

WAF Working Committee Meeting Minutes

18th November 2020

Present: Naila Naz Host, Topsy, Ruby, Bunny, Jalvat, Nighatdad, Salima, Ayra, Ambreen. Riffat Maqsood

1. Charter status as is. No further contributions/input by anyone. Bunny perhaps you need to send reminders

2. WAF's participation in meetings with political groups and entities with ref to the confusion and queries regarding the PDM invitation.

Bunny: As lobby cum pressure group WAF has historically engaged with political parties and the government to present and argue for its point of view: Ref Majlis e Shura under Zia, Nawaz Sharif re not destabilizing the PPP govt in 2008, etc. These meetings have been used to present our point of view and push for our demands.

NH: Re the PDM invite as long as we don't own it, I see no reason not to attend

Bunny: Hina raised the issue that we should raise our issues with PMLN. After all we are meeting PTM which is also a political party

NH: Should see what PDM is saying – also get through to PPP

Bunny: We need the Charter for this – bullet points

NH: Existing points sufficient for this engagement

Bunny: Need doc so we go with it as WAF and not in our individual capacity. Also share it with PPP, parliamentarians etc.

Nighatdad: Do we go to the meeting at HRCP with the Charter? Also want to raise issue of blanket statements about NGOs using top down approach. Many NGOs doing good work and have contributed towards the movement. Lumping us all together is disabling and negative. It happened in Aurat March also. My response is to step back - get sidelined. A larger conversation is needed on this issue.

NH: Agree on larger conversation

Bunny: Yes, it's a process, WAF was initiated by an NGO.

Naila: Nighat no need to step back from our own engagement. Criticism will always be there.

Bunny: I represent WAF in JAC, others should go to other groups to at least hear what others are saying.

3. WAF Calendar: Bunny's feedback post Zoom with Maryam R and Aisha Jatoi.

Decisions taken:

Format: A wall calendar as opposed to desk calendar.

Content: photos and posters have been done many times. This time use watershed moments decisions/events such as declaring ourselves as secular – a mix of textual and visual material. These images could also be used as cut outs. Focus on diversity – e.g statements on the Iraq war and for peace, on blasphemy, conflict etc. Bunny will go through statements including excerpts from minutes e.g. of the first meeting at Farrukh Apa's house and scan whatever material is needed.

NH: Names of the first group – founders should be included

Bunny: Yes, I have copy – so does Fareeda Shaheed. The Minutes were cyclostyled. Maryam R and Aisha J will go through the material and ask for write-ups where needed for narrative continuity and context.

Design: Use good paper and go for sepia tones. This material will hand over to Maryam R and Aisha Jatoi who are hiring a designer to design and print it. Designer

will have to be paid. We also need to get printing estimates. Shortfall to be met by contributions by WAF members

Print run: Bunny suggested 1000

Tops: Yes 1000 is OK

4. Labaik Dharna was discussed as show of power by the Khadim Rizvi with the government's capulation (even if it doesn't honour its commitments as in ref the Asiya Bibi case) gives traction to extremist forces.

It was suggested that WAF should give a brief statement on this.

Ruby and NH both pleaded time issues but Ruby said as we already have a comprehensive statement on Labaik we could use that for a smaller statement also highlighting on the government's selective approach evidenced in no action against Labaik as opposed to PDM/others.

Tops suggested doing a Tweet to save time.

Nighatdad explained Tweet dynamics

5. PTM Webinar

Ref Mohsin Dawar's availability plus workload Bunny asked if we could wait on this? While there was agreement on this, Nighat Dad pointed out that PTM was facing resistance from ANP as per information given by Afrasiab Khattak's son (Khushal Khattak) and Fazl ur Rehman was trying to get MD out of PDM. Therefore PTM needs support.

Ruby: Agree. Must support Dawar. PTM the best party

Bunny: Will call Mohsin tomorrow – and we still want the webinar?

General agreement on that.

6. Mullah Tariq Masood's video message on YouTube on child marriage. His 'explanation' plus refusal to apologise and claims that he is receiving life threats discussed. Also the implications of such videos on social attitudes and acceptance of sexual violence and abuse etc.