

**Speech delivered on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2005 by Dr Rami Ranger at the House of Lords. The dinner was organized by Earl Howe to honour Mr Dominic Grieve MP, Shadow Attorney General.**

**My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are so fortunate in this country that we have been invited to the House of Lords. In many countries this place is reserved for the privileged few. To be where our democracy is underpinned is indeed a great honour. Where in the world do people enjoy so much freedom as we do here? We must reflect and rightly feel proud to be British.**

**We are indeed indebted to Earl Howe for organizing this splendid evening for us in the most majestic of surroundings. We will cherish this experience for years to come.**

**Some of you might be wondering what the British Asian Conservative Link is? As the name suggests, our aim is to bring our fellow Asians back to the party of their natural values. In the past they have joined other political parties as they felt they were not welcome. Now they are coming back thanks to the BACL.**

**We all know that in a democracy there is one-man one vote, regardless of wealth, education, colour or social status. In the present political climate, if a Party cannot reflect the make-up of modern day Britain, then I am afraid it cannot govern or have the moral authority to govern.**

**Our purpose at the BACL is two fold – firstly to bring our leaders close to our people and secondly to encourage our people to take part in British public and political life. You will agree that politics can be a daunting affair for any newcomer. Many a time they are not encouraged or supported for the good of the party and country by those who feel threatened by their arrival.**

**I am pleased to say that as a result of the BACL representation, the Party is beginning to change. In the next general election, approximately 20 Asian candidates will be contesting seats for Parliament. This will send a positive signal to their friends, family and the country at large that the Conservative Party is now truly inclusive.**

**I am pleased to inform you that one of our members Kulveer Ranger will be standing against the Chairman of the Labour Party. This should prove our determination to succeed. For us there is no such thing as a safe Labour seat.**

**We still have a lot of work to do in changing the attitude of the local Associations, which are run like social clubs and do not select candidates who are right for the party and the people. I am sure when the attitude of the Associations changes, the need to have separate organizations such as the BACL will not be necessary.**

***Tonight we are honouring Mr Dominic Grieve MP, Shadow Attorney General who is also responsible for Community Cohesion. From his latter role we should realize how important it is for the Conservative Party to put community cohesion at the top of its agenda.***

***If different communities cannot function smoothly and harmoniously for the good of the country, then all our achievements and progress will be in vain. Instead of working for the success of Britain we will be working against each other. This cannot be good for anyone living in Britain. We must put our country above our ethnic origins if we are to see a secure and happy future for our next generation.***

***I am glad that our Party has rightly selected a person who is a lawyer by profession and whose constituency is as diverse as can be. Having worked with Dominic closely I can say with authority that he knows more about different religions and cultures than even the Archbishop of Canterbury.***

***In his present role, he has to visit Temples, Mosques, Churches, Synagogues and Gurdwaras and to understand the issues, which concern different communities. He is now an encyclopaedia on diversity. We wish him success in bringing communities closer for the good of us all.***

***Last year, I attended the Denham Ball in his constituency. I must say the atmosphere was electrifying and everyone treated Dominic as a Member of his or her family. He certainly can charm old and young ladies alike. I will recommend that you all come to next Denham ball and have a ball. I have already bought my season ticket.***

***Finally I would like to acknowledge the presence of Mr. GS Gugral CBE. He is celebrating his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday this week. May God give him long life and good health so that he can continue to guide us.***

***Among us is a Bollywood Producer Mr. Surjit Pandher who is producing a blockbuster movie "Tragedy of Britain under Blair. We also have amongst us Dr. Spinder Dhaliwal who knows most of the rich Asians to help us with our election funds. There are also representative of top shipping companies in case Blair wins the third term and we need to abandon Britain in haste. Mr. JS Sachar, the editor of Asian who's who is also here to tell every Asian to vote Tory next time. Mr. APS Chawla from the World Punjabi Organisation will mobilise forces worldwide to help us win the next election. We have Mr. Mohamed Sheikh from the Conservative Friends of Pakistan. Mr. Kemal Butt a potential Member of Parliament. Rickie Sehagal to help us network with different organisations. List also includes Mr. Tony Marshall of P&G who has just bought Gillett's so that we can all have a close shave.***

***Who says there is lack of talent in the Tory Party? Just look in this room. Thank you. Rami Ranger.***