

Pakistan Association of Western Australia (Inc), 46 Kanangra Crs. Greenwood, WA 6024, Australia  
Website address <http://www.pakistanassociation.com> Email: [pakistanassociation@hotmail.com](mailto:pakistanassociation@hotmail.com) Ph: 0430386165

## NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### LET YOUR PAIN ALSO BE MINE

Another massive natural disaster had rocked Indonesia on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2009. The West Sumatera (Padang and surrounding) 7.6 Richter magnitude earthquake with latest death-toll has come to 704 with thousands of injured victims (source: <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/1105897/Australian-medical-team-arrives-in-Padang>). It has become an International devastating and shocking disaster after 24 hours before, our brothers and sisters in Samoa was hit by a tremendous tsunami. We have received some inquiries in regard distributing the donations from quite numbers of generous people and association. In that relation, The Indonesian Consulate, hand in hand with the Indonesian Student Association in WA (PIIA-WA), Garuda Indonesia and supported by the Indonesian communities in WA initiate some chain of fund raising efforts as follows: The items that are urgently required include food items, proper clothing, medicines, undergarments, panty liners and sanitary napkins.

- Donations dropping day on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October at the Indonesian Consulate, 134 Adelaide Tce East Perth WA 6004
- Bazaar, auction and stage performance in one day event on Sunday, 18th October, 2009 starts 10 am at the Indonesian Consulate.

The Executive committee members will be available to collect the donations if required. Similarly if either of the community members can volunteer let us know at 0430386165 or [pakistanassociation@hotmail.com](mailto:pakistanassociation@hotmail.com)

## LANGUAGE FAIR DURING MULTICULTURAL WEEK AT UWA

As part of multicultural week APNAPAN and PAWA collaborated to promote our own language. It was a great success with heaps of people coming and inquiring about our language. Mohsin Malik of business school managed to give a



detailed lesson to someone who wants to learn more. A lot of students from Arab and Israeli background were surprised to know that URDU is identical with their language. We also got to know a couple of new Pakistani students and apparently everyone could write URDU well so name tags were quick and easy to make. We also made

videos of visitors introducing themselves in URDU. Thanks to Saifullah Farooqi, Anam Goraya, Sarah, Sadaf, Mohsin and Rida Ahmed who volunteered their time. *Photographs can be accessed through face book accounts*

## **POSITION STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION REVIEW TREATMENT OF DISABILITY**

Endorsed by: Association for Children with a Disability, Australian Federation of Disability Organisations, Blind Citizens Australia, Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia. National Association of People Living with HIV / AIDS, National Ethnic Disability Alliance. NSW Disability Discrimination Legal Centre Inc, People with Disability Australia Incorporated, Refugee Council of Australia

This position statement is in response to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration Review Treatment of Disability, and is intended to assist organisations and individuals making submissions to the Review.

Potential migrants and refugees to Australia are subject to a health assessment in order to determine their eligibility for an Australian visa. The assumed future costs associated with health condition or disabilities are taken into account as part of the assessment procedure.

The current arrangements for the migration health test mean that:

- migrants and refugees with disability are routinely refused entry to Australia as a result of an assessment of the potential health costs associated with their illness or disability;
- the potential economic and social contributions of migrants and refugees with disability are not adequately taken into account;
- there is stress and hardship for many families supporting people with disability who make a difficult decision to leave behind a family member in order to build a life in Australia. In cases involving humanitarian entrants, these family members with disability will remain in extremely vulnerable situations, such as refugee camps or in situations of war or political unrest.
- while some refugees and migrants are granted exemptions under the current arrangements, these waivers are determined through a decision making process which is inconsistent, can be arbitrary in nature and therefore potentially unfair.
- The *Migration Act 1958* is exempt from the majority discrimination provisions under s. 52 of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*. However, recent amendments enable complaints to be made under the DDA as to the administrative process concerning visa applications.

We believe that the current laws are discriminatory to people with disability, and disregard the valuable contributions that are made to Australia by all people with disability.

The migration health test is at odds with Australia's international obligations.

The Australian Government has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD). The UN CRPD is a powerful document. The Convention enables a strong anti-discrimination mandate and creates an opportunity to promote participation, empowerment and independence for people with disability. Australia made a declaration upon ratification that the Convention did not "impact on Australia's health requirements for non-nationals seeking to enter or remain in Australia, where these requirements are based on legitimate, objective and reasonable criteria." There has been strong opposition to this interpretive declaration from both the Australian disability community and international advocates. The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties recommended in November 2008 that:

a review be carried out of the relevant provisions of the Migration Act and the administrative implementation of migration policy, and that any necessary action be taken to ensure that there is no direct or indirect discrimination against persons with disabilities in contravention of the Convention.

In so far as the current migration health requirements can contribute to the separation of migrant and refugee families, Australia's migration treatment of people with disability is also at odds with Article 3 and Article 5 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Leaving children with disability behind to an uncertain future is not in a child's best interest.

