

## **Working Committee Meeting Minutes**

**14<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

### **Agenda:**

1. WAF national meeting on the PTM
2. WAF national meeting on the WAF RTIs
3. National convention hosted by WAF Lahore
4. WAF charter of Democracy
5. WAF webinar on Ayra's thesis
6. JAC statement of demands
7. HKM meeting and statement of demands
8. WAF observers for the PDM rally on the 16<sup>th</sup>
9. WAF national meeting on the campaign against Shias scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> Oct

### **Participation:**

Salima; Nyla; Rani; Maryam; Ayra; Ruby; Noni; Nasrene; Neelam; Bunny

1. Maryam gave detailed feedback on the meeting with the PTM. The discussion focused on the various types of oppression and suppression on the isolation of the PTM from national discourse. The PTM would like WAF to give the PTM support; to raise the situation and silencing on social media and to work towards bringing the PTM into the national narrative; to name and include the PTM situation in our statements and demands; to reach out to the PTM and to meet them and their leaders whenever they come to Lahore. WAF agreed to the above. It also said that the PTM and its specificity would be given in the WAF charter of democracy. Bunny was asked to try contact the PTM for its demands so that they can be included in the charter
2. Bunny gave feedback on the WAF national meeting on its RTIs. The only positive response has been from the Information Commission Lahore which has asked the Registrar of the Lahore High Court to give the information requested by WAF on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Ruby Nyla and Bunny will go and meet the Commissioner on Monday to ask if the Registrar had responded and what the response was. Given the lack of feedback WAF is now consulting lawyers on the possibility of the next stage which would be litigation
3. It was agreed that Lahore would host the next national convention possibly on and around 12<sup>th</sup> February. The last convention was in 2016 and it is necessary to have a convention especially in 2021 when waf celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday! Preparing for conventions takes a long time so it is urgent that Lahore initiate the process as soon as possible. Past experience is that finalizing the agenda and the convention process takes a few months and chapter positions take another month or so. Lahore is to share this with other chapters as soon as possible. ‘
4. The waf charter of demands was discussed in detail. It was agreed that this would be comprehensively framed especially on how waf perceives democracy and not a list of demands. The statement committee would prepare the first draft and share it with the working committee. Since this will be a waf national document the draft will be shared

with the other chapters for a final policy document. It will then be shared with other groups, networks and forums for information and/or endorsement. The charter must be translated into Urdu and other languages and shared nationally and at every level.

5. The WAF webinar on Ayra's thesis is now going to be held 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. 6 to 7.30 pm. Nyla to send out the information on social media and others also to share it among women's groups.
6. The JAC statement of demands were discussed briefly. While it has some important demands that the waf statement could refer to, it does not reflect the main problematique in Pakistan.
7. The HKM meeting and the discussions was shared by Bunny. The meeting was very inclusive with workers, community workers, lawyers, journalists, teachers, doctors, students (especially Baluch students and students from FATA), Hunza activists including the sister of Baba Jan, and women's organizations including WAF. Jac was also represented. Bunny found the meeting very interesting and powerful. The discussions and decisions in the form of a charter of demands based on the demands made in the meeting. The HKM and other groups are organizing a peoples' assembly on 2<sup>nd</sup> of November in front of the Assembly. They hope to have large mobilization including delegations from other cities of the Punjab. Bunny is to get the charter of demands from HKM for the statement committee.
8. HRCP has asked WAF members to join it as observers of the PDM Jalsa on the 16<sup>th</sup> in Gujranwala. Although no member volunteered to go there was an intensive and extensive discussion on the PDM and whether and at what point would Waf join the movement. Several waf members expressed a reluctance to join a JUIF led alliance. That apart the PDM offers no explanation of what it actually wants and how it wants to execute this. is there a plan beyond getting Imran Khan to resign? In house change, fresh elections? And then what? More of the same? The role of the military in all of this. while expressing caution waf decided to be a part of a larger more inclusive movement should be become something like the lawyers' movement but that it would not join if it remained exclusive to PDM. Waf will share it charter of democracy with the PDM. Nyla suggested that waf join the HKM assembly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November. WAF agreed
9. Several members decided to join the waf national meeting on Saturday on the campaign against Shias. Bunny said she would post the link on the waf Lahore group.
10. There is some confusion on the composition of the sub committees in terms of membership. Agreed that there was overlap and while all committees are connected with each other and with the working committee they need to be separated for clarity. The statement committee is: ruby, neelam, meena, rani, farida and Maryam. The law committee: ikra, nighat dad, sahar, ambreen and neelam. The media committee: nyla nighat dad, seerat and bunny
11. The national coordinators are nyla and bunny. The conveners now have four members neelam ikra nyla and bunny. This four member convenorship needs to work the specific responsibilities of each member. So far bunny has been representing waf in Jac, other groups and meetings. This needs to be shared.