

Minutes of the WAF WC Meeting

6th January 2021

Participants

Bunny

Naila

Erum

Mehreen Ahmed

Ambreen

Ayra

Nighat Dad

Tauseef

Ume- Laila (Most of the time but not all the time)

Neelam (For a few minutes in the beginning of the meeting)

Khawar (For a few minutes at the end of the meeting)

Agenda item No. 1: Webinars

Friday 15th January 2021 - PECA Webinar. From 6 to 8pm. For WAF members only.

Thursday 28th January 2021 – Webinar on impact of Covid on Home-Based Women Workers.

Time to be decided by Ume-Laila et al. Open to all.

It was agreed that though it was important to discuss issues such as transgender and women workers in other fields, domestic workers etc, and these would be taken up separately so the discussion could remain focused on Home-Based Women Workers. Others webinars would be organized later.

Friday 12th February: This Webinar is being held on Pakistan's Women's Day. Bunny has sent a letter to all the other WAF Chapters explaining the purpose, mainly to have an intergenerational interaction and talk about WAF's History, various phases of WAF, and for each chapter to have a representative on the panel. Bunny will represent Lahore and it was suggested/decided that Ruby would be the Moderator for this Webinar, which is open for all.

Bunny waiting for responses from all the Chapters, so far Islamabad has responded very positively. It was also agreed that this Webinar be recorded and put on the WAF Website. Once Lahore has a response from the Chapters a Zoom meeting could be organized to discuss details.

Thursday 25th March – Webinar on 1971 – Bangladesh. Bunny reminded everyone that WAF had apologized to Bangladesh 25 years ago. The idea of this Webinar is to move towards an understanding and healing of hurt and wounds. Speakers suggested are Saba Khattak, Anis Haroon and Amina Mohsin from Bangladesh.

Agenda Item # 2: Statements

WAF Statement on RUDA has been published in DAWN and some other papers. WAF has endorsed the demand for information on RUDA, especially that the Master Plan should be open to the public, as WAF and many members have also endorsed it individually. Bunny will keep us updated on developments on this front.

A statement has also been given on the brutal killing of the Hazaras in Mach. WAF is also supporting them financially by collecting funds for distributing food to the protestors. Bunny has contacted a youth group to organize the logistics of this. WAF is supporting the Demo at Liberty Chowk tomorrow (Thursday).

Ayra, while commenting on the terrible killings of the Shia Hazara's, was very concerned about the fact that more and more space in the media is being taken over by religious groups who propagate extremism. The huge crowd at the Chehlum of Khadim Rizvi in Lahore confirming one's fears.

Tweet by WAF supporting the Ayesha Malik Judgement on the Two Finger Test was sent.

Nighat Dad requested that WAF give a statement in support of Meesha before her case comes up before the Supreme Court on the 11th of January. She will be forwarding points on the case to Naila in a day or two, which will help the Statement Committee write up the statement. Nighat felt that this case was important not only for Meesha but was strategically important for all women.

It was also agreed that WAF reach out to Leena and give her support.

Agenda Item #3 RTIs.

Bunny, Naila and Ruby have to write letters to the Information Commission in Lahore and then Islamabad for the Army and Judiciary. They will check with Farieha on the wording of the letter.

Agenda Item # 4 Anti-Rape Ordinance

Nighat Dad said Lahore's draft on recommendations was nearly ready, and they would send it to Naila to send on to Karachi. Nighat also suggested that it would be useful if they could get a copy of the recommendations written up by Karachi. Naila will request Karachi for this.

Agenda item # 5 – Procedures

Unfortunately, Neelam was not there to discuss the procedures. But there was a consensus that the Statement Committee was autonomous and did not have to share statement with other WAF members.

WAF Representatives did not have to give detailed briefing on meetings held with other organizations, just the main relevant points.

Members active could be invited to join the WAF WC, like Maryam, who was active on the Statement Committee and Seerat who was on the Legal Committee. Nighat Dad clarified that even though Seerat was unable to attend Meetings, she was doing work for WAF behind the scenes.

Everyone agreed that the Preamble of the WAF Charter was non-negotiable and that any new Member who wished to join must accept this. Naila suggested we put up the main points of the preamble on our fb page.

Other rules could be changed if and when needed.

Nighat Dad wanted to know if any WAF member could give a statement on behalf of WAF, if approached by the Media. Bunny explained they could only do so if WAF had already stated its position on that particular issue. Otherwise, they could not.

Nighat Dad explained in detail the procedure to protect our WhatsApp from being hacked and to keep it safe.

Note: Erum told WAF WC members about the work she was doing on Native Media.pk. Her suggestions for the web-site would be very useful once the web-site was up and running.