

SPRING / SUMMER 2020



Chair's Welcome: As the world is in the grip of Covid-19, I hope you are safe and in good health. In newsletter 2, we will share with you our response to the global pandemic, led by the UPSIGN core team. I will also share information about UPSIGN's biggest undertaking, the Global Development Workshops (held March 2020) in, which over 140 academics met in Islamabad. During the latter, we were honoured with meeting Prime Minister Imran Khan and a dinner at President's House. We also made strong connections with both the UK and Pakistani High Commissions, British Council, Pakistan Higher Education Commission (HEC) and others. Finally, I will share information about UPSIGN's mission.

UPSIGN is an inclusive, voluntary group that operates on a secular and non-political basis. We consist of students and educators who are interested to uplift Pakistanis. To see a **SHORT VIDEO** about our work (in English and in Urdu), [Click here.](#)

Prof Jawwad A. Darr [UPSIGN Chair]

Spotlight on...



Dr Parveen Ali

In these unprecedented times Dr Parveen Ali, UPSIGN's Healthcare co-lead has been at the forefront of UPSIGN's response to tackling the global pandemic and issues around healthcare education for many South Asian Britains. Through her passion for teaching, she's also looking at ways to improve training for medical practitioners. To learn more, [Click here.](#)

In response to the global pandemic, UPSIGN's volunteers have been working in various capacities (see below) as well as setting up of a new [WhatsApp Covid-19 group](#) to bring together healthcare experts.

Newsletter Highlights...

March: Meeting with the PM of Pakistan, Imran Khan

Members of the UPSIGN team alongside UKRI's Professor Nicola Lowe, were given a private invitation to meet with PM Imran Khan who gave his support to the Workshops. [Click here](#) to read more. [Click here](#) to see the video.



March: Workshop Dinner at the President's House, Islamabad

All the participants from the Global Development Workshops and VIPs, were hosted at the President's House for a dinner. President Arif Alvi addressed the participants, highlighting the importance of scientific research in enabling Pakistan to improve. To find out more, [Click here](#). To see a video of the President's speech, [Click here](#).



SHORT VIDEO: Minister's Speech at UPSIGN Workshops

UPSIGN was honoured to host Ms Zartaj Gul (Minister for Climate Change) who spoke at one of our March Workshops (Urdu/English subtitles). [Click here](#)



Global Development Workshops March 2020



Global Development Workshops Islamabad

In March, we held our first ever Global development Workshops series in collaboration with UKRI in Islamabad, Pakistan. There were three workshops on Agri/Nutrition, Healthcare and Energy/Water. See below and [Click here](#) to read more.



Workshop 2; Affordable Healthcare

This workshop (held on 10th and 11th March 2020) was an opportunity for academics, healthcare professionals and policy makers to come together and explore innovative healthcare solutions for Pakistan and the region. [Click here](#) to read more.



Workshop 3; Clean & Affordable Energy/Clean Water

The workshop was held on 11th and 12th March 2020. Topics included energy policy challenges, energy storage, distributed generation systems, availability of the raw materials and sustainability challenges key water challenges, public policy effects on clean water, water conservation and management. [Click here](#) to read more

SHORT VIDEOS RELATED TO THE RECENT WORKSHOPS

SHORT VIDEO:

Interviews about the 2020 Global Development workshops (Urdu with English subtitles): [Click here](#)



SHORT VIDEO:

Professor Nicola Lowe (from UKRI) speaks about the 2020 Global Development Workshops. [Click here](#) to see the video.



Selected UPSIGN Webinars and Updates

FULL VIDEO: Healthcare Group Webinar: Covid-19 and Nursing Education. The webinar explored COVID 19 induced challenges affecting Nursing and Midwifery Education and their implications during and after pandemic. [Click here](#) to see video.



Update: Education & Capacity Building Team

Covid-19 has had a dramatic effect on education and the pandemic has impacted BAME communities disproportionately. It has also accelerated the need to develop innovative and flexible learning approaches for delivering education. Click on the links below to find out more.

WEBINAR: The Untold Story; Impact of Covid-19 on BAME Students. For the webpage about the webinar, [Click here](#). To download the article "what are the lessons learnt?", [Click here](#).



UPSIGN Events (Social/Networking/Press)



EVENT: UK launch of the Global Development Workshops

On the 17th February UPSIGN and partners, held the formal UK launch of the Global Development Workshops (Islamabad) at the Pakistan High Commission, hosted by His Excellency, Muhammad Nafees Zakaria. [Click here](#) to read more.



EVENT: Pakistan Launch of the Global Development Workshops

The Minister of Science and Technology; Fawad Chaudhry officially launched the workshops at a press conference. He welcomed UPSIGN's efforts in encouraging the Pakistani Diaspora overseas to work in Pakistan and help to realise its potential. [Click here](#) to read more. [Click here](#) for video from the Launch



EVENT: Dinner at the Higher Education Commission Pakistan

A dinner was hosted at the higher Education Commission (HEC) for the workshop participants on the 9th March. Dr Banuri (HEC chair), emphasised the power of the UNSDGs in the fight to eradicate poverty. To find out more, [Click here](#).



EVENT: Dinner hosted by the British Council, Pakistan

British Council Director for Pakistan Amir Ramzan spoke in appreciation of the work of both UPSIGN and UKRI in light of the workshops. To find out more [Click here](#).

[Click here](#) to see past UPSIGN events and workshops

UPSIGN's Recent Articles / Publications

ARTICLE: UPSIGN Article on the Covid BAME Blame Game.

