

JULY 21-26, 2023

8TH WORLD ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CONGRESS

London, United Kingdom



8th World
Zoroastrian
Youth Congress
London 2023

Title Sponsor Cyrus Poonawalla Group of Companies



8WZYC.COM

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Message from the Title Sponsors



Dr. Cyrus Soli Poonawalla

Cyrus Poonawalla
Group of Companies



The youth of a community are its future. I am delighted to sponsor this 8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress which will bring together over 500 youth from all over the world. I am pleased that so many young people from our community will be travelling to London and participating over a period of 5 days in various activities including discussions on our history, our present and our future. The Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe is our oldest Anjuman in the western world and I am very proud that our religion is now recognised as one of the nine major faiths in the UK. I congratulate the young organisers and their mentors on the imaginative programme and arrangements they have undertaken. I wish the 8WZYC all success and urge the participants to always aim high and take the path of “asha” or righteousness in their lives.

About the 8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress

The 8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress (8WZYC) is set to be held in London from July 21st - 26th 2023. After 27 years the World Zoroastrian Youth Congress has returned to London, where it will galvanise over 515 Young Zoroastrians from over 15 different countries.

The Zoroastrian faith, which has endured for over 3500 years, carries a profound message of Good Thoughts, Good Words, and Good Deeds. In a world increasingly divided, with a current population of only around 200,000, it is crucial to gather the next generation to ensure the survival and development of this ancient religion. The 8WZYC aims to host a variety of speaker sessions, workshops and social events to foster diversity and inclusion within the Zarthosti community.

The congress wishes to reignite connections by inspiring young Zoroastrians to address the challenges of dwindling numbers and leverage their diverse population. Over 70 distinguished speakers will share insights on various topics, including inter-faith marriage, LGBTQ+ relationships, conversion, and the achievements of young Zoroastrians in media, arts, and sports.

In addition to the enriching sessions, evening events will provide a platform for youth to network, engage, and explore different aspects of their identity. Attendees will have the opportunity to experience Persian dancing and instrumental performances, fostering connections that transcend borders and amplify the global voice of Zoroastrianism.

The overwhelming response to the 8WZYC is a testament to the significance of this event. Despite the religion's dwindling population, ticket sales for the congress in London sold out in record time. Young Zoroastrians eagerly embraced the chance to visit one of the world's most vibrant cities, where the mission of the congress - to coexist harmoniously despite our differences - is exemplified.

The 8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress promises to be a transformative experience, uniting young Zoroastrians from around the world and empowering them to shape the future of their community. This event will not only celebrate the rich heritage of the Zoroastrian faith but also inspire the next generation to embrace its values and contribute to a more united and sustainable world.

Mission, Vision, and Key Themes

Vision: Reigniting Connections

Mission: To coexist harmoniously despite our differences (encompasses notions of diversity & inclusion)

Key Themes:

1. Religious Education & Identity - This theme will provide delegates with insights into the rich history of Zoroastrianism and how it relates to their current values, behaviour, and overall identity.
2. Social Responsibility - This theme will address a range of issues, from sustainability to human rights, and explore the role that young Zoroastrians can play in tackling these challenges.
3. Networking and Opportunities - This theme will highlight career pathways in media, entrepreneurship, design and more, as well as opportunities to network and create lasting connections with others.

Hashtag: #ZoroYouthCongress

Message from the Co-Chairs



Sheherazad Kapadia



Sanaya Khambatta-Heerjee



Welcome to the 8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress! As co-chairs, who have grown up together, we are thrilled to host over 500 delegates from 15 countries in our home city of London. In our eyes, this congress is a celebration of our shared heritage and a platform to inspire the next generation. Our key message for the 8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress is to coexist in harmony even when opinions may differ. In a time when our population is decreasing, it is crucial that we come together, embracing our differences and work towards common goals. Let us seize this opportunity to build bridges, reignite connections, and ensure a vibrant future for our Zoroastrian community!



Message from the President

Malcolm Deboo

President,
Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe



“

Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe (ZTFE) has been serving our community for over 160 years! As the host, ZTFE is thankful our youth volunteered to organise the 8WZYC and our adults supported and mentored them. ZTFE is in gratitude to all our generous sponsors, especially Cyrus Poonawalla Group of Companies.

In 1997 ZTFE hosted the successful 2WZYC. Similar to 2WZYC, I am sure we will find 8WZYC memorable and fun in getting to know over 500 Zoroastrian youth from all over the world, and respectfully exchanging ideas on the future wellbeing of our community. Some may even find a suitable soul mate for life. We are an ancient religious community in a rapidly changing 21st century.

Similar to 2WZYC, may 8WZYC make us more confident in our Parsi and Irani Zoroastrian identity and inspire us to serve by uplifting our Zoroastrian community. May we continue to serve our nation and humanity just like our patron Lord Karan F Bilimoria CBE, like our principle sponsor Dr Cyrus Poonawalla and others of yesteryear like the Zartoshty Brothers, Rustom Guiv, Maneckji Limji Hataria, Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw MC, Freddy Mercury, Dadabhai Naoroji, Jamshetji Tata, Jamshetjee Jeejeebhoy. May we continue to assist Ahura Mazda by constantly generating goodness and creating awareness of our ancient religion revealed to us by our Prophet Zarathushtra.

Ushta té!



Message from the Trustee

Dorab Mistry, OBE

Trustee,
Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe



It has been a very exciting journey as we in the ZTFE Managing Committee have worked alongside our very gifted Young Zoroastrians to plan and organise the 8WZYC in London. The meticulous preparations and the excellent marketing campaign paid off when the entire Congress was sold out in just 7 hours of release.

At this stage we remember the incredible Zartoshty Brothers (Mobed Mehraban and Mobed Faridoon) whose munificence enabled us to acquire and renovate the magnificent Zoroastrian Centre which incorporates the landmark Zartoshty Brothers Hall as well as our Setayesh Gah. These last 25 years have been very exciting for the ZTFE, particularly since 1999 when Zoroastrianism was recognised and given a place in the Millennium Dome as one of the nine major religions in the UK. The Zoroastrian Centre was purchased in August 2000 and since then ZTFE has welcomed HRH Prince Edward and Sophie in 2002, hosted the 8th World Zoroastrian Congress in 2005, seen Lord Bilimoria ennobled in 2006, welcomed HRH the Late Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh in 2011 and now in 2023 we host the 8WZYC as well as the WZCC Conclave.

