

Minutes of WAF Working Committee Meeting

17th February 2021

Participants

1. Bunny
2. Fauzia
3. Mehreen
4. Naila
5. Neelam
6. Nida
7. Rani
8. Tauseef

Agenda Item # 1: Ravi River Urban Development Project (RRUDP)

Rani said that a statement from WAF should be out before the court hearing - Fauzia will do the statement of about 2 to 3 paras and have it ready by tomorrow.

Fauzia gave an update: Rafay Alam has filed a plea to the Lahore High Court, The Judge is Justice Shams Mahmood Mirza, and members said he was someone who was sympathetic to environmental issues. The plea is on the basis that the Consultant is not registered with the government and this is a violation of the law. May get a Stay.

WC Members felt that it was important for WAF to highlight the issue of displacement of about 100,000 people. Fauzia was also very concerned about the effort of this project to 'train' the river by building high walls to determine its course.

HRCP is also pursuing the issue of the displacement of so many people, including women and children.

Rani said that was good, as multiplicity of cases would lead to more awareness among the public. There is also a public hearing of RRUDP on Sunday.

Bunny suggested that WAF could also do a case, to increase pressure, after seeing how the cases which have already been filed are proceeding.

Fauzia wondered how the Big Dams issue had been dealt with. Rani said there had been a Commission headed by Omar Asghar Khan and many of its suggestion were incorporated by the Government in their Guidelines.

Apparently, people displaced by Tarbela and Mangla Dams have still not settled their compensation issues. There is also the question of how useful these dams have been.

Mehreen will share research her on the Dams.

Agenda Item # 2: Single National Curriculum

Neelam, together with Erum, has been talking on the You Tube channel Native Media and waiting for feedback on the two episodes.

It was agreed that this issue needs much more awareness, particularly on mainstream media, especially as the government was giving their view constantly.

It was decided that the WAF Policy Paper would be sent to:

Shazeb Khanzada

Asma Shirazi

Hamid Mir

Najam Sethi

Mubashir Zaidi (Zara Hat Kay – DAWN)

Others we can think off.

Rani said that Naya Daur TV was listened to by Policy Makers.

The idea being to make more people aware.

Volunteers are needed to talk on Programmes when/if invited.

Names suggested were: Ruby, Najji, Rani and anyone else who is willing. Neelam and Erum are already doing programmes.

Nida has shared her paper on the SNC confidentially. She is also engaging with parents.

Agenda Item # 3: WAF WEBSITE

Bunny said the WAF Website was being developed. Meanwhile videos are being uploaded on our YouTube Channel. The Zoom Discussions will also be uploaded. The SNC clips will also come on to You Tube, and any events with WAF as participants can be uploaded with permission.

Agenda Item # 4: Rules, Regulations and Procedures

The ongoing discussion on this subject continued to decide what should be discussed in the final presentation to the GB and New Members.

Neelam and Rani, (anyone else can join) will make an initial plan and then present it to the WC for further discussion and fine-tuning.

Agenda Item # 5: Webinars and Webinars

Karachi is holding a WEBINAR on Mobilisation, to which Neelam was asked to speak on the women's Movement. Bunny suggested that if it's on Mobilisation, the best person to represent WAF, Lahore would be Naila, as she has been doing a lot of mobilization. Neelam will talk to Kausar (Kar WAF) and clarify the situation.

Karachi is holding a closed Zoom meeting with the Hazara Women on Monday, the 22nd at 6pm.

Five persons were invited from each chapter. Lahore Members joining this meeting are

Erum

Popti

Bunny

Rani

Mehreen.

There is a Webinar hosted by Afiya on Saturday 20th February, from 6 – 8 pm on ***Men, Military, Mullah and Money.***

Ruby has been invited in her personal capacity. Link will probably be shared soon.

Fatima Syed is doing a Documentary project for BBC for Women's Day (please read WhatsApp from Naila for details)

Fatima needed five women who had been at the 12th Feb Jalsa. She has already contacted Rani and Neelam. Names and phone numbers of Bunny, Meena, Rubina Saigol and Rubina Jamil being sent to her by Naila.

More Webinar news on WhatsApp.

Agenda Item # 6: Aurat March

Neelam had brought up this subject and was concerned about the theme of the Aurat March on 8th March i.e. Washing Dirty Linen. Neelam was wondering what the impact of putting up dirty clothes in public spaces, like the Mall, would have on the public in general and the working class women in particular. Thought the Aurat March organizers need to reflect on this idea, and

especially as ‘Washing your dirty linen in public’, was a very English idiom and may not be understood by a majority of women.

Bunny said the theme for the Aurat March this year was to focus on Women’s health issues.

It was decided that the next WAF meeting on Wednesday would be open to the General Body and the Aurat March organizers would also be invited to discuss the 8th March programme.