

and so it completely slipped my mind.

Will try to do so before tomorrow's meeting if possible

Lala

On Dec 20, 2015, at 8:32 PM, neelam hussain <neelamhussain@gmail.com> wrote:

Sorry, things missed. I read bunny's message and got confused not because of the message but my head was is all over the place. However bunny's right we need to send the information asap

From: Rubina Saigol
Sent: 20/12/2015 19:16
To: Neelam Hussain
Cc: Humaira Shaikh; Gulzar Tabassum; Samina Bano Rahman; lala rukh; Farida Shaheed; Nyla Naz; Mrs. Nasrene Shah; Popti Bukhari; Bunny
Subject: Re: Fwd: WAF Working Committee Meeting, December 15, 2015

Missed out on what?

On Dec 20, 2015 17:48, "Neelam Hussain" <neelamhussain@gmail.com> wrote:
Please see Bunny's note. Ruby we missed out on this in the minutes. ASAP please
Neelam

On Sun, Dec 20, 2015 at 11:25 AM, Rubina Saigol <rubina.saigol@gmail.com> wrote:

WAF Lahore – Working Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Agenda: National Convention in Karachi

Present: Neelam Hussain, Rubina Saigol (Convenors), Nighat Said Khan, Farida Shaheed, Samina Rahman, Gulzar Tabassum, Lala Rukh, Tauseef Hayat, Nyla Naz, Humaira Shaikh.
Absent: Popety Bukhari, Nasrene Shah, Khawar Mumtaz.

The upcoming National Convention in Karachi was discussed with regard to the issues to be raised, members to represent Lahore and logistics.

Lala Rukh and Tauseef Hayat circulated the minutes and decisions of the convention of 2006 but members needed time to read through these.

1. The members agreed that the issue of extremism, terrorism and violence had become increasingly urgent over the past ten years (time since last convention in 2006) and WAF must have a position on these. Neelam raised the issue of dars at seminars like Al-Huda and expressed her concern that their teachings need to be challenged. Gulzar opined that the situation today was much worse than when WAF was first formed as terrorism and religious extremism are now deeply rooted in society and not just in the military. In the case of 'Daesh', The interior ministry of nations to wipe out terrorism needs to be discussed as the military's motives are also suspect. Some members expressed the dilemma that while WAF wants terrorism ended, it has to be circumspect with regard to military operations due to the inevitably of civilian casualties and social costs of conflict. There was some debate about how real are the spaces that the military has supposedly created or freed from terrorism. The Laal Masjid and Jamia Hafsa situation has worsened and they are now connected openly with the Daesh but there is an unwillingness to arrest Maulana Aziz in the context of the National Action Plan and/or other measures against extremism. The Interior Ministry needs to be challenged on this.
2. The Domestic Violence Laws/bills of the provinces as well as the ICT were discussed and Farida Shaheed briefed the members on the state of the bills in different provinces and informed them of the weaknesses within the proposed Punjab Bill. The members agreed that violence against women had intensified and legislation/implementation was insufficient to deal with it.
3. The process of devolution and its attendant problems were discussed. The members expressed worry over the fact that when issues such as women's rights are left to the provinces they take very conservative positions. It was suggested that since fundamental rights in the constitution, which speak of equality of all before law, no discrimination based on gender and no law or custom or usage that contradicts the fundamental rights to be allowed, should be invoked to protect women's rights against any encroachment by the provinces in the name of culture or tradition. As fundamental rights are common to all across provinces they could form the basis of activism for equality and justice for women.
4. A long debate took place over new and younger members of WAF. While there was agreement that more people are needed as WAF is getting old, there are enormous differences between the outlook, perspectives and visions of the older WAF members and some of the new entrants. Nighat Said Khan suggested that new people should be welcomed to form organizations which are needed, but if they differ significantly from the basic WAF principles which are non-negotiable, then they should form new organizations and not work under the WAF umbrella. The non-negotiables include the idea that WAF is secular, democratic and believes in non-hierarchical functioning, is non-partisan but not non-political, it considers all issues women's issues especially when seen from a feminist lens, WAF opposes military rule and all forms of militancy and religious/sectarian extremism. There was agreement by most of the members present with Nighat Said's suggestion, however Farida Shaheed also pointed out the importance of the manner in which organizations/groups grow, develop and evolve over time. Nevertheless, there was

