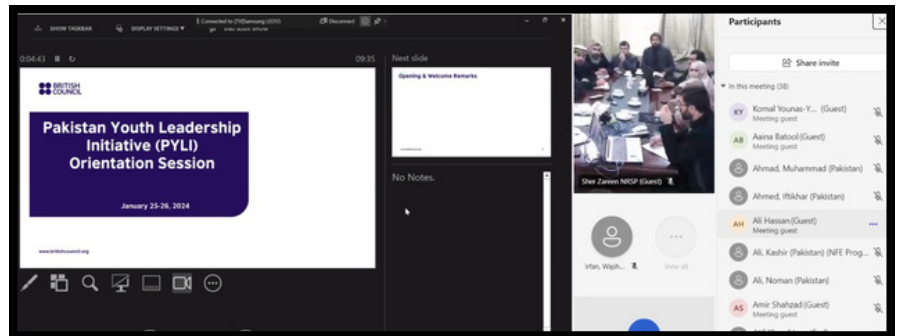


# NEWSLETTER



## 1ST PUNJAB INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE SUMMIT 2024

YDF conducted 1st PUNJAB INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE SUMMIT 2024, MINORITY CIVIC AGENTS PROGRAM at Avari Hotel Lahore. The summit brought together key stakeholders, including various Government Departments such as WASA, LWMC, NADRA, HRMA, and United States Consulate General representatives. Their active participation enriched discussions on inclusive governance and minority empowerment in Punjab.



## 2-Days Online Project Orientation Training of Staff

YDF collaborated with the British Council for the PYLI program, a three-year initiative in Multan and Bahawalpur. This program intends to raise awareness about social and ethical values among young people, fostering respect for diversity and promoting inclusive actions to influence sustainable development, especially regarding climate action. The British Council conducted a two-day online orientation training for PYLI staff on January 25th and 26th, 2024.



## Election Commission Campaign 2024

YDF launched the Election Commission Campaign 2024, empowering minority communities through voter education and registration. YDF Civic agents successfully registered 300 individuals, to ensure their involvement in the general elections of 2024. YDF utilized social media, to strategically spread awareness beyond physical boundaries with a compelling video campaign.



## **Identification of Training of Facilitators (TOF)**



YDF Team's proactive engagement with the community and youth in District Bahawalpur and Multan has yielded promising results in identifying potential youth leaders for the PYLI (Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiatives) training. Through various meetings and sessions, we fostered open dialogue and collaboration, aiming to empower young individuals to actively participate in community development initiatives. Moving forward, we remain committed to expanding our reach, ensuring inclusivity, and nurturing the Youth who will drive positive change in their communities.

## **Awareness Sessions under PYLI Project**

The YDF District Team energetically organized meetings and community sessions in the Multan and Bahawalpur districts for the ongoing PYLI Project. These gatherings aimed to pinpoint potential candidates for the Training of Facilitators (TOF). After careful evaluation, the team identified four individuals from each district who displayed the necessary skills and dedication to become facilitators.



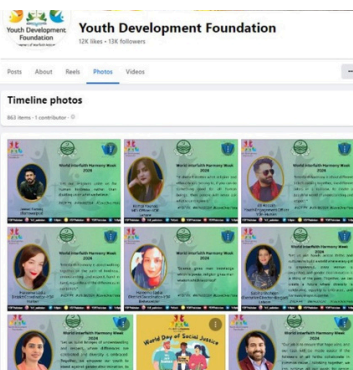


## YDF Alumni Celebrating of International Women Day 2024

YDF marked International Women's Day 2024 with vibrant celebrations across Faisalabad, Bahawalpur, and Lahore districts. Engaging sessions empowered women, while a heartwarming cake-cutting ceremony honored their resilience. Creativity soared as participants crafted empowering posters, amplifying the voices of women across communities. In unity, they championed equality and progress on this inspiring occasion.



