

Minutes of WAF Meeting

4th April 2018

WAF had very good participation. Of the 15 women present 4 were entirely new to WAF who had been recently inspired. 6 regular WAF members came and 5 who are way members who have not been regular over the last few years. Some members who have also not been active sent messages of support and apologized for not coming since they were otherwise committed. Some potential or previous members sent messages that the meeting timings prevent them from participating.

The meeting was lively and everyone was very enthusiastic about working together as WAF.

Agenda and decisions:

1. Personal introductions. We decided that we would share a bit about our personal journeys and our activism. This was extremely exciting since most of us do not know each other even though we have been a part of many activities and struggles together. It was agreed that this helped in understanding and appreciating each other and several suggested that we have some sessions for the personal since they wanted to share much more and wanted to hear much more about the others.

2. Review reflection of the March 11th joint event. The feedback from those in the meeting and those who had interacted with the women who came, was very positive. Important aspects were a) that women themselves spoke about their work and their sectors and even gave recommendation. b) that the music and dance was a huge success, c) that it was serious issues with a lot of fun d) that women's rights and women workers rights were brought together, e) that we must not break this chain now that we are together f) that the gap between upper class WAF members and women workers was bridged and e) that it was very well moderated with both moderators making the event very lively and them conducting the programme in Punjabi. The press coverage was good and nothing negative was said not even about the dancing!

3. 1st may. Everyone agreed that we must come together for an event on the 1st of May. After considerable discussion at many levels and sharing past experiences, it was decided to organize an event by and for women with women speakers. Men were welcome but the lead would be taken by women.

We would then join the trade union march depending on what they have decided in terms of route and timings.

4. Three committees were formed to work towards this especially in terms of reaching out to

other groups and getting information on what else is being planned for the 1st. The committees are a) contacting and mobilizing women workers and getting in touch with trade unions to see what they are doing. The members are Shahnaz, Riffat, Rubina Jamil, Mumtaz, Ume Laila.

b) Committee to get in touch with feminist collective, women's collective, women's study groups in GC and PU. Members: Beenish, Anam, Nyla and Bunny

c) committee to reach out to lhvs and other professional women's groups who could be contacted. Members: Farida, Rani, Mumtaz.

5. Decided/reiterated that meetings will be every Wednesday but the timings would be from 3 to 5 pm since the majority of those present (and others who had sent messages to this effect) had issues of transport and other responsibilities after 5.

Rani suggested we make a formal slide show of the slides Lala had given since it is in demand. Titles need to be inserted with the photographs and a voice over commentary.

Rani will write the English and Urdu versions of the commentary. Bunny and Nyla said they would try to add the tiles and voice over. They may need some technical help with this but they take responsibility to get it done.

New members and those who were not familiar with WAF asked for a session on WAF, it's principles, positions and processes including decision making. Some stayed on and asked specific questions and were excited about WAF and how it works.