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Dear Readers,

Winter may be a time of hibernation and rest for some, but it has brought about a frenetic amount of activity for us at BPF. Over the past few weeks, we have been busy preparing to roll out two events, launch a new platform, and to further BPF's outreach and engagement.

February will see the launch of **BPF Women's Network** professional development series. a workshop on **The Art of Communication and Marketing Yourself** with Carol Roasti of Harvey Nash.

In March, **BPF's Business and Professional Club** will host a **Launch Event** at the Bluebird Chelsea. This event brings together professionals, entrepreneurs and industry leaders for an evening of networking and nibbles.

We are also forging ahead with BPF's **outreach and engagement** efforts. Over the past few weeks, BPF has met with several politicians and civil society organisations to help unite the diaspora on a common platform and to advocate on its behalf.

BPF is also joined forces with Rotary International, the Gates Foundation and the World Health Organization to work towards **Polio Eradication**.

Finally readers, we are looking to learn more about you. We have created a short **survey** and ask that you kindly participate for a chance to win an iPad mini.

Thank you again for your support and as always, we welcome your feedback and look forward to hearing from you.

Best Wishes,

The British Pakistan Foundation Team



BPF Women's Network

The British Pakistan Foundation Women's Network (BPF WN) was born from an observation that the UK lacked a platform to unite British Pakistani professionals, and women in particular.

In 2011, BPF Director and lawyer Saira Awan-Malik was looking to re-enter the work force and to

connect with like-minded professionals. She was struck by the dearth of platforms to support and showcase British Pakistani women. Awan-Malik approached BPF's board with this idea and worked with the team to launch BPF WN in March 2013.

BPF's new platform was introduced at a high profile networking tea held in collaboration with the Pakistan High Commission. The network was tasked with the mandate of promoting the professional development and empowerment of British Pakistani women by providing the resources and network to help them succeed.

Today, BPF WN remains one of the most robust and active arms of BPF and holds regular events focussed on networking, career building and professional development. In 2014, BPF WN rolled out a membership programme and constituted an Advisory Committee to help steer the network from strength to strength. "The forum is a fantastic way for us to support each other by sharing our experience to broaden our personal and professional horizons," describes Sakeena Lalljee, Chair of the BPF WN.

This month, BPF WN will launch its professional development series with a workshop on [The Art of Communication and Marketing Yourself](#).

For more information about the event, BPF WN and how to become a member, click [here](#).



Upcoming Events

BPF WN Professional Networking Series

LONDON: February 25, 2015

The British Pakistani Foundation Women's Network will hold the first of a series of Professional Development Workshops in collaboration with the global recruitment company, Harvey Nash. The workshop is entitled "The Art of Communication and Marketing Yourself" and will provide valuable tips for anyone working in a corporate environment, running their own business or looking to improve their professional image and communications skills.

Time: 5pm-7pm

Venue: Harvey Nash, Heron Tower, 110 Bishopsgate, London

Cost: 10 (Members) / 15 (Non-Members)

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Business and Professional Club Launch

Event

LONDON: March 19, , 2015

BPF Business and Professional Club is hosting an evening of networking and nibbles to bring together entrepreneurs, business leaders and professionals. The event will also include a comedy session by Salman Malik and special appearances by writer and comedian Humza Arshad and singer Abbas Hasan.

Time: 7pm-10pm

Venue: Bluebird Chelsea, 350 Kings Road London SW3 5UU

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HaLOL! A Muslim Comedy

LONDON: March 9, 2015

A line-up of Muslim comedians, including the British Pakistani Shazia Mirza will be performing together for one night only. 'HaLoL' promises to be irreverentially hilarious.

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Graham Layton Trust Gala

LONDON: March 14, 2015

The Graham Layton Trust (GLT) 30th Anniversary Gala will take place on March 14, 2014 at the Sheraton Park Lane Hotel in London.

GLT was established in the UK in 1984, and is the fundraising arm of is the UK arm of the Pakistani charity, Layton Rahmatullah Benevolent Trust (LRBT). The LRBT provides free state-of-the-art eye treatment to those suffering from curable eye diseases in Pakistan.

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Previous Events

Karachi Stock Exchange Investment Conference

LONDON: February 18, 2015

The Pakistan High Commission and Karachi Stock Exchange (KSE) organised a conference on investment in London. Speakers at the event included Muhammad Zubair,



Minister of State for Privatization, Muneer Kamal, Chairman of the Karachi Stock Exchange (KSE), Nadeem Naqvi, Managing Director, KSE and Haroon Askari, Deputy Managing Director, KSE.

