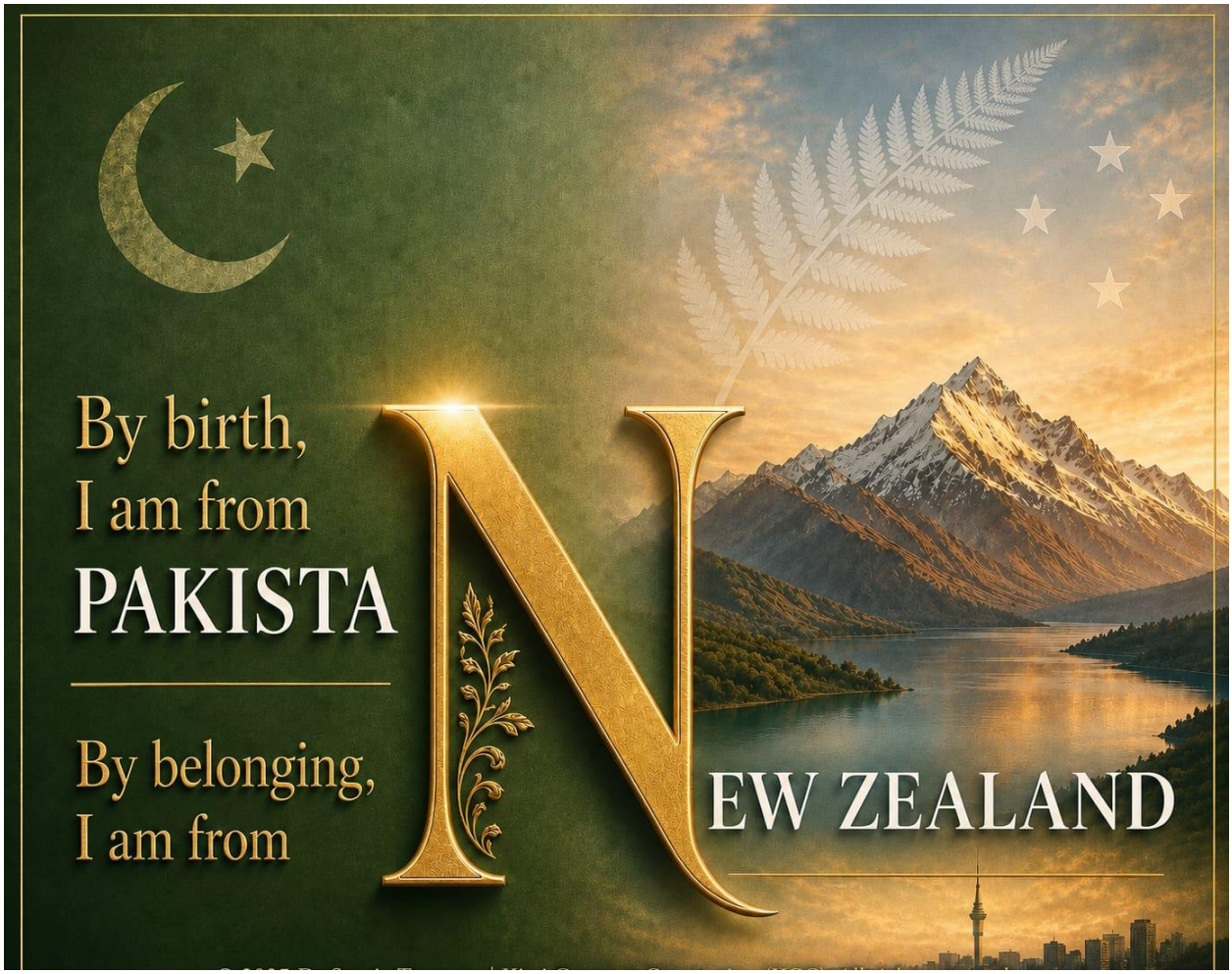


A REFLECTION ON IDENTITY, CONNECTION, AND SHARED POSSIBILITIES

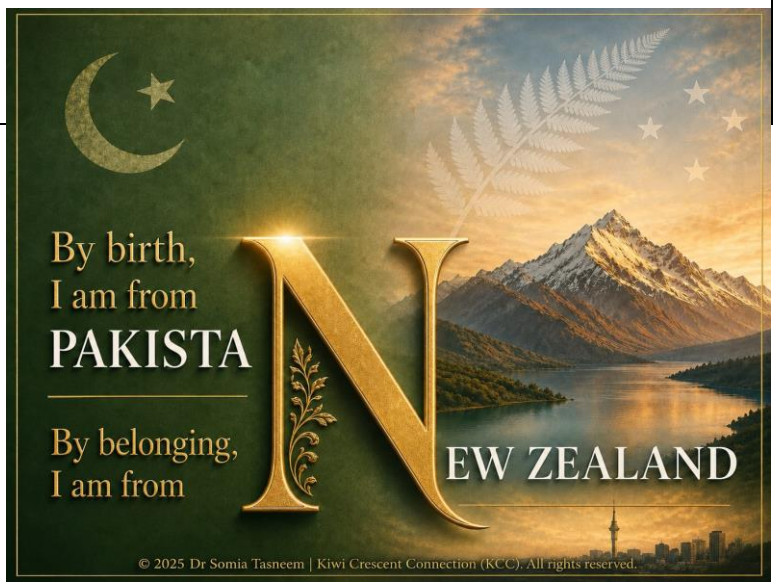
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A REFLECTION

This visual represents more than an idea. It represents a lived reflection. It comes from standing in the space between two countries, two identities, and two ways of belonging. What often feels separated by geography is, in reality, connected through memory, meaning, and lived experience.



My journey as a migrant did not pause when I arrived in New Zealand. It continued, reshaped itself, and expanded into new possibilities, new horizons, and new understandings of identity.

Over time, I have come to realise something important. Connection is not always something we find for the first time. Sometimes it already exists, and our task is to notice it, reflect on it, and give it meaning.

"Be the change
you want to see in the world."

(Adapted from M. Gandhi)

For me, that change begins with how we understand identity, how we connect across cultures, and how we recognise shared humanity beyond borders.

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PRESENTED AT THE AOTEAROA GLOBAL CONNECT SUMMIT 2026

Organised by the Pakistan New Zealand Business Council (PNBC)

I had the privilege of presenting this concept at the Aotearoa Global Connect Summit 2026, organised by the Pakistan New Zealand Business Council (PNBC), on 26 June 2026. I also had the privilege of attending this remarkable event as a delegate, and I am grateful for the opportunity to share it in such a meaningful space.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Chairperson of PNBC, Naveed Hamid, for his kindness, encouragement, and for graciously allowing me to present this idea. I also acknowledge the President of the Pakistani Association of Canterbury, New Zealand (PACNZ), Ishtiaq Ahmed, for his support and cooperation in making this moment possible.

This is the first step in a broader initiative, an identity reflection that connects not only two countries but also people, histories, and shared futures across continents.

Pakistan and New Zealand may be geographically distant, yet we are united by shared values, human stories, cultural richness, and a common desire to create a better tomorrow.

This connection is a bridge, linking two nations, two continents, and countless possibilities.

A reminder that belonging is not a single place.
Sometimes, it is a bridge we continue to build.

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