

Feb 22, 2019

## **AN APPEAL TO ARTISTS AND ALL PEACE-LOVING CITIZENS OF PAKISTAN AND INDIA**

### **Let us rise above war mongering and raise our voices for love and peace between India and Pakistan!**

We are extremely saddened by the horrific attack in Pulwama and stand by the families of the 40 paramilitary forces who lost their lives in this senseless violence. At a time when countless number of people are grieving - when families have lost their young sons, husbands, fathers, brothers in this brutal violence, now is the time for the artist community - those who have a large fan base, who are followed by thousands and millions of people, whose influence is massive to be the voice of the reason and to not pander to the war hungry rhetoric.

We cannot and we should not bow down to the zealots who thrive on war and destruction. Both India and Pakistan have a joint rich culture and we genuinely believe that these similarities in our art, heritage and languages make us one. Urdu poetry and Ghazals from Pakistan have always been cherished and loved by the artist community and the public in India. There is no literary festival in India which does not include or talk about the work of Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Munir Niazi, Sadat Hasan Manto. Powerful voices of Abida Parveen, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Madam Noor Jehan, Nazia Hasan and Roshan ara Begum transcend boundaries and are heard by millions. Similarly, Indian artists like Shahrukh Khan, Amitabh Bachan, Amir Khan, Deepika Padukone, Ashwarya Rai and many others are loved, respected and watched by millions of Pakistanis across the world. When Shabana Azmi and Javed Akhtar came to Lahore recently for the Faiz Festival, the hall was overcrowded and each person in that jam packed hall gave them a standing ovation; despite the tension between the governments of the 2 countries, cinemas in Pakistan are packed to watch Ranveer Singh's 'Gully Boy', because there are no boundaries when it comes to art.

In the words of the legendary Indian writer and poet, Gulzar when he came to Pakistan in 2013, "I wanted to cross the Wagah border on foot. Walking on that soil I felt like I was walking to my homeland, my birthplace. The feeling was extremely intimate. Instinctively, as soon as I reached the Pakistan border, I took off my mojaris (shoes) and wanted to put my feet on the soil."

Our stories are the same - we just need to share them and once we start appreciating the differences and start celebrating similarities, we can move forward in addressing and overcoming our collective challenges like poverty, inequality, violence against women etc. We hope and plead with the artist community on both sides of the border to realise the need to raise our voice for peace, harmony and friendship. We need to teach our children and youth that there is no glory in war, no one wins through violence and aggression. We can't have more young men and women dying and more families being destroyed.

Let's rise above this dangerous war mongering, let's raise our voice for love and peace!"

Issued on behalf of artists and peace loving citizens of Pakistan and India:

Sheema Kermani - Tehrik-e-Niswan

<b>Endorsed by (alphabetical order)</b>			
1	Aabida Ali	Social Activist	Pakistan
2	Abeera Aamir	Artist	Pakistan
3	Abid Ali	Creative Writer	Pakistan
4	Ada Jaffery	Educationist	Pakistan
5	Admiral Ramu Ramdas	Retd. Indian Navy, Peace Activist	India
6	Adnan Haroon	Artist	Pakistan
7	Adv Amar Haseeb Panhwar	Filmmaker	
8	Aisha Parvez	Artist	Pakistan
9	Akbar Usmani		Pakistan
10	Ali Abbas Taj		Pakistan
11	Ali Rizvi	Film Maker/Artist	Pakistan
12	Amar Haseeb Panhwar	Artist	Pakistan
13	Amit Mukherjee	Surgeon & Social Activist	India
14	Ammara Ahmad	Artist / Journalist	Pakistan
15	Amra Alam	Educationist	Pakistan
16	Anil Goswami	Aam Admi Party	India
17	Anil Usha Kohli		India
18	Animeshwar Kaur	Artist	India
19	Anuradha Bhasin Jamwal	Artist / Journalist	India
20	Anuradha Sarup	Artist	Austria
21	Anwar Uddin	Artist	Pakistan
22	Anwer Jafri	Artist/Playwright,	Pakistan
23	Arjumand Rahim	Artist,	Pakistan
24	Arshad Khan	Film maker	Canada
25	Asad Hussein Kizilbash	Artist	Pakistan
26	Asha Hans	Artist	India
27	Ashok Nischal		India
28	Atif Hayat	Artist/Activist	Pakistan
29	Aziz Ahmed	Social Activist	Pakistan