Youth Convention 2015

LONDON: February 14, 2015

The Pakistan High Commission organised the Youth Convention 2015 in an effort to engage with the British Pakistani youth. The day long conference was divided into sessions on social and current affairs, youth empowerment and culture. Speakers and performers included Rehman Chisti MP, Peter Osborne, Beo Zafar, Atif Nawaz and Ziauddin Sardar.

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From Mirpur to Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM: January 10 - 31, 2015

The Library of Birmingham hosted a project focusing on the experiences of members of the diaspora who made the journey across from Mirpur in Azad Kashmir to Birmingham. Birmingham hosts the worlds largest population of Kashmiri expats, many of whom emigrated in the 1950s and 60s.



DIL Trust UK Gala

LONDON: January 30, 2015

DIL Trust UK held an extremely successful Gala dinner at the Dorchester in London. Funds raised through the event will enable DIL to build its first girls school in Dir, Pakistan.

DIL Trust UK is a charity that promotes education in Pakistan. The organisation has a network of schools across the country, and also offers vocational training and teacher training programmes.

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The World in Which WE Live

LONDON: January 28, 2015

Women Empowered (WE) held a successful panel discussion, "The World in Which WE Live", where prominent British Asians shared their experiences and insights about how one person can change the world. Speakers included Baroness Sayeeda Warsi and Fashion Compassion's Ayesha Mustafa.

Discussions centred around professional insights and advice, stories of discrimination and perseverance, and social justice and current affairs.

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UK Trade Fair

LONDON: January 26, 2015

The third annual UK Pakistan Trade and Investment Conference took place in London in January 2015. The event was organised by the UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) in collaboration with the Pakistan High Commission and aimed at promoting bilateral trade and investment between Pakistan and the UK.



Foreign & Commonwealth Office Minister for Pakistan, Tobias Ellwood MP represented the British Government and Dr. Miftah Ismail, Chairman of the Pakistan Board of Investment represented the Pakistani delegation. John Tucknott, UK's Deputy High Commissioner to Pakistan moderated the proceedings.

News and Highlights



BPF Outreach and Engagement

January - February 2015

To better represent and advocate on behalf of the British Pakistani diaspora, BPF has been engaging with senior politicians, diplomats, MPs and civil society organisations. BPF Chairperson Asif Rangoonwala met with Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Lord Nazir Ahmed, Mr Rehman Chisti MP, Mr Andrew Stephenson MP, Mr John Tucknott, UK's Deputy High Commissioner to Pakistan, Cllr. Mustaq Lasharie, H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan's High Commissioner to the UK, and many others. BPF is also actively exploring a partnership with the Memon Association UK so as to unite diaspora on a single platform.



Working Together to Eradicate Polio

January 2015

BPF has met with the Gates Foundation, World Health Organization and the Rotary International to create awareness about polio.

Polio is a crippling disease that can paralyze for life and mainly affects young children. However, it is easily treated through vaccines. The [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#), a partnership of international organisations, donors and countries, has been working to protect children from this disease. This has contributed to a 99% reduction in polio across the world.

Today, polio remains endemic in three countries only; Pakistan, Nigeria and Afghanistan. In 2014, Pakistan accounted for more than 85% of all polio cases. The polio crisis in Pakistan continues to deepen due to political instability and a poor law and order situation. The battle against polio will be won or lost in Pakistan.

The British Pakistani diaspora can help fight this disease by creating awareness about the affects of polio and by lobbying with governments and politicians in Pakistan.

Career Opportunities

Campaigns, Policy & Influencing Trainee Scheme

Organisation: Oxfam

Location: Oxford, UK

Deadline: 25 February 2015

Details: This is an 11-month paid placement where trainees work in different areas of Oxfam's campaign and policy teams, as well as receive training and support to build their knowledge and skills



Project Manager

Organisation: Ministry of Change

Location: Islamabad, Pakistan

Deadline: On-going

Details: Ministry of Change is recruiting a Project Manager with a minimum of 5 years work experience to oversee the completion of a project that aims to use ICT's to mobilize stakeholders within the development sector.

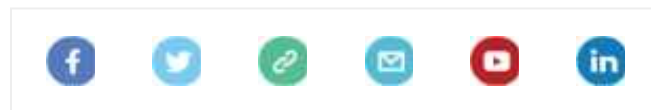


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Survey

We would love to learn a little more about you! Please take a few moments to complete a short survey and enter a competition for a chance to win an iPad mini!

[\[Survey\]](#)



Join BPF's Membership Programme [\[Click Here\]](#)

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