

**Minutes of WAF Meeting**  
**18<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Attendees:**

1. Nighat Said Khan (Bunny)
2. Khawar Mumtaz (Rani)
3. Neelam Hussain
4. Tauseef Hyat
5. Naazish Ataullah (Najji)
6. Ayra Indrias
7. Nyla Naz
8. Ambreen Fatima
9. Riffat Maqsood

**Agenda of the Meeting:**

1. Statement on Palestine-Israel war / Neelam and Meena to write
2. Silence on GAZA by Civil Society
3. Political Development in the country
4. Military Courts for Civilians / WAF Petition to refer for further working and updates
5. WAF Twitter handling / need to add members as admin

**Details:**

1. Neelam shared that she and Meena are working on the statement and will get back to working committee ASAP. A detail discussion was held on this issue and various aspects were discussed among the members. The points discussed are as follows:
  - Stop Bombing in Palestine
  - All of us are so crushed by what is happening in Palestine
  - Genocide
  - Hamas / civilian casualties, hostages. Hamas should not attack on civilians / no need to justify violence.
  - Saudia, Qatar and other Islamic countries are coming out on this issue
  - Pakistan Government is very slow on this issue
  - No positions of Political parties on Palestine issue, they all are quiet, i.e., ANP, PTM etc
  - A statement given by Jamat-e-Islami

- ❖ A strong statement from WAF is needed in which we need to condemn what is happening in PALESTINE from last 12 days. A paragraph to write on the history of last 75 years of Palestine situation, negative responses from USA and Europe to mention, and the Pakistan Govt response to Palestine issue, Govt should take a stand, at least.

## 2. Silence on GAZA by Civil Society

- ❖ The overall silence from the civil society on Palestine is very worrying. A suggestion came up from Bunny that WAF should call a meeting of like-minded people and groups on the issue of Palestine and to discuss that why the Civil Society is not together on this issue of holding larger protests with proper mobilisation.

It was mentioned that HKP would be more democratic and inclusive in decision making. Its last call was so small, it was horrifying. Many of us were ashamed that there was little interest in positioning ourselves and mobilising across progressive society. This call on selected social media for participation in a rally the next day only highlights how unilateral decisions are made and how fragmented the progressive community is.

WAF decided to speak to WDF, AWP, HKP, Progressive Students Collective, Labour Unions, Aurat March, Feminist Collective, HRCP, JAC etc to meet and make a joint concertive mobilisation that is widespread. We also to be fast but also not that fast that we end up standing alone!

- <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>. Political Development in the country / Military Courts for Civilians  
WAF wants Democracy in the country and no party should be side lined from the Elections. The party must be part of the Elections. WAF petition on the amendment of Law for Military Courts to refer again on which Bunny and Rani signed. It was decided that Bunny and Rani will write the statement on these issues.
  5. WAF Twitter / with reference to our last meeting, it was again discussed that individual members to made their personal account on Twitter and to learn how to operate and use of this important social media platform. Later, Nighat Dad to be contacted for more training on the use of Twitter and to add Nighat Khan and Erum Kashif as Admins to handle the official Twitter account @WAFLaHore.
- ❖ It was decided that Nyla Naz to remain as Co-convener.