

WAF Working Committee Meeting

20th May 2021

Participants

1. Ambreen Fatima
2. Bunny
3. Erum
4. Mehreen
5. Naila
6. Rani
7. Ruby
8. Salima Hashmi
9. Tauseef
10. Ume Laila

Agenda Item #1 Adoption of Minutes

Minutes were approved. No additions requested.

Agenda Item # 2 Representation of WAF at Public Forums

The discussion on this subject has been ongoing for some time. Basically, the procedures and rules for representing WAF have to be clearly stated in writing so that there is no confusion. Also makes it easier for the younger members to understand how WAF works. Neelam had written up the procedures, and Rani had edited those, but they needed to be discussed for clarification.

Some of the points brought up were that WAF would nominate their representative. The Representative could take no decisions on behalf of WAF but could state positions already approved by WAF. Members can however present on WAF or discuss WAF as long as she gives the WAF position.

The important underlying issue brought up by some of the members was that once the representative was approved, she must be trusted, and in case some mistake was made it could be discussed in-house. In fact, the members agreed that all members must be shown respect and trusted.

Naila: We must be able to trust each other. Must have clear communication whether it is written or verbal.

Rani said there should be Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for representatives at different forums.

Rani will write out these points and circulate them to the Working Committee.

Labour Day Programme: Rani said she had assumed that it was a WAF Programme. The confusion occurred as the production team didn't know it was a WAF programme. WAF participants in the programme need to introduce WAF and make clear to the production team and the audience that it is a WAF Programme. But WAF logos were added and programme was put on the WAF fb etc. Now that one is aware of this, it will not happen next time.

Agenda Item#3 Domestic Workers Bill

Ume Laila gave a brief history of the Bill. The Bill now presented and passed in parliament has gone to the Cabinet for approval. The Bill is only for Islamabad and is going to be piloted in three different areas. Ume Laila said they were waiting for the final draft from the Secretary and would then review it.

Rani: Draft is for Islamabad only but we can

look at it. The one presented in Punjab had some weaknesses.

It was decided that the Legal Committee should look at it for their comments in terms of the law.

The Draft will be circulated to both the Legal Committee and the Working Committee.

Agenda Item #4: Update on the Website and the Narrative Needed.

Bunny briefed the WC on the formatting of the website. She explained that the style would be more personal and not very heavy.

Bunny explained how it would be divided into the different sections.

How there would be Links with the narratives.

All the archival material that would be uploaded.

Decisions on meetings will be given, but not the Minutes.

There would be a section on rallies, demos, skits, presentations. WAF Montage. Posters, banners, photo gallery.

Younger people should be writing on why they joined.

Rani suggested short snippets by various members on why they joined.

Bunny requested Rani to lend any WAF documents she may have for scanning.

Rani said she had notes on WAF discussions, and she was thinking that she could summarize these.

Bunny will circulate material but suggested we don't go into too much nit picking or else the work will never get done. Documents and notes also show that WAF worked towards consensus and therefore it took us 10 years to become secular.

Agreed to share write-ups with Working Committee and the Narrative Committee.

Rani suggested putting down our own specific experiences.

Agenda Item # 5: Ordinances

The letter written by members of civil society to the Prime Minister on HEC and the ordinance that changed its mandate. Peshawar, Islamabad and Lahore endorsed the letter.

Karachi and Hyderabad did not sign.

Naila : RTI no response from authorities. Ume Laila will try and push this process.