

UN 15th session for the forum **for minority issues. 2022**

Dear Chariman, Secetariat and Human rights Council.

Our Organisation is called Compassion group Network. We are a registered UK charity and NGO.

Compassion for Pakistan is one of our charity projects, workng with partners in Pakistan in the areas of Education, peace capacity building and Humintarian services. This also Includes a Partner in the FATA tribal areas and in Karachi.

My name is 'Ken Wright' and as a visually impaired person I am effectively a minority and would like to thank the UN for giving me this opportunity as it is much needed.

This UN Forum gives an opportunity for minority groups and partners concerned to express there concerns and help bring deeper clarity as well as trusted solutions on the ground and methods that have worked in other simillar social, environmental and cultural circumstances.

I personaly come from Northern Ireland, a Land that suffered over 300 years of religious based hatred and 30 plus years of daily religous extremism, Bombs and was known globally as one of the most dangerous places in the world to live expecially in the 1970's and early 80's.

I Remember Hearing on the Media and have had relatives who were convicted members of millitant violent extremist religous groups, who murdered and dehumanised people because of there faith or creed.

I had the privilege of attending a private school where I found that colour, creed and religion were not an issue, so lets get on with Peace and make it

work. It is when you de-humanise a person or group is when there is a problem.

The good friday agreement was a monumental breakthrough that honoured peace and good common sense for all communities, bringing an end to decades of blood shed and hatred helping to build dialogue and understanding between Roman Catholic and Protestant communities.

Speaking to the Pakistan Government and to the political establishment we would say to you, to never give up on peace. peace building is a courageous act that involves reaching out, going the extra mile and seeking to understand another point of view.

The Reality is that one man's view of a terrorist is another man's view of a freedom fighter, depending on your view point, social position, cultural identity and the core values you believe are true.

We must seek to protect minorities and peace building by first irradicating the cruel labelling by one group upon another that are weaker, we do this with the development of strong leadership in our community, we do this by bringing in those that are and may generally be seen as fringe groups or seen as outsiders into the democratic political process, encouraging them to let their political voice be heard through democratic vote and mandate.

We do this by concrete reforms that are realistic in nature but based on the principal of human rights and comon humanity. We must encourage those groups in our societies that are angry or indeed violent too be heard and join into the process of peace as a partner rather than a enemy.

We would like to commend the Pakistan Government for its interfaith programme that is helping those of all faiths in Pakistan to better understand each other, what they believe and has been to a large degree successful in the way it has helped take away lies and has helped to develop friendships between communities.

OUR CONCERNS:

Indeed we are concerned about the use of hate speech and the abuse of blasphemy Law along with other deep problematic issues, but we also

understand how delicate these matters are for the majority population in Pakistan and are therefore things that never should be done to anyone's faith designed to insult or to hurt.

Those that use the gun have a reason and an agenda for using the gun, but we must encourage all concerned to view peace as the most constructive method to achieve their political aspirations.

We must encourage such leaders to lead the next generation in the quest for peace at all costs.

Economically poor nations have one thing in common and it is that they are poor. The solution for peace is largely to do with an economic solution that is well managed and fairly distributed, encouraging foreign investment funding community based services and business development that brings employment, education and training for all members of society.

This Process needs to be inclusive of minority groups and the poor.

So that people are given hope for the future and for their grandchildren. it is an economic solution and peace building within Pakistan and the region that will weaken the arm of militant extremism and help create affluent communities and give people hope, but we must ensure that the process is inclusive for all.

In conclusion, we all want a future for our children, we all deserve a stable society to live in and we are all global citizens in a global village let's stop the fighting and make it work together.

Thank You.