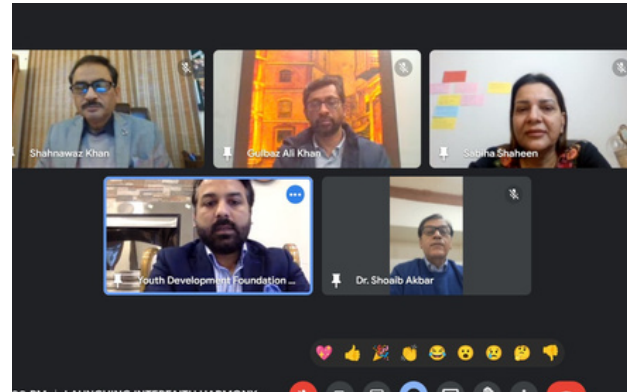
## Celebrate Interfaith Harmony Week 2024



YDF marked World Interfaith Harmony Week 2024 in February across Districts Bahawalpur and Multan with a range of activities, including interactive sessions, study circles, and social media outreach. As part of the campaign, YDF organized a radio program on **92.6 FM** Channel, led by Ms. Urooj and hosted by Mr. Hammad Rahman, fostering meaningful dialogue on the significance of interfaith harmony in Pakistan. These efforts underscore the organization's dedication to fostering inclusivity and harmony within society.

## Online Session on Develop a Content Tagging Tool to Check Harmony in Public Sector Textbooks

On February 7th, 2024, YDF organized an online session to discuss the Harmony Checker tool proposal, targeting discriminatory content in Pakistani public sector textbooks. Dr. Shoaib Akbar endorsed the proposal's tech-driven approach, highlighting AI's potential. Mr. Shahid Rehmat emphasized efficiency and scaling plans, while Sabiha Shaheen stressed proactive collaboration. Mr. Gulbaz Ali Khan reiterated his commitment to improvement, and Mr. Shahnawaz Khan emphasized societal impact and community engagement.



## Networking Coordination Meeting



YDF maintains networking coordination with various government departments.

1. Productive meeting held with Provincial Minister for Human Rights and Provincial Minister for Minorities, discussing ongoing initiatives with civil society organizations focusing on Interfaith Harmony Policy and Harmony Checker to counter hate-material in curriculum.

2. Fruitful discussion with Special Secretary LG&CD regarding progress of Minority Civic Agents Program. Updates shared and collaboration avenues explored.



## One-day training workshop on the Right to Information Act 2013 RTI

YDF, Sudhar, and CPDI conducted a one-day training workshop on the Right to Information Act 2013 (RTI). With a firm commitment to fostering informed citizenship, the YDF team spearheaded this initiative under the project 'Citizens for Good Governance'. By equipping participants with the tools and knowledge to navigate the RTI framework, the workshop aimed to empower individuals to advocate for their rights and hold institutions accountable.



## Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative launch Event

Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative launched in Islamabad on March 6, 2024, led by the British Council, to prioritizing climate action and global citizenship. Mr. Shahid Rehmat representing YDF, the initiative aims to nurture leadership skills among Pakistani youth. Through PYLI project, these young leaders will drive positive change, fostering a sustainable and inclusive future locally and globally.





## **1ST PUNJAB INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE SUMMIT 2024** **MINORITY CIVIC AGENTS PROGRAM**



On March 26th, 2024, the 1st Punjab Inclusive Governance Summit convened under the guidance of United States Consulate General Kristin K. Hawkins, uniting government officials, civil society representatives, and community leaders. Notable participants included departments like WASA, LWMC, NADRA, Human Rights and Minority Affairs Department, alongside representatives from the United States Consulate General. The summit focused on empowering religious minorities, enhancing civic engagement, and fostering interfaith harmony. Esteemed speakers underscored collaborative efforts in addressing societal challenges, showcasing successful initiatives for marginalized communities. The event facilitated constructive dialogue and knowledge sharing, paving the way for future endeavors towards a more inclusive and equitable society in Punjab.



Media Coverage of 1st Punjab Inclusive Governance Summit 2024 in Lahore



The Department of Human Rights and Minorities Affairs (HR&MA) in collaboration with the Youth Development Foundation (YDF) successfully organized the 1st Punjab Inclusive Governance Summit 2024 at a local hotel on Tuesday.

