

REPORT of Auditorium Event with Dr Partap Midha

31st July 2022 – LONDON GCH Auditorium

Courage and Compassion in a time of Crisis

On a warm summer's evening, while millions of people round the world prepared to watch the Euro 2022 Women's football finals, at Wembley Stadium where the Lionesses, England's team were playing Germany, 220 hardy souls came to Global Co-operation House in NW London to listen to Dr Partap Midha speak of his experiences in India during the worst times of the Covid pandemic.



Dr Midha has been **Medical Director of the J. Watumull Global Hospital and Research Centre (GHRC)** in Mount Abu, in the northwest Indian state of Rajasthan for over 30 years. Interviewing him was his longstanding friend **Dr Sarah Egger, Chair of the Janki Foundation**.

Co-organised by **Brahma Kumaris** and **The Janki Foundation**, the event focused on the spiritual attitudes and strengths that allowed Dr Midha to continue running the hospital throughout the lockdowns and the pandemic, despite resistance, fear and a fierce shortage of equipment.





MC **Dr David Goodman** welcomed the audience, described the close connection between the hospital, the Janki Foundation and the Brahma Kumaris, and introduced to us a short video on the far-reaching work of the hospital in Mount Abu and more extensively, via specialist clinics and settlements, including an update on the Village Outreach programme.

Sarah began by asking Dr Partap about the challenges he and his staff faced, being in one of the more remote regions of India at the time of a pandemic.

Partap spoke movingly of the support and sacrifices made by staff, and how relationships of trust and kindness in the local community built over many years helped enormously in accessing vital resources. ‘In what is effectively a small place, where everyone knows you, people may call you in the middle of the night, but I didn’t mind at all.’



Local philanthropists and business people covered the cost of treatment, sourced supplies and supported the hospital by locating ventilators, oxygen cylinders and other urgently needed equipment.



It was a heart-warming evening enhanced by a lovely song, “Keep Going”, written and performed by **BK Karishma**, and a moving acknowledgement of the dedication and challenges of staff at UK hospitals by **Dr Swati Shukla**, Regional Pathology Manager at the Cromwell Hospital, London.

Rachel Priestman guided the audience through a peaceful meditation, which was followed by readings about courage by **Arnold Desser**.

As the evening ended, **Suja Chandran** thanked all the participants, stating that she had found the conversations, music, poetry and meditation had each in its special way revealed to us the importance of kindness, care, generosity, courage and compassion during times of crisis. The cherry on the cake was that by the end of the evening, we knew the Lionesses won the women’s Euro final by 2 -1.



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