



Lord Alton Asked

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that Kavita Kumari was (1) abducted at gunpoint, and (2) forcibly converted, in Kandhkot, Sindh when she was 13 years old. HL14129

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the custodian of Bharchundi Shareef Dargah, Mian Mithu, has been responsible for forcibly converting underage Hindu girls in Sindh, including Kavita Kumari. HL14130

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of Hindu girls who have been forcibly (1) converted, and (2) married, at the Bharchundi Shareef Dargah. HL 14131

As a result of the points raised in the video/ URL <https://www.bbc.com/urdu/pakistan-56447543> about the dangers of Single Text Curriculum, the APPG asked the following PQ. Question: **To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Pakistan about reports that extremist ideology has been taught in schools in that country.** HL14201

Answer: **Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** I recognise the concerns raised by minority groups in Pakistan that the introduction of a single curriculum may be used to marginalise some communities. Through our representation, the UK has made clear that there is a need for an inclusive curriculum, one that encompasses the rich diversity of Pakistan's communities and traditions. We are engaging with the Provincial and Federal Governments to ensure that the new curriculum promotes diversity and inclusion. Through our diplomatic network in Pakistan we have also engaged with young people to discuss the promotion of intolerance and inclusiveness. I will continue to scrutinise UK-funded education programmes in Pakistan to ensure they promote inclusive education. I discussed the need for inclusive and tolerant education when I met with Pakistan's Minister for Education, Mr Shafqat Mahmood on 1 October 2020, and with the Governor of Punjab, Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar, on 8 September 2020. I raised our concerns about Freedom of Religion or Belief and the protection of minority religious communities with Pakistan's Human Rights Minister, Dr Shireen Mazari, on 20 February 2021, and with Pakistan's Advisor to the Prime Minister on Accountability and Interior, Shahzad Akbar, on 7 December 2020.

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NEWS LETTER

April 2021



All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Pakistani Minorities

Committee to Scrutinise UK aid Programme in Pakistan

The International Development Committee has re-launched an inquiry into UK aid to Pakistan. Pakistan is the top recipient country of UK aid and was a strategic priority for the Department for International Development (DFID).

Pakistan has been DFID's largest country programme for the last five years, and was expected to amount to £302 million in 2019/20.

The International Development Committee invites written submissions, with a deadline of **Friday 16 April 2021**, on the effectiveness of UK aid to Pakistan, in particular: Strategy, coherence and alignment.



Jim Shanon MP moved EDM 1684 for the Hindu minor girl

Girvan Paul DUP, Thewliss Alison, Fellows Marion and Monaghan Carol SNP sponsored EDM

Early Day Motion

That this House notes with grave concern reports from Pakistan that Kavita Kumari, a 13 year-old Hindu girl was abducted at gunpoint from her home in Kandhkot, Sindh, and is further appalled that, despite her school certificate showing her to be 13-years-old, she was converted to Islam in a triumphant public ceremony by Mian Mithoo, the custodian of a Muslim shrine, Barchundi Sharif; and calls on the UK government to do everything in its power to help Kavita and all of the estimated 1,000 Pakistani Christian and Hindu girls who are kidnapped, forced to convert and marry their abductor every year.

Tabled on 23 March 2021