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BILAL ZAIDI

Career Summary:

- Community and brand builder, building startups since 2016.
- Building - **Life 2.0** - World's first Diaspora Connect platform for people who move to new cities.
- Building - **Builder's Circle** - An online community for startup founders. Current membership: 65 Founders.
- Founder and Executive Director - **OurDemocracy.in** - India's first non-partisan Political-Tech platform for interventions like elections, legal aid, journalism and social movements. Raised Rs 22 Crores via micro donations.
- Built communities for young changemakers like Atishi Marlena, Kanhaiya Kumar, Jignesh Mevani, Raghav Chaddha among 700 campaigns, helping young people get into decision-making.
- Profiled by [Economic Times](#), Reuters, [New York Times](#), BBC, [VICE](#), Voice of America, NDTV, [YourStory](#), The Strait Times (Singapore) among others.
- Winner, Ketto.org Social Media Influencer of the Year 2019.
- Winner, Social Media for Empowerment Award 2018, organised by Digital Empowerment Foundation and Facebook India.
- Former Global Campaigner at [Avaaz.org](#), based in New York. Worked on online and offline mobilisations around international campaigns like the Conflict in Syria, Climate Change negotiations in Paris, the Rohingya crisis among others.
- 12 years of journalistic experience -- Reporting on politics and policy issues with **Times Now**, **NewsX**, **NDTV**, **The Times of India** among others.
- Interviews with India's Prime Minister [Mr Narendra Modi](#), [Mr Yogi Adityanath](#), Chief Minister of UP, India's largest state
- **Ground reports from Syria**. Pakistan, Nepal, South Africa, Kazakhstan, United States and Turkey
- Post Graduation in Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding (University of Delhi) 2005-2007. BA (Honors) Journalism, (University of Delhi) 2001-2004

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Organisation: **Life 2.0**

Designation: Founder

Location: **New Delhi**

Jan 2024 - Current

Responsibilities:

Building the World's first Diaspora Connect Platform for people who move to new cities. The platform offers culture-based communities in 12 Markets around the world. This is in addition to a SAAS dashboard for users that offers them services in their new place of residence.

Organisation: **OurDemocracy.in**

Designation: Founder, Executive Director

Location: New Delhi

March 2017 - December 2022

Responsibilities:

OurDemocracy was India's first political mobilisation platform. It brought together India's largest online community that enabled crowdfunding for journalists, activists and politicians to bring civic change and transparency.

Campaigners who have used the platform include journalist Paranjay Guha Thakurta, breakout politicians like Atishi, Raghav Chaddha, Kanhaiya Kumar and Jignesh Mevani among others.

The organisation has also conducted short-duration bootcamps to train a new generation of changemakers and political activists, in collaboration with organisations like **Facebook India**, **Digital Empowerment Foundation** etc.

Organisation: **WION**

Designation: Founding Executive Producer

Location: Noida

May 2016 - March 2017

Hired a team of 200 people and launched India's first News Channel for an international audience. Launched across TV, Youtube and Social Media simultaneously with viewership in more than 100 countries.

Organisation: **AVAAZ** (avaaz.org)

Designation: Global Campaigner

Location: New York

April 2015 - March 2016

Responsibilities: Identifying tipping point moments and using online techniques to build dedicated membership of 60 million online followers globally. Scoping winnable strategies to influence public opinion on international campaigns like [Paris Climate Summit](#), the war in Syria, saving wildlife among others.

Organisation: **Times Now (Times Television Network)**

Designation: **Special Correspondent (Politics)**

Location: New Delhi

March 2014 – March 2015

Responsibilities: Breaking stories in the field of National politics and [India's external affairs](#). Covered the 2014 General Elections - travelled extensively across India.

Organisation: **NewsX**

Designation: **Principal Correspondent and Presenter**

October 2007 – January 2012

Organisation: **New Delhi Television (NDTV)**

Designation: Assistant Input Editor

September 2004 – September 2007

Responsibilities: Newsdesk, Coordination, Rundown, Reporting.

SKILLS:

Organisation-building, brand-building, growth, community engagement, hands-on understanding of finance and technology.

EDUCATION:

2005-2007: Post Graduate Program in Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding, University of Delhi

2001-2004: Graduate Program in Journalism, University of Delhi