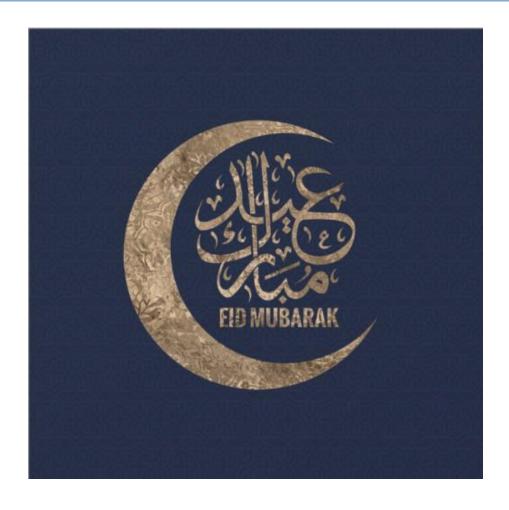


News Journal: Volume 6, Issue 4 April 2023

<u>The Muslim Voice</u> Project offers a platform of technology services for the Muslim Community of North America. It provides the needed infrastructure to transform the community towards <u>unified positions</u> and integrated action plans. It seeks Muslim representation at local, state, and federal levels. So, please <u>help</u>.



Welcome Message

EID MUBARAK

We wish that you and the community are well, and you will enjoy this issue of the News Journal. Please share it with your family and friends, and forward it to your own email list.

April 2023 issue has the following content.

- 1. Editorial
- 2. News in Brief
- 3. Articles for the Muslim Community
 - a. Threat of a Nuclear War looms
 - b. Macron kick starts the New World order
 - c. Humza Haroon Yousaf: Scotland's First Minister
 - d. Menstruation and Ramadan
 - e. 18 British Muslims are Members of Parliament
- 4. The Great Muslim Nation

Please click **here** for the archived issues of the News Journal, and click **here** to donate.

Stay in PEACE



The Muslim Voice

Editorial

Two Urgent Matters

The Muslim Community in North America needs awareness that life as usual is now changing in a way that can and likely will impact their daily lives, not nominally but vitally. That is because USA will no longer be the country it was when they or their forefathers came to as immigrants.

It is changing in an essential way.

First is the fact that a New World Order is already emerging. USA will not have its say around the world as it has had since the World War 2. This has happened because of a cavalier use of Economic and Financial Sanctions against the suffering people of the world such as in Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Sudan, and Yemen. These were minor countries who could not retaliate. Further, USA also used its military muscle against them; cyber attacks in the case of Iran.

USA became more and more reckless in the use of the Sanctions and Military. It started using these oppressive tactics against countries such as Russia and China. There was a difference this time. These countries could retaliate, and they did.

The results will soon impact your pockets. That is because a New World order has already begun to form.

French President gave an interview after his visit to China; that came as a rude awakening, and without a warning. Remember the deal about the Nuclear Submarines that France had with Australia? Recall also that USA and UK went behind the back of Macron to nullify that deal last year? Macron did not forget that; French are too independent to take such a stab on the back and not to retaliate. Macron had not reached home; while still in the plane, he retaliated, and retaliated decisively.

What will really wound USA almost fatally is the emergence of an International Basket of Currencies that is totally bypassing the US Dollar. It has already begun to take effect.

BRICS already existed. But now it is expanding. The latest additions are Saudi Arabia and UAE. USA always acted as if Saudi Arabia and UAE were in its pocket. No more: and the rude awakening came without a warning.

Once the avalanche starts, you cannot tell. There is already DOD Leak that Egypt is manufacturing 40,000 rockets, not for Ukraine but for Russia.

The avalanche is already in motion. So, we forewarn our Muslim Community in North America. Please heed.

Stay in PEACE.



News in Brief

Please **click** on the hyperlinks for more details:

- 1. Syria's return to Arab League.
- 2. Sudan's prospects for a civilian government.
- 3. 40,000 rockets from Egypt to Russia!
- 4. China-Iran-Saudi mediation with USA left out.
- 5. Watch Document Leaks, Sisi's Gambit with Russia, and Ukraine.
- 6. Muslim majority enclaves within USA.
- 7. Watch Muslim Network News for news coverage in USA and Canada.
- 8. Visit <u>here</u> for other news coverage.

Articles for Muslim Community

Nuclear Risk in Ukraine

Russia's special military operation in Ukraine has exposed how close a nuclear escalation, or a nuclear war can be. While the majority of military, intelligence, and nuclear weapons' observers believe that the use of a tactical nuclear weapon by Russia remains incredibly unlikely, they also agree that a further escalation of the war could lead to unpredictable developments. Most importantly, potential nuclear weapons use in Ukraine is just one of the nuclear dangers that we should be concerned about.

Just a couple of days into the war in Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin publicly put Russian nuclear forces on a higher state of alert, signaling the Kremlin's ability to escalate if wanted. Since then, the nuclear warnings have been used by Russia on various occasions to remind the United States and NATO that if they get too involved in the conflict Moscow could use any means at its disposal with catastrophic consequences. Lately though, at the Valdai Discussion Club held on October 27, President Putin denied having any intentions of using nuclear weapons in Ukraine. Speaking at the conference, Putin said that it is pointless for Russia to strike Ukraine: "There is no point in that, neither political nor military". He added that the previous warnings of his readiness to use "all means available to protect Russia" were merely a response to Western statements about their possible use of nuclear weapons.

While most of the military and nuclear arms experts cannot rule out the use of these weapons in Ukraine, they tend to agree that the actual likelihood of such a move is very low. Intelligence-wise there are no signs that Putin is preparing for any use of nuclear weapons. Militarily, Russia does not have trained troops that could take advantage of a tactical nuclear weapon strike. In other words, military experts do not see a battlefield advantage to use any nuclear armament. From the strategic point of view, nuclear signaling seems to be less about real planning and more about deterring the West from expending its help to Ukraine.

