

WAF meeting with Aurat March Organizers

Theme for Aurat March: Reimagining Justice

3 March 2022

Participants

1. Ajwa
2. Erum
3. Hiba
4. Jalvat
5. Leena
6. Meena
7. Naazish (Najji)
8. Naila
9. Nighat (Bunny)
10. Khawar (Rani)
11. Salima (Cheemi)
12. Shmyla
13. Tauseef
14. Umme Laila

Hiba explained why they had chosen the theme – Reimagining Justice.

One of the reasons being the murders which have taken place – the Qandeel murder, Nur Mukkadam, then the Motorway rape etc. She said within their organization they had discussed the limitation of the criminal justice system. Which included factors such as how IMF conditionality's take away funding for Development – such as hostels for women etc. the existing class structure, domestic violence and disparity.

Ajwah talked about the importance of ‘care’, the value of care. She talked about reaching out to communities and the importance of sharing both their problems but also having fun together, singing ‘tapas’ & playing the ‘Dholki’.

Leena said it was important to open up the conversation about hope and love and kindness.

Bunny said she had lot of questions on this, and one of the problems being having ‘love’ for the perpetrator of the crime. For the survivor was understandable.

Shmyla explained the concept of accountability and flexibility, and said that every situation doesn’t need criminalization. Talked about alternative justice.

Ajwah added that they were thinking of creating an atmosphere of rehabilitation.

Rani remarked that we haven’t resolved how to take this forward, it needs more clarity so that it is not misconstrued by others. Cheemi agreed with Rani that combating violence in a nuanced way was the crux.

Hiba said they had been thinking of prevention to address the bigger structural reason for crimes.

Najji said that in the educational co-ed field times have changed and women speaking out has made a big difference in the culture of the educational institutions today, and for that she would like to salute the younger generation of women.

When Rani asked how all this would be sloganized, Hiba explained their posters and other art work, some of which came from the communities they worked with and who they involved so that they could depict exactly what they wanted to say.

Umme Laila brought up the issue of Police Reporting and Hiba said we are aware of the problems, the patriarchal mind set, custodial rape, forced prostitution etc. Shmyla said that there have been workshops on sensitizing the police but one or two workshops are not enough, the mind-set needs to be changed.

Hiba said they had had a conversation with like-minded lawyers which helped the lawyers to understand their point of view and next time they hope to interact with journalists. They do support PFUJ on PECA.

In reply to Bunny’s question about their structure Hiba explained how they organized themselves and how they interact with other organizations. She also said that they had built on all the solid work done by the older generation of women activists.

The plan for Tuesday 8th March is to meet outside the Press Club at 2pm. March to Falettis will start at 3pm. Art work will be displayed along the route and performances will take place outside Falettis.

Najji and Cheemi going to Multan to join the AM there.