

Minutes of the WAF WC Meeting – March 03 2021

Participants

1. Ambreen Fatima
2. Erum Kashif
3. Farida Shaheed
4. Fauzia Qureshi
5. Khawar Mumtaz
6. Mehreen Ahmed
7. Naila Naz
8. Nasreen Shah
9. Nida Usman Ch
10. Nighat Dad
11. Nighat Khan (Bunny)
12. Popty Bukhari
13. Rubina Saigol
14. Ume Laila
15. Zehra Zaidi

Agenda item # 1 – Procedures

A discussion took place on whether to have a General Body meeting on WAF's history, its policies, interaction between chapters etc.

Rani suggested that for new members we need to explain the basic steps. She said that first a group of the older WAF members should discuss it together, written by her and Neelam on the procedures, for any additions or clarity and then have a discussion with the GB.

Mehreen, Nida, Ambreen and Erum all agreed that they would first like to know about defined roles and duties. Once they have understood these, then they would be in a position to ask others to join WAF. It was also suggested to formulate or update the WAF brochure and membership forms to further distribute among people to get them in the WAF platform. We need to formulate our strategies to engage people with us.

A detail discussion held on having our General Body group separately or not? While in view of their participation in meeting and other activities and events? If we are inviting WC, no use of GB? Why people are not active in WAF General Body???

Farida Shaheed said that we need to think that how we get involve GB members. She suggested to ask the GB members that what are the issues / burning issues on which they want to listen or discuss?

In the beginning, most of the participants said that the members of GB consist on the same members who are in Working Committee, so in lieu to that we may need to rethink about having GB separately.

It was clarified that it's not the same WC members. Yes, there are many who are in WC, but there are others in GB who are remained with GB from ages and still want to remain in it.

Ume Laila said that we need to have thematic engagement plan for the GB, knowing their strengths, we can plan and engage them accordingly. She further said that we discussed about study circle in one of the meetings, we should start that. Mehreen Ahmed said that more webinars needed, generally people are not aware of social issues like large dam controversy, we should have study circles.

Nida suggested that a social media group/committee can be formed on the side that can work along the main working committees. In response to this Nighat Dad said Even for social media we just can't hand over our handles like that - those who run them need to be aware about the politics of WAF. Farida Shaheed said, yes they need to know the principles, that's what I am suggesting.

Khawar Mumtaz said that Website designer is different from content developer. Nighat Khan in replied to that said that Web designer is being done by the firm, we have a contract with them. So far, Nyla and I are working on the content. I don't think a new person can decide on the content except in the final stages.

It was mutually agreed upon that we should make a Quarterly strategy for mobilization, get people's ideas on board and to do the analysis and to formulate our strategies / positions on issues. We need to further strategies our activities and plans accordingly with participation of GB and other new members. WAF Working Committee has to made general rules to forward the thing.

Agenda Item # 2 - WAF strategy to participate in Aurat March / 8th March

It was discussed among the group to participate in the March and to reach at the venue to show solidarity with Aurat March group. No need to bring our banners but yes of course to wear our WAF Dupatta's. Nyla will coordinate with Leena Ghani about the venue and time and will communicate further to WAF members in our WhatsApp group.

Agenda item # 3 – Single National Curriculum (SNC) Writing of an open letter to PM about reservations on SNC

Nida gave a brief feedback about the meeting held with the principal of Aitchison College and shared his reservation on SNC. She said that people are working on various aspects e.g. Legal etc but we need to bring it together as a big issue. Basically to spread awareness about the problems of the SNC, its implementation and its long term impact, awareness through Social Media etc. She told that HRCP and Saqib Jilani are also working on this issue. She desired WAF to guide her about writing of an open letter to Prime Minister about reservations on SNC. She said that I will share the draft open letter with everyone. I wrote a whole paper which I shared in the last meeting. Khawar Mumtaz said that we are looking forward to the draft letter.

Farida Shaheed said that we should support - how will the open letter be share and promoted in social and News media?

Khawar Mumtaz said that we need to consolidate our questions, what we want to say in the letter. She mentioned that WAF had taken and wrote a detailed strong position paper on the issue and now we need to make a shorter/brief position on it.

Erum further elaborated that we need to raise collective voices on this issue with the participation of parents as they are concerned. The publishers are also raising their voices on this issue which is affecting very much on their survival. Publishers are on strike and their business is damaging. She mentioned that the Govt representative Mr. Murad Ras is meeting with publishers and ensuring them for the NOC.

Ume Laila proposed that we can go for citizen's campaign on this and create an opinion poll on social media.

It was agreed among the members that we need to have collective ideas to further take actions on this important issue which is affecting all of us. We need to consolidate our position and to make Sub group to work on this issue. Later, an open call to be given to GB to meet on this issue and to discuss its implications. General Body discussion on this would be useful.

Erum is responsible to make a sub group and to include the like-minded people in the group who are already working on this important issue to further strategies our plans / actions.

Nida mentioned that I have been following Mariam Chughtai on SNC. She also shared a link with all <https://www.dawn.com/news/1603814>

Mehreen Ahmed also requested to include her in the sub group on SNC.

At the last moments of the meeting we welcome a new member Zehra Zaidi, she is a Lawyer and teaching law at various school/colleges in Lahore. She also mentioned her concerns on SNC being a parent and assured her help in the sub group working on SNC.

Ume Laila asked to Nyla, can we have thematic collection / links of all webinars/ talks held during past few months / weeks?? It would be good to have it in our libraries for quick sharing. Nyla said that I will try to find out and locate these links and will share with the larger group.

The meeting was concluded with a good mood to celebrate and participate in the Int. Women's Day on 8th March.