

PROPOSED AGENDA

FOR THE WAF NATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE 4TH OF NOVEMBER 2006
(For discussion/decisions/additions/positions etc. by WAF chapters)

1. A tribute to Shehla, Sanya, and Farrukh apa
2. A situation review of each chapter. This could include issues, structural or organization matters, membership and mobilization.
3. Reiteration of the principles of WAF and their implications. Lahore WAF has worked on this and has reiterated that WAF is a women's rights organization open to all Pakistani women who agree with its charter. It is secular; non partisan vis a vis political parties; non hierarchical; does not seek funds from donors, governments, or MNCs; and acts as a pressure group and lobby. WAF's overall policy decisions are made by all chapters working on the basis of consensus and usually made through the WAF national convention. The latest records of WAF positions and decisions are the significant changes made in 1991 vis a vis secularism and WAF not getting into debates on Islam or using Islam strategically; and WAF's detailed positions made in 1993. These were published in the form of a WAF document that was widely circulated.
4. National legislation and constitutional issues e.g. Hadood, Qisas and Diyat, Blasphemy, "Honour" killings, MFLO 1961, Hasba Bill etc.
5. Violence against women, including domestic violence, marital and custodial rape, sexual assault, burn-acid cases, reproductive rights, harassment in the workplace etc. and other forms of violence stemming from customary laws and/or tradition.
6. WAF to work out position on women's sexuality including marginalized sexualities as indicated in its position paper of 1993.
7. Women's right to inheritance, cross religious marriages, citizenship of children of cross national parentage, adoption laws
8. Equal rights in all laws, equal wages, issues of mobility and security, recognition of women's role in building and maintaining the home and the recognition of housework.
9. Women and the political process, representation, national policy on women especially in light of international agreements.
10. Building alliances against patriarchal structures, the relationship of the women's movement to the government, people's movements, networks, NGOs, media, and international movements.
11. Wither WAF in the age of globalization, neo imperialism, neo liberalism, the role of the WTO and wither WAF in the future.
12. WAF and peace especially with India, position on Kashmir, the impact of the earthquake on women.

The above incorporates the various suggestions that have come in. The WAF chapters need to decide the priorities and come together on the national agenda to be discussed in November in the convention. Whether WAF decides to address all these and other issues will depend on chapter decisions but the above parameters need to be kept in mind when discussing the issues.

WAF Constitutional Amendments contd

WAF's response to Bushra Gohar's request

Justification/explanation of terms requested by Bushra Gohar for WAF's definition of discrimination in Article 25 (2)

- i. WAF stands by the terms and terminology of the definition of discrimination on the following grounds: Even when the Constitution guarantees political and economic rights for all, women tend to get excluded on the basis of customary practice and tradition that impair and nullify these rights by linking them to gender, marital status, religious affiliation, caste and creed. The following examples corroborate and exemplify this argument: the denial of equal pay for equal work, equal access to jobs and work opportunities, the right to vote; the insistence on the husband's name for I.D card purposes in the case of single women etc.
- ii. The term 'gender' as opposed to 'sex' is more inclusive as it includes the rights of transgender communities such as the Khwaja Sirra whose rights as equal citizens have been affirmed by the recent Supreme Court ruling.
- iii. The inclusion of the word 'alone' with reference to sex/gender emphasises and counters forms of discrimination that are justified on the basis of sex/gender alone.

WAF LAHORE MEETING ON CONVENTION AGENDA AND PROGRAMME ON
THE 4TH AND 5TH OF NOVEMBER 2006

Decisions, follow up and responsibilities:

1. Decision to discuss all issues on the proposed agenda but to change the format with internal WAF discussions from 10 am until 1 pm. The meeting would then be open to any woman interested in the issues. Six positions would be presented reflecting WAF positions and a debate on issues 6, 10, 11, and 12 would be conducted in four parallel sessions. The chapters would get 15 minutes each for their chapter reviews and Lahore would be given 15 minutes to reiterate the principles and methodology of WAF. This would be followed by half an hour of questions, comments, discussions, debates etc.
2. Those issues on which WAF already has a position will be reiterated in the form of short written papers to be presented in the convention. Islamabad would be asked to prepare the position for item 4; Peshawar on the Hasba Bill; Rubina Jamil on item 8; Neelum Hussain on item 5; Farida Shaheed on item 9 and Nighat Khan on item 7. These will also be presented in the open session and discussed with a larger group of women.
3. Some of these issues, especially the information on WAF will also be presented in the celebration.
4. WAF members attending the convention will meet at 9.30 am on the 5th to give feedback on the parallel sessions.

ALTHOUGH WAF DID NOT DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF WHO WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE OPEN SESSIONS AND PARALLEL WORKSHOPS, NOR HOW AND BY WHOM THE SELECTION WOULD BE MADE. THIS IS IMPORTANT ONLY BECAUSE WAF MEMBERS IN LAHORE WOULD BE MAKING THE SELECTION AND THIS IS ARBITRARY BUT ALSO THAT WAF CANNOT ACCOMMODATE MORE THAN ABOUT 30 AT SHIRKAT GAH. FURTHER THAT PARALLEL SESSIONS CANNOT BE TOO LARGE IF ANY MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION IS TO TAKE PLACE.

