

# Working for Women's Empowerment and Democratic Governance

## Vision, Values and Goals



## Mission Statement

To create, facilitate and strengthen civil society groups and networks for promoting trust and collaboration among citizens to mobilise public pressure for women's empowerment in the country.

### Vision

Creating widespread awareness and commitment for a just, democratic and caring society in Pakistan, where women and men are recognised as equals, with the right to lead their lives with self-respect and dignity.

### Values and Culture










- Commitment to women's cause
- Caring and sharing
- Space for discussion
- Nurturing of colleagues
- Friendly environment
- Sense of belonging and ownership
- Mutual trust and respect
- Participatory decision-making, and
- Encouragement of initiatives

### Main Goals

- To enable women to acquire greater access to knowledge, resources and institutions;
- To influence attitudes and behaviour for a social environment responsive to women's concerns and people-centred issues;
- To facilitate citizens' active participation in the process of social change and governance at all levels.

As the experience of Aurat Foundation grew by time, it continued to contribute in creating and developing social capital in the shape of local advocacy groups comprising both women and men and young volunteers from lower socio-economic classes and excluded groups in the country, both literate and illiterate. In reaching out to local communities at the grassroots level and decision-makers at the macro level, Aurat Foundation has implemented several major and hundreds of small and medium-sized advocacy and action, capacity-building, information and research-based programmes over the years. These included Information Network Centers, Advocacy and Action, Legislative Watch and Raising Her Voice. Currently, it is implementing Gender Equity Program, Social Mobilization-National Cash Transfer, AAWAZ Voice and Accountability, GBV Policy Advocacy and Capacity-building Programme, LISTEN and AART among other small projects. It has also undertaken major local and national campaigns to mobilize local groups for women's empowerment and democratic governance.

## Board of Governors

<p><b>Dr. Masuma Hasan</b> President</p> <p>Development Practitioner, former Cabinet Secretary &amp; Ambassador and Researcher</p> 	<p><b>Nigar Ahmad</b> Executive Director</p> <p>Economist, Human Rights Activist, and Development Practitioner</p> 	<p><b>Mohammed Tahseen</b> Treasurer</p> <p>Development Expert, and Human Rights Activist</p> 
<p><b>Shoaib Sultan Khan</b> Member</p> <p>Chairperson, Rural Support Programmes Network, Pakistan, and Development Practitioner</p> 	<p><b>Arif Hasan</b> Member</p> <p>Architect &amp; Planner, Social Researcher, Writer, and Development Practitioner</p> 	<p><b>Anis Haroon</b> Member</p> <p>Human Rights and Women's Rights Activist, and former Chairperson NCSW</p> 
<p><b>Tasneem Siddiqui</b> Member</p> <p>Chairman Saiban, former Director, Katchi Abadis, KDA, and Development Practitioner</p> 	<p><b>Samina Rahman</b> Member</p> <p>Educationist, and Women's Rights Activist</p> 	<p><b>Anjum Riyazul Haque</b> Member</p> <p>Development Professional, former UNESCO head in various countries</p> 

Executive Council of Aurat Foundation	Affiliation with AF
<b>Nigar Ahmad</b> Executive Director	27 Years
<b>Naeem Ahmed Mirza</b> Chief Operating Officer	16 Years
<b>M. Younas Khalid</b> Chief Strategy & Policy Officer	18 Years
<b>Nasreen Zehra</b> Resident Director, Lahore	17 Years
<b>Shabina Ayaz</b> Resident Director, Peshawar	17 Years
<b>Haroon Dawood</b> Resident Director, Quetta	16 Years
<b>Mahnaz Rahman</b> Resident Director, Karachi	9 Years

## Main Strategies

- **Information** for women to build their capacity for decision-making and action, and information about women's issues and concerns to decision makers;
- **Capacity building** of citizens' groups, public authorities and public representatives to support women's participation in decision-making and their activism, as well as to enhance their access to opportunities and facilities at all levels;
- **Advocacy** for developing an enabling environment for women's empowerment, social justice, peace and democratic governance in Pakistan; and
- **Grant-making** to NGOs, CBOs, policy think tanks, academic research and training institutions, professional associations and gender entities to facilitate behavioral change in society by enabling women to access information, resources and institutions.

## Regional and global partners

Aurat Foundation has linkages with the following major regional and global networks

- **HomeNet South Asia**, a Mauritius-based network which has chapters in all South Asian and Asia-Pacific countries, working on issues and rights of home-based women workers;
- **South Asian Network of Gender Activists and Trainers (SANGAT)**, a Nepal-based network with partners in all South Asian countries, working on issues of gender and feminism;
- **International Women's Rights Action Watch - Asia Pacific (IWRAP-Asia-Pacific)**, a Malaysia-based organisation with partners across the world, working on CEDAW follow-up mechanisms and capacity-building;
- **Women's Learning Partnership (WLP)**, a Washington-based organisation with partners in 18 countries, mostly Muslim-majority societies, working on gender equality, human rights and political participation of women;
- **South Asian Network for Widows' Empowerment in Development (SANWED)**, a Nepal-based network, working on the empowerment and rights of widows.

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.



## **AURAT PUBLICATION AND INFORMATION SERVICE FOUNDATION**

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