

Women's Economic Empowerment

Aurat Foundation's critical role is to strengthen and facilitate civil society organisations working with informal sector women workers to enable them to increase their productivity and incomes, get recognition under labour laws and become eligible for social protection. The emphasis is on providing grants, undertaking advocacy for women's economic empowerment through gender-responsive budgetary allocations, and incorporation of women's concerns into the macro-economic policy framework and social protection programmes.



Women's Political Empowerment

MANIFESTO SUGGESTIONS FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT (FOR POLITICAL PARTIES)



Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation

This remains a key area of interventions and includes specific inputs in political education and activism to ensure women's involvement in defining their political and social environment. Interventions include seminars, public meetings and dissemination of information. Specific inputs highlight the role and performance of women legislators, leaders and councillors and the measures taken for strengthening their role in political and decision-making institutions.

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

Ending violence against women and girls is critical for creating an enabling environment for women. Aurat Foundation advocates and undertakes measures such as policy reform and positive legislation for elimination of violence against women and



Relief, Rehabilitation and Disaster Management

Aurat Foundation contributes massively in relief and rehabilitation work during natural and man-made disasters. It responded to Pakistan's worst ever floods in 2010 by immediately launching the 'Motherland Flood Relief Campaign'. Its grassroots-level networks in all districts of Pakistan enabled it to respond rapidly to the catastrophe through its nation-wide flood relief campaign. The 'Motherland' website launched by Aurat Foundation became a hub of local, regional and international relief activity with the support of its regional and international partners. During the IDPs crisis in 2008-2009, and to date, it has been involved in major local initiatives to protect vulnerable children and women in Swabi, Mardan and Swat. During earthquake 2005, it was a leading national organisation to support earthquake victims.



implementation of procedures to support female victims and survivors of violence. Another key area of AF is to work for total repeal or reform of discriminatory laws against women and minorities, such as the Hudood Ordinances, Law of Evidence, Qisas and Diyat Provisions in Pakistan Penal Code and the Citizenship Act.

Democratic Governance & Accountability

Aurat Foundation works for building and strengthening the foundations of a sustainable democracy; national consensus on strengthening participatory, transparent and accountable governance; impartial, free and fair elections to restore the electorate's rapidly declining faith in the electoral process. Issues like disenfranchisement of women, intra-party women's quotas on general seats, access to disaggregated data are also highlighted. Engagement with democratic institutions through planning and development of legislative agendas is AF's core strength. Promotion of culture of accountability through thematic studies and advocacy campaigns is also undertaken.



Social Mobilization of Communities

Social mobilization of local communities to form their groups and networks is a major focus area of Aurat Foundation's work under a rights-based framework. AF perceives social mobilization as a strategy as well as an objective to create, develop and preserve social capital in Pakistan. AF has enormous capacity to mobilise local groups, networks and communities for sustainable actions through local and national level campaigns, particularly around broader concerns of women, such as participation in national social protection programmes, CNICs, voter education, census and livelihood campaigns.

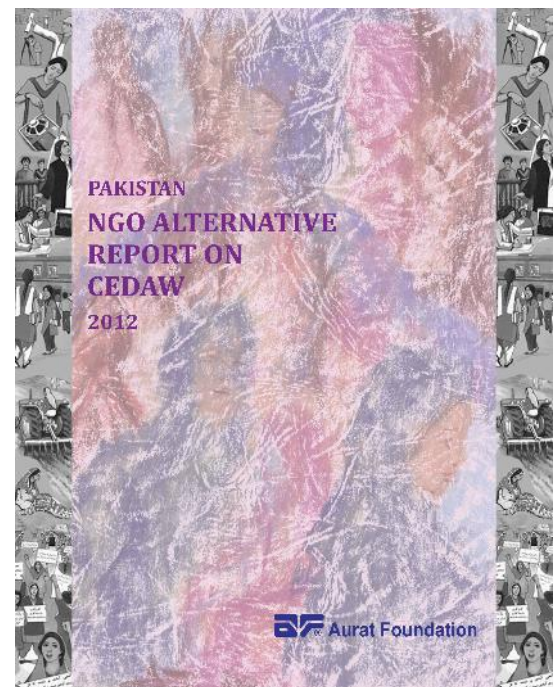


Access to Justice and Legal Rights

Aurat Foundation sees great significance in approaching formal systems and structures of law and justice to ensure equality of rights and status for women. Special focus is given to marginalised and disadvantaged segments in society due to the difficulties associated with being able to approach and use these structures to attain justice. This would include not just removing legal and financial barriers, but also social barriers such as language, lack of knowledge of legal rights and intimidation by the law and legal institutions. AF strives to provide knowledge as people must have information and knowledge about their rights and how to access them, and this extends to service providers as they are also required to have appropriate knowledge and expertise for the provision of effective and quality services.

Compliance of Human Rights Conventions

Ensuring compliance of Pakistan's international commitments remains an important area of AF interventions with Pakistan having signed and ratified a majority of important International Human Rights Conventions. AF is engaged in the follow-up, monitoring and reporting processes of these treaties, particularly in the preparation of 'shadow reports' on CEDAW and CAT through research, advocacy and capacity-development. Equal emphasis is given to discussions and resolutions of UN Commission on the Status of Women and Beijing follow-up process through efforts to incorporate them into Pakistan Law.



Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation, established in 1986 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, is a national, non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to working for women's empowerment and democratic governance in Pakistan. It has its headquarters in Islamabad, five regional offices in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta and Gilgit and 25 Field Offices with over 700 employees. It is a major support organization for civil society organizations, federal, provincial and local governments and political parties, besides other public and private institutions.

Aurat Foundation acts as a catalyst to enable critical groups to influence policy, legislation and programmes for greater economic and political power for women in society. In advocacy on women's rights issues, Aurat Foundation has strategized to develop linkages with grassroots organizations and macro-level decision-makers. A mutually collaborative relationship has also been developed with various departments and organs of the Government of Pakistan.



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