I congratulate the entire YZ Congress Organising Committee and particularly the co-chairs Sheherazad Kapadia and Sanaya Khambatta-Heerjee for their leadership and hard work. The WZCC UK chair Shernaz Engineer also deserves kudos for the imaginative and interesting programme put together.



A big Thank You to our Title Sponsor Dr Cyrus Poonawalla for his very generous sponsorship and his words of encouragement and advice. My thanks also to all the generous donors who have contributed financially various sums including some extremely valuable 5 figure amounts. Not forgetting the various Raffles and Dinners where everyone pitched in. Overall we raised almost 150,000 Pounds which enabled us to keep the Registration fee for the 8WZYC extremely affordable.

May I also pay tribute to our hard working and energetic ZTFE President Malcolm Deboo, my Trustee colleagues Rusi Dalal and Bapsy Dastoor and the entire ZTFE Managing Committee team. In particular the Treasurer Javid Canteenwala and joint secretary Jesmin Sorab who worked extremely hard and seamlessly with the YZ Committee.

Finally a very warm welcome to all the delegates and I hope and trust you will have a memorable time.

Dorab Mistry OBE



Javid Canteenwala

Treasurer,
Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe



Jesmin Sorab

Joint Secretary,
Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe



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Meet the Team

Central Committee



Sheherazad Kapadia
Co-Chair



Sanaya Khambatta-Heerjee
Co-Chair



Xerxes Panthakee
Vice-Chair



Zeena Batliwalla
Treasurer



Shazneen Munshi
ZTFE Liaison Officer



Er. Yazad Bhadha
Secretary



Natalie Kotwal
Secretary

Marketing Committee



Zamyad Meherji
Marketing Lead



Ariana Doomasia



Ryan Kalifa



Freyan Khambatta



Hufriya Mehta



Rushad Kolah

Entertainment Committee



Shazneen Munshi



Zeena Batliwalla



Darnesh Buhariwala



Vista Khosravi



Derezar Mehta



Xerxes Panthakee

Speakers Committee



Natasha Sethna
Speakers Lead



Karl Desai



Behram Printer



Zal Canteenwalla



Farah Bhumgara

Technical Committee



Zubin Parekh
AV Lead



Vohu-Friyan Sett



Art Sett



Victor Batliwalla



Ruzbeh Hodiwala
Visa Services

Volunteers



Meherzeen Engineer
Entertainment



Cyrus Titina
Fundraising



Darayus Bharucha
Speakers



Anna Vehramani
Photographer



Cody Partovi
Photographer



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Our Journey



Los Angeles, USA

ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH CONGRESS, 2019

Handover at the 7WZYC: July 2019

Co-chairs - Sheherazad F Kapadia and Sanaya Khambatta along with the committee members represented the 8th WZYC at the closing ceremony of the 7th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress, Los Angeles, 2019. It would later turn out to be the first ever Youth Congress planned during a pandemic. COVID-19 caused disruptions but the team overcame all the hurdles in organising and planning meetings over zoom calls.

In September 2021 around 30 sub-committee members made a trip to the Asha Centre to talk about the Values, Key themes, Vision, and Mission, run by Zerbanoo and Mark Gifford. Majority envisioned a core theme of "Lasting Connections" amongst other themes they'd want to see at the congress.

More importantly that this congress would be run by the youth and for the youth.



Asha Centre, London

Congress Planning Retreat: Sep 25-28th, 2021





Zoroastrian Centre, London

Navroze Function: March 21st, 2022





World Zoroastrian Congress, New York 2022

8WZYC Team in New York 2022

Co-chairs - Sheherazad F Kapadia and Sanaya Khambatta along with the Head of Marketing - Zamyad Meherji represented the 8th WZYC at the closing ceremony of the World Zoroastrian Congress, New York 2022. Around ten Committee members promoted the congress in-person. It was attended by around 1200 Zoroastrians. The team actively engaged with several youth from across the globe and advertised the upcoming congress.

They not only built a huge network of potential attendees but in fact, formed a pool of reliable ambassadors. Announcements and reminders were made at various panel talks, meals, social parties, and activities throughout the congress. The official promo video and the pre-registration link was launched on July 1, 2022 and premiered at the New York Congress closing ceremony.

Register your interest NOW!

www.8wzyc.com/registration

12TH WORLD ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS 2022



Sports Day: July 10th, 2022

Roxbourne Park, London



A sunny fun-filled sports day was held at Roxbourne Park with 64 attendees of various ages. Pizza was provided as lunch at the Zoroastrian Center. A special mention to the entire fundraising team led by Ariana Doomasia.

8WZYC Promo Video

The Official Promo Video was shot across multiple locations and edited over a span of 3 months with a total of 67 hours spent on it. Famous London landmarks were captured with several Young Zoroastrians from the UK in the video. A special thanks to Ryan Kalifa for the videography and editing. The video premiered at the World Zoroastrian Congress in New York City on July 1st, 2022



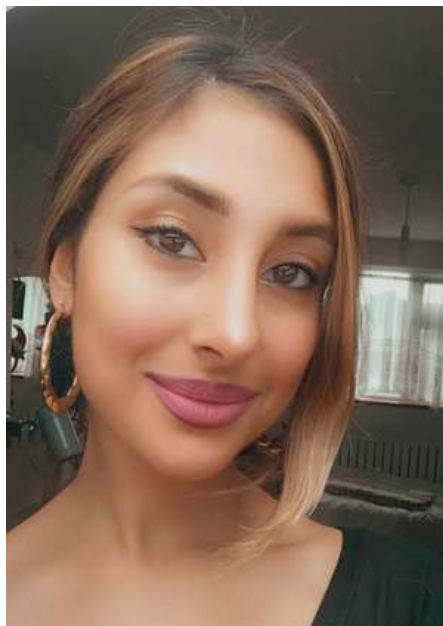
Ryan Kalifa
Videography & Editing



Zamyad Meherji
Direction & Editing



Darnesh Buhariwala
Script-writing



Vista Khosravi
Narration



Ariana Doomasia
Casting



Zoroastrian Centre, London

Fundraising Gala Night: Nov 12th, 2022

The fundraising team organised a Gala Ball Fundraiser on Saturday 12 November 2022, held at the Zoroastrian Centre with over 230 people in attendance.