At this stage of the war, Russia might be trying to discourage the United States from sending advanced weapons systems to Ukraine, like the Army Tactical Missile System, a longer-range weaponry known as ATACMS. Michael McFaul, a former US Ambassador to Russia and a scholar, told the New York Times that Putin was achieving already a practical military objective just by talking about nuclear weapons: "The Biden administration has supplied Ukraine with billions of dollars in weapons, which have changed the course of the war, but it has held off giving Kyiv longer-range missiles, tanks and fighter planes. They are being deterred by Putin."

Some are still tempted to conclude that nuclear deterrence works arguing that NATO's nuclear restraint has limited Russia's 'military operation' exclusively to the territory of Ukraine. We should emphasize that for Russia, the possession of nuclear weapons not only enabled Moscow to invade Ukraine but also helped to prevent a direct NATO's military involvement. Vladimir Putin might have never invaded Ukraine if Moscow did not have nuclear weapons as a backup. Besides, no one can foresee consequences of further military escalation, sabotage operations involving attacks on critical infrastructure, or accidental destruction

of a nuclear plant. In truth, the NATO allies have been walking the fine line between providing military support to Ukraine and not provoking a NATO conflict with Russia.

The risk of miscalculation with nuclear forces pointed at each other by two major nuclear powers remains high. A wide range of military operations conducted at the time of increased tensions could easily lead to misperceptions or mistakes. A nuclear drill (Steadfast Noon) recently conducted by NATO could be considered problematic in the sense of nuclear signaling, despite its routine nature. Russia has also notified its intention to conduct a routine nuclear exercise (Grom), which might involve launching of intercontinental ballistic missiles, as it did in the past. In a similar way, the sabotage operations, and attacks on critical infrastructure such as explosions destroying Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines, or the Crimean Bridge, could lead to significant escalation. Most recently, Russia threatened to strike Western commercial satellites that are helping Ukraine to counter the invasion. This threat has also raised concerns among space lawyers and industry executives about the safety of objects in orbit. Such a strike could severely escalate tensions between Russia and the United States.

The danger of nuclear weapons' use has been looming over Ukraine since the beginning of the Russian invasion. However, the possible use of nuclear arms in Ukraine is just one of the nuclear risks that has emerged from Russia's war. Unfortunately, some states might see new incentives to get their own weapons, others might consider the use of civilian nuclear-power plants as tools for terror too. All these developments are happening against the backdrop of a new nuclear arms race and a near collapse of arms control agreements. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which assesses the current state of armaments, disarmament, and international security, indicates in the recently published Yearbook 2022 that global nuclear arsenals are expected to grow as states continue to modernize.

Addressing the nuclear dangers emerging from Russia's war in Ukraine will require new ways of thinking. The main questions remain unanswered: How to move forward and to make the security environment more conducive to arms control? What conditions would be required to come back to strategic and stability talks? The United States and NATO will need to balance the need to support Ukraine, with the prevention of a nuclear conflict, while seeking a diplomatic end to the war. Recently, there might be some signs that Russia is softening its nuclear rhetoric over Ukraine. The latest statement published on the Russian Foreign Ministry website on November 2, stated that: "Russia is strictly and consistently guided by the tenet that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought". The statement added that Russian nuclear doctrine was unambiguous, pursued solely defensive goals and did not allow for "expansive interpretation". The statement also included an appeal for talks about security guarantees that Russia had demanded of NATO before it invaded Ukraine in February. We can only hope that this measured statement signals lowering of the nuclear rhetoric and provides an opening to work with the Kremlin to reduce nuclear threats and nuclear arsenals in the future. With all the signs that post-Cold war decline in nuclear arsenals is ending, we should remember that as long as nuclear weapons exist a nuclear war is a constant danger. Based on the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons (TPNW), non-nuclear weapon states and civil society should continue to stigmatize the possession, threats of use, and any use of nuclear weapons as illegal and immoral.

Source link

New World Order: Macron kickstarted it.

Macron triggered outrage among Western allies after a <u>recent interview with POLITICO</u>, in which he said that Europe should steer clear of becoming a follower of the U.S.'s China policy — including on Taiwan. China claims the self-governing island as part of its own territory.

"The question Europeans need to answer ... is it in our interest to accelerate [a crisis] on Taiwan? No," said Macron. "The worse thing would be to think that we Europeans must become followers on this topic and take our cue from the U.S. agenda and a Chinese overreaction."

European People's Party chief Manfred Weber took a jab at French President Emmanuel Macron's controversial comments on China, the U.S. and Taiwan, saying they highlighted the bloc's lack of a common China policy.

"Macron's interview has been a disaster, and made clear the great rift within the European Union in defining a common strategic plan against Beijing," Weber <u>said</u> in an interview published Monday with Italian daily Corriere della Sera.

Weber called on European leaders to "find an agreement" on China during the next European Council in June.

In his interview with Corriere della Sera, Weber said the French president's comments had "weakened the EU."

Macron's comments sparked a broad <u>backlash</u> on both sides of the Atlantic.

Mike Gallagher, the Republican chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, called them "<u>embarrassing</u>" and "disgraceful."

A group of China-skeptic lawmakers from around the world also <u>lambasted the French president</u>, saying his remarks were particularly ill-timed as the Chinese military was undertaking large-scale <u>military</u> <u>exercises</u> in the Taiwan Strait.

In Europe, Norbert Röttgen, a German Christian Democrat MP and former head of the Bundestag's foreign affairs committee, <u>tweeted</u> that Macron had "managed to turn his China trip into a PR coup for [Chinese President Xi Jinping] and a foreign policy disaster for Europe."

Weber himself quickly <u>reacted</u> to the interview last week, tweeting that there was "no middle ground between international law and the pursuit of empire by autocrats" and that Europe ought to "strengthen [its] alliance with the U.S."

