Beat: Politics

Judith Cummins reaffirms commitment to Kashmiri self-determination at Bradford

Organised by RAJA NAJABAT Hussain JKSDMI

London, 25.10.2026, 09:20 Time

USPA NEWS - Judith Cummins reaffirms commitment to Kashmiri self-determination at Bradford event

BRADFORD, 24 October 2026: Deputy Speaker of the British House of Commons, Rt Hon Judith Cummins MP, reaffirmed her commitment to self-determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir while addressing an event marking the foundation of Azad Jammu and Kashmir in Bradford.

Organised by Jammu Kashmir Self Determination Movement International (JKSDMI), under the leadership of Founding Chairman Raja Najabat Hussain, Sitara-e-Pakistan, the Youm-e-Tasees gathering took place on Friday, 23 October, bringing together elected representatives, community leaders, journalists and youth representatives.

Addressing the gathering as chief guest, Ms Cummins said the occasion provided an opportunity to honour the momentous events of 79 years ago and reaffirm her commitment to self-determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

She thanked Raja Najabat Hussain for his welcome and acknowledged the inspiring contributions made by speakers. Offering particular thanks to the young women who had spoken, she said their participation demonstrated the progress made after years of encouraging young people to become involved.

“It’s a proud moment for us all,” she said.

Ms Cummins also highlighted Bradford’s ties to campaigns for human rights, justice and self-determination, describing the evening as an opportunity to celebrate those connections.

Welcoming guests on behalf of JKSDMI, Raja Najabat Hussain thanked those attending the commemoration. Special guests from Azad Kashmir included Raja Mohammad Riaz of Khaliq Abad, Tehmoor Ali Khan Advocate, and journalists Tariq Naqash and Mohammad Aslam Mir.

JKSDMI Patron Sardar Abdur Rahman Khan outlined the historical significance of 24 October 1947 and the formation of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir government under its founding president, Ghazi-e-Millat Sardar Mohammad Ibrahim Khan.

Other speakers included former Lord Mayor of Manchester Councillor Yasmine Dar, Chairperson of the International Lobby on Kashmir; former Lord Mayor of Bradford Raja Ghazanfer Khaliq; Councillor Sabiya Khan, Chairperson of the British Muslim Women’s Forum UK; and youth parliament representative Miran Almass Gohir. They addressed the Kashmir issue and the struggle of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Those attending included former Lord Mayor of Leeds Councillor Aghar Khan Qureshi; former Lord Mayor of Bradford Mohammad Shafiq; Councillor Rahil Shafiq of Stockton; former Leeds councillor Almass Gohir; Raja Khalid Khaliq, President of the Azad Kashmir Overseas Welfare Council UK; Zeshan Araf, Chairman of the JKSDMI Youth Wing; and Harry Boota, Administration Director of JKSDMI.

Also present were Mehmood Sultan Karachi Wala, Tamgha-e-Imtiaz; Raja Ashfaq Khan; Mufti Kamran Habib; Raja Nazam Ali; Raja Riaz Ahmed; Sheikh Nadeem Ahmed; Sheikh Saheed Ahmed; anchorperson Ijaz Fazal; Sughra Nazir; Alina Dar; Raja Waqas Riaz; former councillor Faiz Alyas; Raja Zaheer; Chaudhary Asif DC; and former adviser to the President of Azad Kashmir, Chaudhary Mohammad Bashir, alongside other community members.

Article online:
https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-27330/judith-cummins-reaffirms-commitment-to-kashmiri-self-determination-at-bradford.html

Editorial office and responsibility:
V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Aurangzeb Akbar

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Editorial program service of General News Agency:
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UK, London N13NV 4BS
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Official Federal Reg. No. 7442619