

## **WAF General Body Meeting**

**8<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

### **Participants**

1. Ayra
2. Elaine Alam
3. Farida Shaheed
4. Naila Naz
5. Nida Usman
6. Nighat Dad
7. Nighat Khan (Bunny)
8. Rifat Maqsood
9. Rukhsana Shah
10. Tauseef Hyat
11. Umme Laila (Unable to connect)

### **Agenda item #1: *Timing of Meetings***

4pm was convenient for most members, but not all. For the convenience of the members, the meeting will try to finish within an hour. Members are requested to join in time.

### **Agenda item # 2: *Conveners/ Responsibilities***

Ayra and Naila will be the conveners for the next three months. Conveners will come on a three month rotation unless somebody volunteers to take on a longer stint.

### **Agenda item # 3: *Sharing of Proceedings on Harassment Law***

Nighat Dad gave a presentation on the amendments suggested to the standing committee. The meeting was recorded, but some of the point suggested to the committee were:

Widening scope of employee to include volunteers. This would include students and domestic workers. Nighat said we also need to look at Provincial Laws.

- Domestic workers can go to Ombudsperson.
- Another amendment Ombudsperson must complete the process within 90 days.
- Everyone agreed to 10A. Workplace definition expanded – including concerts, gigs etc. Added more places such as where rehearsals take place, stadiums and gyms to protect sportspersons.

Rukhsana suggested – ‘including but not limited too’

- Some debate took place in the Standing Committee over semantics. The word ‘sexist’ was not accepted, but gender discrimination was included. “Court” not just ‘Courtroom’ suggested.
- Sherry Rehman, PPP Member of Standing Committee supported the amendments.

Bunny asked what the Process was now.

Final document will go back to Standing Committee and then Bill with amendments will be sent for approval to Parliament. Nida added that in Parliament questions may be raised before approval.

### **Agenda item # Other Items**

Farida Shaheed said the incident in Faisalabad was horrific and WAF should give a statement but there were no volunteers to do this. Farida had also talked to Hina Jilani as to what should be done about Sialkot etc. Hina too wondered as to how many people were willing to come out and protest on these issues. Fear is silencing people.

Farida also mentioned that in Gwadar the women were protesting in large numbers and the party supporting the protests was the JI. None of the other parties doing anything in Gwadar.

Farida suggested that WAF should look at the Women’s Studies Curriculum, and Ayra said she would look at it and give her comments.

Bunny reported that the person selected to head the Rehmat ul Al Ameen Committee was a professor from LUMS, Ejaz Akram, who was a total fascist.

Elaine said we should ask why there is a need for this as we already have the CII.

There was a discussion on the SNC and the money being wasted on revising the curriculum, which meant that it was flawed.

Nida felt that the Government was pushing its indoctrination agenda and trying to take control of education, so they could control the whole narrative. Meanwhile parents were worried and even the children were scared of the monitors coming to check their pronunciation of Arabic.