Preparations for the ball began several months in advance for all aspects: marketing ticket sales, deciding on entertainment, finding the perfect caterer, designing decorations, and all the finer details that go into making an event successful.

The theme was the Monopoly game as it is fun, colourful, and most importantly, iconically British. All the decorations were based on the game, including property cards naming each table, a seating plan in the style of the Monopoly board, and a roll-the-dice game using a pair of giant inflatable dice! The night was hosted by Zamyad and Ariana. The co-chairs felicitated Sir Rohinton Kalifa OBE for his recent knighthood. There were live performances by Yazdyar Avari (guitar), Alyza Zack (piano), and Mahrukh Vakshoor (Bollywood dance).

In the end, the team's hard work paid off. The gala night was a glamorous and fun affair, and there was great feedback from all the attendees.



Zoroastrian Centre, London

Fundraising Gala Night: Nov 12th, 2022





Zoroastrian Centre, London

Fundraising Gala Night: Nov 12th, 2022





Zoroastrian Centre, London

Khordad Saal Function: Mar 26th, 2023

8WZYC team organised a Licensed Raffle Draw to raise funds for the Congress. 12 incredible prizes were donated by generous members of our community: a holiday to Algarve, Portugal, a silver and diamond Asha Farohar pendant, vouchers for high tea at the Ritz and many more! The team started selling tickets at the Gala Ball fundraiser in November 2022. Over the next five months, the whole committee worked hard to sell tickets — to friends, family, colleagues, and the wider Zoroastrian community in the UK. Finally, at the Khordad Saal event held at the Zoroastrian Centre on 26th March 2023, the team pushed final ticket sales and drew the raffle. It was a huge success and all 12 lucky winners were delighted with their winnings. Overall, sold 1,282 tickets and raised £6,410!



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Program



8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress London 2023

Start	End	Commonwealth Room	Royal Room	Room 38
Day 1: Friday July 21, 2023				
10:00 AM	7:30 PM	Congress Registration		
3:00 PM		Hotel Check-In		
4:45 PM	6:30 PM	Welcome Night - Jashan and Opening Speeches		
6:30 PM	8:15 PM	Activity: Meet fellow congress delegates - Ice breakers		
8:15 PM	10:00 PM	Dinner		
Day 2: Saturday July 22, 2023				
6:30 AM	9:30 AM	Breakfast		
9:30 AM	10:30 AM	Opening Ceremony - Flag ceremony and Keynote Speech		
10:30 AM	11:00 AM	Zoroastrians in Business		
11:00 AM	12:00 PM	Activity: WZCC Speed Networking	Speed Networking (additional room)	
11:30 AM	12:15 PM	Mid-morning break and refreshments		
12:15 PM	1:00 PM	Zoroastrianism 101: Zoroastrianism Through the Ages	Zoroastrianism in Practice- A Guide towards a better life	
1:00 PM	1:45 PM	Future of the Community: Presenting the Findings of the Gen Z Survey	Spirituality Fireside Chat	
1:45 PM	3:15 PM	Lunch		
4:00 PM	4:30 PM			Afternoon Tea
6:30 PM	12:00 AM	A night with Bond, Jamshed Bond - Dinner and Immersive Experience Dress code: Black Tie - colours for the night - Red, Black, Gold, White		
Day 3: Sunday July 23, 2023				
6:30 AM	9:30 AM	Breakfast		
8:00 AM	9:00 AM			Activity: Mindfulness
9:30 AM	10:30 AM	Women in Zoroastrianism	Displacement of the Parsis of East Africa and Aden	
10:30 AM	11:15 AM	Activity: ZYNA Icebreaker		
11:15 AM	12:15 PM	Zoroastrians in the Media	Traditions of Modern Iranian Zoroastrians and their Changes	
11:45 AM	12:30 PM	Mid-morning break and refreshments		
12:30 PM	1:30 PM	BaHumata: Voice of the Youth	1. The Zoroastrian Glossary 2. Ask me anything: with Jasmine Dotiwala	
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Lunch		
6:00 PM	10:30 PM	Add on Event: Guildhall - Coaches depart the hotel at 4.00 PM and depart Guildhall at 10.45 PM Dress Code: Black Tie		
Day 4: Monday July 24, 2023				
6:30 AM	9:30 AM	Breakfast		
9:30 AM	10:15 AM	Buses depart the hotel		
Venue for the Day: Zoroastrian Centre				
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	Relationships, Identity and our Future		
12:30 PM	12:45 PM	Break		
12:45 PM	2:00 PM	Many Voices, One Fire: Zoroastrian Priesthood in the 21st Century		
2:00 PM	3:30 PM	Lunch		
3:30 PM		Buses will drop you all into Central London for a Free Afternoon/Evening *There will be NO return buses so please make your own way back to the hotel*		
Day 5: Tuesday July 25, 2023				
6:30 AM	9:30 AM	Breakfast		
8:30 AM	9:30 AM			Activity: Yoga Dress Code: Active Wear
10:00 AM	11:30 AM	Rekindling our Resilience: Intersections Between Mental Health, Wellness and Zoroastrianism		
11:15 AM	11:45 AM	Mid-morning break and refreshments		
11:45 AM	12:30 PM	Zoroastrian Harbingers of Change - A Community Practicing Environmental Sustainability	Zoroastrianism in the Arts	
12:30 PM	1:30 PM	Your first steps with Money and Investing	Breathing and Mindfulness	
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Lunch		
3:00 PM	3:30 PM	Return to Roots	Fireside Chat with Ayesha Billimoria	
3:30 PM	4:30 PM	Neo Zoroastrians	Zoroastrians in the Public Life	
4:30 PM				Afternoon Tea
6:30 PM	12:00 AM	Closing Ceremony and Persian Themed Dance Night Dress Code: Traditional (Maknah & Shaval, Saree, Dugli)		
Day 6: Wednesday July 26, 2023				
6:30 AM	10:30 AM	Breakfast		
	11:00 AM	Check-Out		

Congress Ends - Thank you!



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Meet the Speakers



Welcome Night

On our first night, Merzi Modi will be our host for the evening and will introduce the Congress and the events taking place. We will be having a Jashan to commence the Congress with opening speeches from the 8WYZC Co-Chairs Sanaya Khambatta-Heerjee and Sheherazad Kapadia followed by the 2WYZC Chair, Kerman Jasavala. Next we will be having 8WZYC Head of Marketing Zamyad Meherji take us through the history of ZTFE followed by Mark Gifford taking us through our first Icebreaker session where we will be introduced to other delegates in a "get to know you session". These sessions will be taking place in the Commonwealth Room and Royal room.

