1993

WAF

MINUTES OF WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 AUGUST 1993

Members Present: Nasreen, Seemeen, Shazia, Khalida, Farwa, Farukh, Ayesha (Observer)
Convener: Amina

The meeting began with a review of the previous meeting's minutes.

Update:
Mailing list: Members report slow progress on checking up of GB members list.
Farukh to update Working Committee list.

Notepads: 250 pads more brought in by Farukh. Khalida handed over Rs 120 to Shazia

Questionnaires: Shazia will collect filled q'aires to be given to Khalida for analysis in September.

Transport: Seemeen will contact Nusrat Arshad Ali of the Working Women Association by end August. Shahnaz still not present for update on her end. Seemeen to take over.

WAF material: It was decided to use some of the collected funds to print a small pamphlet on WAF's activities for the information of new members. Seemeen to set up meet with other members.

AGENDA

GENERAL BODY MEETING:
TOPIC: Panel discussion with political parties on women's issues in forthcoming elections.

The GB for August is to be held tentatively on Saturday, 28 August at the President Hotel
Shazia to make booking and ask for better mike and cooling system
Nasreen / Seemeen to draw up lists of political parties to be invited, including religious parties.
Nasreen to contact Karachi/ Lahore chapters for national WAF position., to be invited to attend also.

Decisions:

All previous committee memmbers to be invited for WC meeting for their help in organising the event.
Invite all NGO's - sort out position of consensus.
Join hands with HRCP to ensure fair elections.
Setting to be semi-circular, reps. of pol. parties on one end, viewers & WAF panelists facing them. No stage required.
Format to be Q & A session with prepared list of WAF demands.

Specific invitations to be sent to pol. parties.
Get all pol. parties to sign our basic list of demands. (Nasreen says all MRD parties signed WAF's demands in 1983.)
At meeting Press ONLY present as observers.
Follow-up meeting with heavy lobbying and Press statements publicising party positions to ensure they put their money where their mouth is.

PRESS REPORTS:
Shazia & Khalida reported hearing of dubious Urdu newspapers publishing distorted version of previous WAF WC meeting, quoting names & utterances on the issue of a WAF candidate for elections. Who is the mole?!

PWA MEET:
Seemeen & Khalida attended Shahnaz's PWA meeting with local women's NGO's & Senate Chairperson Nurjehan Panezai. Latter not very helpful. However, a consensus was reached among all groups present regarding the basic political rights of women - (largely WAF's demands). Seemeen read out the draft resolution.
Discussion followed on whether WAF should join hands with such NGO's as the Lioness Club to press for acceptance of our demands or whether WAF should take the initiative as in the past. Our demands are more far reaching and we have a pre-thought out position on women's electoral representation in the future also.
It was decided to present our demands to both the President (through Nageen knowing Azra Sajjad) and the Election Commissioner - Seemeen to try for appointment, Nasreen to consult Justice Dorab Patel. Nasreen, Seemeen , Farukh & Shelley to meet CEC.

CIDA FUNDS:
Ann Taylor has told Nasreen that she gave a cheque for Rs 675 (for various items bought) which WAF has not yet cashed. Query: who has the cheque - Tahira Abdullah?
Can WAF accept money from an organisation? Yes, because it is for items sold.

ASR WORKSHOP:
Nasreen attended the week long ASR workshop held in Abbotabad on women & feminist theory. Participants included women from Sri Lanka & Nepal. Other WAFfers invited but unable to attend, Islamabad's presence missed. Nasreen reports a very interesting and thought-provoking session. A number of issues were raised which could not be dicussed in detail but which, it was decided, could be used by us for day long workshops later.
eg., role of NGO's / do NGO's dilute governmental responsibility? / role of religion / why the North is pushing women's rights as human rights, etc.

STUDIO GANDHARA VIDEO TRAINING:
Shazia said that Nageen' studio is holding a workshop on video filming, was WAF interested in funding a participant - cost Rs 6000? - but the committee decided this would have to be done by interested individuals on their own.

The next meeting is to be held at Amina's on - WEDNESDAY 11 AUGUST. 5.00 p.m.