

WAF Meeting Minutes

13th October 2021

Participants

1. Farida Shaheed
2. Khawar Mumtaz (Rani)
3. Mehreen Ahmed
4. Naila Naz
5. Neelam Hussein
6. Nighat Khan (Bunny)
7. Samina Rahman (Meena)
8. Tauseef Hyat

Agenda Item # 1: Charity Commission

The Charity Commission has asked for one representative from Civil Society to give their inputs. Some NGO's have got a 'stay' and this does not affect WAF, but many WAF Members who are running NGOs are affected by this notification. Hina is one of the lawyers, who has said that this has no legality. The Commission wants all NGOs to register and get certificates from the Charity Commission or else their accounts will be frozen. WAF will talk to Tahseen and others to decide who will represent Civil Society and discuss with lawyers what they should be asking for.

Agenda Item # 2: Rehmatul-lil-Alameen Authority Announced

The Prime Minister says "authority to monitor curriculum, remain vigilant of any blasphemous content on social media", and a lot else.

WAF pondering on how to deal with this and what its repercussions are going to be on education and further censorship and what else it will be encroaching upon.

Nighat (Bunny) said that Imran Khan was creating a narrative which is being internalized.

Khawar thought it was also a way of getting support from the religious right wing, like Labbaik for the next elections.

It was decided that the issue would be discussed with all the other WAF Chapters first, so we have a national position, and then we could widen it to other organizations academics and the press. Also important to know what the younger people are thinking about this.

Khawar will send a message to the national coordinators for a meeting on this issue.

Agenda Item # 3: Open Letter to the PM

The letter is being released in Islamabad today, and WAF Lahore will try to get it to the press and post it on its fb etc.

Agenda Item # 4: Forced Conversions

The Asma Jahangir Group is holding a panel discussion on Forced Conversions and it was agreed that Ayra would be the best person to represent WAF. Khawar will be on the panel – Shrinking Spaces. Farida is Moderating the session on Forced Conversions.

Agenda Item # 5: Other Matters

WAF will send a letter of condolence to Shaista Malik on the death of her husband, and to Seher on the death of her Father in Law. Neelam to write the letters and forward to Naila for printing on letterhead and sending.