Welcome Night



Sheherazad Kapadia
Co-Chair



Sanaya Khambatta-Heerjee
Co-Chair



Merzi Mody
Host



Kerman Jasavala
2nd WZYC 1997, Chair



Zamyad Meherji
Head of Marketing



Mark Gifford
Ice-breaker Lead

Jashan - Ervads



**Dasturji Khurshed K
Dastoor**



Er. Yazad Bhadha



Er. Zubin Bhedwar



Er. Yazad Unwalla



Er. Fali Madon



Er. Jimmy Madon



Keynote Speaker

To formally open the Congress, we will be having an Opening ceremony which includes a flag ceremony and a word from our Keynote speaker, Sir Rohinton Minoo Kalifa OBE. This will take place in both the Commonwealth Room and Royal Room.

Zoroastrians in Business

Join our panel of experts as they explore the essentials of entrepreneurship. They will discuss starting a business, defining success, and the differences between full-time jobs and entrepreneurship. Discover how to navigate the AI revolution and become an entrepreneur in this space. Our panelists will also share insights into how being Zoroastrian influenced their careers and business values. Lastly, they will provide actionable initiatives to engage more Zoroastrian entrepreneurs, including mentorship through the WZCC. This dynamic discussion aims to empower aspiring entrepreneurs with practical knowledge and tools to thrive in the business world, while staying true to their Zoroastrian heritage. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and network with industry professionals.

WZCC Speed Networking

After successfully running this event at the 7WZYC in LA, we are proud to welcome back the WZCC Youth Wing to run a speed networking session. The WZCC Speed Networking event aims to grow your professional connections, expand your business network and get to further know your fellow Zoroastrian youth and establish meaningful connections that you can take forward into your professional and personal life.

Keynote Speaker



Sir Rohinton Kalifa OBE
Keynote Speaker



Ryan Kalifa
Intro Keynote Speaker

Zoroastrians in Business



Shernaz Engineer



Ruzbeh Bacha



Farzad Sunavala

WZCC Speed Networking



Jehan Kotwal



Zoroastrianism 101: Zoroastrianism Through the Ages

This panel is a Q&A session of prepared questions and audience questions. It will be covering the basic beliefs and practices of the religion, theology and culture, unknown facts and a brief history of changes over time. It will also include how practices have evolved over the years. This panel will be held in the Commonwealth Room.

Zoroastrianism 101: Zoroastrianism Through the Ages



**Dasturji Khurshed K
Dastoor**



Prof. Yuhan Vevaina



Er Sheherazad Pavri



Mahzarin Katrak



Zoroastrianism in Practice - A Guide Towards a Better Life

“Zoroastrianism in Practice: A Guide Towards a Better Life” is a seminar-style session co-hosted by Meherwan and Alaisha.

The session will begin with both hosts sharing personal and academic experiences that have led to their understanding of self and their environment. While Meherwan brings forth a blend of a theoretical and applied knowledge to reveal the magic of personal spiritual practice, Alaisha introduces an uniquely embodied connection to spirituality, using movement exercises to cultivate and receive truth that lies deep within the body.

Together, they motivate a move towards deeper personal, spiritual growth, and would love to have others join them on this journey. The hosts will then open up the stage to the audience, and are keen to hear others share their own journeys, stories, and discoveries!

Zoroastrianism in Practice - A Guide Towards a Better Life



Meherwan Patel



Alaisha Sharma



Future of the Community: Presenting the Findings of the Gen Z Survey

Insights from Gen Z and Beyond: A Survey for Every Generation

On 16 August 2021, Gen Z and Beyond: A Survey for Every Generation was launched at the SOAS Shapoorji Pallonji Institute of Zoroastrian Studies. The in-depth, online survey was conducted to explore different beliefs and practices within the current global (Iranian / Parsi / Irani) Zoroastrian community and those close to it.

It gathered demographic, behavioural and attitudinal information which gave us a greater understanding of the factors that have promoted or inhibited the growth and success of the community in different contexts around the world.

In this talk Nazneen will focus on the modern family by asking what role the family plays in youth identity, relationships with the wider community, and religious beliefs and practices. She will also highlight some interesting and important findings from respondents with a sole Zoroastrian parent.

Sarah will discuss aspects of community identity and interaction. She will conclude with some observations about what young people are interested in learning more about, what they think are the greatest threats facing the community, and what factors they think are the most significant for strengthening the future of the community.

*Future of the Community:
Presenting the Findings of the Gen Z Survey*



Nazneen Engineer



Sarah Stewart



Spirituality Fireside Chat

An unapologetically real and raw fireside chat exploring meaningful questions of what it means to be alive and offering practical psycho-spiritual guidance on how to navigate this crazy, confusing, paradoxical, beautiful world as spiritual BEings having a human experience. We hope you join us as we share heartcentered stories of healing, magic and expansion through Nadia Jam's journey of embodiment, remembrance and reconnection with the Divine. We would be honoured to co-create a space that will empower you to be the conscious co-creator of your reality so you can experience more joy, peace, purpose, freedom, play and unconditional love inspired by Truth, by Asha.



Darius Parekh



Nadia Jam



Displacement of the Parsis of East Africa and Aden

Parsi Studies, obviously concerned with the spiritual history and socio-cultural evolution of the oldest living Iranian diaspora, is also integral to Diaspora and Indian Ocean Studies. Sub-regional fields of the latter are Arabian Gulf and East African studies. Parsis, inextricably linked with the subcontinent's other transnational confessional communities, evolved into imperial subjects at once as expatriates. One observes, in Southern Arabia and East Africa, salient correspondences where Zoroastrians, like other British Indians, fulfilled the 'middle management' role of a literate, mercantile, white collared class, who experienced voluntary emigration and involuntary eviction in the imperial and post-imperial eras. Parsi 'agency' was largely inconspicuous, given demographics stacked against them, but also their apolitical reticence to be drawn into the post-WWII turbulent politics of both regions. Their impress, so typical in Parsi history, was their disproportionately positive contribution to public life in the crown colonies of Aden and East Africa.



