



AMERICAN PAKISTANI  
ADVOCACY GROUP

# “Building Bridges to Empower Communities”

Engage.Empower.Elevate

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## AMERICAN PAKISTANI ADVOCACY GROUP

### ABOUT US

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) is a not-for-profit organization that seeks to promote Pakistani ethnic identity and customs through civic engagements, educational resources, career opportunities, and personal advancements. We seek to uplift and honor the principles of democracy, freedom, and hard work characteristics that make us unconditionally American. We aspire to engage, empower and elevate.

### OUR MISSION

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group's mission is multi-dimensional rooted in our mantra, Engage, Empower, and Elevate. We seek to engage our community by providing objective information. We empower by focusing on civic engagement and raising awareness to ensure equal representation, and we elevate through the promotion of policies that seek to uplift Pakistani Americans.

### OUR VISION

Engage | Empower | Elevate

We aim to engage with the community to explore needs-based initiatives. By facilitating and connecting the community to educational opportunities, information, and resources, we aim to empower the community. By supporting advancements and cultivating progress through community participation, we aim to elevate the community.

### OUR GOALS

- Provide community resources
- Encourage equal political representation
  - Foster women and youth engagement
- Advance community-based businesses and entrepreneurship
  - Promote Pakistani culture and arts

## Message from the President of APAG, Ali Rashid



I am excited to share with you the fourth iteration of APAG’s annual newsletter. In this newsletter, we highlight the extensive progress we have made throughout this past year in uplifting the cultural decadence of our people. The past few years have been challenging; however, it is important that we maintain steadfastness in our desire to overcome. A new year is representative of a new beginning, a rebirth to start anew and begin bettering ourselves and improving facets of our lives one step at a time. As such, as we look forward to the new year ahead, we must keep in our hearts and souls this message. We must strive to uphold the values that make our Pakistani culture beautiful. We must continue to foster and cultivate a desire to learn and be inquisitive – to never take things for granted. We must continue to fight for the opportunity for equal representation so that we may continue to develop a better world for our progeny.

As an organization, the American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) has been leading this charge from the forefront. We have worked passionately with a plethora of elected individuals to champion causes that we find important to the success of Pakistani Americans and those in need of representation. We understood that the greatest way to illicit change is through active discourse, which allows us to engage in a pedagogy that is transformative. The capacity to provide information that is non-biased and objective is the gold standard. APAG acted hastily in this manner to conduct a plethora of workshops and forums – so that individuals could truly understand the power that information carries. In 2022, The American Pakistani Advocacy Group launched the first of its kind, The Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah Scholarship, for Pakistani students in New York. This scholarship aimed to provide need-based assistance for first-generation Pakistani college students attending CUNY/ SUNY schools. The scholarship aimed to aid these students in their academic endeavors and to cultivate leaders of the next generation.

Two of our greatest achievements in 2022 are part of our mission to elevate the Pakistani diaspora. Our team worked immensely and collaborated with New York State Assembly to celebrate Pakistan Resolution Day at New York State Capital, Albany, in Legislative Office Building. Also, a Pakistan flag was raised at New York State Capital in Albany for the first time ever. In addition, New York State Senate and Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution to make March 23rd “Pakistan Day” in New York State. Furthermore, The American Pakistani Advocacy Group hosted the first-ever historic Pakistan Flag raising ceremony in Manhattan at Bowling Green Park (Wall Street) along with NYC Mayor Eric Adams.

I wish you all a healthy and happy new year. I wish that you hold true to yourself and the goals that you have set forth.

Thank You,  
Ali Rashid, President of APAG.



# AMERICAN PAKISTANI ADVOCACY GROUP (APAG) 2022 Year in Review

January 2022

## APAG Quaid-e-Azam Scholarship

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group offered the first of its kind, The Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah Scholarship, for Pakistani students in New York. This scholarship aimed to provide need-based assistance for first-generation Pakistani college students attending CUNY/ SUNY schools. The scholarship aimed to aid these students in their academic endeavors and to cultivate leaders of the next generation.

American Pakistani Advocacy Group APAG awarded 10 scholarships to Pakistani American students currently attending colleges and universities and hosted a reception for APAG Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah Scholarship recipients 2022 in October 2022. For 2023, our goal is to double the scholarship recipients.



