

Saturday, 22 October, 2011

Women role



ISLAMABAD—Syeda Fiza Batool Gilani, Pakistan's Goodwill Ambassador for Empowerment of Women, said that it was the dedication and commitment of outstanding women in Pakistan's history that had generated public awareness particularly among women about their rights. Fiza Gilani held interactive discussions with the Executive Committee Members of the National Commission on Status of Women and Aurat Foundation, a leading non-governmental institution working for women's rights separately.

She said that she was deeply impressed by the long and hard journey of the organizations for the rights and empowerment of women to be recognized in Pakistan. She was accompanied by Shahnaz Wazir Ali, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Sectors and Bushra Zulqarnain, Member NCSW from AIK. Fiza was briefed by the Chairperson of NCSW Anis Haroon about the history, structure, achievements of the institution in advocacy of women's rights and their inputs on legislation regarding women's rights, and also about their efforts to empower the women socially, politically and economically. She evinced keen interest in the highly important advocacy role being played by NCSW. At Aurat Foundation office, Mrs Simi Kamal, Chief of Gender Equality Programme and Naeem Mirza, Executive Director, Aurat Foundation discussed various programmes of women empowerment through academic institution, media grassroots organization, CSOS networks, the judicial and administrative systems. The Goodwill Ambassador expressed her deep appreciation of various programmes being undertaken by the Aurat Foundation and its commitment for the empowerment of women. Fiza Gilani was deeply moved while watching a documentary "I am in a journey" shown during her visit to Aurat Foundation. The documentary traced the history of the struggle, the women of Pakistan had made during and since the independence of country. She appreciated the significant and transformational work being done by the two institutions and expressed her full support to them in taking forward the agenda on women's empowerment.—APP