Burzine Waghmar



Traditions of Modern Iranian Zoroastrians and their Changes

Traditions of modern Iranian Zoroastrians and their changes:

Join us for an enlightening talk as we embark on a journey to unveil the vibrant and often overlooked traditions of Zoroastrians in their homeland. Dr. Khanizadeh, an academic at SOAS, University of London and a member of the Zoroastrian community, will lead this engaging exploration.

We will delve into the profound transformations experienced by Iranian Zoroastrians, shedding light on the transmission and changes of their ancient traditions, such as the Sedre Pushi (Navjot ceremony), monthly celebrations, and rituals, amidst the rapidly changing world. Our focus will include their efforts to balance their faith with the demands of modern existence, navigating realms such as education, urbanisation, and assimilation.

We will highlight the tireless efforts and commitments of Zoroastrians in preserving their extraordinary tangible and intangible heritage. We will discuss how Zoroastrians, following Zarathushtra's message in Yasna 30.9 i.e. 'we may be those who will make the existence excellent', have adopted their millennia old beliefs and traditions to the circumstances of the modern world.



Ruzbeh Hodiwala



Mehrbod Khanizadeh



The Zoroastrian Glossary

GOOD WORDS: The Zoroastrian Global Glossary

When our spelling is perfect, it's invisible. But when it's flawed, it prompts strong negative associations.

Marilyn vos Savant

Why does spelling matter?

Whether we admit it or not, we are judged by our spelling. If we made errors in a school report or at work, it would be noticed. Yet, somehow, within the English-speaking world, Zoroastrians have taken great liberty in how they spell religious terms. Think of Norooz, Nowruz, Navroz, etc. As one of the smallest – but influential – religions in the world, it is our great responsibility for future generations to streamline our spelling as much as possible.

The Zoroastrian Global Glossary was first launched in December 2021 at the FEZANA (Federation of Associations of North America) AGM. Since then, the team has made over a dozen presentations. The team continues to change over the years, and is comprised of scholars, priests, linguists and historians. The glossary team is extremely proud to unveil version 2.0 at this congress.

Visit: fezana.org/glossary

Join Armaity Homavazir, Farzin Avari and Kimiya Shahzadi as they lead you through the history of our words and the importance of why Zoroastrians across the globe would benefit from using this valuable tool. Through fun games, you will come away with a deeper understanding of Zoroastrian history, languages and words.

The Zoroastrian Glossary



Armaity Homavazir



Kimiya Shahzadi



Farzin Avari



BaHumata (With Good Thoughts) – Voice of the Youth

BaHumata (With Good Thoughts) – Voice of the Youth - building Confidence, Self Esteem and Resilience.

A session for dialogue on how Prayers related to Actions inspired by Good Thoughts (Humata) add value to our lives and the lives of others.

Together we will reflect upon the guidance of the Zoroastrian Faith on optimising the ability to make choices with responsibility by listening and reflecting in each individual circumstance based upon facts.

Through this dialogue we can build shared Wisdom and propagate Fellowship, World Peace, Happiness (Ushta) and Prosperity for All while building individual resilience.

We will discover how imbibing the Amesha Spentas can help us develop into the caregiver – the Vastarem, as described in the Yatha Ahu Vairyo so as to care for our Vohuman (Good Mind) and build the Vohuman of others.

Our speakers will share concepts/words/lines and their meanings from our Prayers, provide references and experiences/actions that will aid reflection with a clear mind and a Q&A session will engage the audience during the session and at the end of the event- all you have to do is raise your hand and a mic will be brought to you.

BaHumata (With Good Thoughts) - Voice of the Youth



**Dasturji Khurshed K
Dastoor**



Dr Karishma Koka



Meherwan Patel



**Jerou Panthaki
RamMohan**



Anahita Hormozdyari



Behnaz Nanavatti



Er. Yazad Unwalla



Ask me anything, with Jasmine Dotiwala

Come and meet Jasmine Dotiwala in an "Ask me anything" session. Jasmine Dotiwala has over 25 years of experience as a Head of department, manager, broadcaster, producer, director, and columnist at brands like Netflix UK, Media Trust, Channel 4 News, MTV and more.

This Panel will be held at the Royal Room.



Jasmine Dotiwala



Zuben Rustomjee



Mindfulness

Rishad Mehta, founder and lead producer at ClimateStory Studios, focuses on creating insightful video series and podcasts about climate change, conservation, and sustainability. He's also an accomplished meditation teacher, having reached thousands of individuals globally. Based in West London, Rishad enjoys a balanced life with his wife Benaisha and their Corgi, Gibbs, while continuing to make significant strides in both environmental advocacy and personal wellness.



Rishad Mehta



Zoroastrians in the Media

Learn about what it takes to land a role in the media industry! This panel features film and tv producers, casting producers, and actors who will speak about their fascinating experiences in the media. Whether in front of or behind the camera, each panelist's experience will teach audiences about the skills needed to succeed in their field.



Jasmine Dotiwala



Ava Patel



**Mark Sumariwalla
Summers**



Shreas Pardiwala



Tanya Hoshi



Women in Zoroastrianism

The panel discussion will serve as a platform to shed light on the pivotal role of women within the Zoroastrian community, exploring the multifaceted intersection of gender and participation across various domains, including the household, workplace, and wider community. By delving into the rich history of the Zoroastrian religion, the discussion aims to emphasize the significance of reclaiming the role of women in traditionally male-dominated spheres such as priesthood, community leadership, and the creation of equitable spaces.

One of the focal points of the discussion will be the exploration of the historical context of Zoroastrianism, which has traditionally valued gender equality and acknowledged the influential contributions of women throughout its development. By drawing inspiration from this legacy, the panelists will highlight the need to revive and build upon the historical prominence of women, ensuring their active participation and leadership roles within the community. By harnessing the power of women's perspectives, experiences, and knowledge, the Zoroastrian community can foster inclusivity, diversity, and social cohesion. The panelists will share practical action points that individuals can implement to actively participate in the creation of equitable spaces, such as supporting women's initiatives, amplifying their voices, and challenging gender biases.

