

WAF Meeting Minutes

31st March 2021

Participants

1. Bunny
2. Cunval Syed (Observer)
3. Erum
4. Farida Shaheed
5. Fauzia Qureshi
6. Humaira Sheikh
7. Khawar (Rani)
8. Maisoon
9. Meena
10. Mehreen Ahmad
11. Naila
12. Najji
13. Nighat Dad
14. Riffat Maqsood
15. Tauseef

Agenda Item # 1: Feedback on Bangladesh Webinar

The feedback from WAF members on the BD Webinar was very positive.

Fauzia said that she had been told by Shama Khaliq that there had been a HRCP Seminar on BD about ten years ago, and suggested we should access that and put it on our You tube

Bunny remembered that SDPI also had a conference on BD.

It was agreed that we try and get hold of these and then put all the Bangladesh material together.

Bunny said she had received a lot of feedback from lots of people. Interestingly there were more women from other S. Asia countries joining the webinar than from Pakistan. People want a series of webinars on S. Asia. Suggestions being to discuss internal conflicts, but Indians unsure on this at the moment; Women's movements in Five South Asian countries was another possibility.

WAF decided to discuss this further. It was also suggested by Fauzia, that WAF could initiate it, but it could be carried forward then by other countries.

Naila said that the Chat Box during the Webinar was very lively, very interesting and she had 30 pages of the 'chats'.

WAF to decide when to hold a Zoom session on WAF Members Memories of 1971.

Agenda Item # 2: Feedback from Nighat Dad- on AM/AAM Backlash and the way forward.

Nighat Dad said she had set up an on-line meeting with Minister Fawad Chaudry, but he was unable to be there because of some other commitment, and she hopes to reschedule that meeting.

They did have a 30-minute meeting with Minister Sheerin.Mazari – and the LHR, KHI AM focal persons briefed her, and discussed the issue of the Extremists trying to register FIRs. Tahir Ashrafi was trying to talk to these extremists and the Government was also investigating as to who doctored the video. The Govt was also trying to prevent FIRs being registered, but then the Peshawar FIR was registered. Sheerin Mazari suggested the AM/AAM lobby Parliamentarians and brief them on the aims of AM and is also helping to arrange a meeting with the women's Caucus.

Nighat Dad said that there was a lack of trust between the Islamabad chapter and the other chapters.

Islamabad had said no legal action should be taken and they would not be part of any legal action but then decided to appeal in the Peshawar court without consulting the other chapters. This was one of the main reasons for the misunderstanding between the chapters.

Nighat Dad said the Islamabad organisers were more visible than Lhr and Kar. But everyone trying to support them, and it was also not fair to say that only Islamabad was being targeted as this was not correct. Others being targeted today. Nighat in touch with social media networks to bring down those videos instigating violence.

Nighat Dad said that Isl says they were not asked to join meeting with PTI Ministers, but it was posted and Isl did not show interest in meeting with PTI. They themselves not on same page, no idea how decision making is being done. Peshawar appeal not shared with other AM chapters.

Bunny said that individuals were speaking but we don't know the official AM viewpoint. AM and WDF very hierarchical. I don't know what is happening in WDF Group. Ismet not saying anything Ailia not speaking. Need to sort out conflict by moving forward.

It was decided that we should have National WAF meeting with national AM and discuss how to avoid problems in future.

Rani said that we should deal with conflicts internally not publicly.

Agenda Item # 3: SNC – Future strategy

The Scheduled Press conference was cancelled because of Covid.

Regarding future strategy Erum said that there had been a lot of discussion on the SNC in the media and she suggested that now we should have a Webinar on the same basis as what had been decided for the press conference.

Which is that Ruby and Neelam give a brief background and then Erum, Nida and Zeba divide the subjects amongst themselves and discuss them. Erum said it would be great to have Ayra there too as she had done a lot of work on this subject.

Naila suggested that Erum be the moderator.

Erum will publicise on twitter, WhatsApp etc. give link and try and get parents to join.

Naila will check Webinar calendar and then let Erum know the date for this very soon.

Bunny said it should be open to National WAF and other groups but keep Lahore panel, as it was a very strong panel.

Agenda Item # 4: Miscellaneous

3rd April – Karachi Webinar. Details on WhatsApp.

Bunny asked Fauzia what is the Smart City?? Fauzia said she would find out.

Four cases in court re RUDA. Stay in all 4 cases but Ruda going ahead. Land acquisition going on. Next hearing Rafay will take this up.

Fauzia stated that they were not against development but it must be environmentally friendly. First fix existing problems then move towards expansion. Don't need more roads, but better systems.