

Friday, May 25, 2012

Declaration on single women's rights seeks creating synergies at all levels

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The two-day South Asian consultation, which concluded here on Thursday, unanimously adopted a declaration, titled 'Islamabad Declaration for Mainstreaming Widows' and Single Women's Rights in Public Policy', which calls for creating synergies and linkages at local, regional and international levels for mainstreaming the women's rights in public policy and institutional frameworks.

The Aurat Foundation, in collaboration with the South Asian Network for Widows' Empowerment in Development (SANWED), hosted the workshop in Islamabad.

Earlier, the workshop focused on issues and chal-



A group photo of the participants. APP

Asia and talked about creating synergies and linkages at local, regional and international levels for mainstreaming their rights in public policy and institutional frameworks. In most of our countries, widows

laws protecting the fundamental rights of these vulnerable widows, who suffer from discriminative legal and government policies, the workshop learned.

Earlier, addressing the

mer member of the UN's CEDAW Committee, Bangladesh's Ferdous Ara Begum, said that the situation of widows in Bangladesh needed special attention as they were trying to establish a SANWED group to mobilise widows to understand their rights. Sri Lanka's Viluthu Centre for Human Resource Development Chief Executive Officer Shanthi Anusha Sachithanandam talked about recognising widows in the conflict-and post-conflict era.

She also shared with the participants that in Sri Lanka, they use the term women-headed households instead of widows. The drafting committee comprised UK's Margaret Owen, Nepal's Lily Thapa, India's Dr Mohini Giri, Bangladesh's Ferdous Ara Begum and Pakistan's Tahira