

My dear fellow Pakistanis,

The novel Corona virus or COVID-19 has affected our lives in a way that few could ever have envisaged. Our ways of life, sources of livelihood and interpersonal relations have all been disrupted. In the midst of an uncertain future, the adjustments we all must make are immense in nature and scope but necessary to keep us, our loved ones and our Community safe.

2. I extend my deepest condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. To those who are battling the virus, I pray for their early recovery. For the rest of us, I urge you to continue exercising caution by strictly following the local public health guidelines.

3. At this critical juncture, we here at the Embassy of Pakistan in Dublin remain open in order to facilitate our Community. We remain engaged with all those who have reached out to us. Should you require any Consular service, we remain available through our social media platforms and Emergency numbers (083-3903138 and 083-451680) in order to provide guidance and solutions without the need to visit the Embassy in person.

4. We understand that these are testing times and are cognizant of your concerns. We are grateful to all those Community members who have individually reached out to us offering to aid those in financial distress. If any of you require assistance, please contact us.

5. I am also aware that many among you have been adversely affected by the suspension of flights to Pakistan. While the Government of Pakistan is doing its utmost in arranging special flights to bring home stranded Pakistanis from all over the world, we are constrained by the number of people that can be accommodated in quarantine facilities established at our airports and the very large number of stranded Pakistanis in other stations.

6. We are coordinating with our High Commission in London in the endeavour that Pakistanis stranded in Ireland could be allocated space on the Special Flights operating from the UK (where the number of stranded Pakistanis is naturally much higher). Our highest priority in this regard would be the repatriation of students in Ireland and those with bereavements in their families. I appreciate the patience and cooperation our

Community has already been exhibiting in this regard; with the same forbearance, we will Insha'Allah overcome these odds.

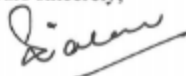
7. While our Government is mobilizing all possible resources to combat this menace, Prime Minister Imran Khan has established a "Relief Fund for COVID-19" to channelize the philanthropic spirit of our diaspora. Should you have the means and the spirit to contribute, I urge you to visit <https://covid.ophrd.gov.pk/> to find out more about how you can do so.

8. As responsible citizens with a sense of civic duty, I would also encourage you to participate in volunteer efforts here in Ireland to give back to the country many of you now call home. It is in these difficult times that we must make ourselves be counted through compassion and generosity.

9. I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to the doctors, nurses, and other essential workers (many of whom are Pakistanis) at the frontlines in this battle. We will always be grateful for your services and will not forget that it was you who put yourselves on the line when this menace knocked on our doorsteps.

10. The times we find ourselves in require that we tap into reserves of determination, hope, conviction, and faith from deep within ourselves. As we move forward together to eliminate this pandemic, let us all hope for a new and a better tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,



(Shuja Alam)
Ambassador