

SCOTTISH CHARITY NO. SC037053

The **Association of Indian Organisations (AIO)** and **United Scotland Malayalee Association (USMA)** would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to The Consulate General of India, Edinburgh office with the leadership of Consul General Shri Hitesh Rajpal and support from HOC Shri Bibek Bhattamishra and Consul Smt Luisa Lakra for their support towards our joint initiative to help Indian Students in the areas of food provisions, accommodation and repatriation support during this current COVID-19 crisis. This also allowed us to be part of the Vande Bharat Abhiyan mission.

At a later stage AIO and USMA joined forces with the Hindu Mandir Glasgow and the Glasgow Indians, which enabled us to take a more pragmatic approach towards this offering and with kind support from the Hindu Mandir Glasgow, which is one of the focal points of Hindu Community in Glasgow, enabled to serve this offering in most effective manner, not only fulfilling the International student's needs but also the homeless, frontline NHS staff, Ambulance staff and Police Force.

This major and unique undertaking would not have been possible without the continued dedication of individuals as well as the funders, without which it was not possible to mobilise such a large initiative,

We want to thank the Hindu Mandir Glasgow for providing the premises for food packing and food preparation, under the leadership of Sanjay Jaidka and Andrew Lal with the kind support from the Executive Committee. This mammoth task was made possible with the help of a great team effort and strategy/planning by the Glasgow Indians, under the leadership of Abhijit and Nayan. We also got kind support from the Hindu Temple Glasgow, Rutherglen, in our struggles to help the needy.

For food distribution team consisted of the Hindu Mandir and Glasgow Indians, with some occasional support from the AIO and USMA. Glasgow Seva Group also helped in making food provisions at the Mandir premises for distribution by sponsoring several weeks of meals. Our thanks to Bombay Blues, in particular, Sohan Singh and Manjit Singh, for the provision of cooked meals to needy students.

For undertaking this mammoth task funding was provided by the Hindu Mandir Glasgow, members of AIO and USMA, family friends nationwide, East Renfrewshire Faith Forum(in particular Douglas Yates and Grace Brookmyre), Frances of Interfaith Scotland, Arun Babu of Bank of India along with his staff and Church of Jesus Christ of latter-day Saint, particularly initiated by Douglas Yates.

We are also very thankful to Anshu Nalhan of Hotelsnu Ltd for help in arranging flights, hotel accommodation and transport to airport, to support our work within Vande Bharat Abhiyan,

Lastly, we would like to thank Manjulika Singh for a wonderful press coverage through Awaz FM to raise profile of our work for COVID-19 crisis related noble cause. We are also delighted to get tremendous support from Mandeep Khurmi, a journalist working tirelessly for our community in supporting our passion. He had several articles as well as press coverage on channels, such as PTC News. He is a newcomer to Glasgow and his energy and passion for work is praiseworthy. Also, we are thankful to Jack Haugh of The Glasgow Times, for his coverage on Mandir work and Mandir opening.

This work is still ongoing, and we wish to help the needy wherever possible, until this Coronavirus Pandemic eases.

Thanking you.

Dr Rajmohan Padmanabhan (USMA) & Dr Mridula Chakraborty (AIO)

