

REPORT ON NATIONAL CONVENTION OF WAF, HELD AT ISLAMAPAD ON 21 AND 22 NOVEMBER

The following members from WAF, Lahore, attended this convention:

- 1. Bushra Aitezaz
- 2. Saleha Manto
- 3. Mrs. Taseer
- 4. Asma Jehangir
- 5. Shanaz Wazir Ali
- 6. Shahtaj Qizilbash

Karachi WAF Chapters were represented by 6 delegates.

The format of the convention was according to the agenda, which had been formulated by WAF Islamabad, after receiving input from WAF Lahore and Karachi.

The sessions were chaired by the chapter reps. by rotation.

Session I	Chair	Islamabad
Session II	Chair	Karachi
Session III	Chair	Lahore

Sessions were closed until the end of the third session, where observers could come and listen to the final resolutions and decisions of the convention. Each agenda item was discussed and final vote was taken before making decisions on the issue.

- I. Charter: Each chapter presented its wording on the charter in order to incorporate it and finally come up with a uniform charter. The following changes were unanimously approved and the final 9 point charter is attached.
  - A. Instead of "non-political", the charter would read "not affiliated to any political party".
  - B. Clause no. 6 the following addition was made:  
"and matters pertaining to their person, social and economic well-being".
  - C. Clause no, 7 to read as follows:  
WAF does not believe in enforced segregation and recognizes the need to protect and promote the rights of women by countering all forms of oppression.
  - D. Clause no. 8 was added:  
WAF condemns sexual abuse and exploitation of women and believes in promoting a positive image of women.
  - E. Clause no. 9 was added:  
Women have the right to participate in recreational activities, such as sports and all aspects of cultural life.

It was furthermore unanimously agreed that every chapter would have its separate by-laws.

- II. All chapters agreed that WAF would not accept funds from any government, or any government funded agencies. (government funded agencies being defined as those agencies that are set-up by governments and/or whose major source of funds is from a government/s. It was further unanimously agreed that each chapter would decide independantly as to fund-raising activities in their areas.

Regarding invitational travel/conferences; it was agreed that upon receipt of such an invitation the matter would be put to the respective general bodies and decision be made on a case-by-case basis by each Chapter. General Body will choose the WAF member to go as its representative.

International Funding: It was unanimously decided that for a period of 1 year no WAF Chapter would accept funds from any international agencies/associations.

IV. Communication/Coordination: A national coordination committee to be set up with 2 reps from each Chapter. Lina Jilani and Shahtaj Qizilbash were nominated as WAF Lahore reps and Mehr Marker as Karachi coordinator. This committee would make every effort to ensure that information and coordination of WAF activities, so that WAF can take a concerted or national combined action on issues.

WAF would bring out an annual publication, in the form of a booklet containing a report on WAF's activities for the year. It would also include the WAF Charter and articles related to women's issues as well as any issue that has an impact on fundamental human rights. An Editorial Board was nominated by the 3 Chapters. Lahore reps are Saleha Manto and Asma Jahangir. First publication to be undertaken by Islamabad and put out by September 1987.

V. Future Directions: Policies and Strategies: Islamabad's proposal for future strategies was unanimously accepted. It is attached herewith. The unanimously agreed upon Statement of Demands is also attached.

VI. Opening of New Chapters: New Chapters may be opened in any city/town with a beginning membership of 15 women who subscribe to the WAF Charter and its aims and objectives. Such new Chapters in Punjab and Sind to seek information and assistance from any of the present Chapters already working in the province. Each Chapter should actively undertake programs to increase membership.

VII. WAF will continue to oppose the 9th Amendment and the Shariat Bill, as these are highly injurious and detrimental to the status and rights of women in particular Pakistan. It was decided that protest meetings/demonstrations against the 9th Amendment should be coordinated between the 3 Chapters to take place at approximately the same time. This would have a greater impact on the public mind. The National Convention was conducted in a spirit of goodwill and cooperation and all delegates felt that the sessions had been very truthful and successful. The next National Convention would be hosted by Lahore WAF, in November 1987. It was decided that the opening session of the 87 Convention would be open to all WAF members, press and special invitees.