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Hamza Haroon Yousaf: First Minister of Scotland



Humza Haroon Yousaf was sworn in as Scotland's new First Minister on March 29, 2023. He becomes the first ever racial minority and Muslim to lead the country since it was created in 1999. He takes over from Nicola Sturgeon, Scotland's first female leader and the country's longest-serving one yet. The leader of the Scottish National Party, Yousaf is also at 37 the youngest first minister to lead a major UK party. He was born on April 7, 1985, in Glasgow. His grandfather moved to Scotland in 1962 from Mian Channu in Punjab, Pakistan. Yousaf's mother, also of South Asian descent, emigrated to Scotland from Kenya.

Yousaf worked and fundraised for various charities including Islamic Relief UK. He went to the University of Glasgow to study Politics. While at the university, Yousaf was a prominent figure in student politics and the President of the Glasgow University Muslim Students Association. He graduated with an MA in 2007. Yousaf first entered the world of politics in 2007, as a parliamentary assistant to MSP Bashir Ahmad. After working as an assistant to Ahmad and a few other MSPs including Nicola Sturgeon, he was elected to the Scottish Parliament himself in 2011, aged slightly more than 25 years old. Yousaf thus became the youngest-ever member of the Scottish Parliament.^[2]

Yousaf became the first Scottish Asian and Muslim to be appointed as a minister to the Scottish Government in 2012 when then First Minister Alex Salmond made him the Minister for External Affairs and International Development. In 2018, Yousaf was appointed Cabinet Secretary for Justice. One of his flagship policies was the Hate Crime Bill which would streamline existing legislation as well as provide additional

protections for persecuted minorities. After the 2021 Scottish Parliament election, Yousaf was re-elected and appointed as the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care. As Scotland bore the brunt of the Covid-19 pandemic and crumbling public infrastructure, Yousaf earned both praise and criticism for his handling of the situation. [3]

Yousaf has been a strong proponent of universal welfare programmes funded by progressive taxation as well as of increase of public sector pay. He is considered to be pro-union. He is also a strong proponent of Scottish independence. On the SNP's fight for independence, Yousaf said he believed in it "with every fibre" of his being.

Muslim community leaders and MPs have welcomed the election of Humza Yousaf as leader of the Scottish National Party and Scotland's first minister. His win adds to successes in Muslim representation within the UK's political establishment in recent years after Sadiq Khan's election as London mayor in 2016 and reelection in 2021.

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Menstruation and Ramadan

Three Muslim women share their reflections on how they and their families deal with the topic of menstruation – and women's temporary exemption from fasting – during Ramadan.

"It was all very hush-hush. When you were on your period, you were not allowed to touch the mushaf (copy of the Quran), but also not the prayer rug, nor the prayer scarf. In Ramadan, we [menstruating females] all had to get up for suhoor and "fast" all day. Occasional tasting of some food was allowed to make sure the spices were perfect in the food we would make "for the men." I felt dirty and disgusting. It was hard to hide everything regarding periods in that small apartment with all those people."

Shabana, who shared that memory with me, was born in Pakistan and lived there until her teens. Now she's the mother of two adult children and a mental health professional in California. Looking back on her youth, she realizes how unhealthy and un-Islamic her family's outlook on menstruation was. She continues:

We moved to the U.S. when I was sixteen. What a culture shock! Well, menstruation got easier since now we had sanitary pads. However, the Ramadan issue still remained. I have a brother and two sisters. We had to hide our periods from my brother by still waking up for suhoor. I remember him saying when we did Maghrib jamaah (group prayer at sunset), "Why is aapi (elder sister) not praying with us?" My mom would make something up, like, "Oh, she had to do such and such…" If we wanted to eat, we would go into the pantry or hide somewhere. Periods were still a "punishment," and that is what I knew. There was no room or reason to question.

Shabana's experience is not unique. Nadia shares:

I grew up in Scotland. Both my parents were from Pakistan. My dad was never religious and rarely fasted. He also worked long hours at his shop, so mum was responsible for our sporadic Islamic education and everything else, really. I have an older brother and sister. I learned about periods at about age 9 and started menstruating at 11. I suppose this was around the time I began to fast. Periods were not to be talked about in front of my dad and brother at all, not just in Ramadan. It was a strict taboo. I'm certain that my mother wouldn't have dreamed of letting my father know when my sister and I began our period, or any complications or incidents pertaining it — for example, when I developed a low iron count due to heavy periods, or when I had to stay home from school because the cramps were so bad.

Nadia tells me the negative effects of her family's attitude toward menstruation still bother her to this day.

I never questioned the validity or the fairness of periods being "hush-hush." Looking back, I feel a lot of retrospective compassion for the situation though — for my sister and myself, and also for my mother, who felt she had to do this. She truly felt that she was upholding hayah (modesty). I remember one incident when my older brother was being particularly bullyish towards me, wanting me to hurry up and do the chores for him (that's a whole other cultural problem to unpack right there!). My mum, very reluctantly, explained that I was having a bad period, and that's why I wasn't "up to par." My brother reacted with initial disgust, defensiveness for his not knowing, then finally, blame, coming to the conclusion that it was my fault for not somehow "sorting myself out" to make my periods more manageable. Misogyny at its finest! So yes, the taboo around periods in general didn't leave me feeling great about myself! If anything, the feelings of wronged indignation have only grown stronger over time.

Making Different Choices

Because of the way their families made them feel dirty, inferior, punished, and shameful, Shabana and Nadia decided to approach the topic much differently with their own children.

Nadia says:

I'm certain that periods and particularly periods in Ramadan needn't be an issue, and certainly never a taboo. Age-appropriate explanations are always at hand, if we think carefully enough and work to each child's understanding. Younger children need only be told, "Sometimes ladies don't need to fast for a few days," or "Women get something called a period which makes them too tired to fast," and work from there. For a very young child, "Mummy doesn't need to fast today" is sufficient explanation! Children are very trusting. I have been blessed with three young girls, and have applied similar explanations myself, adding more detail about the biological attributes of a period as the need grows. I don't see why it needs to be any different for sons. It's only our own, culturally-learned squeamishness we need overcome.