Women in Zoroastrianism



Zeenia Cawasji



Shazneen Munshi



Anisa Ostad



Kimiya Shahzadi



Farzin Avari



Shirin Mehri



8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress London 2023

Add-On Event: Program

Time	Activity
4 pm	Buses Depart the Hotel
5.30 pm	Welcome drinks reception
6.30 pm	MC Shreas Pardiwala starts the night in the Great Hall
6.45 pm	Honoured Guest - HE High Commissioner of India to the UK
7 pm	Starters served
7.45 pm	Keynote Speech - Lord Karan Bilimoria CBE, DL
8 pm	Reigniting Connections by Fravash Chothia
8.10 pm	Main Course served
9 pm	Live performance: Alyza Zack & Delraaz Bunshah
9.30 pm	Dessert served
10.30 pm	Guests Depart (Buses depart for the hotel)



Meet the Guildhall Stars

Meet your Speakers and Acts for the evening. Shreas Pardiwala will be your host for the night with speeches from HE Indian High Commissioner Mr. Vikram Doraiswami, keynote speaker Lord Karan Bilimoria, and inspiration youth Fravash Chothia. Alyza Zack and Delraaz Bunshah will be your entertainers for the evening and of course our celebrity chef Mr Cyrus Todiwala will prepare a sumptuous meal!



**Lord Karan Bilimoria,
CBE DL FCA FRSA**



Cyrus Todiwala



Alyza Zack



Delraaz Bunshah



Fravash Chothia



Many Voices, One Fire: Zoroastrian Priesthood in the 21st Century

Many Voices, One Fire: Zoroastrian Priesthood in the 21st Century

Is there just one path and set of beliefs among our priestly classes, or a plethora of varied opinions and debates?

Our Zoroastrian community, as one of the world's oldest continuously practised religions, has always been a treasure trove of rich culture, varied perspectives, and a profound understanding of faith and spirituality. This panel discussion, moderated by Rishad Mehta, aims to explore the rich and varied priestly traditions, and sometimes conflicting opinions among the next generation of Mobeds, Mobediyaars, and Osta's and Osti's.

Featuring five young Zoroastrians with priestly backgrounds, each having their unique perspectives and experiences within the framework of their faith. The panelists will discuss their religio-spiritual journeys, explaining how they arrived at their current understanding and practice of Zoroastrianism. They will also address how they reconcile their traditional beliefs with the challenges and realities of modern living.

These narratives are crucial in revealing the vast diversity within the Zoroastrian priestly classes. Each person's journey is shaped by unique experiences, contributing to the rich tapestry of faith. We hope to shed light on the multiple paths that individuals can tread within our faith. We look forward to a thought-provoking and enriching discussion.

Many Voices, One Fire: Zoroastrian Priesthood in the 21st Century



Rishad Mehta



Er Karl Desai



Mahshad Khosraviani



Er Sheherazad Pavri



Er Jimmy Madon



Kimiya Shahzadi



Relationships, Identity and the Future

"Zoroastrianism – one of the oldest religions in the world, with a community featuring a vast pool of people with a mix of orthodox and liberal ideas. Relationship – a bridge connecting two people through love and understanding.

Join us to talk about Zoroastrian relationships in today's day and age: interfaith, LGBTQIA+, Parsi-Parsi, Parsi-Irani, and more. With our religious teachings telling us to follow 'Asha' or the path of truth, we must ask ourselves, "What is my truth?" Sometimes this truth may be jaded by the fear of not being accepted in our communities. But only by speaking openly about these issues can we understand the truth of the matter and promote change. Only by using our Vohuman can we discern for ourselves what is right. So let's talk about it! After all, we are but one community, living our own Truths but coming together as various flames of one Holy Fire. We together are the various 'Ashas' of One Eternal 'Atash'. Is it possible for our relationships and acceptance of one another to showcase the love at the heart of our beautiful religion and community? Don't miss this first ever discussion on relationships in the Zoroastrian community."

Relationships, Identity and the Future



Farah Randelia



Natalie Kanga



Mahshad Khosraviani



Anahita Verahrami



Malcolm Bhot



Rushad Heerjee



Shreas Pardiwala



Rekindling our Resilience: Intersections Between Mental Health, Wellness and Zoroastrianism

There was a time when the taboo of mental (ill-)health could not and would not see the light of day. Fortunately, those times have changed and it now emerges as a headlining topic for discussion during this youth congress, a coming together of minds from all over the world.

Acknowledging the importance of mental health is certainly warranted in today's society. Coming to terms with our inner world, mind and soul, is crucial in ensuring that we live healthy and fulfilled lives. After all, your overall well-being, or 'Ushta', comes from more than just the salad you had for lunch or that 30-minute jog - your mental health is equally as important when working towards our full potential!

The aim of this panel is to ignite the spark of the Holy Fire in facilitating a much-needed conversation.

By beginning to explore the links between Zoroastrianism and mental health, we seek to highlight the various parallels between religious teachings and contemporary psychology because, in some ways, we Zoroastrians were well ahead of our time!

Examining the influence of culture and language, we shed light on the ways in which we may overcome the stigma surrounding mental ill-health and build a more united, compassionate, and healthy community.

Drawing on our lived experiences and subject-specific knowledge, we take a moment to reflect on the courage of our ancestors and longevity of this religion in the face of persecution and intergenerational trauma. We're stronger together: supporting, uplifting, and understanding each other, a powerful and respectful community.

We conclude by exploring some techniques or tools from religious, spiritual, and cultural practice that we can utilise to improve and maintain our mental health.

We welcome you to a community, a support group, a safe space, wherein we young Zoroastrians, explore the power of the mind. It is time we talk, listen, act and heal. Let's work towards rekindling our resilience and unite with each other and become one - just like our Holy 'Atash'...Many Sparks - One Fire.

Rekindling our Resilience: Intersections Between Mental Health, Wellness and Zoroastrianism



