

WAF Working Committee Meeting

4th August 2021

Participants

1. Ambreen
2. Ayra
3. Farida
4. Mehreen
5. Najji
6. Neelam
7. Nyla
8. Rani
9. Riffat
10. Tauseef

Agenda Item # 1 Update on 14th August Webinar

A Discussion took place among the Webinar Group – Rani, Bunny, Ruby, Nyla and Neelam. They also decided who would talk on what subject.

The Concept note written by Ruby has been sent to the Indian Participants

Tomorrow the panelists from both India and Pakistan will talk to finalize the format.

Rani suggested that what we want in the future should be part of the discussion

Date for Webinar is Saturday 14 August.6 to 8pm.

Cheemi to read a poem by Faiz.

Agenda Item # 2 Strategy Meeting for VAW/GBV with reps from WAF chapters, various AM and Activist groups.

Members discussed what could be done about the murders of women. Hyderabad documenting murders.

We need to formulate a strategy on how to use the data gathered.

Farida: Who is the threat to society? The constitution protects the whole family, not specifically women.

Nyla: Kausar has sent a very good format to document VAW.

If each WAF Chapter can document VAW, then we can work out a strategy to move forward.

Mehreen and Ayra will monitor the murder cases in Punjab. They will get data from HRCP, Aurat Foundation etc as well as the newspapers.

Agenda Item # 3 Afghanistan

Rani observed a panel session on the Afghan Taliban on Hard Talk by a TV channel and the speakers, including Ahmed Rasheed, didn't sound too hopeful about the future of Afghanistan.

Farida – In Quetta the Taliban had come out a few weeks ago and the Government justified it by saying this is their democratic right. Hafiz Syed not being prosecuted.

Rani: We need to watch more closely. We don't want our voices to be silenced.

Afghan women want women to be part of any delegation on the Afghan development.

Ayra: WAF should take a stand as we have a lot of people in Pakistan who sympathize with the Taliban.

Najji: Taliban Jalsa in Gilgit which is worrying. More of this will probably continue and we should make a strategy with JAC, with Women Parliamentarians, to stand in solidarity with the Afghan women.

Farida: We should send a letter of support to the Afghan women so they don't feel so isolated.

Pakistan is saying we won't let refugees coming into Pakistan, make camps for them.

It was agreed the WAF write an open letter to the Afghan women to show empathy.

Farida said that in areas which the Afghan Taliban have taken over women are not allowed to leave their houses and girls can't study beyond class 5. She thought that probably China is the only country which could have some influence on the Taliban.

Najji: Civil Society should also have a role which runs parallel to what WAF does.

Rani: We have already given a joint statement.

Najji: Changing situation so we need to keep at it.

Farida: Social Media campaign. But need to be realistic about how much leverage we can have.

Rani: We should keep track.

Neelam: We should continue raising our voices. That is all we can do.

Najji: Keep hammering this point consistently.

Farida: Taliban allowed public meetings but AM stopped.