general agreement that the non-negotiables should not be compromised. At the same time, the new initiatives, organizations by young people should be encouraged, supported, guided and respected. Farida argued that new modalities are needed as our ~~new~~ more feminist generation while the new dhaba and khana badosh groups have different perspectives. Farida expressed a view that the principles will only last as long as the old WAF is alive and since WAF is an umbrella it has always been the case that the older generation is more conservative, while the younger generation is more progressive. She said that there are major differences between the two. She agreed that it is important to know who the new people are as some of these groups support the military ~~and~~ and some do not. She said that we need to think more deeply about this and move cautiously.

5. There was some discussion on where is the women's movement. It was reflected that we want the younger people but we can't be contentious. We need to think how much we can take them head on. Neelam suggested that we need to take a soft rather than a contentious approach with the younger people who may not be conceptually very clear but are highly motivated and willing to call themselves feminists. It was agreed that issues of where is the movement, if one exists, should be taken up during a closed session in the convention and later on interact with the younger groups. Gulner shared that while the older feminists shared a common vision even if they differed in strategy, the new ones have a very personalized approach. She said that we need to see whether they share the same sense of threat, from the same sources or not. They are concerned with issues of sexuality that WAF never touched.

6. There was some discussion on the whole idea of "civil society" and NGOs who do all this on a large scale. Nighat Khan mentioned that everything that WAF is thinking of doing or has been doing is now done with massive funding on a large scale by NGO consortiums. How is WAF different? Where is WAF's uniqueness given that all the issues are now funded. Yet, people are not coming together and each group is working separately from different platforms. What is specific to WAF and what are the challenges, asked Nighat. Farida responded that during our time there was no platform, we were desperate to stand up to the state and form a platform.

7. Whither WAF? Another issue was whether WAF is feminist? It was agreed that this depends on how we define feminism. The massive de-politicization of the past several years has done damage to the movement and to feminism of the earlier years. Farida said that we all were much more politicized than young people of today who are concerned with jobs in big companies etc. She suggested that we could share our experiences with them in terms of our strategies and our continuous learning. It was discussed that our mobilization has been weak due to various factors and WAF's page on Facebook has expired or is outdated.

8. Rubina asked if militarization should be picked up at the National Convention as it is now a countrywide issue with Balochistan, FATA, Swat and Karachi – the whole country is militarized and the military also seems to have taken over without announcing it openly.

9. Gulnar and Nigahat also talked about the role of media and media mujahids and informed the members that Tahira Abdullah and Farzana Durrani had done a study of the media and its conservative attitudes towards women.

On 6th June 1991, during the conference of Najma Sedeqie, Tahiria Mazhar Ali and Fatima Mernissi at the
Guru Nanak Dev Institute, the members agreed:

“I’m not a saint, Trixie should be in bullet form.

Nisar Khan also suggested that WAF Lahore should ask for a change of dates for the National Convention for two reasons: one, so that more people could attend, and two, so that we have time to get our act together and go through the materials organized by Lala and Topsy and work out our positions. Rubina agreed with her suggestion but the approval of other members is needed.

On Dec 20, 2015 03:17, "Nighat Khan" <nskhan1946@yahoo.com> wrote:

dear neelam... when you so send the.minutes..not attached..could you tell all who were there that they were to send information reminders etc on all that they remember that waf Lahore has sine since 2006. The deadline was the 18th and I had kept today to work on a draft of the waf Ihr report. Not sure what do now but.cant wait too.long. I also suggested to ruby that we should ask for a different date so that as many as possible can attend..you lala and others are.tied up..ruby meena topsy and I were non committal..me.because we have a board meeting in jan and then a.lot.to.do.in kar and hyd and not sure of the dates of all this...plus I can't go to Karachi twice. If we as Lahore want anything out of this and to energise us and work with our present realities as many of us as possible should be there.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Sat, Dec 19, 2015 at 11:32 pm, Neelam Hussain <neelamhussain@gmail.com> wrote:

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