February 2022

## Annual Winter Clothing Drive

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group Cares (APAG Cares) held a Winter Clothing Drive in New York to keep the community warm. Our team distributed new jackets, socks, gloves, hats, and masks to the community and people in need. Mr. Nawab Adil Khan Vice Consul General of Pakistan, New York, attended and assisted in the distribution.







March 2022

## Community Food Drive

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group Cares (APAG Cares) held a Food Drive on Friday in Queens with the goal of helping to feed our neighbors in need. We distributed Fresh Fruits, Vegetables, Bread, Eggs, Yogurt, and other grocery items to anyone in need. It's all about giving back to the community.



## APAG Language Access Act

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) and coalition partners met with elected officials to advocate for the Language Access Act. Language Access Act will require all New York State Agency documents and forms to be provided in Urdu and the other 12 main spoken languages. We tried to ensure that all New Yorkers had equal opportunities to exercise their rights without language being a barrier.

### Language Access Expansion S5236B/A7428B

- Codify the Executive Order 26 into permanent law
  - Cover all agencies and departments including the DMV
- Expand to the top 12 languages
- Use a formula that includes Limited English Proficiency (LEP's) arrivals from the last 5 years
- Languages will get adjusted every 2 years using both Census and Community Survey data
- Local variances from the state-wide languages will be accounted for by regions adding the top 3 languages for that region that do not already appear on the top 12 statewide list



## Pakistan Resolution Day, March 23<sup>rd</sup> Celebration in NYS



The American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) collaborated with New York State Assembly and celebrated Pakistan Resolution Day at New York State Capital, Albany, in Legislative Office Building on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. A Pakistan flag was raised at New York State Capital in Albany for the first time. Also, New York State Senate and Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution to make March 23<sup>rd</sup> “Pakistan Day” in New York State.





## APAG Meeting with The Federal Bureau of Information (F.B.I)



### Pakistani American Community Meeting on Hate Crimes

Supervisory Special Agent Christopher M Donohue  
Civil Rights Squad  
FBI New York



The American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) met with the Federal Bureau of Information (FBI) community outreach team to foster a collaborative effort in serving our community. During the discussion, many issues were raised, especially regarding the recent upsurge in hate crimes. The FBI offered a plethora of information and resources for community members.



April 2022

## Annual Ramadan Food Drive

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group Cares (APAG Cares) conducted a Ramadan Food Drive in Queens. APAG Cares team distributed Atta, Rice, Chana, Dall, Besan, Tea Bags, Dates, Rooh Afza, Sawiyan, fruits, produce, bread, eggs, and much more. The courtesy of the migrant kitchen initiative distributed freshly cooked halal meals.







May 2022

## United States Education Talks

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG), in collaboration with EducationUSA and U.S. Consulate Karachi, organized a virtual panel discussion with Pakistani American students studying at different public and private colleges across New York State. The discussion focused on student life in U.S. universities. Our team elaborated on academic and social life in the U.S. and covered topics such as study-life balance, living on campus experience, extra-curricular opportunities, and organizations available to the students.



June 2022

## APAG and PALS hosted NYPD Recruitment Drive

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) and Pakistani American Law Enforcement Society (PALS) hosted an NYPD recruitment drive and community resource event during Friday prayers at Masjid-E-Khazra in Jackson Heights, Queens.





## Meet & Greet with Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) held a meet and greet with United State Senator and Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer and community members. Great discussion with the Senator on community priorities and issues, and he gave total commitment to work with APAG to address the community's needs and work on improving the Pak-US relationship. Consistent engagement is the key to advocacy.



August 2022

## Meet & Greet with Congressman Jamaal Bowman

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) met with United State Congress member Jamaal Bowman. A down-to-earth individual and a strong supporter of Advocacy, Justice, and Human Rights. A great friend of Pakistani American Community.







## Pakistan Flag Raising Ceremony in Manhattan (Wall Street)

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group hosted the first-ever Pakistan Flag raising ceremony in Manhattan at Bowling Green Park (Wall Street) along with the NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. Mayor Eric Adams, Counsel General Ayesha Ali, Pakistan Consulate General New York, Assembly members David Weprin and Robert Carroll, Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, first Pakistani American OATH Commissioner Asim Rehman, and NYC Immigrant Affairs Commissioner Manuel Castro attended the historic flag-raising event.







## Pakistani Day Parade

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) team participated in NYC’s 38th annual Pakistani Day Parade. While it was a time to celebrate, it was also a sad and emotional time because of the recent floods in Pakistan. Our team made many efforts during the parade to provide aid to Flood Relief Fund ‘22. NYC Mayor Eric Adams joined in appreciating the community & offered condolences for lives lost in the floods.