30	Azra Mohyeddin	Artist	Pakistan
31	Azzeala Ray	Singer	India
32	B.M. Kutty	Peace Activist	Pakistan
33	Baseer Naveed	Peace Activist	Peace Activist
34	Beena Sarwar	Journalist, Artist, Film maker	Pakistan/USA
35	Beenish Shoro	Activist	Pakistan
36	Bhartendu Kashyap	Writer/Director	India
37	Bilal Qureshi	Researcher	Pakistan
38	Bina Jawwad	Artist	Pakistan
39	Bina Sarkar Ellias	Publisher	India
40	Bushra Shahbaz	Artist	Pakistan
41	Daniel Walayat	Musician/Singer	Pakistan
42	Dawood Samson Bhatti	Artist	Pakistan
43	Devika Mittal	Aaghaz-E-Dosti	India
44	Dr. Mazhar Hussain	Peace Activist	India
45	Dr. Partha Banerjee	Human Rights Activist & Writer	USA
46	Erum	Artist	Pakistan
47	Faiza Khan	Artist	Pakistan
48	Farah Mariam Ali	Artist	Pakistan
49	Farah Yasmeen Sheikh	Artist/Classical Dancer	USA
50	Farah Zia	Journalist	Pakistan
51	Fauzia Husain Qureshi		Pakistan
52	Fauzia Zuberi	Educationist	Pakistan
53	Fazil Jamili	Journalist, Poet & Writer	Pakistan
54	Gen. TK Kaul	Retd. Indian Army	India
55	Ghazala Shafique	Social Activist	Pakistan
56	Greesha Kumari		India
57	Gulnaz Anjum	IBA - Karachi	Pakistan
58	Gurpeet Singh	Activist	India
59	Hamid Hasan	Artist	Pakistan
60	Harris Khaliq	Journalist, Poet & Writer	Pakistan
61	Harris Khan	Artist	Pakistan
62	Harsh Narayan	Artist	India

63	Hasan Nasir	Artist	Pakistan
64	Hassan Auj	Activist	Pakistan
65	Hoori Noorani	Publisher	Pakistan
66	Huma Zain	Artist	Pakistan
67	Hussein El-Edroos	Artist	Pakistan
68	Imran Khan	Artist	Pakistan
69	Imran Noshad Khan	Social Activist	Pakistan
70	Iqbal Alvi		Pakistan
71	Iram Azeem Farooqui	Social Activist	Pakistan
72	Iram Parveen Bilal	Film maker	Pakistan
73	Irfan Mufti	Social Activist & Human Rights Defender.	Pakistan
74	Ishfaq Elahi		Pakistan
75	Ishteyaque Ahmad	Artist	India
76	Ishtiaq Ahmed		
77	Jainendra Dost	Theatre Director	India
78	Jalila Haider	Social Activist	Pakistan
79	Jamil Fazli	Journalist	Pakistan
80	Jamshaid Khan Mahsud		Pakistan
81	Jatin Desai	Journalist, Peace Activist	India
82	Kajal Basu	Journalist, Artist	India
83	Kaleem Durrani	Peace Activist,	Pakistan
84	Kamla Bhasin	Feminist Activist	India
85	Kamran Noorani	Publisher	Pakistan
86	Karuna Sharma		India
87	Kashif Grami		Pakistan
88	Kausar S Khan	Communtiy Health	Pakistan
89	Kesho Y Scott	Activist	USA
90	Kuldip Singh Anand Grahasti		India
91	Kulsoom Aftab	Artist	Pakistan
92	Kusum Soni		USA
93	Lalita Ramdas	Peace Activist	India
94	Laxmi Murthy	Journalist	India

95	M. Tehseen	Activist	Pakistan
96	Maha Ali Kazmi	Artist	Pakistan
97	Maha Jamil		
98	Mahjabeen Rizvi	Artist	Pakistan
99	Mansoor Keerio		Pakistan
100	Mansoor Hashmi	Artist	Pakistan
101	Maqbool Mateen	Human Rights Activist & Social Activist	
102	Marvi Sirmed	Journalist/Human Rights Activist.	Pakistan
103	Meena Menon	Journalist	India
104	Meena Sharma		India
105	Mehmood Bhatti	Field Worker/Artist	Pakistan
106	Mohammad Farooq Hassan		Pakistan
107	Mohammad Nafees	Columnist	Pakistan
108	Mohammad Tahseen	SAP - PK	Pakistan
109	Mohsin Ali	Writer/Poet	Pakistan
110	Mona Kazim Shah	Journalist/Human Rights Activist,	Pakistan
111	Moniza Inam	Journalist	Pakistan
112	Mumtaz Wafa	Artist	Pakistan
113	Nadeem Ashghar	Educationist	Pakistan
114	Nadeem Lotia		Pakistan
115	Naghma Sheikh	Activist	Pakistan
116	Nasema Tahira Hasan		India
117	Nasir Uddin		Pakistan
118	Naveed Lotia		Pakistan
119	Nigar Fatima		Pakistan
120	Nuzhat Shirin	Chairperson HRCP, Sindh	Pakistan
121	Ovais Sultan Khan		India
122	Pamila Hills		USA
123	Parveen Suhrwardy		
124	Pragna Das	Artist	India
125	Prannv Dhawan	Law Student/Policy Researcher	India
126	Praveen Singh	Convenor of 'Rozgaar Do' Movement & Peace Activist	

