

WAF Meeting Minutes

18th April 2018

1. Participation was good with two additional potential members

2. It was decided that Waf supports the PTM. Members will be asked to participate on the 22nd. Waf will also draft a statement which will be shared with all was chapters. The deadline for responses or inputs is Friday morning since it then has to be translated into Urdu and typed. This will be given to PTM and will also serve as our press release. Bunny will do the draft and nyla the translation with Sahera typing it into Urdu. Nyla and sahara may have to come to asr on Saturday depending on whether the process is not completed by Friday evening.

2. 1st May. Collaborating groups/organizations: labour education foundation; Homenet; women's democratic front (TBC although we have positive feedback); wise (tbc); blif; tahmeer e nau; aurat foundation; APTUF; women's collective; the feminist collective (tbc); WAF

a) Mobilization: approximately 150 confirmed but several are still to mobilize including WAF.

b) Meeting with APTUF in terms of the route of their march. Women will gather at a point along this route and join in as a group. APTUF is to be asked to have at least 3 women on this as speakers in the main speeches. Nyla, Nighat, Shahnaz and other will meet with APTUF.

d) However women will also have their own dhala and music system so that women can make their demands. Sahera is to arrange for the dhalla.

e) Music system (for speakers and for the songs we intend to play). Maisoon is to look into renting the system. However Maisoon suggested that WAF buy its own system since it often needs this. She will look in to the costs and let us know.

f) Banners. Use the ones we have (the ones made recently are the wrong colour and look too different). It was decided that we would use our duppatas by cutting them into two pieces and have flags made. Sahera and Hanifa will get these done.

g) Nyla is to follow up with those groups which have not yet confirmed.

h) Statement: several members have already sent in suggestions. These should be collated under headings. Other demands by specific groups are to send in their by the next meeting. Rubina saigol, Neelam meena and farida (the statement committee) will be asked to do the collating and to write up the statement of demands. This will be read out by a WAF member on the 1st and will be our press release.

i) Initial information about this will be posted on the WAF fb page and shared by Bunny.

j) The statement will also be printed and given out during the rally. Members from DRF will design the formal information/invitation to be posted on fb and otherwise disseminated. The design and leaflets will be using the WAF colours of yellow and black. Members from DRF will take on this responsibility.

3. Meeting timings: the decision is to hold the meetings from 3 to 5 pm. We need to alternate the timings if necessary on an annual basis so that all members can participate. The 3 to 5 timings will be revisited next May. It was hoped that as many members as possible are able to adjust their schedules for this weekly meeting. However since most of the actual work of WAF is done by members at different times depending on the nature of the work, every member is important to WAF and can contribute in multiple ways.

4. Since Nabiha, Tammo and Farida were not there to discuss the issues raised earlier, in any detail, the two main issues were discussed briefly. If a person is not a member of a chapter it stands to reason that they not be included in the Waf national group. The rationale was that chapters are represented in the national groups and to a large extent represent their chapters. It stands to reason that if a person is not a member of a chapter they are not likely to represent chapter inputs.

As for a member of former members criticizing WAF outside WAF an earlier convention decision was referred to where it as decided that if positions and statements or actions that go against the interests of WAF they cease to be members until they clarify their positions and actions. Several instances were referred not least the split in 1983 especially since Nabiha specifically sent out a tweet on this.

The general atmosphere and mood was lively, interesting with a lot of personal sharing and questions raised on waf, it's policies and positions and the rationale plus decision making processes. Bringing the personal into the political was considered very important and it was agreed that there would be round of brief introductions before each meeting when new or old members come for the first time.