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Rally asks Senate to pass pro-women bill

Our correspondent

HA3RIPUR: A well-attended rally of the civil society members on Saturday asked the Senate to pass the bill already approved by the National Assembly to protect women from the negative customs and traditions.

The rally was arranged by the Aurat Foundation, a leading women rights organisation. It started from the Elementary College Ground and culminated near the offices of the Haripur

Tehsil Municipal Administration.

The participants, who mainly included women, were holding banners inscribed with slogans that urged the senators to play their role and endorse the bill, which had declared customary practices of swara, wanni, forced marriages and disinheritance of women illegal.

Speaking on the occasion, Resident Director of Aurat Foundation, in Peshawar Shabina Ayaz, said the National Assembly had unanimously passed the bill moved by the

Pakistan Muslim League-Q Member of the Lower House of the Parliament, Dr Donia Aziz which seeks protection of women against such practices.

She said now was the time for the Senate to pass the bill as two earlier bills passed by the National Assembly against the domestic violence and acid throwing had lapsed in the Upper House which went against the interests of the women who made up 48 percent of the country's population.