What was also not discussed is how to inform all WAF members since many of them may not be aware of the convention. Who will be attending the closed sessions and how will this selection be made? Then again would all WAF members be aware of the chapter's positions and if so how? Is the process and procedure of a convention familiar to all? WAF Lahore has not briefed members about this and nor has it developed some sort of a criteria of which members participate in the closed sessions.

THIS IS NOW IRRELEVANT HOWEVER SINCE ISLAMABAD AND KARACHI DISAGREE WITH THIS NEW FORMAT AND DON'T THINK IT COULD BE TAKEN ARBITRARILY. THEIR POSITION IS THAT WAF IS MEETING AFTER

Chapter
WAF Lahore needs positions on the issues
and a chapter report. Who will do this
Who will speak?

MANY YEARS AND IT IS NECESSARY FOR IT TO DISCUSS SEVERAL ISSUES ON ITS OWN. A CONVENTION IS NOT THE FORUM IN WHICH WAF LAHORE SHOULD BE SEEKING TO ORIENT WOMEN AND NOR TO MAKE NEW MEMBERS. THEY WOULD LIKE FOR WAF TO REMAIN WITHIN PREVIOUS CONVENTION FORMATS AND PROCEDURES AND EVEN THINK THAT GIVEN THAT WAF IS MEETING AFTER SO MANY YEARS EVEN ONE DAY IS NOT ENOUGH. WAF LAHORE IS REMINDED THAT CONVENTIONS USED TO BE SPREAD OVER ATLEAST TWO DAYS IN THE PAST AND BOTH DAYS WOULD BE FOR INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS. THE WAF CONVENTION IS NOT A CONFERENCE AND LIKE ALL OTHER ORGANISATIONS WHO HAVE INTERNAL MEETINGS, WAF ALSO NEEDS SUCH A SPACE. *ASR has happened since 1998 March 23rd - WAF needs to discuss issues + powers w/ the help of this x*

FURTHERMORE ISLAMABAD HAS ALREADY INFORMED ALL ITS MEMBERS (120) AND HAS DISCUSSED THE AGENDA. KARACHI IS TO DO SO ON THE 19TH. THEY ARE COMING WITH CHAPTER POSITIONS AND CONCERNS.

Plus there it captures w/ WAF members on how procedure, out issues: re. use of Islam

1. The sessions and agenda for the 4th therefore has to be reworked allowing WAF to discuss the issues on the agenda within itself.

2. The dinner on the 4th is only for WAF Members. Again how does WAF Lahore *Conventio* decide on who these are to be and how does it inform those invited? *Procedures*

3. The dinner is at Lala's. We expect about 50 persons. Neelum is to get the food estimates from her contacts and send them to Bunny for comparison. She is also to get estimates on lunch for 300 persons for lunch on the 5th.

4. Bunny to check on video recording for the 5th. *Rs 6000 for digital 1000 d. Rs 10,000 digital 3CC D.*

5. Lala and Huma with Gulnar have the main responsibility for the 5th. They need a group of committed volunteers not only to help with the exhibitions, stalls, arrangements etc. etc. but for putting up the exhibitions on the 3rd if possible. Huma to try and get additional exhibition space from NCA. Volunteers are also needed to help with the shamiana (yellow) yellow cloth for the tables, food area, etc. etc. This will need to be done on the afternoon of the 4th.

6. Stalls to be put up by WAF (3 stalls) ASR, Aurat, S.G. (2), Kashf, Hawwa, Simorgh, Hameeda. Kasf, Aurat and WWO have been approached and they are likely to participate. We will need about 22 tables and chairs for this. Decision to be on who will put up the WAF stalls and who will be responsible for them including the sale of items.

7. WAF will have its own posters (Lala to design and have printed?) photograph display (Lala) Mugs (Meena to check), kurtas/kurtis (Nosheen), scrabs and bags (Nosheen).

*350 persons
Rs 850 per
52,400
plus
Catering
Catering
decorated
round tables
comfy
for lawn
stage
tables*

*Shamiana
Rs 9300
140 per
piece
lighting
tables
total 10682*

*22 tables & chairs
and parasols
Rs 3200
11 on
Frieze
Shamiana.*

8. Huma to arrange sessions of theatre, songs, dance during the open session of the celebration.

9. Lala and Huma to decide the terraces to be used. The contractor for the shamiana, tables, chairs etc. to be sent by Bunny to meet Lala at NCA.

10. The programme is to be firmed up. Seema to ask Tahira Syed and Huma to ask Ajoka for a short presentation.

10. Mobilization for the 5th. Colleges and Universities (who is to do the poster and who will go and put them up?) Mobilization of organizations: paralegals (AGHS), Aurat, ASR, S.G, Channa Mandi (Simorgh) WWO, Helpline and others (Bunny has already spoken to them and they confirm that they will send some women. This will need to be followed up. No formal invitations are to be sent (not even to WAF?)

11. Transport of those attending will be the responsibility of the organization facilitating this.

12. Rally to be decided, route and nature.

13. Banners for the celebration, backdrop, rally etc.

Tajam
Lasa
10 women

Huma Dr.
Dr.
Shedore
5 women

Zaffar Khan
10 men
WAGAH
Bevera Dr.

Syed - 9
Ker Lokpas
5 women

Picou & Huma
Vandana
Khanabadi
5 women

12
Helpline
with her figures

10 women for Badoni Sage
+ Shastri for

WAF into whom?
WAF positions - when - by whom - open
statement or
interpersonal?
Again whom?

Resolution?
Press statement.
Rally - any hand outs?