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Speakers eulogize role model Nusrat

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ISLAMABAD — Speakers at a condolence reference paid rich tribute to Begum Nusrat Bhutto for her sacrifices aimed at restoring democracy and women's empowerment in the country.

Aurat Foundation had organized the reference. The speakers included Senator Babar Awan, Chairman Bait-ul-Maal Zamurrad Khan, Senator Saeeda Iqbal, Senator Farhat Abas Syed, Senator Begum Surya Amir-ud-Din, MNA Nargis Faiz Malik, advocate Shah Khawar, poet Sattar Syed, Naeem Mirza, Arshad Rizvi Nasreen Azhar, Tahira Abdullah, Marvi Sarmad, Dr Rakhshinda Parveen, and Sumaira Ishfaq.

They highlighted Begum Bhutto's long journey for the rights of women saying she waged a decade-long political struggle for

restoration of democracy and the Constitution and upheld fundamental rights of Pakistani people in the most repressive period of Dictator Gen Zia-ul-Haq.

"Nusrat Bhutto laid down unparalleled sacrifices for the supremacy of democracy and pioneered struggle for women's empowerment in Pakistan. She was a staunch supporter of women's rights, and was the first woman head of political party after ZAB's judicial murder.

As a selfless member of the Women's National Guard, she rendered herself day and night into the relief operation of the millions of the uprooted refugees, feeding them, providing them shelter."

Participants expressed their views towards the Iron Lady of Pakistan and her long struggle for restoration of democracy during the most oppressive socio-political and violent times in the history of Pakistan.

Kishwar Naheed read her poem to pay tribute to Begum Nusrat Bhutto while Naghma Imdad read a poem written by Anis Haroon, Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW). Tahira Abdullah said Nusrat Bhutto also served as the Chairperson of Red Crescent.

Her contribution as the chairperson of the Red Crescent had gone a long way in improving the country's image. She also said, "Today, we all should pay tribute to 'three brave men in the history of Pakistan' namely Justice Durab Patel, Justice Abdul Haléem and Justice Safdar Shah, who gave dissenting notes in the court judgment on Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's hanging."

Participants also urged the government to set up Nusrat Bhutto Foundation to promote women's cause and support women leaders at grass root level.