



Shahbaz Bhatti

10th Anniversary of Martyrdom

The APPG filed an Early Day Motion in the Parliament to remember his ultimate sacrifice.

That this House marks the 10h anniversary of Shahbaz Bhatti's assassination for his courageous advocacy for Pakistan's religious minorities; recognises that countless people across the world have died, or forced significant suffering to protect right which people mostly take for granted in the UK; laments the fact that , according to Pew Centre Research, four out of every five live in countries in which there are significant restrictions on freedom of religion or belief; expresses deep concern at ongoing freedom of religion or belief violations in Pakistan such as the misuse of blasphemy laws and the forced conversion and marriage of over 1,000 girls annually; pledges to honour Mr Bhatti's legacy by continuing to advocate on behalf of religious and belief minorities in Pakistan and around the world; and calls on the British and Pakistani Governments to adopt the recommendations of the All party Parliamentary Group For International Freedom of Religion or Belief's 2019 Report entitles religious Minorities of Pakistan.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58180>

NEWS LETTER

March 2021



All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Pakistani Minorities

The Parliamentary Inquiry into Abductions, Forced Conversions and forced marriages of religious Minority Girls and Women in Pakistan, conducted by Rt. Hon Jim Shannon MP, Rt. Hon Marie Rimmer MP, Rt. Hon Fiona Bruce MP, and Lord Alton has been completed.

There was very good response, with written submission sent by Human Rights Organisations/NGOs/Faith groups and Experts sent from Pakistan, the UK, Europe and America. An Experts panel also heard oral evidence from the political activists, politicians, medical practitioners and the victims themselves. Its findings and recommendations will be published in a report later this year.

The APPG held a meeting with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCDO) Minister, Lord Ahmad, to discuss the APPG inquiry into Forced Conversions and Forced Marriages of Christian and Hindu girls. Also present were the senior FCDO officers from London and the High Commission staff from Pakistan.



Fiona Bruce, Conservative MP and a member of the APPG for Pakistani Minorities, was appointed by the Prime Minister Boris Johnson MP as his Special envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief.



Speaking on her appointment Fiona Bruce said "I am honoured to be given this opportunity to serve as Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief. There is much to do, and post will be placed at the service of some of the most vulnerable people across the world"