

Minutes of the WAF General Body Meeting

29th September 2020

Attendance: Convenors: Ikra and Neelam, Nighat Khan, Popti, Ayra, Sahar Bandyal, Maryam Hussain, Ruby, Salima Hashmi, Naila, Riffat Masood, Najji, Seerat, Elaine, Ambreen, Maria

Rani excused herself as her server is down. She also sent the message that she would redo the statement on the Motorway Rape in the light of latest gaffes by the CCPO. She also conveyed her objections to the WRN statement on the role of women in the Afghan peace process

Agenda Items;

1. **Housekeeping. The conveners will keep an attendance register and will regularly minute all meetings. WC Minutes to be shared with working committee and GB meetings with the GB**
2. Membership of various committees sorted out:
 - Law Committee: Sahar Bandal, Nighat Dad, Iqra, Ume Laila, **Ambreen**
 - Statement Committee: Ruby, Meena, Rani, Neelam, Maryam Hussain, Farida Shaheed
 - Media Committee: Nighat Dad, Bunny, Ayra, Ikra, Seerat. **Nyla**
 - WAF Website: Naila, Bunny, **input as and when**: Nighat Dad plus professionals hired for purpose
 - **Conveners: Neelam and Ikra**
 - **National Coordinators: Bunny and Nyla**
 - **Bunny to represent WAF and ASR in JAC. For wafs positions or inputs she has to revert to waf**
 - **WAF is organizing a session to familiarize WAF members with technicalities of social media viz twitter etc to extend WAF media outreach. Open to all WAF members. Training by Nighat Dad. In ASR 1 pm to 3 pm on Saturday.**
3. Day of WAF weekly meeting to be moved from Tuesday to Wednesday to accommodate Farida plus also more convenient for Ikra
4. WRN statement discussed and rejected on grounds of emphasis on the issues faced by the Pakistan women's movement but no mention of the situation in India etc.
5. Bunny will write a statement of a couple of paragraphs in support of women in Afghanistan and the current peace process on behalf of WAF
6. Webinar on Ayra's thesis to be held on 9th October **6 to 7.30 pm**. Panelists: Ruby and Bunny. Ayra will be sending them a synopsis of concluding statement etc. **Webinar to be organized by Naila and Seerat. Invitation to be designed with photographs of speaker and discussants and posted on WAF fb page. All must share this on WhatsApp groups, FB etc to bring in as many people as possible.**
7. Policy Brief on Rape based on examination of existing laws/lacunae; poor investigative procedures and judicial bias, including definition of rape and rapists in Pakistan's cultural context that routinizes rape and sexual violence. Sahar Bandyal and Neelam to do

8. Commission on Minority Rights: Ref three separate petitions/interventions filed by WAD Karachi, JAC/HRCP and Peter Jacob with ShirkatGah, ASR and Simorgh. **WAF (national)** appealed turned down on the grounds that as the commission has already been formed and it is a case of fait accompli. Current status discussed. Bunny to check what's happening with Hina and Neelam to ask Salman Raja
9. Misha Shaffi case discussed in view of recent case of defamation filed against her and lawyers. WAF to do nothing as situation sub judice (**update waf Karachi reiterated its earlier statement and waf Lahore endorsed the statement by several women's groups and individual women**)
10. WDF alliance discussed at length. Najji wanted to know why we were going over the whole thing as Lahore WAF position already discussed and WAF Lahore was against a formal alliance but would as per practice join other groups on issue basis. **Waf needs to discuss this once Quetta Peshawar and Hyderabad gives their positions**
11. Issue of Sexual Harassment Bill raised, with ref to the Misha Shafi case. Maryam Hussain said we should examine the bill and suggest changes and be prepared for when needed instead of reacting when the need arose. She agreed to take on the responsibility of consulting with Maliha Zia Lari, Sara Zaman and others and get the docs together to formulate a WAF position.