



women's action forum نواتين محاذ عمل

### **WAF asks for immediate appointment of NCSW Chairperson**

Women's Action Forum strongly urges the Government to immediately announce the selection of Ms. Fauzia Viqar as Chair of NCSW, as she received more votes from the bi-partisan Parliamentary Committee. WAF also urges all members of the Parliamentary Committee to press for an immediate announcement of the name of the new Chair of NCSW. They owe this to the women of Pakistan.

WAF is shocked to hear that Senator Falak Naz, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee for the Selection of Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) "fled" the Committee without announcing the name of the successful candidate, Ms. Fauzia Viqar who reportedly received more votes than Ms. Nilofer Bakhtiar. The Chair's action is deplorable, and she must be held accountable by the Parliamentary Committee. WAF has repeatedly urged the Government to fill the position that became vacant on 1 November 2019. Without a Chairperson NCSW, formed through an Act of Parliament as an autonomous institution to protect and promote women's rights and empowerment has in effect been rendered dysfunctional, losing both continuity and momentum. WAF views government's protracted selection process as a reflection of the low priority it gives to women and a lack of interest in independent and autonomous institutions.

WAF calls upon Civil society organizations working for the rights of women to actively demand the immediate filling of the position of NCSW Chairperson and press upon the Parliamentary Committee to get the announcement expedited.

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