

Speakers

Dr Ram Gidoomal CBE is a member of of the European Board of NASDAQ-quoted Syntel Inc; former Group Vice-Chairman and UK Group CEO of the Inlaks Group; and member of the Board of Companions of the Chartered Management Institute. He is Leader of the Christian Peoples Alliance and stood as candidate in the 2000 London Mayoral Election. In 1998 he was awarded a CBE for services to the Asian Business community and race relations.

Harsh Mander is Country Director, Action Aid India, and was formerly an IAS officer of the 1980 MP cadre.

Sir Gulam Noon MBE is the founder of Indian food market-leader Noon Products Ltd, and the Noon Foundation, which has given grants to a range of multi-faith and multi-cultural projects in the UK and India. He is on the board of Cancer Research UK, the British Food Trust, Maimonides Foundation, the Memorial Gates Trust and Arpana Charitable Trust. In 2002 he was knighted for services to industry.

Lord Meghnad Desai is Professor of Economics and Director, Centre for Study of Global Governance, London School of Economics. He is a former economic adviser to the Labour Party.

Maja Daruwala is a barrister, trained in London and a member of the Bar Council of India, and a Human Rights advocate. She is Executive Director, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, an international NGO mandated to ensure the practical realisation of Human Rights within the Commonwealth.

Gopal Menon is a film producer who has made a number of films on Human Rights issues. They include documentaries on Kashmir, Nagaland and the consequences of the caste system for Dalits.

Dr Prem Sharma is a leading member of the British Asian community. He is founder-chairman of India Development Charitable Trust. He is former advisor to the Department of Trade and Industry on promoting bilateral trade between India and the UK as part of Indo-British Partnership. He was awarded the Hind Rattan (1991) and the Nav Rattan (1995) for outstanding services, achievements and contributions to the British Indian community.

Ram Narayan Kumar leads the Committee for Coordination on Disappearances in Punjab (CCDP), an umbrella organisation of several Human Rights groups that documents Human Rights abuses in the State and campaigns for acknowledgment and accountability. He has spent more than four and half years in jails for Human Rights causes.

John Dayal is Secretary General, All India Christian Council; National Vice President, All India Catholic Union; National Convenor, United Christian Forum for Human Rights. Author, documentary film maker and newspaper editor, he is a frequent public speaker and commentator on issues of Human Rights, civil liberties and peace.

Shrikumar Poddar is the Director of the Vaishnava Center for Enlightenment and the Center for South Asian Studies in Michigan, USA. He has an active interest in the media and has been involved in a number of initiatives in the USA including the 2002 Sadbhavana Peace and Harmony Mission of NRIs to Gujarat and New Delhi.