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# Happy New Year

Dear Readers,

We hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and a good start to 2015.

Twenty Fourteen was an eventful year for us at BPF, for the British Pakistani community, and for Pakistan.

In October, a nation rejoiced as Malala Yousafzai earned the singular distinction of becoming the world's youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner. In December, we were left reeling by the horror of the senseless massacre at the Army school in Peshawar.

As we look forward to 2015, it is with guarded optimism and with a strong sense of purpose. We are cognizant of the many challenges that assail us. However, we are also reminded of the power of unity and the strength that we can draw from one another. We hope that we continue to see this spirit of solidarity and unity over the next year.

At BPF, we remain committed to our goals of community building and empowerment. We have several programmes, events and seminars lined up for the next twelve months which we are excited to share with you.

We look forward to your continued support over the year, and hope to connect with you at some of our events or on our social media platforms. As always, we welcome your feedback and look forward to hearing from you.

Best Wishes,

The British Pakistan Foundation Team



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## In Solidarity after the Peshawar Attacks

The Taliban's brutal and senseless attack on a school in Peshawar on December 16, 2014 left the world aghast and horrified.

Gordon Brown, former British Prime Minister, spoke of how the terrorist attacks "unite the world in outrage". In UK, we saw such demonstrations of unity as people from all backgrounds and affiliations came together to condemn the attacks and to stand in support with the victims and their families.

Vigils and prayers were held across the UK and people poured forward to express support and solidarity. MP's, politicians and celebrities offered their condolences. Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth sent a [letter](#) of condolence to the Pakistani President. UK Prime Minister, David Cameron, the Foreign Secretary, Phillip Hammond and many other politicians wrote letters of sympathy. Sir Nicholas Houghton, the British Chief of Defence Staff, visited the Pakistan High Commission in London to offer condolences.

British Pakistani MP's, politicians and other high profile figures, including Philip Barton, Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, Sadiq Khan MP, Sajjid Javed MP, Sajjad Karim MEP, Rehman Chisty MP and Malala Yousafzai decried the attacks and expressed sympathy for the victims.

The Pakistani cricket team donated all proceeds of a cricket match to the victims. Boxing champion Amir Khan, donated 30,000 shorts to help rebuild the army school in Peshawar school and has traveled to the site of the atrocities. As individuals and organisations with different mandates, affiliations and traditions came together, we witnessed the power of unity in assembly.

Click [here](#) to see some messages of support from thought leaders, politicians and prominent members of the British Pakistani community.



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# Upcoming Events

## Special Discount: Dara

January 20 - April 4, 2015

Dara, Ajoka Theatre's epic Mughal history play, will run at the National Theatre in London from 20 January – 4 April, 2015. Shahid Nadeem's acclaimed play was originally written in Urdu and has been adapted by UK playwright Tanya Ronder. This will be the first time a Pakistani theatre company has had a version of their work staged by the National Theatre.

BPF members can access exclusive seats for 15, for performances from 20 January – 9 February, 2014 (usually up to 34). Click [here](#) and enter the Promo Code 'DARA15', choose a date, and select the green or orange seats in the Circle at the 15 offer price. Alternately, you can book by phone by calling 0207452 3000 and quoting 'DARA15'.