



## Kashmir Peace Exhibition 2005

Liberal Democrats Federal Conference 21 September 2005  
Blackpool Winter Gardens

Liberal Democrats Friends of Kashmir (LDFK) 17/22 Sept 2005. Peace exhibition was the first of its type ever to be held in a mainstream British political party conference.

The project was first initiated by Qassim Afzal. The peace and information concept has now been pleasingly emulated amongst the other two political parties in the UK. The LDFK was established in 2001 by Qassim Afzal, while a councillor. The launch took place in the House of Commons, elected as the official Chair, and Liz Lynne MEP was elected as the honour President, welcomed by the Pakistan High Commission, Abdul Qadir Jaffer, where 12 MP signed up as patrons to the LibDems friend's organisation.

At the Liberal Democrats conference, an area is set aside for exhibitions. This includes many special interest and internal party lobby groups. In particular for the first time in British political history this year there was an exhibition presenting materials concerning the historic and current situation in Kashmir.

This stand was undoubtedly visited by many party members, including guests justice foundation pictured with LibDems Party Chief Wipe Andrew Stunell MP. Many delegates' members of Parliament visited the stand, as well as the party President Simon Hughes MP and Party leader Charles Kennedy MP. Leader of the Lib Dems European Group Chris Davies MEP, visits the exhibition, takes a keen interest in the literature being displayed.

The stall distributed a range of literature including a lengthy detailed and well presented report on the situation. The exhibition also displayed pictographic material of the region, its people, and strategic sights encompassing the line of control, refugee camps, schools as well as interaction with the United Nation observers, this took place in 2003 and 2005 during high-level delegations lead by Qassim Afzal, with his party colleagues, Patsy Calton MP, Dr Jenny Tonge MP, Party President Simon Hughes MP, Don Foster MP and Personal aid and advised Cllr Ben Jephcoat. Pictured above John Hemming MP with Qassim Afzal

**The aim of the exhibition** Is to raise the awareness of issues that are related to the disputed region, both on the Indian side as well as Pakistan. LDFK maintain neutrality between the two countries. We aim to provide information which would help individuals from all sectors to make up there own minds.

**The Focus** is to Provide literature, pictures and reference of the disputed region, with a focus on the current situation in the Kashmir regions while providing opportunities of discussion and interaction.

**The Exhibition** attracts close to 2000 delegates from across the country. In addition to this dozens of delegates from a significant number of high commissions and embassies that regularly engage in the annual conference. The exhibition attracted many parliamentarians, party activist. There is a significant presence of mainstream media television, radio and written press. This exhibition is a unique opportunity to interact with councillors, leaders, Lords, members of the European parliament and the House of Commons.

Rt, Brigadier Ifftiqure, Qassim Afzal MA, DR  
Jenny Tonge MP, Patcy Calton MP at the LoC



Qassim Afzal MA & Chris Davies MEP



John Hemming MP



Andrew Stunell MP & Guests

