

**Government of Pakistan  
Benazir Income Support Programme**

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**Press Release  
March 13, 2016**

**CHAIRPERSON BISP SPEAKS AT THE PEACE FESTIVAL 2016 IN  
LONDON AS CHIEF GUEST**

Minister of State and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), MNA Marvi Memon attended the Peace Festival 2016, at the City Hall in London. She was invited as the Chief Guest together with Member of the British Parliament, Rt Hon Stephen Timms. The event celebrated the poetry and sufi teachings of the famous Sindhi poet and saint, Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai.

Speaking at the event, the Minister said that Latif Sarkar's message of peace, tolerance and women empowerment was universal in its reach. According to her, this message was more relevant in this day and age, when terrorism and intolerance have polluted the quest for prosperity. She emphasized on spreading his message across geographical, cultural, religious and political divides to truly achieve a progressive society. She also highlighted the importance of connecting Sufi silsilas of Pakistan with those abroad as well as more inter provincial exchanges on same.

The Minister also highlighted Bhittai's message on women empowerment. She noted that the sufi poet explained his philosophy in Shah jo Risalo through the courageous lives of women such as Marvi, Moomal, Sorath, Sassui, Noori, Sohni and Leila. She said that her work as the Chairperson of BISP, follows the philosophy of Bhittai, by providing women financial assistance, inclusion, empowerment and dignity. She also thanked the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Finance Minister for giving her the opportunity to serve the people of Pakistan, particularly the vulnerable women.

Minister of State and Chairman BISP, MNA Marvi Memon is on a 3-day official visit to the United Kingdom. In addition to attending the Peace Festival, the Minister will also visit the Oxford University and hold a roundtable discussion at the International Institute of Strategic Studies (ISS), in London.



Minister of State and Chairperson BISP, MNA Marvi Memon addressing the Peace Festival 2016 at the City Hall in London. (Dated: March 13, 2016)