



UPSIGN Newsletter 4

Summer 2021



Ms Madiha Sajid
(Education Lead)

Welcome to UPSIGN's fourth newsletter. Since the last newsletter, UPSIGN has continued to forge relationships with key organisations. This includes the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) and Punjab HEC (Pakistan) and Pakistan's High Commissioner in London. UPSIGN has also been working to develop new Educational programmes to support both Pakistani academics and students, bridging a skills gap. Our webinar on volunteering with Moawia Bin-Sufyan, highlighted how and why it's so important for the diaspora to get involved.

Madiha

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](#).

Spotlight on...



Moawia Bin-Sufyan

Moawia Bin Sufyan, has volunteered tirelessly for the community since the age of 15. As a member of the Pakistani diaspora you can provide a unique insight and represent your community at many different levels through volunteering. [Click here](#) to read about his journey.

Dr Parveen Ali (UPSIGN Healthcare co-lead): has recently been appointed as the first ever British Pakistani / South Asian origin Professor of Nursing in the UK. Congratulations to Parveen on this achievement. [Click here](#) to read more.



Recent Webinars

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

UK Volunteering Opportunities for British Pakistanis:

This webinar in association with YPS, BPF and UPSIGN member Moawia Bin-Sufyan, focused on how volunteering is beneficial and why more of the diaspora should get involved. Speakers included Muddassar Ahmed, Rt Hon Peter Riddell and Khadija Stone JP. [Click here](#) to read more.



One Health: This webinar held by UPSIGN in association with COMSTECH discussed the need for developing collaborations beyond borders for protecting human health. This focuses on challenges in food security, the health system and climate change. Watch the full video [here](#).



Future of Public Health in Pakistan, Opportunities and Challenges:

This online workshop was held with Faculty of Public Health, UPSIGN and Health Service Academy. It highlighted the challenges and opportunities faced by Pakistan and how the Pakistani diaspora can get involved. Watch the full video [here](#).



PAK-UK Education Gateway, Keeping the Connection Alive:

This virtual conference focused on collaborations between the UK and Pakistan which have been fostered by the British Council and the HEC. This includes moving on from COVID-19. [Click here](#) to read an article.



(NEW) UPSIGN Diaspora Documents

UPSIGN Diaspora Documents

List: UPSIGN has collated key documents and reports from UPSIGN and others that we believe that these will be of great interest to the diaspora, particularly those working in education, academia and professional development. [Click here](#) to see the full list.



Volunteering Links (PDF):

Following on from the UPSIGN webinar Volunteering Opportunities for British Pakistanis, we have collated some useful volunteering links in topics related to law, medicine and others. [Click here](#) to access the document (PDF).



Controversial Report Published on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the UK:

An independent report by the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities published their findings on racial and ethnic disparities in the UK. [Click here](#) to read the full report (PDF).



EPSRC (Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council)

Publishes Ethnicity Data: This data highlights the under representation of ethnic minority researchers. It is a key priority to be addressed by both the EPSRC and UKRI (UK Research and Innovation). [Click here](#) to access more information.



UPSIGN Recommendations for UAEET (University of Applied Engineering and Emerging Technologies):

UPSIGN was requested to provide input and advice on the development of a new university, UAEET in Sialkot. [Click here](#).



Research and Funding News

Joint UK-PAK Research Project:

Researchers, Dr Muhammad Yar (COMSATS, IRCBM), and Dr Sheila MacNeil (Sheffield University) with funding from the British Council are working to produce an advanced wound dressing providing an alternative for the Pakistani public. [Click here](#) to read more.



TEXONOMY Project: Dr Shahid Rasul (Northumbria University) has been awarded £50 K from the British Council. UPSIGN is supporting the project that will look at reducing textile industry waste in Pakistan, using innovations in policy, science & technology. [Click here](#).



Edith Evelyn Wali Mohammad Memorial Fund: Applications for the Edith Evelyn Wali Mohammad Memorial Fund are now open. This provides financial support for final year Pakistani national PhD students. Applications must be submitted to the Pakistan High Commission (London). For further details, [click here](#).



HEC Grand Challenge Fund (GCF): Calls for proposals for the Grand Challenge Fund is now open. It will support large multidisciplinary projects, promoting active collaboration which will have a positive impact. Further information can be found [here](#).



Education Group Update

Launch of Pilot Programme, Pakistan's Global Graduates: This programme developed with experts is focused on developing six key skills for example critical thinking, CV, and academic writing. It will support Pakistani students who are going to complete further studies internationally. [Click here](#) to find out more.



International News

Development of a New University, Sialkot: A new university (UAEET, University of Applied Engineering and Emerging Technologies) has received approval in Sialkot, Pakistan. This is the first university developed with international collaboration with both Austria and China. [Click here](#) to read more.



Pakistan's Chairman of HEC Removed: After the sudden removal of the Chairman of HEC, Pakistan's higher education has been thrown into turmoil. UPSIGN has collated some news pieces commenting on the multiple viewpoints of the chairman's removal. [Click here](#) to read the articles.



Keep in Touch

For all the latest updates on UPSIGN's progress, opportunities and updates regarding the Pakistani diaspora, follow our social media by clicking the icons below. If you want to get involved in our subject specific discussions, join our WhatsApp groups. If you want to contact us about writing an article, email, [Farzana Hussain](#) or [UPSIGN](#).



UPSIGN has several specialist WhatsApp groups based on the UN Sustainable development goals. You can communicate and share information with each other. To join, [click here](#).

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 [UPSIGN](#).

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 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](#) or [UPSIGN](#). Current organisations who have supported or funded us to date can be found on the following link; [Click here](#).

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