

WAF Meeting Minutes

25th August 2021

Participants

1. Mehreen
2. Naila (Had to leave early)
3. Neelam
4. Nida Usman
5. Nighat Dad
6. Rani
7. Salima Hashmi (Cheemi)
8. Tauseef

Agenda Item # 1: Co-ordinators

The National Co-ordinators for Lahore WAF are:

1. Khawar Mumtaz
2. Nighat Dad
3. Naila Naz

Co-ordinator for JAC are:

1. Neelam Hussain
2. Nighat Dad
3. Khawar Mumtaz (When she is able)

Nighat Dad requested Neelam to be available on WhatsApp for joint coordination.

Nighat said that there was a JAC meeting on Friday 27th to discuss co-ordination issues, organizing etc. Rani said she would attend that meeting as she had suggested this discussion. Neelam and Nighat would also attend.

Nighat Dad raised an important point. She said it was important for WAF to be active on social media, but she was overwhelmed with her own work and therefore needed support from someone from WAF to keep WAF updated on the social media.

Everyone agreed and discussed who would be able to volunteer for this. The possibility of hiring someone was also brought up, but finally decided it was best to have someone from within WAF.

Nida suggested training for everyone, which everyone agreed was a very good idea. Nighat Dad was willing to do the training but said it would be best to have a younger person, comfortable with the technical aspects of social media who could focus on WAF.

Nighat Dad's fear was that she may burn out with all the work she was handling.

Mehreen has volunteered, but would first like to spend more time with WAF Members to understand the politics better, and since she has had personal problems needs time to settle back, both physically like shifting house and emotionally.

Mehreen was also interested in making things for WAF to help raise funds and to help her own business. Dupattas was one suggestion. Cheemi suggested other items as well, and she and Najji would help Mehreen with ideas.

Neelam said that Terms and Conditions between WAF and Mehreen should be stated clearly.

Agenda item # 2: Expansion of WAF

Rani said that a lot of the WAF members were senior, and we needed younger members to join and take on responsibilities.

Nida said the Political School sessions were very good and had got a lot of people, including herself interested. These should be started again, on zoom for the time being.

Neelam said we need to get to the root cause of the mindset which is victim blaming.

Rani suggested discussions with other groups. Cheemi agreed and said we could have webinars with people from different organizations, with academics etc to get different viewpoints.

Nida suggested we involve students as well.

Rani said we should take on only what we are able to do and needed to give serious thought to this.

Neelam said she could help with Political School until Bunny well enough to take it on again.

Nida said she would help with the Political School.

Agenda item # 3: Protest at Minar e Pakistan

Rani said that the WAF Banners should be placed where they are accessible. Can be stored in 2 or 3 places. Unfortunately, they were not accessible on the day of the Minar protest.

Rani pointed out that WAF presence was limited, but there were quite a few people other there. There was a disconnect between the different groups and this will be discussed at the JAC Meeting on Friday.

Press coverage was good and the women answered even the difficult Media questions well.

There was a group of men who were talking against the victim and when the women wanted to answer them the police stopped them. Rani suggested we meet with the CM and some senior police officers to discuss this attitude.

WAF consensus was to ignore the misogynist Khalil ur Rahman, or, as Cheemi suggested we counter with funny cartoons, which was always an effective tool to use.

Agenda item # 4: Other Matters

Rani and Tauseef will check with Bunny this week re:

- National WAF Webinar scheduled for September.
- How to proceed with the WAF Web-site.