

## WAF Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### Participants

1. Ayra
2. Farida
3. Khawar
4. Naila
5. Neelam
6. Samina Bano
7. Tauseef

### Agenda Item # 1: Kamla Bhasin Reference

Karachi was probably planning a reference for Kamla , Khawar will check on this and ask them to go ahead. Rosan also doing a reference on Saturday and JAC planning a Reference as well.

### Agenda Item # 2: Afghan Refugees

Farida said that Afghan refugees were entering Pakistan illegally and facing a lot of problems. The Hazara Community was helping but many more needed help, especially those without families in Pakistan and children separated from their families. HRCP was unable to take up this issue until the Government gave the refugees some sort of legal status. At the moment Pakistan does not have a position.

Neelam was to write a statement on this, but it got delayed because of other pressing matters, but will be doing it soon.

### **Agenda Item # 3: Other Matters**

- Statement on the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women Ad to be sent to press, sent to Members of the Punjab Assembly and put on social Media as soon as possible, as it had already been two weeks since the Ad came out.
- WAF Members noted that the Punjab Assembly has passed a Bill about the Finality of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) Quranic Verses and Hadiths about Khatm-e Nabuwaat in Golden Letters to be put up in all Government Offices and District Boundaries.

The Sindh government has already done this.

- Farida was afraid of the repercussions of the Taliban in Afghanistan in Pakistan.

Already people in parts of KP were being threatened about girls being sent to school, and journalist threatened not to publicize any of this. WAF will check with Peshawar WAF about this.

Khawar said that the Prime Minister himself was saying he would not enact any law against Islamic guidelines during his rule – this includes the Domestic Violence Law and the Forced Conversions.

- Some lawyer had gone to court asking to ban Gender Studies as it challenges family values and religious laws. HEC has set up a committee to look into this.

WAF will also ask HRCP if they have any information on the case. Since it was filed in Dec 2020 it may not have been accepted by the courts in which case WAF thought it best not to publicize it at all.

- Khawar felt that the National Coordinators were reacting slowly and often no response was received. Naila also said that often no reply was received from the Chapters. Khawar will take it up in a meeting with them. Another problem was that WAF's contacts with the press seemed to be waning and

statements were not being printed. WAF members will try to activate their contacts wherever possible.