Shabana adds:

Years later when I met my husband and started learning about Islam, I found out the real rules and regulations around menses. So I decided that my children will know the real Islam. As for my son, I told him that women have periods, which is a blessing because that is how I got him. Also, we spoke freely about any questions he had in the light of Shariah. Nowadays in my household, my daughter is the only one having periods. She does not have to wake up for suhoor and pretend she is fasting. In the beginning, her brother

would ask at suhoor time "Where is my sister?" and I would say, "She does not have to fast." That was it; he would not question it. Now he does not even ask. He knows and even sometimes asks her to taste whatever he is cooking.

Shabana does not think the cultural shaming of menstruation has ended, even in 2023. She says:

I know there are some households that are still practicing the same ideas: "When you are on your period, you are najs (impure)." This is not true, Islamically. There is a hadith where Aisha explains, "The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, used to lean on my lap and recite Quran while I was in menses." Many women are still not talking to their sons about periods, even though youngsters find out everything at school or on social media.

Asma, born and raised in the U.S. by a Turkish father and American convert mother, is the mom of three young children. Her approach to explaining menstruation to her sons is very clinical and direct:

I don't address it with much delicacy when it comes to my sons (6 and 8). I tell them that I'm on my period and that is when I oversee their prayers rather than praying with them. I have even shown them the pads and how I put the pads in underpants and shown them what blood on the pads looks like. Some people may think this is going too far, but I think that these are things that people should know, without either grossed-out dramatics or morbid obsession. There's no need for any weird mystery around any of it. I tell them the reason for the blood is that a woman has a womb inside her which is like a little home, like a balloon, for a baby to grow in. And every so often it sheds its lining, like its walls covered in blankets, and cleans itself out to get ready just in case there's going to be a new baby growing, so all the old bloody lining comes out, and women are not supposed to pray and fast during this period. I tell them that they grew inside that womb when they were babies, and it is tough for women to do this, but Allah tests us all in different ways. Honestly, they don't care about it much and they are not surprised at this point, and my older son has gotten pretty good at leading his younger brother in prayer.

Like Shabana, Asma looks to Islamic history to see how menstruation was approached at the time of the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him:

I have been less clinical and forthright in explaining other related things to them at this stage because I don't think they're mature enough to handle that information, but there is nothing sensitive or tricky to handle about how periods work. During the time of Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, women would ask very blatant questions about various discharges right in front of everyone, and this was fine and important. There's nothing wrong or shameful about it, and it is not some complicated issue that is difficult for kids to navigate.

Moving Forward

Even if we were raised in a culture that made our menses feel like a taboo, we can flip the narrative as adults. Part of this process is educating ourselves about the actual Islamic rules around menstruation. Another component is crafting a way to educate our children about women's cycles in a way that demystifies and destignatizes them. Finally — and crucially — many women need to find a way to heal from the unkind, unhealthy way they were treated by their own family. If they still feel dirty, guilty, or inferior because of their monthly cycle, or resentful of their family's treatment of them, they should acknowledge these

emotions and handle them with compassionate self-acceptance, prayer, therapy, or a combination of all three.

Author's Note: While two of the three sisters interviewed are from Pakistani background, difficulty discussing menstruation and taboo practices surrounding it are not relegated to South Asian cultures. There are many factors that influence a parent's comfort with the topic. And much of the challenge comes from a lack of factual information.

Here are some suggestions to expand your knowledge of women's health concerns from a physiological and Islamic perspective.

More Articles:

Following provides further reading material on this hush-hush topic.

Article: Period and Ramadan – Can We Talk About It?

Article: How Islam Destignatized Menstruation

Article: A Women's Guide to Spirituality in Ramadan during Menstruation and Postnatal Bleeding

Books:

A Muslim Woman's Guide to Menstruation Rulings by Naielah Ackbarali

Figh of Menstruation Simplified by Naielah Ackbarali

Source link

18 British Muslims in Parliament in 2023.

Muslim candidates won a record of 18 Parliamentary seats in 2019 General election three more than in 2017 but slightly less than expected as Boris Johnson's Conservative party scored a resounding 80-seat majority. Nonetheless, Muslims are still not proportionally represented in parliament. Only 3 per cent of the UK's 650 MPs are Muslim, whilst the country's Muslim population stands at around 5 per cent. [4]

Nonetheless, the political representation of Muslims in the UK is better than that of France and Germany. While France has the largest Muslim minority in proportion to the national population in Europe, in 2017 there were only eight members of parliament from Muslim background, which equals 2 per cent of the total 577 MPs. If the Muslim minority was to be represented in proportion to its population, 48-50 MPs should be elected. Similarly, the political representation of Muslims in Germany is less than one per cent. While there are approximately 5 million Muslims (i.e. 6.1 per cent of the total population), there are only 6 elected out of 736 MPs. [5][6]

Muslim MPs in UK come from London, the South-East, the Midlands, North-West and North East, though none are in Wales or Northern Ireland. No less than 10 are Muslim women, including Apsana Begum, 29, in the safe Labour seat of Poplar and Limehouse, who is the first hijab-wearing MP. Out of the 65 (up from 52 two years ago) MPs from an ethnic minority background, there are four Muslim MPs entering Parliament for the first time. [7]

A breakdown of Prospective Parliamentary Candidates registered in the 2019 General Election found that the total number of Muslims standing went up to no less than 100, from 79 two years ago. They included 30 representing Labour, 21 standing for the Tories and 17 for the Liberal Democrats. Muslims elected included 14 for Labour (up from 12) and four Conservative (up from three) but still none for the Liberal Democrats following a bigger than expected fallback in support for the two main opposition parties. The figures show that Labour's Faisal Rashid, first elected in 2017, was the only Muslim MP to lose his seat in Warrington South. Those winning for the first time were Labour, Tahir Ali (city councillor) in Birmingham Hall Green, Zarah Sultana, 26, in Coventry South, Apsana Begum and Conservative, Saqib Bhatti in Meriden.^[8]

There are now 18 Muslims elected (8 per cent of Parliament), however, that figure needs to double to represent the country's 4.8 per cent Muslim *population*.10 of the 18 elected Muslim MPs are women, the first three of whom were elected in 2010 (Shabana Mahmood, Rushanara Ali, Yasmin Qureshi all Labour). Labour's Faisal Rashid (Warrington South) is the only Muslim MP to lose his seat. He was elected in 2017.

