



HE Dr Maleeha Lodhi, Qassim Afzal (Chair), President Simon Hughes MP, Lords Leader Tom McNaly, Don Foster MP, Vincent Cable MP, Kishwah Faulkner Lords.

Reception 2005
Liberal Democrat Friends of Pakistan

Supported by
High Commission of Pakistan Her Excellency
Dr Maleeha Lodhi

At the Blackpool (HQ) Imperial Hotel Room Imperial 3
Liberal Democrats Federal Conference

Chaired by Qassim Afzal



The Liberal Democrats Friends of Pakistan, The Liberal Democrats Friends of Kashmir

Liberal Democrats Friends of Pakistan



Qassim Afzal welcomed Her Excellency Dr Maleeha Lodhi, the High Commissioner of Pakistan and all the official guests and speakers to the Liberal Democrats Friends of Pakistan fringe meeting.

Her Excellency Dr Maleeha Lodhi, the High Commissioner of Pakistan spoke on the need for good communication between the UK and Pakistan and about the need to involve people in discussions so as to reduce tendencies towards extremism.

Simon Hughes MP, President of the Liberal Democrats party welcomed the high commission to the national conference and was effusive in his praise of the efforts of the Friends of Pakistan group and it was announced that he had accepted the role of honorary president of the group. Over 20 LibDems parliamentarians attended, and in all over 150 conference delegates filled the room.

Among those who spoke, welcome the formation of the Liberal Democrats Friends of Pakistan group were the leader of the Lords, Lord McNally, and Baroness Kishwer Falkner. LDFP is the first official forum to be brought into existence from amongst the three main British political parties, now following our lead.

The LDFP 21/9/2005 followed the meeting on the future of NATO, chaired by Qassim Afzal, a national elected member of the Liberal Democrats International Relations Committee founded through the Westminster Development Fund (WDF), he was grateful for the help from his team and Jock Gallagher, Dr John Ryan of the parliamentary candidates association for there support in bring the two fringes together and making them successful.

The LDFP event was recorded in the LibDems official national agenda director. The LDFP working committee which stretched across the UK was initiated in 2003, with the first listing in conference directory in 2004 nationally.

With the aid of the working committee and close cooperation with the Pakistan High Commission, invitations were sent out via post, e-mailed and personally across the country to conference delegates

The meeting was organised by Qassim Afzal who is the chair and founder of the Liberal Democrats Friends of Pakistan. LDFP has recently been approved by the federal executives SAO panel as a LibDems official affiliated organization.



left Dr. Vincent Cable MP, HE Dr Maleeha Lodhi, Chair Qassim Afzal, Don Foster MP, and Party President Simon Hughes MP, Lords LibDems leader, Lords Tom McNALLY, Chief Whip Andrew Stunell MP and David Howarth MP



Dept High Commission Abdul Basit, Baroness Lindsay Northover is the Liberal Democrats Spokesperson on International Development in the House of Lords. Dr Vincent Cable Shadow Chancellor and Deputy Leader, HE Dr Maleeha Lodhi, chair Qassim Afzal, guest to the reception at the federal LibDems HQ hotel.



Media, The fringe event was well covered by the UK and Asian press, including, Prime TV, ARY Digital, LibDems News the advertiser and News International to mention a few.





Several senior parliamentarians speakers offered their encouragement for closer ties and described the commonalities, cultural and historical tied that exist between UK and Pakistan in many ways, expressing routs in which closer friendship will benefit all.

In particular a number of speakers reflected on their visits to Pakistan and Kashmir which have been organised as official Liberal Democrat MP's visits.

Many positive aspects of life in Pakistan were recognised including the substantial role that women play in Pakistani life.

Liberal Democrats Friends of Pakistan Chairman Qassim Afzal congrtulated the dynamic and warm contributions to developing conductive ties with the UK and its community.

Her Excellency Dr Maleeha Lodhi the High Commissioner of Pakistan, joining Liberal Democrats Party President Simon Hughes MP and amongst those present leader of the Lords, Lord McNally, Baroness Kishwer Falkner, Andrew Stunell MP, Sandra Gidley MP, Lembit Opik MP, total some 20 Parliamentarians, 30 councillors from across the UK, making over 150 conference delegates welcoming the creation of the Liberal Democrats Friends of Pakistan.

Dr Maleeha Lodhi has urged the international community to help take forward the current peace process between Pakistan and India to its logical conclusion with the aspirations of the Kashmir People.

Both the High Commission and Party President congratulate Qassim for his hard work in founding the LDFP and a successful event

Qassim Afzal thanked Simon Hughes MP in becoming Honorary President of the LDFP and all the delegates for making the even a great success at the federal conference in Blackpool 2005.

