

## Draft Minutes: WAF Working Committee Meeting

5 May 2021

Meeting attendees: Mehreen Ahmed, Ayra Indrias, Nazish Attaullah, Elaine Alam, Rubina Saigol, Neelam Hussain, Ume Laila, Nighat Dad, Salima Hashmi, Khawar Mumtaz. Some could attend first part of the meeting because of internet re-connection issue.

### Agenda:

1. Review of WAF's May Day event on Native Media--confusion, reaccreditation, ownership, etc.
  - (a). Protocols for joint activities--WAF with its members' organizations.
  - (b). Planning of the follow up session on May Day program and how WAF can extend its help to the workers (formal and informal).
2. Discussion on approval procedures for JAC and national coordination.
3. Revisit Blasphemy Law as discussed by Bunny, Khawar and Ayra in last the meeting.
4. Different dimensions of the role of Conveners.
5. Additional item: HEC Ordinances

### Discussion and decisions:

1. May Day: WAF had planned a webinar for 1 May – International Labour Day -- with Rubina Jameel's help. However Rubina was not available (reportedly was out of country) and with time running out it was agreed that we would record a programme on the significance of Labour Day to highlight issues faced by women workers and upload it on WF fb page and on social media. The focus would be industrial workers, nurses and LHWs. Given that Erum's husband owns the YouTube channel, and WAF had already run a programme on it so Native Media was chosen for the recording. On the day of the recording however Shahnaz Dar, President nurses organisation reported ill. The format as decided was that Khawa would introduce WAF, speak about the significance of the day and then there would be discussion on women industrial workers issues between Erum, Jalvat and Khawar. We were told that 12-13 minutes is the optimal time for a U-Tube video as attention span of social media viewers is short, it would therefore be advisable to plan separate programmes about nurses and LHWs.

The programme was recorded and edited but it was found that WAF was not given credit for the programme. Khawar's understanding was that it was WAF's programme and would have its logo. She admitted that she had not made it explicit to Kashif, the producer, that the video should clearly indicate that it was WAF's programme produced by Native Media. Nighat Dad was given the edited video to fix WAF logo on the video. She then added slides giving WAF's logo and its position/statement and uploaded it on WF fb page. Khawar apologized for the confusion. Nighat Dad was thanked for salvaging the video. It was also noted that the edited programme did not include the segment about workers issues during COVID-19 which was uploaded by NM as a separate clip and should have been part of the main video. It needs to be included on WAF's fb.

Decision:

a). WAF to draw up SOPs (bullet points) to clearly set out parameters when working with members and their organisations and communicate them beforehand.

SOPs to include:

- Ensuring WAF gets due credit for a programme/recording.
- In case of recordings to get original video in raw so that clips may be made from it
- Make a handout with SOPs and also add in the Principles paper

b). As follow up on May Day programme lobby in collaboration with women workers with labour department, PA standing committee on Labour, get in touch with Dr. Ammar Ali Jan's organisation who is working on labour issues, talk to Jugnu Mohsin (independent MPA) to raise issue in PA.

2. Blasphemy Law: Nazish Brohi's template was the point of reference. It was agreed that WAF's Legal sub-committee discuss this first and then come with their suggestions to the WC. Ayra, Mehreen, Elaine and Nazish will join the Legal Committee in its deliberations.

It was suggested that our international commitments must be reiterated; women as soft targets of BL must be highlighted and that action should be taken on false accusation (no provision for that in the law at present).

3. JAC and national coordination, it was felt was clarified and discussion was not needed. Bunny who had raised it was not at the meeting.

4. Role of Conveners: Rani and Mehreen are the new Conveners. Rani to check with Naila for details. It was decided that the two national coordinators (Bunny and Naila) should continue in that role as they have been doing a satisfactory job. They know the dynamics of national coordination and continuity there is advisable.

5. HEC Ordinances: Nazish introduced the issue. WAF has taken a clear and strong position against legislation and governance through ordinances (see WAF and WIL statement on Rape Ordinance). Similarly WAF needs to take a position against the two Ordinances related to HEC. These have placed a statutory independent and autonomous institution under the Federal Education Ministry and reduced it to the status of a department. These have also altered the composition of the Commission (the Governing body) to ensure Govt's majority. While one of the objectives of the Ordinance is to dismiss the sitting Chair of HEC for the issue is not of personality but of the institution. From WAF's perspective it is manipulation of the law and bypassing of the Parliament to change a law that the Parliament itself had made and which it is the authority of the Parliament to amend after due debate.

Members present were in agreement on taking a position against amendment of HEC Act through Ordinances; there was a suggestion to take opinion of other Chapters. Given that there is a hearing in SHC on 17 May it would be strategic to give a statement before then.