

Board Members

Chair

Cassim Degani (MD) is a General Surgeon working in Toronto. He has served on the Boards of the Canadian Council for Victims of Torture (CCVT), Doctors Hospital, and Noor Cultural Centre, and volunteers his time to provide post-surgical care in post disaster situations. A fervent believer in volunteerism, he has been a Board Member of IDRF for a number of years, and currently serves as the Chair.

Vice-Chair

Winston Kassim, C.M., (MBA) from Willowdale, Ontario brings to IDRF 's Board of Directors an extensive array of experience in community economic development, volunteer community involvement, advocacy for groups and individuals, as well as international project development and implementation. Mr. Kassim is currently the Head, Strategic Initiatives, Canadian Banking of RBC where he has worked in senior positions of strategy, product and sales management, business development, Commercial and Private Banking as well as being a Branch Manager. He has been a member of numerous boards and community groups including his current volunteer activities with the Sunatul Jamaat of Ontario Canada Community Centre and Malton Islamic Community Centre.

Treasurer

Zeib Jeeva is Managing Director of Cover-All Computer Services Inc., an IT company based in Markham, Ontario. Mr. Jeeva is a founding member of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund Canada. He currently serves on the IDRF Board and is heavily immersed in the charitable sector. Mr. Jeeva is also a member of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa.

General Secretary

Javed Akbar, an accountant by profession, is engaged in advocacy for social justice and has been an IDRF Board Member since 2004. He is a member of the Steering Committee of June Callwood Campaign Against Child Poverty (JCCACP). In addition, he conducted the 1997 federal elections as Returning Officer for the Markham riding. His opinion columns have appeared in the Toronto Star on ethical and social justice issues and spiritual matters.

Member at Large

Cassim Bhabha (MD) has been a practicing Family Physician in Toronto since 1968 and has been involved with IDRF since 1988, twice being elected as its Chair. He abides by the motto that mere words do not help-only action does, and is a strong believer in leading by personal example.

Past Chair

Rafi Mustafa (PhD) is the CEO of INDUS SYSTEMS, and has many years of world-wide experience in the academic realm. Dr. Mustafa has been a part of IDRF community since 1989, and has served as the Chair of the IDRF Board of Directors.

Ashmead Ali (P.Eng.) has worked in the civil engineering industry for over 35 years throughout Canada, Saudi Arabia, England, and Guyana. He has been with IDRF for 5 years, serving on the IDRF Board.

Samir Dossal is the owner and President of Linkks Canada Inc., a company focused on providing business development

and support services to clients. He is actively involved in Rotary and is the recipient of Rotary District 7070 Les Faludy's Highest Leadership Award and the recipient of "Paul Harris Fellow". He now serves as Assistant District Governor and continues to serve on the board as the Public Relations Chair for Rotary Club of Richmond Hill. He received the Outstanding Asian Canadian Award "Honouring the Pioneers" for 2009 presented by The Canadian Multicultural Council Asians in Ontario and he plays a major role in Canada-Pakistan Business Council to promote trade between Canada and Pakistan and beyond. Samir effectively coordinated the relief goods shipment for the Pakistani Earthquake victims. He continues to serve on the board of IDRF for over four years.

Ebrahim Sayed is a founding member of IDRF. He has served on the Boards of many community associations including Council of Muslim Communities of Canada. He is a founding member of Reh'ma Community Services for seniors in the GTA, and Operation Lift, a transportation support system for physically challenged. Mr. Sayed is also a member of the Provincial Substance Abuse Task Force.

Yasmeen Siddiqui served as an executive at the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada and is a member of several international refugee associations. She brings an array of quasi-judicial, communication and management skills, extensive knowledge of refugee jurisprudence and international human rights.

Akbar Husain (M.S., M.Sc.) from Unionville, Ontario, brings extensive global senior management experience to IDRF. He has worked in IT executive positions for 35 years at leading corporations in Canada, USA and Saudi Arabia. He is a firm believer in dedicating personal time to community services and has served on the board of the Rotary Club of Markham. His focus is on global human development through education, individual improvement and poverty reduction.

Najet Hassan was formerly the Administrative Officer of Continuing Dental Education and Professional Development in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Western Ontario. Her past experience was in initiating and planning innovative lectures in Canada and abroad as well as Financial Management of the Annual Budget for cost effective programs. Najet has had a life long commitment to volunteerism, having served on the boards of the London Symphony Orchestra, London Youth Symphony Orchestra and was one of the founding members of the Islamic Centre of Southwest Ontario. She has been active in support of community based initiatives, including those related to cultural diversity, public school initiatives and the alleviation of poverty. Najet is currently the Treasurer of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women. She is also a member of the Annual Country Classic Auction Committee.

Nurhan Aycan (LL.B) is a partner of the international law firm Baker & Mackenzie LLP and heads the Securities Law Group of the Toronto office. Mr. Aycan is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Canadian Turkish Islamic Trust and has served on the IDRF By-Laws, Governance & Ethics Committees.