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Punjab Minister of Human Rights, Khalid Tahir Sandhu, graced the event as the chief guest. The summit aimed to promote mutual cooperation and active engagement among stakeholders to ensure the provision of basic facilities at the grassroots level, particularly for minority communities.

During the summit, various dignitaries including Secretary HR&MA Ali Bhadur Qazi, former Secretary Dr. Shoaib Akbar, and special secretary of local government emphasized the importance of inclusive governance.

Executive Director of YDF, Shahid Rehmat, highlighted the organization's initiative to empower Minority Civic Agents (MCAs) across 16 Union Councils (UCs) in Lahore and Faisalabad, equipping them with essential local governance and community assessment skills.

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## Meet with YDF's Honored Team Member

### Munazza Younas from Lahore

Ms. Munazza Younas, a devoted Field Officer in the Minority Civic Agent Program under the NED Project, is pivotal to its success. Committed to fostering inclusion and empowerment, she actively engages with minority groups, advocating tirelessly for their rights and representation. Ms. Younas's unwavering dedication and tireless efforts have been instrumental in the program's achievements. Collaborating with various government departments like WASA and LESCO, she assists communities in resolving social issues. Ms. Younas serves as a beacon of hope and catalyst for positive change within marginalized minority communities, embodying resilience and determination.



### Samra Tariq, Young Peacemaker, YDF Alumni

I am a recent graduate of both a Madrassah and University, having completed my Alimah and BS in Social Work. My dual educational background has allowed me to delve deeper into various subjects. As a moderator, I organized diversity meet-ups focusing on Peacebuilding, Minority Rights, and fostering understanding between different institutes. Additionally, I actively serve as a young leader in the Girl Guide Association and Scout, collaborating with numerous organizations as a peacemaker and Madrassah representative. Presently, I am engaged in Madrassah leadership at Dar ul Uloom Sirajia Neamia, and I proudly represent the YDF Alumni community.

Outside of my commitments, I dedicate my free time to writing and volunteering, both of which align with my professional and personal interests. With an extroverted and social nature, I thoroughly enjoy immersing myself in new experiences, cultures, and meeting individuals from diverse backgrounds. I firmly believe in equity for all, regardless of race, color, caste, or religion. Thank you.







## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (YDF)

YDF is a youth-led organization formed in 2010 with a vision to promote diversity, interfaith harmony, and peaceful coexistence in areas more prone to violence, hate, and religious discrimination. Since then, YDF has expanded to 28 districts across Pakistan's Punjab, KP, and Sindh regions. These range from the most affected areas, including Southern Punjab and Interior Sindh. YDF has four offices in Lahore (Head Office), Multan, Karachi, and Faisalabad, 21 full-time and four part-time employees. YDF has an outstanding diverse faith network of youth with over 20,000 (9,580 female & 10,420 male) that includes university students, community youth, and madrassa students.

YDF works with various stakeholders at different levels of government, i.e. District, Provincial, and Federal. It promotes youth-oriented policies and strategies that celebrate cultural, linguistic, ethnic, and religious diversity. Most recently, YDF has been working with the Ministry of Human Rights, Minority Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on drafting a strategy on "Interfaith Harmony" for Punjab province and appointed as Board member of the Punjab Youth Volunteer Task Force for Corona Relief Facilitation Program (an initiative of Prime Minister of Pakistan). YDF collaborates effectively with the Provincial Coordination Committee on Interfaith Harmony & Minority Inclusion. This exhibits a strong relationship of YDF being recognized as a Youth-in-Diversity organization among policy and decision-makers, transforming from a community to a policy development organization.

YDF has signed MOUs with 20 civil society organizations and nine public sector universities in Punjab, Sindh and KP. YDF also has a strong network of supporters and partners, including Emerging Leaders of Pakistan, Karachi Youth Initiative, Acumen Fellows, Pakistan-United States Alumni Network and Punjab Youth Council. In addition, YDF has worked with the European Union (EU), USAID, UKAID, USIP, UN agencies, World Faith Global, ICRD, Finland Church Aid, Swiss Mission Office and the Government of Punjab and Sindh.

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

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