

WAF MINUTES

21st October 2020

AGENDA

1. Update on reaching out to PTM
2. Feedback from statement Committee on the WAF Charter of Democracy
3. Campaign against Shias. Lahore's Plan of Action
4. The National Convention
5. Reaching out to the LHWs

ATTENDANCE

Popti; Nyla; Topsy; Riffat; Maryam; Sahar; Rani; Ambreen; Najji; Maria; Bunny

1. Bunny is in touch with Farooq Tariq to send a message to Mohsin Davar and Ali Wazir that WAF would like to meet them if they are in Lahore and would like a national WAF Zoom meeting with them. WAF would like to be briefed about the PTM and the situation it is in (including cases against its members) so that it can raise these issues at the national level. WAF would like suggestions from them on the best way that WAF could support the PTM. Bunny will follow up on this directly and through Farooq. The PTM is actively involved in the PDM and may not be available in the near future but our message of support can be communicated to them.
2. The statement committee has met (zoom) and drawn up a framework with subsections that different members will be working on. The focus is on what WAF means by democracy rather than a statement of demands. The committee members working on this are Rani, Maryam, Neelam, Ruby and Sahar. Ruby is writing the preamble. Maryam is working on aspects of rights. Rani and Sahar will be looking at justice and access to justice. It was decided that the committee will share the draft with the working committee, the General Body and other WAF chapters so that it becomes a national WAF document. While there is an urgency to get this done WAF is inclusive in its decision making and decision especially across chapters can take time because each chapter will discuss it and there will be back and forth before the document is finalized.
3. Plan of Action on the campaign against Shias. WAF decided to have a meeting with members of the Shia Community. While it would include JAC in this first meeting it was decided to keep it small. Popti will find out about progressive Shias whom WAF could invite. Bunny will get in touch with the secular Shia group (contact shared by WAF Karachi). Ume Laila, Nasrene and Gulnar will also be asked for progressive Shias that they may know. We will get through to each other on WhatsApp by Saturday and decide how to proceed.
4. It was agreed that WAF Lahore would hold the next National Convention on and around 12th February. There was considerable discussion on this in terms of the process. Since

WAF will be celebrating its 40 years it is expected that members from other chapters will come in larger groups than previous conventions (average 30 members from other chapters and about 20 from the host chapter). The conventions are open to general body members in Lahore WAF. Bunny estimates that we will have about 60 plus members in the convention. Bunny suggested that we look at the 1991 convention and the WAF position document as possible processes and content. The 1991 convention was intensive discussions often in smaller workshops on key areas. In 1995 WAF produced a document with a detailed preamble followed by its positions and demands.

5. The convention will focus on updating its charter. The non-negotiables are given but other aspects of the charter need more substance and demands that reflect the present.
6. The agenda is made by all the chapters given their inputs. There is normally long inter and intra discussions before an agenda is finalized.
7. Each chapter prepares a chapter report and its positions on each of the agenda items. Chapter members stay within their chapter positions. In the discussion members can respond and intervene but the chapter positions are not changed until further discussion in the chapters after the convention.
8. Bunny and Nyla will share this information with the chapter coordinators
9. Two committees need to be formed. The agenda and content committee to write the drafts for discussions and decisions and the logistic committee. The agenda and content committee is not the same as the statement committee although there will be some overlaps. Bunny and Nyla will be a part of the agenda/content committee especially since this will require ongoing communication with the other chapters. Bunny will take the lead on this committee. Ayra and Ambreen were mentioned for this committee or for the logistics committee depending on their preference.
10. The logistic committee is responsible for all other arrangements including the celebratory event (the Cholistani women's singers were discussed). Topsy will take the lead for this committee. Popti Zareen Nyla, Najji and other volunteers will be members of this committee.
11. Ali Institute was mentioned as a possible venue. The delegates will be accommodated in the homes of members.
12. WAF will write a letter to the LHWs leadership congratulating them on a successful protest and will extend its support for any future action. Letter to be written in Urdu.
13. Rani to call Salman Raja for an update of our challenge to the Minorities Commission.
14. WAF decided to join the People's Assembly on the 8th of November. WAF would take its banner and flags. WAF needs some new banners on relevant issues and needs additional flags. These should be on cloth and not flex. Nyla will speak on behalf of WAF.