



# Open Call

## Bunyād • Safar • Rūh — Five Years of Rawanee

— بنیاد • سفر • روح — *Foundation • Journey • Soul*

After over five years of Rawanee, we are bringing together an **anthology** that honours the stories, languages, and creative journeys of our community. This will be complemented by podcast episodes (RawPods on podcast channels and YouTube) and blog posts ([rawanee.com/perspectives](http://rawanee.com/perspectives)).

This open call extends and expands our earlier initiative **Watan ki Mitti**, which sought to highlight the overlooked and unheard narratives of Pakistan and other lands that bear untold stories.

Roots remain central - and now they sit alongside other global majority journeys - whether these be stories of migration and refuge, identity, spirit and the soul, or personal and psychological journeys.

### Explaining the Themes

— بنیاد • سفر • روح — At the heart of this call are the words that have carried Rawanee for five years: **Bunyād • Safar • Rūh** (*Foundation • Journey • Soul*). These are lived truths of migration, creativity, and community. Respond in your own way—through memory, process, longing, play, or possibility.

- **Bunyād (Foundation):** roots, languages, homelands, faith, rituals—fragile or sturdy, fractured or nourishing; Pakistan and diasporas, or any homeland that shapes you.
- **Safar (Journey):** migration, refuge, exile, conflict, rebuilding, resistance—and the everyday journeys from silence to speech, loss to laughter; humour as survival.
- **Rūh (Soul):** why we create—faith, love, resilience, imagination, joy; creativity as devotion, care, and community.

### Sub-themes from **Watan ki Mitti**:

Culture & heritage (music, food, folklore, humour) • Identity & home amid migrations & conflict • Rebuilding for the future (peace, human rights, unity) • **Humour & satire** (memes, light verse, playful takes).

# What We're Inviting

You are warmly invited to submit your creative work in the following forms:

- **Publications (Safhay)** - selected content will be published as an anthology:
  - Poems
  - Short essays or prose (fiction or non-fiction)
- **Podcasts (RawPods):**
  - Audio or video recordings (poetry, stories, or creative reflections to theme).
  - Work may feature in our podcast strands:
    - Rivers of Resilience (*migration/refugee & allied voices*),
    - Creative Thought minis (*craft & ideas linked to the theme*),
    - Short Poems Pod (*poem recitations linked to theme*).
- **Events (Mehfil):**
  - Global Online Mehfil, 16th Nov 2025 - Apply to join  
*Segments include:*
    - Refugee and migrant poetry
    - Youth event
    - Urdu segment
    - Global contributors (everyone is welcome!)
  - Spring 2026 - In person event in London Mehfil
    - Featuring work selected for the anthology
- **Blog (Perspectives):**
  - Short cultural reflections or reviews (e.g. food, music, humour, migration, craft).

**Languages:** All are welcome. If your piece isn't in Urdu or English, please include a translation.

 Send your submissions to: [rawanee.submit@gmail.com](mailto:rawanee.submit@gmail.com)

## Deadlines

- **Anthology (Safhay):**
  - Final submissions by 20 Jan 2026
  - Select contributors may have a chance to participate in an in-person/hybrid event in London, in Spring-Summer 2026
- **Events**
  - Please keep a lookout on [rawanee.com/events](http://rawanee.com/events)



# Rawanee Safhay (Anthology): Submission Guidelines

- **Format:** .docx or .pdf for text; standard audio/video files or links for recordings.
- **Title Page (first page for text submissions):**
  - Author name + short intro (≤250 words)
  - Title + short summary/intro (≤150 words)
  - (Optional) word or line count
  - Contact details (email + phone)
- **References:** If you cite other texts, include full details on the last page.
- **Editing:** Rawanee may edit/correct texts prior to publication (lightly, with care).
- **Integrity:** Plagiarised or AI-generated work will be declined; repeat offenders may be barred.
- **Values:** Keep to respect and kindness. Critical thought is welcome—without disrespect, hate, or violent speech.
- **Previously published work:** We welcome previously published pieces, as long as they are properly attributed to their original source.

## Reassurance & Disclaimers

- **Creative Integrity**  
All work will be editorially reviewed, but *no poems or creative pieces will be edited without the explicit consent of the contributor.*
- **Rights & Permissions**  
Writers/poets retain all rights to their work.  
Previously published work is welcome, as long as you retain the right to re-publish and provide full attribution
- **Consent to Share**  
By submitting, you consent to Rawanee featuring your work in:
  - **Publications:** print/digital (anthology, blogs).
  - **Podcasts:** RawPods series.
  - **Events:** live/recorded readings, performances.

---

Join us as we reflect on بُنياد • سفر • رُوح — the foundation, journey, and soul of our creative community.