

History of The World Zoroastrian Organisation



The World Zoroastrian Organisation



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Contents

Establishment of The World Zoroastrian Organisation, London, U.K., and brief history of the first 10 years.....	1
Appendix I The World Zoroastrian Organisation aims and objects	7
Appendix II The World Zoroastrian Organisation Founder Members	8
Appendix III Members of the Committee of The World Zoroastrian Organisation at the time of the inaugural meeting held on 18th & 19th July 1980	9
Appendix IV Present Members of The Committee of The World Zoroastrian Organisation	10
Appendix V A letter from the Joint Honorary Secretary	11

This brief history of
The World Zoroastrian Organisation,
with headquarters in London, UK,
is published by its Committee
as part of the
10th Anniversary Celebration
of the establishment of the Organisation.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD ZOROASTRIAN ORGANISATION, LONDON, U.K., AND BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FIRST 10 YEARS

The concept of a World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO) was first mooted in 1962 by the Zoroastrian Association of Europe (Incorporated), London, through its delegate, Mr. Bailey R. Irani, at the First World Zoroastrian Congress held in Tehran, Iran. This idea was enthusiastically accepted by the Congress. Unfortunately, no concrete action was taken by any Organisation and it seemed that all had forgotten about it, on returning to their bases. The Second World Zoroastrian Congress was held in Bombay in 1976. Once again this matter of the formation of WZO was raised, again enthusiastically accepted and, alas, once again, no positive steps were taken in that direction. The WZO concept was discussed again at the Third World Zoroastrian Congress held in Bombay in 1978 and this time a letter was sent to all Anjuman/Associations world over by Mr. Jamshed N. Guzdar, a Trustee of the Bombay Parsi Panchayat, who was charged with the organising of the Conference. Mr. J.N. Guzdar's letter asked overseas Anjuman/Associations to appoint two delegates to join a Committee to consider the formation of WZO. That was the only outcome of the three Congresses which fervently accepted the idea of the formation of WZO, a world body to look after the welfare and well-being and protection of the community throughout the world. Thereafter, there was no further progress.

During this period of 16 years, Zoroastrians settled in ever-increasing numbers in the Western world. The population of Zoroastrians in the U.K. increased considerably through the changes in the political kaleidoscope in the Middle East and East Africa. Similarly, Zoroastrians moved to America and Canada from the Middle East and East African countries as more and more British colonies in those areas were granted Independence by the British Government. This migration was in addition to the movement of young Zoroastrians from India and Pakistan to the West. This movement had commenced with the granting of Independence to India and Pakistan in 1947. The Zoroastrian community of United Kingdom has a long history as the Association was formed, in a small way, in 1861 by the late Dr. Dadabhoy Naoroji. From those humble beginnings, the Zoroastrian Association of Europe (Incorporated) grew considerably, both in the strength of its membership and also financially. Zoroastrians from all over the world, passing through London, made their acquaintances with the Zoroastrian Association of London and especially the Officials of the Zoroastrian Association of Europe (Incorporated).

The next exodus of our people to the West took place during the political change in Iran. Suddenly the number of Zoroastrians in the U.K. increased substantially as a result