Shreas Pardiwala



Rozmin Irani



Jehann Daruwalla



Sahm Cooper



Rushad Saklatwalla

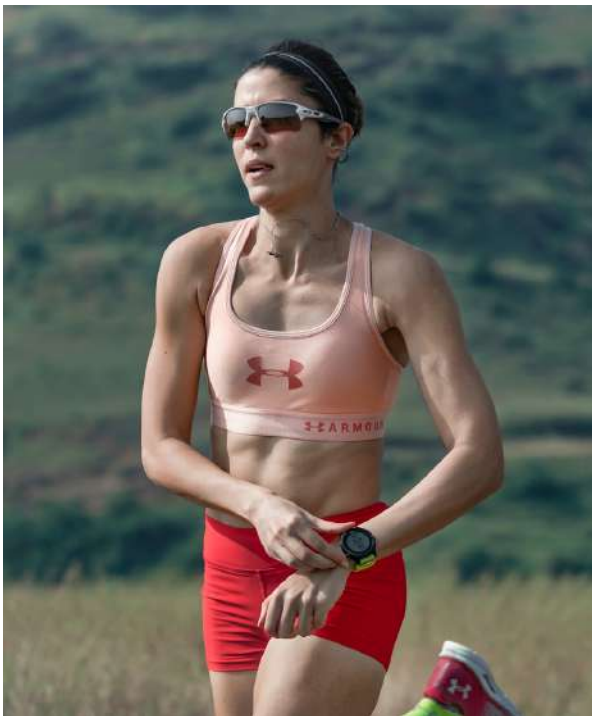


Azita Patel



Fireside Chat with Ayesha Billimoria

Ayesha is a 3 time Indian national running champion, as well as the founder of Project Fitgirl, a social enterprise that aims to educate girls in rural India in Physical Education. She's accomplished so much - from her professional athletics career, to building a profile as a nationally recognised fitness influencer, to changing the lives of young women across India. Through our interview we'll focus on her path; how she's harnessed her faith and spirituality to navigate the opportunities and challenges that she's faced and how she balances it all in this busy and demanding world.



Ayesha Billimoria



Benaisha Daruwalla



Zoroastrian Harbingers of Change - A Community Practicing Environmental Sustainability

Zoroastrian Harbingers of Change - A Community Practicing Environmental Sustainability

ABSTRACT:

This session aims to inspire a renewed commitment from young Zoroastrians to lead by example and become Harbingers of Change, both through practicing environmental sustainability and by highlighting the effort of contemporary Zoroastrians to confront environmental issues. Zoroastrians are committed to the religious tenants of maintaining the purity of the earth and its elements, succinctly enshrined in the statement "we worship the earth which gives good gifts" (Yasna 16.6).

Rashneh Pardiwala has been creating successful models of environmental sustainability for the past 20 years and will share her initiatives in the field of solar electrification, rainwater harvesting and urban afforestation, especially with the Zoroastrian community in Mumbai. Her presentation aims to empower the next generation of Zoroastrians to become climate warriors, irrespective of their professional fields of expertise, and adopt simple, environmentally friendly, socially equitable and financially viable strategies to help combat climate change and heal the earth. Global warming poses one of the greatest challenges to mankind and more than ever before, every field demands a skillset in "natural resource management" or a specialization in environment be it careers in engineering, law, medicine, architecture, or fashion designing. Every Zoroastrian can and must be a Harbinger of Change in their personal and professional lives.

Zoroastrian Harbingers of Change - A Community Practicing Environmental Sustainability



Dr. Rashneh Pardiwala



Your first steps with Money and Investing

Join us for an engaging speaker session that is focused on empowering the youth to navigate the world of finance. Melwin will delve into crucial topics such as earning potential, and the art of saving and investing wisely in various asset classes, including stocks, shares, and mutual funds. Our speaker will shatter the common misconception that investing is solely for the wealthy, stressing the fundamental principle that “an investment in knowledge pays the best interest”. By sharing practical steps, fostering beneficial habits, and highlighting pitfalls to avoid, the session aims to equip you with the necessary knowledge to embark on your own wealth accumulation journey. The objective of this session is to ignite your passion for learning, expand your horizons on the world of finance and provide recommended further readings to ensure you have the resources needed to embark on a lifelong journey of financial education.



Melwin Mehta



Zoroastrianism in the Arts

The talk will traverse the journey between Persia, China and India to trace the roots of the storied Parsi Gara embroidery. Through the course of the address, Ashdeen will highlight motifs, forms, and ideas that travelled across these diverse geographies and culminated in this beautiful craft that has mesmerised generations. The objective is to take the audience through some of the meanings and significance of commonly occurring patterns and designs that draw heavily from Zoroastrian culture. The recurring visual vocabulary of Parsi Gara embroidery also shows a deep reverence for nature which is a direct reflection of Zoroastrian belief systems.



Ashdeen Lilaowala



A Career in the Public Life

Do you consider yourself a public figure? Well, you should! Join this session to learn about the key to creating a successful personal brand and elevating your public profile.

Parshan Khosravi is an Iranian-American of Zoroastrian faith who is currently a candidate for the city council in Laguna Hills, California. He has over a decade of experience in education advocacy and currently serves as the California Policy Director for uAspire, a national nonprofit focused on higher education access and economic mobility.

A double alum of the University of California, Parshan received his Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Education Sciences from UC Irvine and his Master's Degree in Public Policy from UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. As a devout Zoroastrian, he spends most of his spare time organizing with his faith community at local, national, and global levels. In July 2022, Parshan received the coveted Rising Youth Award at the World Zoroastrian Congress in New York.



Parshan Khosravi



Breathing and Mindfulness

According to Nayomi, incorporating yoga into daily life can help develop an awareness of the effects of stress and effectively manage it. This benefit extends to the workplace and daily life, resulting in increased productivity and overall well-being. Unlike many exercise routines, yoga eliminates fatigue and generates energy, leading to higher levels of productivity. It is not just a physical practice but also benefits the mind and soul. This wellness session is thoughtfully designed to include chair yoga sequences, simple yoga stretches and postures, breathing techniques, and mindfulness exercises to help manage stress and improve their overall health and well-being. This session is accessible to individuals of all skill levels and does not require any prior experience. These yoga practices can be easily incorporated into daily routines and, when practised regularly, can yield significant benefits. Participants will leave feeling rejuvenated and energized, making a few minutes invested in holistic health a worthwhile investment.



Nayomi Davar



Return to Roots

The Zoroastrian Return To Roots (RTR) program is the only international trip that exclusively exists for Zoroastrian youth and is designed to strengthen community identity amongst Zoroastrian youth around the world. It is a 15-day trip in India, which takes a small group of participants on an exciting, fun, and educational journey to explore their religious, social and cultural heritage.

RTR is going into its 7th year now, and has over 100 alumni around the world. The program has had tremendous impact on participants, many of whom were once disenfranchised and disconnected from the greater Zoroastrian community. Return to Roots is more than just a trip, but rather a life-changing journey that has participants walking away with a greater sense of pride for their culture and faith, amazing memories, and friendships with Zoroastrians from around the world.

Join RTR alumni and board member Tanya Hoshi as she discusses her own experience attending Return to Roots and shares news about how you can apply for the next trip. The presentation includes a short film about the trip to give you a better look at the exciting journey you can experience yourself.



