

Minutes of WAF Meeting

Date: 22.12.2015

Venue: ASR

Agenda: National Convention Karachi 2016

Present: Naila, Popti, Meena, Tauseef, Lala, Bunny, Neelam, Mumtaz Mughal, Nabila

Chair: Meena

Meena: re modes of communication – Whatsap and email – we're using both?

General agreement.

Bunny: suggest Whatsap be used for general conversation and email for formal communication. 28 people on the WAF email list, need to add Topsy.

Want to clarify when did this WAF working committee emerge? We've been open to the entire GB so there is no need for a WC.

Lala: it came together at a GB at ASR

Neelam: Ruby and I volunteered as Convenors in an effort to revive/keep WAF going. Given low attendance etc some people volunteered to come on WC – Popti, Lala, Gulnar and I think Noni. Meena said she would come in if needed but not otherwise. Bunny refused as did many others

Meena – anyway it's not an issue ...

Neelam: I also went in for the larger WAF list. The list had been abbreviated at Bunny's suggestion to include only those who came to WAF meetings. I expanded it for inclusiveness and to keep everyone in the loop whether active or not. We discussed this and felt that there were few of us left as it is. We didn't have to exclude anyone and this was a way of keeping in touch.

Bunny re Lala's list of WAF activities since the last Convention – Well done Lala! There are also my notebooks – useful – notes from last Convention onwards. I read the files meticulously. Saw that some ASR initiatives had been included in WAF activities. These should be taken out.

Lala – Sure. We took what we saw.- Positions in one file – Press releases in the other.

Some confusion in Lala/Topsy's documentation. It is also incomplete. I have a lot more. Also saw a file with Farida at ShirkatGah on press clippings. Should get a copy – for later use. We have enough material for the Lahore Chapter Report.

Lala – When we put the files together we were not thinking of a Chapter Report. We looked at stuff from 1995 onwards

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Bunny – In 1913 ...

Meena – 2013

Bunny – Yes – in 2013 Karachi came up with an up to date Charter. The appendices were based largely on Lahore's positions. We have plenty of material for the Convention and our Report

Lala – on 10th December – at JACs suggestion we came together as Citizen's for Democracy etc as part of anti Musharraf protests – it was not part of the Lawyer's movement though at the same time

Bunny – Where is WAF's critical edge. The issues we raised are now being raised by every NGO

Popti/Meena – but that is WAF's success

Bunny – it is, but where are we now? Is WAF going to be like everyone else or different? The difference is in seeing and critiquing everything from a feminist lens.

Mumtaz – Nabila and I have a lot of material/information/data – we will be happy to share

Bunny – good – what is missing in these reports is the analysis. We need to look at the root causes of violence in patriarchy.

Mumtaz – new forms of violence emerging – such as Benazir Income Support programme and how money is extracted from women

.... Re process, procedures and Nat Con Dates

Lahore going according to WAF National Convention procedures. Chapters make Agendas and send them to the host chapter

Suggested dates for Nat Con: 16-17-18 Jan 2016. The last a ½ day open session. We must let Karachi know how many of us will be there.

Topsy, Naila, Meena, Bunny non committal; Lala and Neelam not in Pakistan at that time. Perhaps Farida, Noni and Gulnar will go. Possibility of more maybe Tanvir Jehan.

Bunny – we should have larger representation for it to make sense and also to maintain post Nat Con energy and momentum

Meena – ask Karachi to move Convention to Feb. Why not the 12th. It could be 12-13-14 Feb.

Neelam asked to write to Karachi about this.

Discussion on Lahore's Agenda for Nat Con 2016

Unresolved issues from last Convention (Lahore 2006)

1. Sexuality, sexual orientation – Gulnar, Ruby and Bunny had agreed to write on this. (Ruby did produce a short writeup)
2. Globalisation and Multi-Nationals – Azra Talat to write on

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3. Land and property rights – Rani
4. Inheritance – issue of and WAF's demand for equal inheritance
5. Adoption
6. State vs Terrorism (?) – Ruby
7. Conflict situations inc Earthquake
8. New forms of Violence – Meena and Neelam
9. Uniform Civil Code (Alliance?)

Karachi's 2013 Manifesto fills in a lot details of the above

Everyone emphasised the need to reiterate the non-negotiables especially in the light of new membership re young women's groups:

Secular, non partisan but political, non hierarchical, non funded

Bunny said she would write the first draft of the Report.

All agreed that we needed to form issue-based committees for issues on Agenda

Agenda

1. Extremism/Terrorism/Violence
 - Negotiating with the Taliban
 - Dars phenomenon viz Al Huda etc
 - Sectarianism
 - Lal Masjid/Daesh
 - Polio campaigns
 - Schools
 - HR defenders – Parveen Rehman etc
 - Position on Malala – her situation and contribution in the context of global/local politics and perceptions
2. Militarisation – Balochistan, FATA, Swat, Karachi – nationally – the soft coup
3. New forms of violence – development and displacement – women hardest hit ref Orange Metro train and diff between women's and men's concerns
4. Land and property rights
5. Equal Inheritance
6. Devolution – problems of – the need for a uniform civil code applicable to all provinces. NCSW – confused position and blurring of boundaries viz govt; NGOs and as independent entity

Bunny - New Members/Old members reflection needed

Meena – what about them?

Bunny – after the Convention.

Discussion: young women's groups located in different universities/colleges viz FCC, LUMS – difference between an earlier generation and this one – they identify themselves as feminists. The earlier lot had rejected the term.

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Bunny – feminism is being used by them as a term. But how do they see feminism?

Lala – They only see it as sexism or harassment. A single point agenda. Idea – lets have a conference/consultation whatever – ask all the young people's groups

Bunny – re Karachi – we follow the principle of others pooling in for those who cannot afford the travel expenses to Karachi

General agreement. Neelam to ask Nasrene how much money there is in WAF's kitty – leftover from what was collected for the Habib Jalib/Azhar Jafri awards

Next Meeting – 29th Tuesday

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