

Universal Peace Federation UK Peace Council: Reflect on 2023 - Plan for 2024

Robin Marsh
December 9, 2023



The Universal Peace Council UK Peace Council 2023, is the final meeting of the year; drawing together the areas of activity and the regions of the UK that have been active with UPF. It was also a chance to announce our plans for 2024 and receive feedback and ideas.

We had a wide range of speakers addressing the Peace Council with excellent contributions. Please see the programme below. During the afternoon Sheikh Dr Hojjat Ramzy and Keith Best held a successful fundraising drive.



2023 has been marked by unprecedented challenges and profound shifts, our gathering held a special significance. We shared the highlights of our collective endeavours in 2023 and unveiled the projects we are planning for 2024.

UPF branches from different corners of the UK showcased their activities. Our esteemed Chair of the Board of Trustees, Keith Best, along with other Trustees, provided valuable insights into our plans for the coming year. The afternoon included the presentation of Ambassador for Peace awards. It was a moment

that honoured those who have made exceptional contributions to our shared vision.

Young Achievers described different projects they are proposing. Israel Johnson travelled from Warwick University to explain these projects. One is to hold three Young Achiever Podcast events. They will be in Lancaster Gate where either Israel Johnson or Gianni Austin interview Young Achiever nominees about their motivation, challenges and accomplishments. These will be held before the Young Achiever Award Ceremony in early July. Israel Johnson also explained another project that he, in collaboration with Dana Alarnab, had planned. They want to design a website for migrant students who need support in the UK.



Margaret Ali introduced a monthly project for finding a safe space for women to speak freely and to be empowered. Consultant Psychiatrist, Dr Saima Niaz and Mrs Demee Koch will be involved in developing and guiding this project.



Sheikh Dr Hoojjat Ramzy and Keith Best led an auction and fundraising drive which featured the desire to help Ukraine UPF in their Character Education project.

Robin Marsh explained several areas of development in 2023 and looking forward to UPF - UK's plans for 2024. He outlined the programme for 2024 including

Korean Peninsula - Three Webinars

One Event for Each UPF Association - Looking to Place Coordinators and Advisors for Each Association

Four Principles of Peace Seminars

Three Fundraising Events

Double Income available for charitable purposes



During the Programme Ambassador for Peace awards were presented to:

Dr Saima Niaz: Consultant Psychiatrist and Philanthropist

Dr Sangita Shresta: An Experienced Communication Professional in the International Development Sector



Lady Anne Welsh: Founder and CEO of Painless Universal

Ms Jenovive Chinyere: CEO at Pacific Corporation SL Ltd and Dream West Africa

PC Rani Ghundu QPM: A Retired Police Officer of the West Midlands

Sheikh Mohammed Ali Shomali: Founding Director, International Institute for Islamic Studies



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Programme

Lunch from 1 pm - 2 pm

[UPF UK Chair Keith Best TD MA: Universal Peace Federation UK Vision](#)

[Paul Gutteridge: Former President of Initiatives of Change - Reconciliation and the Spiritual Abraham Accord](#)



[Lady Anne Welsh: Founder and CEO of Painless Universal](#)

[Sheikh Mohammed Ali Shomali: Founding Director, International Institute for Islamic Studies](#)

Ms Jenovive Chinyere: CEO at Pacific Corporation SL Ltd and Dream West Africa

[Dr Mike Balcomb: FFWPU President, Europe](#)



Robin Marsh: 2024 Main Plans - New Website

Auction: Sheikh Ramzy and Keith Best



Branches of UPF UK and their Work in 2023

Dr David and Patricia Earle - Birmingham Interfaith and Peace Activities

Margaret Ali - Women empowerment: A monthly project for finding a safe room for women to speak freely and to be empowered. Dr Saima Niaz, a Consultant Psychiatrist, also spoke and received an Ambassador for Peace award.

Lance Gardiner: UPF UK Trustee and South London Branch Coordinator.



Brief Impressions of Experiences with UPF and Peace Building

Beata Suchdev, Pastor Sam, Durdana Ansari, Lorna Marah, Ahmed Shebani, Hilda Rapp, Imam Khalid, Jatinder Birdi and Sukhbir Singh.