Afzal Khan



Mohammad Afzal Khan is a Pakistani-born British Labour Party politician serving as a Member of Parliament for Manchester Gorton since 2017.

Afzal was born in Pakistan in 1958 and moved to the UK in 1971 aged 11 when he was adopted out of poverty as a child. He was elected to Manchester City Council in 2000 and was the youngest, first British Pakistani and Muslim Lord Mayor of Manchester between 2005 and 2006. He was also MEP for Northwest England from 2014 to 2017. [9]

He has also served as Assistant Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Britain and is currently its Northwest representative. In 2008 Afzal was awarded a CBE for his work on community cohesion, interfaith and local government. In March of 2018, he was awarded the Sitara-i-Quaid-i-Azam, Pakistan's highest civilian honour, by President Mamnoon Hussain, recognising his contribution to the well-being of the people of Pakistan, particularly in the diaspora, and to Pakistani-British relations.^[10]

Apsana Begum



Apsana Begum is a British labour party politician serving as the Member of Parliament for Poplar and Limehouse since 2019.

Born in 1990 in Tower Hamlets, she graduated from Queen Mary University of London. Her parents were originally from Bangladesh. Her Sylheti father, Manir Uddin Ahmed was also a Labour Party politician, the Tower Hamlets Community Housing Board Director (2002-2006) and the 2004 Mayor of Tower Hamlets. She worked as an admin officer for Tower Hamlets Council whilst the discredited former Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Lutfur Rahman, held office. In 2017, she became the first British Bangladeshi woman elected as Secretary of the Tower Hamlets Labour Party. Apsana Begum entered Parliament at the 2019 General Election at the safe Labour seat of Poplar and Limehouse, replacing Jim Fitzpatrick, who retired.[11][12]

Feryal Clark



Feryal Demirci Clark is a British Labour Party Politician who has served as a Member of Parliament for Enfield North since 2019.

Clark was born in Turkey to Alevi Kurdish parents with roots in Kürecik, Malatya Province. She studied Bioinformatics at the University of Exeter. She was elected as a Hackney Councillor in 2006. She was seventh on Labour's London-wide list for the but was not elected. Feryal (Demirci) Clark entered Parliament at the 2019 General Election, replacing sitting MP Joan Ryan, who defected from Labour to the Independent Group for Change. In December 2021 she was appointed Shadow Minister for Health and Social Care, having been an opposition whip for seven months. Previously she was Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Shadow Communities Local Government Secretary and the Shadow Housing Secretary. [13][14]

Imran Hussain



Imran Hussain is a British Labour Party politician who has served as a Member of Parliament for Bradford East since 2015. He was re-elected to parliament in 2017 and 2019.

Born and raised in Bradford, he was the first person in his family to go to university, where he studied law, and is now a barrister. His grandfather came to the UK from a poor village in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. He was the first person in his family to go to university, where he studied law, and is now a barrister. He was elected to Bradford Council in 2013, going on to become Deputy Leader. In that role, he worked to set up MAGIC, a youth programme that helps those at risk of slipping into crime; protected domestic violence services from cuts; brought the state-of-the-art non-invasive post-mortem facilities to the city; protected community advice services and worked with the police commissioner to put more PCSOs on the street. He entered Parliament at the 2015 General Election and was appointed Shadow Employment Rights and Protections Minister in April 2020. Previously he was Shadow Minister for Justice for three years and, before that, was a spokesman for International Development^{[15][16]}

Khalid Mahmood



Khalid Mahmood is a British labour party politician serving as a member of parliament for Birmingham Perry Barr since 2001. He served on the Labour front bench as a shadow Foreign Office minister under leader Jeremy Corbyn, and a shadow Defence minister under leader Keir Starmer until his resignation in 2021. He is also the longest-serving Asian MP in the current Parliament.[17]

He was born in 1961, in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. He studied at UCE Birmingham. He was a Birmingham City Councillor from 1990 to 1993. He became Britain's first Muslim MP in 2001. Though he held the seat for Labour in the 2001 election, his share of the vote fell by 16.5%, much of which went to the Liberal Democrat candidate Jon Hunt, who ran on an 'anti-sleaze' ticket. Mahmood subsequently increased his share of the vote slightly in the 2005 election, though his majority fell by 805 votes. He was again elected in 2010. In January 2015, Mahmood was nominated for the Politician of the Year award at the British Muslim Awards. He was Shadow Minister for Defence, responsible for procurement, from 2020 to 2021, having been Shadow Minister for Europe for four years. He also served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Home Office minister Tony McNulty in 2005. [18]

Mohammad Yasin



Mohammad Yasin is a British Labour Party politician serving as a Member of Parliament for Bedford since 2017. He served as a Bedford Borough Councillor from 2006 to 2019.

Yasin was born on 10 October 1971 in Mirpur, Pakistan. He obtained a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Degree College Mirpur. Yasin moved to Bedford, Bedfordshire in 1992. In 2006, he was elected as a councillor for Queen's Park ward in Bedford Borough Council. Yasin was re-elected in 2009 and 2015. He entered Parliament at the 2017 General Election, unseating Conservative Richard Fuller with a majority of 789. In the 2019 general election, Yasin was re-elected as MP for Bedford. He defeated his closest Conservative challenger, Ryan Henson, by a margin of 145 votes (0.3%), making Bedford the most marginal Labour seat in the country. [19]

In March 2018, Yasin received a suspicious package containing an Islamophobic letter and sticky liquid. The substance was later found to be harmless. Similar packages were received by fellow Muslim Labour MPs Rushanara Ali, Afzal Khan and Rupa Huq. [20]

Naz Shah



Naz Shah is a British Labour Party politician. She was elected at the 2015 general election as Member of Parliament(MP) for Bradford West, winning the seat from George Galloway of the Respect Party. She won re-election in 2017 and 2019. She has served in the Opposition frontbench since 2018, currently as Shadow Minister for Crime Reduction.