The recent media attention to the case of Dr Bernard Moeller, Dr Siyat Hillow Abdi and others has highlighted that current migration processes do not provide fair outcomes for people with disability and their families, and devalue the full social and economic contribution that people with disability make to their communities and Australian society as a whole.

There is strong community support for change.

The Joint Standing Committee on Migration Review into the Migration Treatment of Disability creates an opportunity to remove discrimination against people with disability from current migration laws and processes.

We call on the Joint Standing Committee on Migration to recommend:

1. Full application of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* to the *Migration Act 1958* health assessment to remove the potential for any direct or indirect discrimination against refugees and migrants with disability;
2. Improved consistency, transparency and administrative fairness for migrants and refugees with disability applying for an Australian visa;
3. Withdrawal of the Australian interpretive declaration made upon ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities pertaining to the health requirements for non nationals.

## FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY

We always welcome feedback from community members and so far at the end of three months it has been very encouraging as you will see from the one reproduced here. However we also received complaints that you are not receiving any updates. PAWA News is sent regularly to all members of the Association electronically. We also try to send it to all those who have registered themselves on our mailing list. As PAWA uses a hotmail account there is limitation to number of emails that can be sent per day and you may have missed out occasionally if you are not on our members' register. Please note that we also have a facebook account which provides up to date information as well as the PAWA News is usually uploaded within a week on its website so please do visit our website if you have been missing out although the easier way is to be on members' register if you have not renewed the membership as yet.

*Hope that you will be fine. I remained sick during previous week and was on leave.....I am now in a position to write words of thanks to you On Eid Milan your behaviour was so good that my friends, Dr. Saeed, Dr.Usman praised a lot. Zaki Sb and Nazar Sb were very nice and kind. Sumair is praised as obedient and friendly. Thanks alot and May God bless you with all his blessings.*

*With best regards  
Dr. Mian Hafeezullah  
Postdoc Fellow*

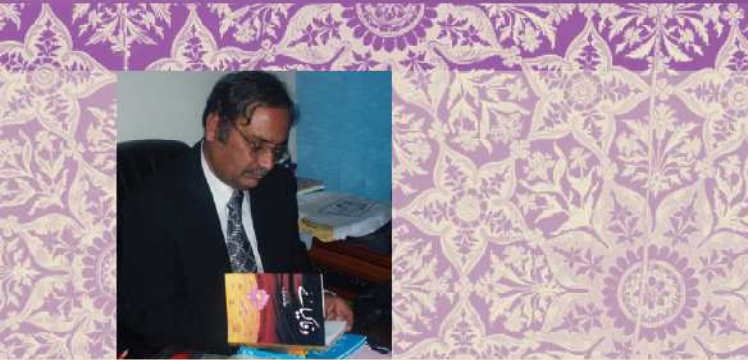


THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
*Achieving International Excellence*

Centre for Muslim States and Societies

# Urdu Poetry Recital

Mr Khalid Sharif



رخصت ہوا تو بات مری مان کر گیا  
جو اُس کے پاس تھا وہ مجھے دان کر گیا  
پچھڑا کچھ اس ادا سے کہ رت ہی بدل گئی  
اک شخص سارے شہر کو ویران کر گیا

مَنْ نُؤْتِ الْحِكْمَةَ فَقَدْ أُوتِيَ خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا

'and he to whom wisdom is granted indeed a benefit overflowing'  
(Al-Baqara 2:269)

Centre for Muslim States and Societies

The Centre for Muslim States and Societies invites you for an evening of Bazm-e-Sarfraz Mushaira (Urdu Poetry Recitation) by internationally renowned poet of Urdu Mr Khalid Sharif

**Date:** Sunday 18 October 2009

**Time:** 7-10pm

**Tickets:** \$15

**Venue:** Woolnough Lecture Theatre,  
Geography Building  
The University of Western Australia

The Urdu literary event organised by the Centre for Muslim States and Societies, commemorates the contribution and services made by Begum Sarfraz Iqbal (1939-2003) to Urdu literature.

Mr Khalid Sharif is a renowned Urdu poet from Pakistan. He has published several books of poetry and has been the recipient of awards such as the National Book Council Award, Bolan Cultural Academy Award and Musawir International Award. He is founder of *Mavra Publishers* and *Mavra Books*. He has travelled internationally to participate in mushairas in USA, Norway, India, Bahrain, Germany, France and UAE.

Join us for an evening of poetry and discussions about the current political climate in Pakistan and what it means for contemporary Urdu literature.

**For more information see**  
[www.cmss.uwa.edu.au/welcome/whats\\_new/khalid\\_sharif\\_urdu\\_poetry\\_recital](http://www.cmss.uwa.edu.au/welcome/whats_new/khalid_sharif_urdu_poetry_recital)

**For bookings please contact**  
Prof. Samina Yasmeen or Ms Zarlisht Sarwari. Phone: 6488 4554 or email: [cmss@uwa.edu.au](mailto:cmss@uwa.edu.au)