

Diwali Celebration at Avari Hotel Lahore, Pakistan by URI CC Anglo Asian Friendship Society

On 18TH November, 2020 Dr. Maunawar Chand, URI Cooperation Circle Coordinator of Anglo Asian Friendship Society, organized a Diwali Milan Party with the support of Human Right Ministry Punjab at Avari Hotel in Lahore. Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, Grand Imam of Badshahi Mosque; Sardar Bishan Singh, Sikh religious leader; Bishop Irfan Jameel, Church of Pakistan; Provincial Minister for Human Rights and Minority Affairs Ejaz Alam Augustine, Secretary Punjab Property; Sr. Sabina Rafat, Coordinator URI Women Wing Pakistan; Om Prakash, Secretary Hindu Welfare Council Pakistan; Ms. Shabnam Nagi, Advocate High Court; Rao Abid Ali Wajid, President of Feeling Welfare Foundation; Asgar Rehmat, social worker; Victor Khan, President Glow Foundation; Mr. Faisal Ilyas, Executive Secretary of Peace Center; Pastor Waheed Mukhtar, Cooperation Circle Coordinator for Helping Hands, and Asher Nazir, Executive Secretary of URI Pakistan participated in this religious festival of Diwali as honorable guests.



As host of the Diwali celebration program, Dr. Maunawar Chand welcomed all guests and he shared that Diwali is an important religious festival in the Hindu calendar as it marks the day of Lord Rama's return home after a 14-year exile. The celebrations are marked with fireworks, festive meals, and gifts. The festival symbolizes spiritual uplift amidst darkness. It is associated with Lord Rama's victory over Raavan. The festival of Diwali celebrates the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Hindus decorate their houses, burst firecrackers, and light Diyas (earthen lamps). It also marks the start of the new year of Hindu calendar.

CC members from **COPE Pakistan cc**, **Wake CC**, and **Helping Hands cc** participated in Diwali celebration from Okara and Lahore. Many people were present from different religions and they participated in this program and they shared gift, sweets with Hindu community on Diwali. They shared that for the stability of Pakistan, we should promote the culture of love, tolerance, peace, interfaith harmony and brotherhood to make strong Pakistan. Because Pakistani minorities can play a positive and important role for strong Pakistan.

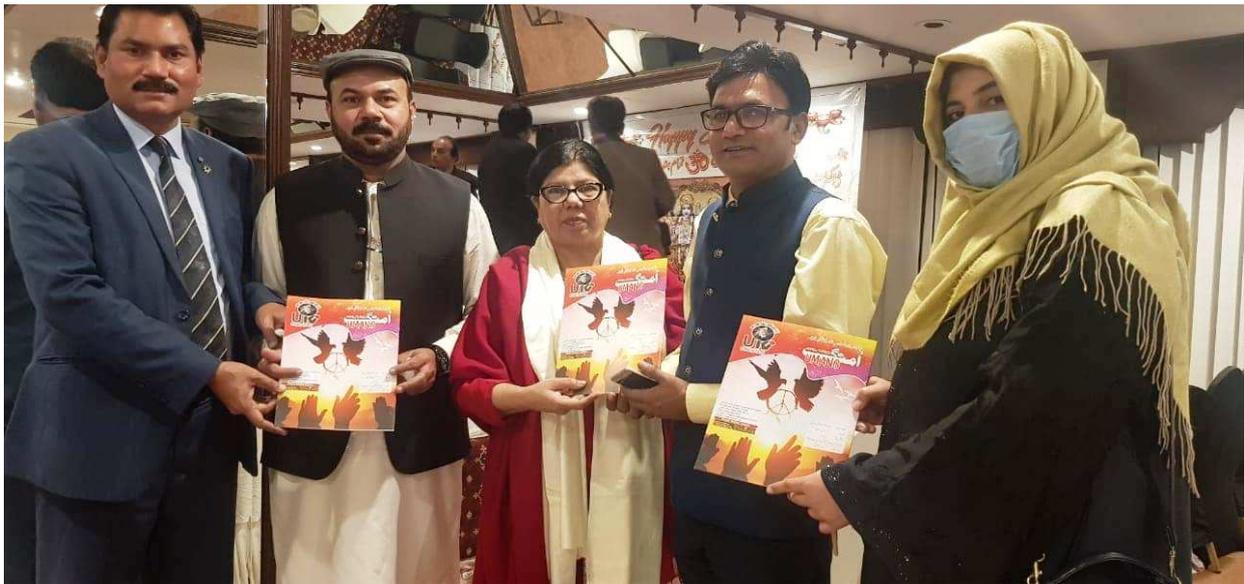


Mr. Asher Nazir Executive Secretary URI Pakistan presenting Sweets to Dr.Maunawar Channnd (Hindu Leader) from URI Pakistan with Mr.Faisal Ilyas Executive Secretary Peace Center Lahore.

Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, Bishop Ifran Jamil, Ejaz Alam Augustine, Sr.Sabina Rifat, Om Parkash and Rao Abid Ali Wajid said that as Pakistani we are together and we are One Nation. We are living with peace and interfaith harmony in Pakistan and we are happy. Together we celebrate religious festival as Diwali, Eid,Christmas and festivals of Sikh religions.



Today we are all present from different religions and are sharing love, gift and sweet with Hindu brother and sisters. We appreciate Government of Pakistan that they are working for the rights of Minorities and they are organizing many programs for the promotion of peace and interfaith harmony in Pakistan. We as Pakistanis are united in our happiness as well as in sorrow. We celebrate all our religious, cultural and national occasions together.



Mr.Asher Nazir Executive Secretary URI Pakistan and Sr.Sabina Rifat coordinator URI Women Wing Pakistan presenting URI UMANG Newsletter to guests from different religions.

Reported by:

Asher Nazir

Executive Secretary
URI Pakistan