



PEOPLE'S CHOICE PANEL

Global Social Witnessing for Peace in South Asia

A diaspora-led space for listening, relationship-building, and practical peacebuilding across India, Pakistan, Kashmir, and the wider global community

Proposed by Rajkumar 'Raju' Suryakant Bhatt

A difficult region needs a human-centered conversation

India–Pakistan tensions and the Kashmir conflict are often discussed through policy, security, or political frames. Those frames matter, but they do not by themselves create the conditions for trust.

The gap

Diaspora philanthropy has the reach and relationships to support peacebuilding, yet it needs formats that help people listen across inherited divisions before deciding what action to fund.

Our proposal creates that space.

The session turns listening into a shared practice

01

Arrive

A short grounding that helps participants notice their own assumptions and nervous-system responses.

02

Witness

Guided sharing that centers lived experience without requiring participants to debate or defend identities.

03

Connect

Small-group reflection on what diaspora philanthropy can responsibly support.

04

Carry forward

A practical next step for continued relationship-building, learning, or collaboration.

The audience participates as a community of listeners, not only as spectators.