Naz Shah was born in Bradford. Her father left the family when she was six years old. At age 12, she was sent to Pakistan by her grandparents by her mother, Zoora Shah, to escape her mother's abusive partner. She got married at the age of 15 in Pakistan. When she was 20, her mother was convicted of the murder of her partner, who had sexually and physically abused her for over a decade and served 7 years in prison. Prior to being elected to Parliament, Naz was chair of a mental health charity and has previously worked as a carer for disabled people, as an NHS Commissioner and as a director for a regional association supporting local councils.^[21]

In April 2020 Naz was appointed Shadow Minister for Community Cohesion, working with the Shadow Housing, Communities and Local Government team headed up by Steve Reed. Previously she has served as Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities and served on the Home Affairs Select Committee.[22]

Nusrat Ghani



Nus Ghani is a British Conservative Party politician serving as a member of Parliament for Wealden since 2015.

She was born in Pakistan-administrated Kashmir on 1 September 1972. Her father served as a schoolmaster in Kashmir before the family migrated to the UK. Ghani was raised in Birmingham, England in a working-class background and educated at Bordesley Green Girls' School. She was the first woman in her family to be formally educated. She attended state comprehensive school before studying at Birmingham City University (BA in Government and Politics) and Leeds University (MA in International Relations). Before beginning her career in politics, Nusrat was employed by the charities Age UK and Breakthrough Breast Cancer, and later for the BBC World Service. [23]

She was previously Minister of State at the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy from 27 October 2022 to 7 February 2023, and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport from January 2018 to February 2020. In her role as a member of the BEIS Select Committee, she has led several enquires, including a probe into the use of Uyghur slave labour in UK supply chains. Nusrat was part of the UK delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly from 2020 to 2022 and the Rapporteur of the Science and Technology Committee. [24]

Nusrat Ghani was appointed Minister of State at the Department for Business and Trade and as the Minister of State responsible for the Investment Security Unit at the Cabinet Office on 7 February 2023. For her work

in raising awareness of the plight of Uyghurs in Xinjiang, Nusrat was nominated for the NATO Women of Peace and Security Prize, finishing runner-up to the Honourable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. [25]

Rehman Chisti



Atta Ur Rehman Chisti is a Pakistani-born British Conservative Party politician who has been a member of Parliament for Gillingham and Rainham since 2010. from July to September 2022.

He was born in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-administrated Kashmir on 4 October 1978. His father, Abdul Rehman Chishti, had been appointed as Federal Adviser on religious affairs to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir in 1976 by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the Prime Minister of Pakistan. His father left Pakistan in 1978 to take up a post as an Imam in the UK; soon after, Bhutto was overthrown by a military coup by General Zia-ul-Haq, who later executed Bhutto. Rehman moved to the UK when he was 6. He was educated at local schools in Medway and studied law at the University of Wales Aberystwyth. [26]

After University, Rehman studied for his Barrister Vocational Course at the Inns of Court School of Law. Rehman was called to the Bar of England and Wales at Lincolns Inn in 2001. From 1999 to 2007, Rehman served as a Political Adviser to Benazir Bhutto. In 2006 Rehman was an Adviser on communities to then Chairman of the Conservative Party Francis Maude. He has been Chair of the Conservative Foreign and Commonwealth Council since 2016 and is an Executive Member of the British American Parliamentary Group. In 2018 he was the Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party covering faith and communities. Rehman was a member of the Home Affairs Select Committee from 2017 to 2019 and previously served on the Justice Select Committee and Joint Committee on Human Rights. [27]

From 2017 to 2018, Rehman was the Prime Minister's UK Trade Envoy to Pakistan. Other previous government appointments include Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to the Rt Hon Jeremy Wright QC MP, Attorney General from 2015 to 2016, and PPS to Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Education from 2014 to 2015. Rehman was the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief from September 2019 to September 2020. He was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office between 8 July 2022 and 8 September 2022. He was one of the 11 candidates for the post of UK Prime Minister in 2022. Rehman has received widespread national and international recognition for his work as an MP over the past 10 years.

He also received the Sitara-i-Quaid-i-Azam Award of Pakistan in October 2020, for his work advancing UK-Pakistan relations, including as the UK PM's Trade Envoy to Pakistan. [28]

Rose Ali Khan



Rosena Chantelle Allin-Khanis a British Labour Party politician serving as a member of Parliament from Tooting since the 2016 Tooting by-election. [29]

She was born in Tooting. Her mother is Polish, and her father is originally from Pakistan. was educated at Trinity St Mary's Primary School, Balham, followed by The Grey Coat Hospital. She studied medical biochemistry at Brunel University, funding her education through a series of part-time jobs and establishing a strong record. She was accepted to study medicine at Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge. After qualifying as a doctor, Allin-Khan worked at the Royal London and Homerton Hospitals. She also completed a Master's degree in public health.[10] She spent more than 10 years working as a humanitarian doctor in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, and she still does occasional shifts in the A&E department of her local hospital, St George's in Tooting. was first elected as a Wandsworth Labour Councillor for Tooting Bec and Balham in 2014 where I proudly served as the Deputy Leader of the Labour Group. In 2016, she ran for and won the seat vacated by Sadiq Khan in 2016. She joined Keir Starmer's front bench as Shadow Cabinet Minister for Mental Health in 2020^{[30][31]}

Rupa Asha Haq



Rupa Asha Huq is a British Labour Party politician serving as a member of Parliament for Ealing Central and Acton since 2015.

