khan, Jhelum; and Government Post Graduate College, Chakwal.

Sahibzada Naeem ur Rasool was a member of the Pakistani delegation which visited the UK in February – March 2006 to gain firsthand knowledge as to how Madrassas and Islamic schools operate within a state-regulated system in the UK.