

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

MoU inked for knowledge enhancement of female legislators

Our correspondent

Islamabad

To sensitise legislators on primary and secondary legislations on women's issues and to enhance the knowledge of newly elected women parliamentarians on legislative process, the Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) and Aurat Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Tuesday.

The MoU was signed by Secretary WPC Shaista Pervaiz Malik and Director Advocacy

and Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) Rabeea Hadi. Senior women parliamentarian including MNA PML-N Tahira Aurangzeb, MNA PML-N Syeda Zahra Wadood Fatemi, MNA PML-N Asiya Tanoli, MNA JUI-F Shahida AKhtar Ali and MNA PTI Munnaza Hassan were also present on the occasion.

Overall, the WPC has 90 parliamentarians from both Senate and National Assembly as its members. Recently in a sensitisation workshop, the women

parliamentarians talked about lack of information and support and demanded capacity building sessions on legislative business. They shared that most of women parliamentarians still lack information and capacity to introduce legislation and actively participate in the assemblies' business.

Looking into parliamentary experience of the sitting women parliamentarians reveals that among a total of 211 women parliamentarians who joined the National and provincial as-

semblies after the General Election 2013, majority i.e. 144 joined in for the first time, and hence needed information and skills on legislative business. "All the work that has been done for women empowerment in past indicates the need to work towards strengthening of institutions that play key role in protecting women.

Keeping this need in mind, we have signed MoUs with institutions. This MoU is also part of this effort," said Director Advocacy and Elimination

of Violence against Women Rabeea Hadi (EVAW), Rabeea Hadi. Under this MoU, the parties have agreed to collaborate, on a non-exclusive basis, with each other, to address critical issues of concern for women including eradication of gender based violence. They will hold joint conferences and briefings according to a mutually develop schedule and will hold discussions on existing pro women laws, procedural and implementation gaps and required actions.