

A brief report on MG Foundation's activities in 2009

- Organized a fundraiser to raise money at the book celebration of Dr. Kamran Ahmad: "Roots of Religious Tolerance in Pakistan and India", in June 2009. Dr. Ahmad is the Chairman of MeherGarh: A Center for Learning.
- Visited Internally Displaced People (IDPs) from Swat who had settled near Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Delivered medicines and food to the IDPs with the funds raised by the board and friends of MG Foundation.
- Represented MGF at an event, "Strategies for Countering Talibanization" in Islamabad; organized by MeherGarh and one of their partner NGOs, AARIA.
- Served as a discussant at the showing of the Pakistani documentary film, "Dishonored", which was hosted by Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and St. Paul Friends of the Library .
- Represented MGF at an event organized by the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights and the International Leadership Institute, in honor of the former Prime Minister of Norway, H.E. Kjell Magne Bondevik, who is the Founder and President of the Oslo Center.

A brief report on MeherGarh: A Center for Learning's activities in Pakistan in 2009

Alliance Against Sexual harassment – MeherGath is an active member of AASHA www.aasha.org.pk

- In March of 2009, organized "AASHA Award Ceremony" to recognize 10 most gender friendly organizations who have adopted the Code of Conduct.
- MeherGarh, as a part AASHA has been persevering to get two bills approved to protect women against sexual harassment. They were both approved by the Cabinet in the beginning of the year.
 - The Cabinet approved the two bills on sexual harassment at workplace on 4th February 2009.
 - National Assembly of Pakistan unanimously approved, by all political parties, one of the bills towards the end of 2009. The other one is scheduled to be presented in the beginning of 2010.
- A Media campaign was organized to inform people of the sexual harassment bills and their benefits to women. Major print and electronic media participated.
- AASHA calendar 2010: Presenting the sequel of Annual calendar 2008 and 2009 with new set of sexual harassers

Civil Action Program

- In May, started the AmanKaar Tehrik (Peace makers Movement) to counter the increasing threat of Taliban in Pakistan. They prepared an informational package of 4 documents for mass distribution to educate people on the realities of the situation. The topics of the 4 documents were:
 - Dispelling the myths about taliban
 - Losses we suffered at the hands of the taliban groups
 - A brief analysis of the situation
 - Our stance
- As a part of Aman Kaar Tehrik, wrote letters from the citizens of Pakistan to the President, Prime Minister, Chief Justice and the Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan, asking them not to sign agreements with the Taliban and to mobilize the nation against their scourge. Then they organized groups of citizens in different cities of Pakistan to sign and mail these letters to the 4 officials of the country.
- Dr. Fouzia Saeed wrote an open letter to the electronic media as a concerned citizen of Pakistan and A believer in freedom and democracy, requesting them to adhere to the ethics of journalism, be very responsible and not sensationalize news regarding Taliban.
- Lectures by Dr. Kamran Ahmad on Pluralism fighting extremism
- Democracy & Human Rights, Building Alliances – training for civil society leaders from all over the country – September
- Stabilizing Democracy – Understanding Talibanization – another training for civil society leaders and community activists.
- Seminars for countering talibanization in the major cities of Pakistan.
- Dr. Saeed started a television program called “Yeh Log Kon Hain” (Who are These People) to educate people on who Taliban are and how they operate.

Youth Leadership Camps

- Conducted the 5th Annual Human Rights Training for the youth of Pakistan. This was an advanced training for the best trainees of the first four years.

Cultural Action for Social Change

- Manganhaar Festival was organized in Karachi in the fall. Every year, young and old singers participate in this festival. It was very refreshing to see that for the first time, a crop of at least 20 children between the ages of 8 and 12 years participated in this festival. This shows the success of this initiative; young Manganhaars taking pride in their cultural heritage!