She was born in Hammersmith, London and grew up on Brunswick Road, Ealing. Her parents moved to Britain in 1962 from East Pakistan(since 1971 Bangladesh). She attended Montpelier Primary School in Ealing. For her secondary education, she attended the independent girls' schools Notting Hill and Ealing High School. She has also written a book, Beyond Subculture: Pop, Youth and Identity in a Post-Colonial World, which came out in 2006^[32]

Rupa stood as the Labour parliamentary candidate for Chesham and Amersham in the 2005 general election. In 1999, she completed a PhD at the University of East London. Her PhD also included being a post-graduate

at Strasbourg II University in France, during which time she also worked at the European Parliament for the Labour Party, shadowing Labour MEP Carole Tongue. She entered Parliament in 2015 when she unseated Angie Bray (Conservative) with a majority of just 274, which she has consolidated since. She was a Labour spokesman on home affairs between 2016 and 2017. In 2022 she was suspended from the Labour Party when she described Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng as "superficially" black. She quickly issued an apology for her "ill-judged comment" and had the whip restored the following March after undertaking antiracism and bias training.^{[33] [34]}

Rushanara Ali



Rushanara Ali is a British Labour Party politician serving as the Member of Parliament for Bethnal Green and Bow since 2010. Ali was the first British Bangladeshi elected to serve in the British Parliament.

She was born in Bangladesh in 1975. With her family, Ali emigrated to the East End of London at the age of seven, where she attended Mulberry School for Girls and Tower Hamlets College. She was the first in her family to go to university, Ali studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at St John's College, Oxford. She entered Parliament at the 2010 General Election, taking the seat previously held by George Galloway. She was appointed as shadow minister for International Development by Ed Miliband in 2010 and was moved to the education portfolio in 2013 but returned to the back benches a year later. Prior to her election to Parliament, Ali served as Associate Director of the Young Foundation, a non-profit think tank that tackles structural inequality in Britain. Ali is the first person of Bangladeshi origin to win a seat in Westminster. In 2009, she was named by the *Guardian* as one of the most powerful Muslim women in Britain. [35][36]

Saqib Bhatti



Mohammad Saqib Bhatti is a British Conservative politician who has been a member of Parliament for Meriden since the 2019 general election. He has also been the Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party for Business since September 2022.[37]

He was born in 1985 in Walsall, West Midlands. Both of his parents are of Pakistani Origin. His father moved to the UK in the 1960s. He was educated at King Edward VI School for Boys in Edgbaston before going to the London School of Economics to read Law. He was the youngest-ever President of the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce and is the former President of the Asian Business Chambers of Commerce. By profession, he is a chartered accountant based in Birmingham. He qualified at Deloitte and has been a director in his family's accountancy firm since 2011. He was on the National Board for Vote Leave and campaigned to give ethnic minorities a voice on the Leave side of the debate and is a board member of the West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association. At 33 in 2018, he is the youngest person to take on the post in the chamber's 205-year history. In 2019 he received an honorary doctorate from Aston University in Business Administration and has been a guest lecturer at Birmingham City University, Warwick University and University College Birmingham.

In September 2021 he was appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Health Secretary, but he resigned the following July, saying he did not have confidence in Prime Minister Boris Johnson. [39]

Shabana Mahmood



Shabana Mahmood is a British Labour Party politician and serving as a Member of Parliament for Birmingham Ladywood since 2010.

Mahmood was born and brought up in Small Heath, Birmingham. Between 1981 and 1986 she lived with her family in Taif, Saudi Arabia, as her father relocated there to work as a civil engineer. When the family returned home to Birmingham, she was educated locally within Birmingham Ladywood constituency, at Small Heath School. She went on to study at the University of Oxford (Lincoln College) and graduated with a BA (Hons) degree in Law. During her time at Oxford, she was elected JCR President and she was awarded the Ashurst Morris Crisp Prize for Best Performance in the Lawyer's Ethics finals examination by the University. In the 2010 general election, Mahmood was elected for Birmingham Ladywood with a majority of 10,105, succeeding Labour Minister Clare Short who stood down. Along with Rushanara Ali and Yasmin Qureshi, Mahmood became one of the UK's first female Muslim MPs.[40]

Shabana was promoted to the Shadow Home Office Team in 2010 as a Junior Minister and more recently became the Shadow Minister for Higher Education. She served as Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury

in 2015. She also served in the Shadow Cabinet of Keir Starmer as the Labour Party National Campaign Coordinator since 2021.[41]

Tahir Ali



Tahir Ali is a British Labour Party politician serving as a member of Parliament for Birmingham Hall Green since 2019.

He was born in Pakistan in 1971. He previously worked for Royal Mail after securing an apprenticeship at age 17. He also served as a political officer for the Communication Workers Union. Tahir is an active trade unionist and served as a political officer for the Communication Workers Union, before being elected to Parliament. Ali currently represents the Nechells ward on Birmingham City Council, having first joined in 1999. He was on the council's cabinet from 2012 to 2016, with responsibilities including development, jobs, skills, transport, and the economy. Tahir Ali entered Parliament at the 2019 General Election at the safe Labour seat of Birmingham, Hall Green after sitting MP Roger Godsiff was deselected by the NEC for backing protesters in an LGBT teaching row. He is also a member of the All Party Parliamentary Groups in Bangladesh, Palestine, and Pakistan.^[42]

Tulip Rizwana Siddiq



Tulip Rizwana is a British Labour Party politician serving as a member of Parliament for Hampstead and Kilburn since 2015.

She was born in Moden in 1982. Siddiq is the daughter of former Dhaka University professor Shafique Ahmed Siddique and Sheikh Rehana who gained political asylum in the UK as a teenager. Her mother is the sister of Sheik Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh since 2009 and the daughter of the founding father and first President of Bangladesh Sheikh Muibur Rahman. Rizwana attended The Royal School, Hampstead, and Mill Hill School before completing her undergraduate degree in English Literature at University College London and then a master's degree at King's College London. In September 2011, she completed a second master's degree in politics, Policy and Government. She entered Parliament at the

2015 General Election, inheriting the Hampstead and Kilburn seat left vacant when Glenda Jackson retired.[43]

She was appointed Shadow Financial Secretary (City Minister) in October 2022, having spent a year as Shadow Economic Secretary. Previously she was Shadow Minister for Children and Early Years for 17 months. She had resigned three years earlier from the same position when she refused to support Labour's backing for legislation paying the way for the UK's departure from the EU^[44]

Yasmin Qureshi



Yasmin Qureshi is a British Labour Party politician serving as a member of parliament for Bolton South East and has been an MP continuously since 2010.