The UPSIGN Network, has come together to counter the negative narrative in the recent Telegraph article (published Friday 26th June 2020), entitled “Exclusive: Half of UK’s imported Covid-19 infections are from Pakistan”. [Click here](#) to read our reply. [Click here](#) to read the original article in the Telegraph.



Photo credit: <https://unsplash.com/photos/N1caHdFQ734>
[Frontline. Inspired by images of exhausted doctors and nurses. Image created by Kevin Kobsic.

Get Involved and Make a Difference



We have a number of varied opportunities for students and professionals to get involved in. If you are interested in volunteering to support UPSIGN, please contact our coordinator Farzana at: farzana.hussain@ucl.ac.uk



Photo by javier teubas on Unsplash

The UPSIGN Education and capacity building group is interested to address the causes of low average attainment in school age British Pakistanis. We are seeking your help and we will be setting up interactive opportunities to bring together experts or those who are interested to get involved. If you want to join this focus group, please contact our coordinator; Farzana at farzana.hussain@ucl.ac.uk

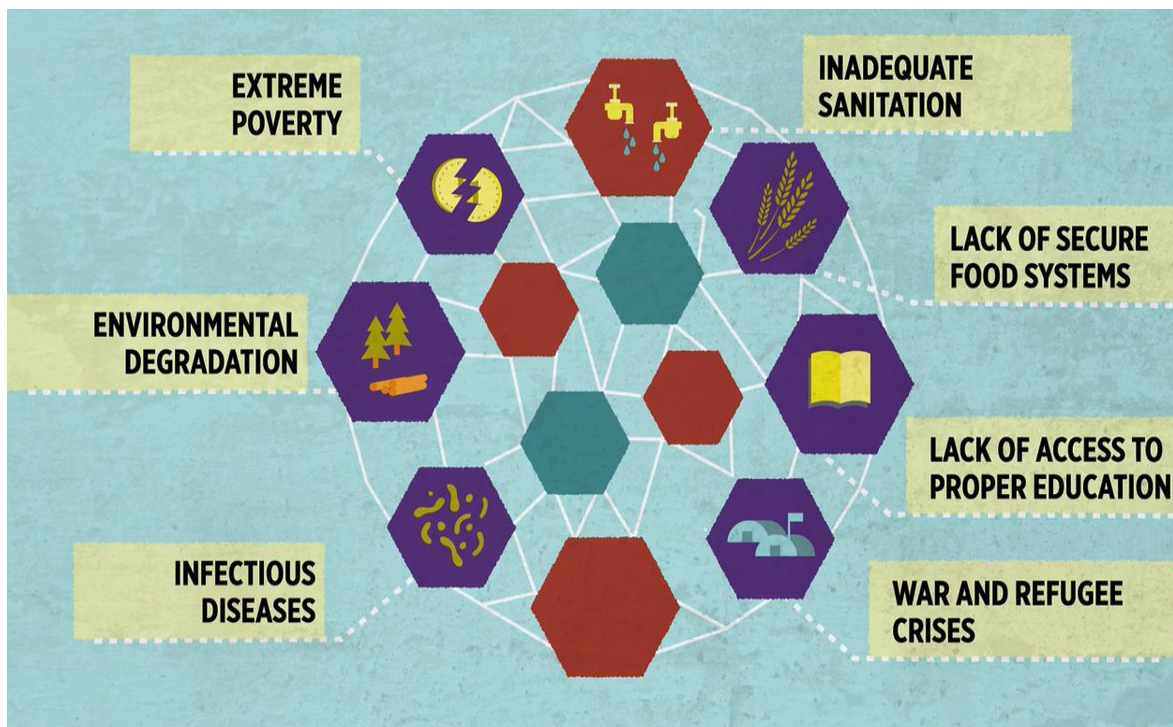
Did You Know About...



UPSIGN uses the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) as the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The UNSDGs address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. The 17 UNSDGs are all interconnected, and in order to leave no one behind. [Click here](#) to learn more about the UNSDGs.

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

GCRF is a £1.5 billion fund that was by the British Government in 2015. Its purpose is to support key, innovative research that tackles the challenges in the developing world. The main aim of the fund is to facilitate global equitable access to sustainable development. [Click Here](#) to go to the webpage for GCRF.



Support UPSIGN

Individual Donors: Support us to lead and create a more sustainable and flourishing future for Pakistanis and its diaspora. The funds will 100% be used to pay for UK based events, seminars and debates that are used to educate the diaspora or to support mentoring programmes (all our active members are volunteers). [Click here](#) if you wish to donate towards UPSIGN's work and help support our cause.

Corporate Donors: UPSIGN is always interested to hear from corporate donors who wish to work with us to develop initiatives ([Click here](#)). Please get in contact with us via farzana.hussain@ucl.ac.uk. Current organisations who have supported or funded us to date can be found on the following link [here](#).

Keep in Touch

For all the latest updates on UPSIGN's progress, opportunities and updates regarding the Pakistani diaspora, please follow our social media by clicking the icons below. If you want to get involved in our subject specific discussions, join our WhatsApp groups, [Click here](#).

If you wish to write short articles about related topics for future newsletters, please get in contact and join our UPSIGN communications team [farzana.hussain@ucl.ac.uk].



SIGN UP TO UPSIGN!

please share this newsletter using the following hyperlink, which will allow others to download the pdf file https://bd38731f-5461-49f0-8949-e8b0aebf5d56.filesusr.com/ugd/3b9c46_85c917efa1f1461ab9ff9f53c5dda2e2.pdf