

WAF Meeting Minutes

16 Feb 2022

Present:

1. Khawar Mumtaz
2. Nighat Said Khan
3. Naazish Attaullah
4. Elaine Alam
5. Nida Usman
6. Ayra Inderias
7. Neelum Hussain
8. Samina Rehman

Ms. Samina was there for short while, so it was decided that meeting should start with the blasphemy issue.

1. Blasphemy:

Bunny: Waf should take initiative of calling a meeting of likeminded groups – witness protection and schemes around blasphemy – agenda would be what can we do and how to proceed, how to raise it in public domain.

Naazish: religious parties swot it down – political parties don't have clear agenda on this. We are talking about procedures. – one way to move forward. Do some advocacy around that. Take it up with JAZ and way fwd discussed.

Samina – HRCP should also be part of the discussion.

Khawar Mumtaz – all agreed - start discussion in JAC first.

Try and come laterally – More advocacy on what is included as blasphemy.

Samina – Put any such papers etc in a box at school and send it to a government institution – we cannot deal with the disposal of any such material at all...

Naazish – Urdu newspapers are thrown in rubbish = blasphemy commit ho gai?
Asaan harba to get at people

Elaine – should these religious things be written on newspaper?

Neelam – false accusations curb – due process followed. Emphasize on punishment on those who falsely accuse.

Bunny- blasphemy = it hurts feelings – not tangible like other crimes.

Samina - It will always be intangible. It can never be a law

Nida – writ of state – monopoly of use of force = state. Law in own hands.

Elaine – police co-opts with the mob.

Khawar. – people instigating it – how to deal with that?

Will talk to JAC.

Ayra: this issue needs to be taken from the law and order situation that is becoming quite hostile for communities at large. The public discourse fueling with hatred by clergy is going unchecked and uncontrolled.

2. 12 Feb webinar

Bunny – very exciting – calls from people who want to become members.

New members – should be on working committee or general body? Can we have a meeting with new members?

Khawar – engage with new kids and exchange info – then based on that find out where they fit.

Bunny – Nida coordinate the meeting with new + other members.

Elaine – more coordination on what was expected of speakers for some clarity.

Bunny – speakers were given specific points, some were very new. One or two went off point – some not prepared but others had put down some points. Energized that young women even joining waf.

Khawar – personal journey was interesting part. How you overcome barriers to become part of something that gives you direction.

3. Waf convention

Nida – need some intro on convention

Bunny – extremely important

Policy/principles agreed to by national waf. Chapters cannot make policy. Last one in 2016 by rotation this time Lahore's turn.

Agenda is made

Making agenda itself an agenda. Takes a long time.

Discuss among chapters and then come up with a chapter position. Always a discussion and then come back to our chapter we have to get an endorsement from chapter and then becomes the national position if all chapters agree.

Principle of consensus.

Not public at all. Most closed gathering within WAF.

Host Chapter: Raise money and budget – accommodation, travel and food.

Need to define issues/agenda etc in next meeting. Even the fact of having it.

They should also start identifying issues so should we – Khawar proposed month to hold convention = October 2022.

Khawar – invite agenda in national coordination group – telling them thinking of oct Organizing

4. Qandeel Baloch case

Nida – as soon as media pressure goes, the focus of authorities also goes.

Khawar - Pressure has to be kept on
State prosecutors don't go

Neelum – question of impunity arises again. Law of qisas and diyat huge facilitator/impediment. What do the judges think about it... what are their own prejudice and biases?

Khawar – not retrospective. Why isn't judge using his discretion?

5. March 8

Communicate our support and make banners and take our slogans.

6. Student sit in

Bunny – fighting for unions. Lots of support – pmln, ppp, aurat march, hrcp, waf but no one from govt has come.

Pm. Not willing to talk to students even. They need money.