

IFES Joe C Baxter Award 2016-06-20

## NOMINATION

IT is my pleasure to nominate Mr Kanwar Dilshad, former Federal Secretary, Election Commission of Pakistan for the Joe C Baxter Award 2016 in recognition of his long service to democracy in Pakistan.

Mr Dilshad was Secretary Pakistan Election Commission during the crucial period of transition of democracy in Pakistan covering the military government of General Musharraf and the first free and fair elections of 2008, which were won by the Pakistan People's Party.

Mr Dilshad continued to provide guidance and good practice to the Pakistan Election Commission during the last general elections in 2013, which were won by the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Sharif Group).

Mr Dilshad supervised and managed national assembly and provincial assemblies elections including many bye-elections. His contribution can be summarised as bold and neutral management of elections and showing leadership and initiative in building the capacity of Pakistan election management body at all levels. This can be verified from the field office of IFES in Islamabad.

I came to know Mr Dilshad during my time at the Commonwealth Secretariat London as Special Adviser for Political Affairs responsible for CMAG and democratic transition in Pakistan. I found Mr Dilshad to be a professional election expert who was committed to organising free and fair elections in his country and consolidating the foundations for civilian democratic rule in Pakistan. Even though Mr Dilshad has now retired, I am sure that his work and contribution will benefit the Pakistan Election Commission for many years to come.

The profile of Kanwar Dilshad can be accessed at  
<http://www.democraticfoundation.com.pk/professional-profile>

Nomination submitted by:

Syed Sharfuddin  
Former Special Adviser Political Affairs  
Commonwealth Secretariat, London UK  
+447935947539  
[Sharfuddin@commonwealthconsultants.co.uk](mailto:Sharfuddin@commonwealthconsultants.co.uk)

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