

**Dr. Safdar Sohail**

“While the government and the ordinary citizens should do all it takes to cushion the economic impact of COVID-19, we need to realize that our past strategies to help the working classes cope with the economic shocks have not worked well, despite the presence of the programs like BISP. It is High time to adopt Minimum Social Protection for all the citizens of Pakistan as a right.

The presence of a Minimum Social Protection For All helped the relevant countries come out of the financial crisis of 2008 sooner and it is expected that these countries would be able to take the state aid in this COVID-19 economic crisis to the ordinary citizens effectively by using the existing arrangements of a universal and comprehensive social protection system.

The presence of a universal social protection system in a country does not automatically end the disadvantages of the working classes but it does keep them away from hunger, disease and destitution in the kind of crisis that we are in.”

**Ambassador Masood Khalid**

“The world was neither anticipating nor prepared to face the onslaught of coronavirus in this rapid and fatal manner. We saw countries wasting time in preparing for the contingency even after its outbreak. The real impact of the pandemic on world economy is difficult to predict or quantify at this stage. Most economists predict a global recession from which recovery for developing countries like Pakistan will be a herculean task. The need of the hour is a consensus-based national strategy to mitigate the immediate threat to our people’s lives as well as a holistic national work plan on adverse effects on our economy.”

**Prof. Dr. Aliya Hashmi Khan, QAU**

“The COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed an unparalleled calamity on the populations and economies of the world. The most critical challenge in the short-term is to protect lives and livelihoods. Re-building of economies will follow in the medium to long-term. The immediate priority is to strengthen our health and social protection systems to combat the life and livelihood threatening impacts of the coronavirus. Academics from all disciplines must rise to the call of the times and give their best in terms of their knowledge and experience to develop solutions and systems to alleviate the suffering of humanity in this hour of crisis.”

**Dr. Farida Faisal**  
Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi

“COVID-19 is a catastrophe. Nobody will come out of it unscathed. Yet, those nations which stand united shall be able to make a relatively quick recovery. Now is the time to be responsible. To be generous. To believe in the omnipotence of Allah Almighty.”