

## Kashmir-origin British City's Mayoress Rukhsana Ismail credits her triumph to Kashmiri, Pakistani Diaspora Community;



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MIRPUR (AJK): June 23: The newly-elected AJK-origin Mayoress of Britain's Rotherham city Councillor Rukhsana Ismail JP, has said that her success was owed to the unwavering support of the local electorates in general and the Kashmiri and Pakistani Diaspora community in particular.

Talking informally to reporters here on Monday, Rukhsana Ismail expressed deep gratitude for the congratulatory messages and heartfelt wishes she has received from across Azad Kashmir, calling them a valuable and cherished asset.

Rukhsana Ismail, also Justice of Peace, a distinguished title, bestowed upon her by the British Government, stated that the confidence placed in her by diverse communities in the UK, and the honor of being considered worthy of this prestigious role, is a matter of great pride for her. "I am thankful to everyone who supported and trusted me," she added.

Hailing originally from the Sehnsa area of Kotli district of Mirpur division of Azad Jammu Kashmir, Councillor Rukhsana Ismail is settled in the UK for many years and has remained actively engaged in political and social spheres. Known for her strong advocacy on community issues, she has consistently raised her voice to resolve key challenges faced by the diaspora.

Being elected Mayoress of Rotherham—one of the most prominent councils in the UK—is a significant achievement not just for Sehnsa but for the entire region of Azad Kashmir. This historic success has prompted a continued flow of congratulatory messages and accolades from both Azad Kashmir and Pakistan.

Councillor Ismail emphasized that during her mayoral tenure, the Rotherham community will remain at the heart of all her activities. She views her role not only as a prestigious position but also as a solemn responsibility.

Dedicated to the welfare of the underprivileged and committed to promoting social harmony, Rukhsana Ismail is also a magistrate, Chair of the South Yorkshire Community Foundation Panel, Vice Chair of UNISON Sheffield, and a trustee of Rotherham Hospice, Rotherham Age UK, and various other charitable organizations. She reaffirmed her pledge to devote her energies to the betterment, unity, and advancement of society.

Mayor Rukhsana Ismail stated that she will take all necessary steps to address community issues, recognizing the heavy responsibilities that come with her office. She thanked the media and people of Azad Kashmir for their support and respect, and pledged to continue raising her voice for both the Kashmir issue and the concerns of people from Azad Kashmir living in the UK.

“Public office is a trust from God,” she remarked, “and fulfilling its responsibilities with justice is the key to success in this world and the hereafter.” She also extended heartfelt appreciation to her supporters who worked tirelessly for her victory.