

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Myra Imran  
Islamabad

## WOMEN'S MARCH

# Joint efforts urged to end violence and discrimination against women

"Men do not respect women in our country," said Hadia Tariq, a first year student from one of Islamabad's model colleges in her comments on the occasion of International Women's Day (IWD).

She was part of the "Women March" organised by Islamabad Crescent Lions Club, Lok Parva, Faces Pakistan and Action Network in collaboration with Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) to celebrate the IWD. People belonging to different walks of life started the march from National Press Club and walked towards Super Market.

Barely had she said these words when a bus full of boys passed the rally. They hooted at the girls at the top of their voice. "See! That's the behaviour we face whenever we step out of our house," said another student.

"We all want to have decent career in our lives, but this environment discourages us from stepping into professional life," said Ayesha Munir, another student.

The girl students were the main participants of the rally organised in accordance with the global theme of IWD 'Connecting Girls Inspiring Future.' The participants of the march were holding placards and chanted slogans against the discriminatory practices and law in the country. The major aim of organising the march was to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women and create awareness among youth of Pakistan.

Speaking on this occasion, Chairman Action Network Jamil Asghar Bhatti said that IWD has been observed since early eighteenth century. "Pakistan is celebrating this day for past two decades, but unfortunately women in Pakistan are still fighting against centuries old discriminatory traditions," he said. Nasira Jamil, President Islamabad Crescent Lions Club said that only celebrating these days cannot solve the problems of women. She urged for collaborative effort of all sections of the society to end dis-



ISLAMABAD: Students participating in Women's Day march at Super Market. — Naveed Akram

crimination and violence against women in the society. Supreme Court should take suo moto notice of the increas-

ing cases of violence against women in the country. March was the part of 10

days of activism for women rights organized by the Action Network from March 1 to 10,

which includes candlelit vigil, debate among university girls, women 'mushaira', essay writing and painting competition.