Tanya Hoshi



Neo-Zoroastrians - Becoming Zoroastrian: Beyond the binary of Parsi and Zartoshti-zādeh

The session will present findings of an ethnographic study investigating the motivations, socio-cultural, and religious practices of 'Zoroastrians-by-choice' – those who were born to both non-Zoroastrian parents and have accepted the Zoroastrian identity by undergoing a Sedreh-Pushi/Navjote ceremony. It will shed light on the patterns of interaction between 'Zoroastrians-by-choice' and those Zoroastrians who were born to both Zoroastrian parents.

The session involves an interactive activity where the audience will be asked to participate in live polls. Therefore, having a mobile phone with internet is suggested.

The talk will be followed by a screening of a short documentary titled 'Becoming Zoroastrian' which has been jointly produced by Leah Rustomjee and Ruzbeh Hodiwala. The movie features 'Zoroastrians-by-choice' from diverse socio-cultural backgrounds and nationalities sharing their experiences of becoming a Zoroastrian. The documentary, which combines participatory and interview-based genres, provides a firsthand account of the 'Zoroastrians-by-choice', who speak about their lives as Zoroastrians.



Zal Canteenwala



Ruzbeh Hodiwala



Leah Rustomjee
Contributor



Closing Speaker

Shirin Amani Azari was born in Tehran, raised in Sweden and currently lives in London. Since 2000, she has been working as a psychotherapist with refugee victims of torture and young people experiencing mental health issues.

Shirin is also a passionate writer and has two published books, as well as her work recognised in professional international journals. As an experienced lecturer, Shirin has given talks at universities and has also made a number of TV appearances.

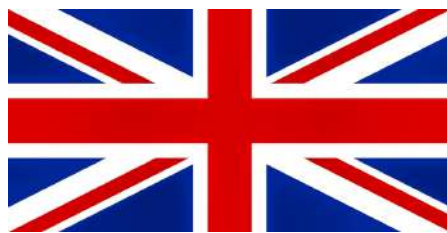


Shirin Amani Azari



Passing the Torch

The 8WZYC Co-Chairs and 7WZYC (Los Angeles, USA) Chair will pass on the Atash-flame torch to the 9th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress (Mumbai, India 2027) Co-Chairs: Delzin Irani and Viraf Mehta.



Parshan Khosravi



Sheherezad Kapadia



Sanaya Khambatta-Heerjee



Delzin Irani




Viraf Mehta



8th World
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London 2023

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Wishing all the best to the
8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress Team



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CYRUS POONAWALLA GROUP



Heartiest Congratulations and Best
Wishes to all the organisers and
delegates at the 8th World Zoroastrian
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8th World
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**Wishing all Young Zoroastrian
delegates best of luck at the
8th World Youth Congress**

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Aban Rustomji

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Behroze & Astad Clubwala

Hira & Toos Daruvala

Niloufer & Edul Daver

Parvin & Mehraban Dinyarian

Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA)

Zoroastrian Youth Across Borders (ZYAB)

Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North
America (FEZANA)





Best Wishes To

8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress London 2023

Zaiwalla & Co Solicitors

Zaiwalla & Co





Wishing all the delegates and the Committee
a successful and fun 8th World Zoroastrian
Youth Congress!

Dilber and Dr. Merzi Katrak





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Wishing all the delegates a Successful & Inspiring
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APPOINTMENTS



Wishing you all the best for the Youth Congress!

Roshan and Rusi Dalal
Children, Grandchildren, and Families in London





Wishing all participants of the
8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress
an engaging and enjoyable congress experience.

We wish all of you deeply fulfilling and inspiring lives,
achieving great success, and setting new benchmarks.

“

Dare to Dream.
Dedicate your lives to achieving your dreams.
Enjoy the journey!

”

Good health and happiness, always.



Silloo, Tarana, Zubin,
Simran, Simone and Zeus Karkaria



From the Team at



**Business Association
of West Australian
Zoroastrians**

Organisers of the



**11th World Zoroastrian
Congress Perth, Australia
June 1st - 4th 2018**



We wish all the
delegates at
The 8th World
Zoroastrian Youth
Congress in London
all the very best!

May you make
great memories to
last a lifetime!

**WISHING THE 8TH WORLD ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH
CONGRESS 2023**

ALL THE VERY BEST FOR A VERY SUCCESSFUL EVENT

Best Wishes from:



**THE PARSİ ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA, SINGAPORE**

(Hosts of the World Zoroastrian Congress 2026)



**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL WITH FAMILY &
FRIENDS AT THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS
SINGAPORE IN DECEMBER 2026**





TORONTO

YOUTH IN LONDON

Congratulations to everyone at the 8WZY Congress! Wishing you all great success.
From, the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO).

ZYNG wishes the 8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress all the very best!





REALIZING THE DREAM - OUR TIME IS NOW

The time has finally come to embark on our mission to continue our efforts to preserve our faith and build the future Place of Worship for all Zoroastrians in Canada.

The Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation (OZCF) calls on the generous spirit of Iranian and Parsi Zoroastrians worldwide to donate generously to support the ground breaking build for the first Atashkadeh and future Atash-e-Adaran in Oakville, part of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) in Ontario, Canada.

Besides serving as a Place of Worship for all Iranian and Parsi Zoroastrians living in the GTA (and beyond), it will also serve to be the religious and social hub of all our faith and community-based activities. We will now be able to ordain priests here in Canada. This will encourage more young Zoroastrians to become priests and have their family and friends celebrating along with them locally. Afterall, the future of our religion is in the hands of our future generation.

Magnanimous donations by Zoroastrian individuals and families have enabled many community Places of Worship to be built that serve as centers for religious and community services across North America and the World. The OZCF has been diligently fund raising for its Place of Worship for the past 6 years and now call on the world wide Zoroastrian community to support its endeavours as the ground breaking ceremony is close to commencement.

Welcome this opportunity to be part of this legacy by making a donation to the Place of Worship at OZCF.

Please reach out to either Phil Sidhwa at philsidhwa@hotmail.com, Marzi Byramjee at marzi@regalpresscanada.com or Adil Bhesania at president@ozcf.com should you have any questions

Hamāzor Hamā Ashō-bēd! May we all be united in strength and righteousness!
Atha Jamyad Yatha Afrinami! May we achieve what we have prayed for.



THE FIRE WITHIN





THANK YOU

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Website: www.8wzyc.com

Zamyad C. Meherji



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