

UPF UK: Literary Voices of Change: Poetry, Prose, and Narrative Perspectives

Robin Marsh
May 29, 2026



An Evening of Literary Reflection, Cultural Dialogue, and Creative Expression

Date: Thursday, 18 June 2026

Time: 5:30 pm – 8:45 pm

Venue: Universal Peace Federation – UK, 43 Lancaster Gate, London W2 3NA

Register Here square.link/u/6X6bAEC6

Universal Peace Federation – UK and the International Association of Art and Culture for Peace invite you to a special literary and cultural evening exploring how poetry, prose, storytelling and media can contribute to dialogue, identity, understanding and social change.

The evening will feature book launches, literary reflections, inspirational talks, a panel discussion, media and culture insights, and opportunities for audience engagement, book signing and interviews.

We will be joined by writers, poets and cultural voices including **Dr Rupak Shrestha**, **Nabin K. Chettri**, **Uday Shankar Durjay**, **Shahd Manvi**, and **Dr Sangita Swechcha**, Chair of IAACP UK. The programme will also include a special address from **Ian Pelham Turner**, international TV broadcaster and UPF UK Patron, on the role of media in cultural expression and global understanding.

Through literature and creative expression, this gathering will reflect on the power of words to build bridges between cultures, deepen human understanding, and inspire positive change.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Dr Sangita Swechcha

Chair

International Association of Art and Culture for Peace - UK

Programme:

Literary Voices of Change: Poetry, Prose, and Narrative Perspectives

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Programme

Arrival, Networking & Refreshments

5:30 – 6:00 pm

Opening Session

6:00 – 6:30 pm

6:00 – 6:05 pm — Welcome Address

Robin Marsh, Secretary General, UPF–UK

6:05 – 6:15 pm — UPF UK Introductory Video

6:15 – 6:20 pm — *UPF and its Peace Work*

Margaret Ali, Former Director of UPF UK

6:20 – 6:30 pm — *IAACP at UPF UK: Introduction and Updates*

Dr Sangita Swechcha, Chair, IAACP UK

Book Launches & Literary Reflections

6:30 – 7:00 pm

6:30 – 6:45 pm — Launch of *Pokhtak* by *Dr Rupak Shrestha*, followed by reflections from invited speakers

6:45 – 7:00 pm — Launch of *Going to Darjeeling with My Father* by *Nabin K. Chettri*, followed by reflections from invited speakers

Literary Voice Presentation

7:00 – 7:15 pm

“Where the Line Breaks: The Freedom of the Prose Poem”

Uday Shankar Durjay (Shan)

Inspirational Talk

7:15 – 7:30 pm

“The Work No One Sees: Becoming the Person You Were Always Meant To Be”

Shahd Manvi

Panel Discussion: Literary Voices of Change

7:30 – 8:00 pm

A moderated conversation featuring *Dr Rupak Shrestha, Nabin K. Chettri, Shahd Manvi, and Uday Shankar Durjay (Shan)*

Moderator: *Dr Sangita Swechcha*

Exploring literature, identity, and storytelling in social change.

Special Address – Media & Culture

8:00 – 8:15 pm

Ian Pelham Turner, International TV Broadcaster & UPF UK Patron

Role of Media in Cultural Expression and Global Understanding

Closing Reflections

8:15 – 8:20 pm

Book Signing & Sales (All Speakers)

8:20 – 8:35 pm

Opportunity for audience engagement, book signing, and purchase of works by all featured speakers.

Media Interviews

8:35 – 8:45 pm

Press interactions and interviews with speakers and organisers.

Refreshments will be served from 5:30 pm, with the main programme beginning at 6:00 pm.

We warmly invite writers, readers, artists, peacebuilders, community leaders, students, media professionals and friends of UPF to join us for an inspiring evening of literature, culture and conversation.