

Working Committee Meeting Minutes

2nd December 2020

Agenda Item No. 1. Update and Discussion on WAF Charter of Democracy.

There was a general consensus that PDM was only inviting WAF and other civil society organizations to show that they were acting democratically, and would eventually make compromises. Especially, as Neelam pointed out, on the larger issues of Poverty, Kashmir & Gilgit-Baltistan and also the larger socio-political arena. WAF members objected to Fazul Rahman's (JUI) rant against the Ahmadi's in Larkana. Farida reminded Members of the track record of these parties when they were in power. Shahnaz also cautioned that WAF should be careful in their engagement with PDM.

Maryam suggested that we should have a dialogue with PDM, but not give them points. Dialogue could include questions such as:

- (i) How do they intend to get rid of the Government constitutionally
- (ii) Why was PTM sidelined
- (iii) JUI's position on minority communities.

After some discussion it was decided that WAF would not meet with PDM, but would share their shorter version of the Charter of Democracy with the various Parties/PDM. Bunny would inform JAC and Hina of WAF's position on this issue.

The longer version of the COD would take more time as the statement committee members are tied up at present, and there is no rush for that. Possibly by January or February.

Agenda Item No.2 (added later) The Rape Law

Nighat Dad explained that together with Seher Bandial, Dania and Bunny they had studied the Rape Act and very soon they would be sending their recommendations to the relevant Ministries. They were hoping to send these before the President signed it as law. Bunny suggested that they should also try and take the views of the Karachi Team involved with this law, like Maliha Zia et al. Nighat would share the recommendations with the Working Committee.

Nighat would send copy of Act only to the WAF working committee as the final version was not ready yet.

Agenda Item No. 3: WAF Calendar Update

Work on the Calendar has been delayed as Bunny has not been well and therefore not been able to locate the documents needed for the Calendar. Date of Calendar will therefore be delayed somewhat.

Agenda Item No. 4: PTM Webinar

Since quite a few WAF members are busy, Bunny will talk to PTM and arrange Webinar around Mid-December.

Other Items

- Webinar with Neelam to be held tentatively on Friday 11th December. Neelam to confirm.
- Naila suggested that Shahnaz, Ambreen and other volunteers should plan for February 12th. The theme is ***Freedom of Speech***, and so skits and speeches have to be political. Salima will arrange for a skit, Huma will also plan something. Participants need to be contacted, nurses organization etc. Final decision for 'go ahead' will be taken in January after assessing the Covid situation.
- Contributions will be needed for all the expenses for Feb. 12th.
- It was agreed that the technical aspect of Zoom should be improved, Maryam suggested a grid where all the participants could be seen. The Convener would make certain that all participants were given a chance to speak.