127	Praveen Singh		India
128	Raam Kohli	District Bar Association, SindhB	Pakistan
129	Rabia Ahmed		
130	Rafeeq Ellias	Film Maker	India
131	Rafia Gulani		
132	Raheel Raza		Pakistan
133	Raj Narayan		India
134	Rajesh Chandra,	Drama Critic, Poet	
135	Rakhshanda Roohi Mehdi		India
136	Ramu Ram		India
137	Rani Sarita Kumari	Social Activist & Philanthropist	India
138	Rao Jamal Nasir	Theatre Artist	Pakistan
139	Ravi Nitesh	Aaghaz-e-Dosti	India
140	Raza Rumi	Writer	Pakistan
141	Razia Abbas		
142	Reema Abbasi	Journaist & Writer	Pakistan
143	Rehan Allahwala	Motivational Speaker	Pakistan
144	Rizwan Wali Mohammad Tabani	Singer	Pakistan
145	Robbina Gogi	Artist	Italy
146	Rohit Valeeha	Film maker/activist	India
147	Rubina Malkani	Artist	Pakistan
148	Ruchhita Kazaria	Branding Professional., Peace Activist & Poet	India
149	Saba Ahmad		
150	Sabahat Ashraf	Writer	USA
151	Sabiha Akhlas		Pakistan
152	Sadaf Ahmed		Pakistan
153	Saeed Ahmed Rid	Academician/Researcher/Peace Activist	
154	Saeeda Diep	Activist	Pakistan
155	Sahar Khursheed Samo		Pakistan
156	Saleema Raza	Artist	India
157	Salima Hashmi	Artist & Educator	Pakistan
158	Salima Raza		

159	Salma Khalil		Pakistan
160	Salman Haider	Blogger/Human Rights Activist/Theatre Director	Pakistan
161	Samina Ahmed	Artist	Pakistan
162	Samrat Choudhry	Journalist	India
163	Sanjay Rajoura	Writer & Activist	India
164	Sanjukta Wagh		India
165	Sarah Rafiq		
166	Sawera Wassan		Pakistan
167	Seema Maheshway	Activist	Pakistan
168	Sehyr Mirza	Journalist	Pakistan
169	Semeen Khan	Teacher/Artist	Pakistan
170	Shagufta Sirri		India
171	Shah Jee	Qawaal	Pakistan
172	Shaheena Alvi	Educationist	Pakistan
173	Shahid Akhtar		Pakistan
174	Shahnaz Bokhari	Human Rights Activist, Womens Rights Activist & Peace Activist	Pakistan
175	Shakeel Ahmed Malik		Pakistan
176	Shama Askari	Artist	Pakistan
177	Shamshi Qureshi		Pakistan
178	Shazia Adnan	Artist	Pakistan
179	Shazia Ahmed	Artist	Pakistan
180	Sheeloo Khan	Artist	Pakistan
181	Sheema Kermani -	Artist	Pakistan
182	Sheen Farrukh	Journalist	Pakistan
183	Sheharyar Rizwan	Journalist	Pakistan
184	Shiraz Hassan	Journalist	Pakistan
185	Shumita Didi Sandhu		India
186	Simmo Zaidi		
187	Sualeha Ather		Pakistan
188	Sukla Sen		India
189	Sultana Siddiqui	Producer	Pakistan
190	Suman Bharti		India

191	Sumeera Wahid	Educationist	Pakistan
192	Sumna Rizvi		
193	Suresh Kumar Sadhwani	Peace Activist	Pakistan
194	Sushil Rathore		India
195	Syed Farid Idris Maharaj		Pakistan
196	Tahira Mussarat Hussain		Pakistan
197	Talat Yasmeen		Pakistan
198	Tulika Sharma		
199	Umair Aslam	Artist	Pakistan
200	Urooj Murtaza		Karachi
201	Usman Khawaja		Pakistan
202	Uzma Noorani	Peace & Human Rights Activist	Pakistan
203	Vaarghese Theckanath	Housing Rights Activist	India
204	Vijayan M J	Activist	India
205	Vinnie Rizvi		Pakistan
206	Waheed Ali Joyo	Artist	Pakistan
207	Wendy Marijinissen	Photographer	Belgium
208	Xari Jalil	journalist	Pakistan
209	Yameena Mitha		Pakistan
210	Yasmeen Zaman		Pakistan
211	Zahra Ally		Pakistan
212	Zahra Hussein		
213	Zain UI Abdin		Pakistan
214	Zeba Hussein		Pakistan
215	Zorane Priyanka Alfanso		India
216	Zulfiqar Ali	Musician	Pakistan