## Annual Back to School Drive

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group Cares (APAG Cares), along with Kingsland Properties, conducted a Back to School Drive in Queens, New York. Over 200 free backpacks and school supplies were distributed to children by our team. It was heartwarming to see smiles on the children’s faces as they got ready to return to school. Thanks to all volunteers who participated in this noble cause. APAG Cares will continue to work and collaborate to assist communities in need and make sure communities get resources that are much needed.







September 2022

## Joint Flood Relief Drive in KPK, Pakistan

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG), along with Ujala E Pakistan and Rotary Club of Rawalpindi, conducted a joint flood relief drive in a much-needed area of Dasu, Upper Kohistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan on Thursday, September 29th, 2022. This area was hit hard by recent unprecedented floods in Pakistan, and only a little help was there to assist since a lot of the infrastructure was down. Hundreds of families received complete family packages, including clothes, floor mats, quilts, ration packs, medicine, women's sanitary kit, shoes, floor mats, and tents.





October 2022

## APAG Assisted NYPD MOS with Flood Relief Items

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group team members assisted the NYPD Muslim Officer Society (MOS) in sorting out items and clothes to be ready for shipment to Pakistan for the people impacted by the floods.



## Reception for Assembly member Nader Sayegh in Yonkers

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) co-hosted a reception for Assemblymember Nader Sayegh in Yonkers.







## Medical Eye Camp in Rawalpindi, Pakistan

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) organized the medical eye camp with the Rotary Club of Rawalpindi City and Ujala Pakistan in BHU Hospital Nambal, Karoro, Darband. Our team provided free medical checkups, medicine, glasses, and spot operations.





## Reception for APAG Quaid-e-Azam Scholarship

American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) hosted a reception for APAG Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah Scholarship recipients for 2022. The first-of-a-kind scholarship for Pakistani American students currently enrolled in CUNY and SUNY colleges and universities. The scholarship aimed to provide need-based assistance for first-generation Pakistani college students. The scholarship helps these students in their academic endeavors and to cultivate leaders of the next generation.

APAG awarded ten scholarships to Pakistani American students currently attending colleges and universities. For 2023, APAG plan to double the scholarship recipients. Also, APAG recognized its members who contributed by providing valuable input, volunteering, and activism. Special thanks to NYS Senator John Liu, Council member Linda Lee and Counsel General of Pakistan in New York, Hon. Ayesha Ali for attending the event. We will continue to initiate dialogues and programs to Engage, Empower and Elevate the community.







November 2022

## Co-hosted a Kashmir Black Day Event

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group and the Consulate General of Pakistan New York co-hosted a Kashmir Black Day event. They highlighted human rights violations that have been occurring in Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Various speakers and community members highlighted the gross injustices of occupying forces.

We are thankful to APAG youth and women members who played an instrumental role in bringing Pakistani American students and young professionals to highlight the cause of Kashmir.



## Meeting with Hunter College's Pakistan Students Organization

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group's President, Ali Rashid, was invited as a guest speaker by Hunter College's Pakistan Students Organization (PSO) to discuss APAG's mission, work, priorities, and membership opportunities. It was a very productive session, and great to see so much engagement and enthusiasm for community work and giving back among college students. APAG will continue to engage with our youth to provide opportunities and platforms to develop the next generation of Pakistani American leaders.







## Annual Thanksgiving Drive

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group Cares conducted its third annual Thanksgiving Drive. APAG Cares team distributed over 200 Halal turkeys, chickens, and food packages to the community. The community's response was overwhelming, serving as yet another reminder that food insecurity is still relevant in these high inflationary times.

Thank you to all APAG Cares members who participated by packing and distributing. We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to continue to serve the community. Our food packages included fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, bread, juice, yogurt, and other nonperishable items. Also, thanks to Assemblymember David Weprin for attending the drive.







December 2022

## Annual Holiday Drive

The American Pakistani Advocacy Group Cares (APAG Cares) conducted its annual Holiday Toy Drive. This year APAG cares, in collaboration with the NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, provided toys to recently migrated children at the Navigation Center in the Red Cross, NY Headquarters. NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs Commissioner Manuel Castro and the APAG Cares team distributed toys to the children. APAG Cares will continue to work and assist the community in need.







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We would love to hear your feedback.  
Contact Us Today

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