



## Press Release

### **A COUNTRY IS KNOWN THE WAY IT TREATS MINORITIES- Rt. Hon. Baroness Sayeeda Warsi former UK Minister address on the second day of “Afkar-e-Taza” ThinkFest**

Lahore, January 14, 2018

The Muslim countries should give equal rights to the other communities as a country is always known by the way it treats its minorities. Rt. Hon. Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, lately Chairman Conservative Party UK and former Foreign office Minister spoke on the second and concluding day of the second edition of “Afkar-e-Taza” ThinkFest held under the auspices of Information Technology University (ITU) the Punjab in collaboration with Federal Higher Education Commission, Punjab Higher Education Commission and other private sector organizations here today.

Baroness Sayeeda Warsi said that we should question ourselves and not to judge others, we should ask ourselves what we were saying what we believe and what we were doing what we were saying. We needed to overcome the fear of love to win, she added.

She said that while Pakistan was near to general polls, the people should ask tough questions and not to judge the candidates on the number of weddings and funerals attended or how many police stations he controlled. The Israeli army action in Ghaza conflict was dis-appropriate and being first Muslim British minister I had to quit, which was considered appropriate, she added.

Five percent of Britain’s population was Muslim minority among them 1.8 million were Pakistan and Kashmir origin and we enjoyed all the rights to raise to any level in accordance with the law, Warsi remarked.

Earlier, opening the session Mr. Nizamuddin, Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission urged upon the 57 Universities of the Punjab Province to develop a culture of discussion and debate as initiated by the Information Technology University the Punjab, which convinced Punjab HEC to extend full support and PHEC was planning to hold similar activities at Multan, Bhawalpur and Rawalpindi. In the absence of Lahore literary festival, Afkar-e-Taza ThinkFest’s second edition has attracted large number of participants from all walks of life. We needed to promote culture, research, and dialogue and to talk more about history, politics and arts. No research could be completed without academia linkages with the outer world, he added.

In the session on Rohingyes: Inside the Burmese Genocide, the speaker Azeem Ibrahim from US Army College termed it the greatest humanity crisis with largest stateless people to the tune of 650,000 displaced in a worst situation facing ethnic cleansing while Myanmar having no outer threat was using arms against its own people and their land has been redistributed among the locals. Omar Waraich from Amnesty International informed that Rohingyans should be given dignified and safe existence instead of calling them illegal invaders. 112 high profile speakers among them 25 from around the globe and representatives of 35 universities from all the four provinces and delegations from six universities are participated in promoting the new thinking.

The topics discussed in other sessions included Jerusalem: The Future of Middle East, Midnight’s Furies: The Partition of British India, Entrepreneurship meets Media: Redefining Heroes of Pakistan, India Turns East: US China Rivalry, The Rise of Right Wing, Where is the Media Heading, Shrines Violence and Society in Pakistan, Standing up to the Field Marshal, Inqilab Zindabad, Mr & Mrs. Jinnah, The marriage that shook India, The enemy within: a tale of Muslim Britain, The Next Five months, Artificial Intelligence as the New Electricity etc.