Qureshi was born in Gujrat City, Pakistan, and moved to Britain when she was nine in 1972. Her father was an engineer, and the family lived in Watford. She attended what is now London South Bank University, and graduated with a BA (Hons) Law degree before studying for and sitting her examinations for the Bar at the Council of Legal Education. She gained a Master of Laws at University College London. In 2007, I was selected to be the Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Bolton South East from an open shortlist. Yasmin was elected to Parliament in 2010. Since then, she has served as Shadow International Development Minister where she oversaw scrutiny of the UK Government's agenda in South Asia, on Gender Equality and Good governance. She has also served as Shadow Justice Minister overseeing the Government's agenda on Prisons and Probation, and later Courts. [45]

In addition to this, she has been leading a parliamentary campaign for the victims of a drug called Primodos as Chair of the APPG on Hormone Pregnancy Tests. Before entering Parliament at the 2010 General Election, Yasmin Qureshi worked for the United Nations Mission in Kosovo to help in rebuilding their judicial system and for the Crown Prosecution Service as a prosecutor. She was appointed to Labour's front bench for the first time in October 2016 as Shadow Minister for Justice and was Shadow Minister for International Development from April 2020 to December 2021. In November 2022 she was appointed Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities. [46]

Zarah Sultana



Zarah Sultana is a British labour party Politician serving as a member of Parliament for Coventry South since 2019.

She was born in 1992 in Birmingham Zarah. Zarah's grandfather moved from Kashmir and settled in Birmingham in the 1960s. She became the youngest-ever Pakistani-origin member of Parliament. She studied International Relations and Economics at the University of Birmingham. During her university years, she was also elected to the Executive Council of NUS (National Union of Students). She was elected MP for Coventry South at the 2019 General Election, holding the seat previously occupied by James Cunningham, who retired. [47][48]

Members of the Scottish Parliament:

Anas Sarwar



Anas Sarwar is a Scottish politician who has served as a member of the Scottish parliament for the Glasgow region since 2016. He has also served as leader of the Scottish Labour Party since 2021.

Anas was born in Glasgow in 1983. His father, Chaudhary Mohammad Sarwar who is Pakistani, and a former British politician moved to Scotland in 1976 from Pakistan. He built up a chain of cash and carry stores. Mohammad Sarwar. He served as the Scottish Labour Member of Parliament for Glasgow Central from 1997 to 2010 and retired from UK politics in 2010. He relinquished UK citizenship in July 2013 and became the Governor of Punjab. [49]

Anas studied dentistry at the University of Glasgow and worked as a dentist in the NHS in Paisley for five years prior to becoming a parliamentarian. Anas was first elected as an MP for Glasgow Central in 2010 and was elected as deputy leader of Scottish Labour just one year later. In 2016 he was elected to the Scottish Parliament as MSP for Glasgow and re-elected in 2021^[50]

He served in the Shadow Cabinet as Scottish Labour's health and social care spokesperson and constitution spokesperson and was elected leader of the party by members and affiliates in 2021.^[51]

Anum Qaisar



Anum Qaisar is a Scottish National Party politician serving as the Member of Parliament for Airdrie and Shotts since 2021.

Qaisar was born to a Scottish Pakistani family, and raised in Motherwell, where her parents were shopkeepers. Her grandfather had emigrated from Pakistan to Manchester in the 1960s. She studied politics at the University of Stirling. Anum's family were Labour supporters and she herself went on to become an active member of Scottish Labour and General Secretary of Muslim Friends of Labour. However, she had differing views on the future of our country and went against Labour Party policy by campaigning for Scottish Independence in the 2014 referendum. She decided to leave Labour and instead join the SNP, believing that they offered the best path to a fairer, more inclusive Scotland – one that could only be delivered with the full powers of an independent nation. entered Parliament in May 2021 in a by-election caused by the resignation of Neil Gray to run for the corresponding seat (which he subsequently won) in the Scottish Parliament election. [52][53]

Foysol Hussain Choudhary



Foysol Hussain Choudhary is a Scottish labour politician serving as a member of the Scottish Parliament for the Lothian region since May 2021.

He was born in East Pakistan (Bangladesh since 1971) and moved to Edinburg in the 1980s. He studies at the University of Edinburgh before taking over the family business. He is the nephew of famous Bangladeshi-born British Businessman Wali Tasar Uddin. In 2004, Choudhury was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2004 New Year Honours for his services to the community. In 2006, he was awarded the Channel S Award for his outstanding role as a community worker and leader. He is Chairman of the Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council. He is one of the founding directors and the Vice Chair of the Edinburgh Mela. He is also Chairman of the Bangladesh Samity Edinburgh. [54]

Kaukab Stewart



Kaukab Stewart is a Scottish National Party (SNP) politician who has been a Member of the Scottish Parliament for Glasgow Kelvin since May 2021.

Stewart was born in Pakistan and moved with her family to Northampton, England when she was five years old, where she attended Northampton School for Girls. She then moved to Glasgow, Scotland, aged sixteen and attended Bellahouston Academy in Glasgow and Moray House School of Education in Edinburgh. Prior to her election, she worked as a primary school teacher for nearly 30 years, alongside pursuing a political career. Kaukab was selected as the SNP candidate for Glasgow Kelvin in November 2020 after many years of campaigning for the party in the constituency. On Saturday 08 May 2021 she was elected as the Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Glasgow Kelvin constituency, succeeding Sandra White who had represented the area with distinction for many years. Kaukab alongside Pam Gosal was the first woman of colour to be elected to the Scottish Parliament.^[55]

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