

Annual Report 2008



Aurat Foundation

Report: Annual Report 2008

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Message from the President Board of Governors

I take pride in presenting this annual report on behalf of the Board of Governors of Aurat Foundation. First of all, I must congratulate the staff of Aurat Foundation, who have worked selflessly during the past year to support the struggle for women's rights and empowerment in Pakistan. This is a part of a larger struggle for the creation of a just and equitable society in our country. I would like to acknowledge those who have supported Aurat Foundation in its mission and are continuing to do so. These include Aurat Foundation's funding and development partners, committed social and political activists, development practitioners and individuals in civil society organisations, the legal fraternity, academia, media and individuals in federal and provincial government institutions. Without their support the work that the Aurat Foundation has done would have been next to impossible.

The report speaks for itself. It deals with a variety of issues and describes a wide range of activities undertaken by the Foundation across Pakistan. These activities are diverse in nature and yet they form part of a larger vision which supports the broad objectives of the social democratic movements in Pakistan that aspire for a society where citizens enjoy their fundamental rights and live with dignity. This can only possible through an equitable distribution of resources, rule of law, supremacy of constitution, and above all, peace and security within our borders and in our region.

The year 2008 was also an important year in the life of Aurat Foundation. This is because the Foundation went through a major organisational and operational restructuring during this year. The report describes this restructuring in considerable detail. The support of Ms. Nigar Ahmed, the founding Executive Director of Aurat Foundation, was crucial for the restructuring process. I wish her, the staff of Aurat Foundation and the supporters of the organisation best of luck in the coming year.

Arif Hassan

**President
Board of Governors
Aurat Foundation**

Preface

The Aurat Foundation

Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation is a civil society organisation committed to enhancing women's greater role in governance at all levels. The enabling environment for this greater participation of women is the existence of a framework that facilitates citizens' participation in governance in Pakistan.

Rabindranath Tagore, the Bengali Nobel Laureate, has described one probable example of this framework.

**Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high,
Where knowledge is free,
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
By narrow domestic walls,
Where words come out from the depth of truth,
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection,
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit,
Where the mind, is led forward by thee
Into ever-widening thought and action;
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.**

This interpretation of the Vision of Aurat Foundation defines our Mission as the building of the institutions and the mindset for this framework. Our Goal thus becomes making people recognise the value of the Vision and the raising of resources including a cadre of committed persons, for developing the requirements for the Mission.

The Report of 2008 shows that the Aurat Foundation is on the right path. It has the right strategy to build networks to show zero tolerance for violence against women and to develop political leadership in women. It has put together a team working in a dedicated manner to build the 'framework' dreamt of by Tagore.

**Nigar Ahmad
Executive Director
Aurat Foundation**

Introduction

The year 2008 will be remembered as a turning point in Pakistan's political history. Three days before its dawn, on 27 December 2007, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, chairperson of Pakistan People's Party and former prime minister of Pakistan, was assassinated in Rawalpindi when she was coming out of an election rally. Her martyrdom grieved every soul. 'Democracy is the best revenge' was her party's response to her great sacrifice. General elections took place in February 2008, and PPP came to power; General Musharaff, who had doffed his uniform on 28 November 2007, finally bowed to political pressure and resigned from president-ship on 18 August 2008 after almost 10 years of dictatorial rule; lawyers' movement for the restoration of deposed Chief Justice of Pakistan and around 60 other deposed Judges of the higher courts reached its peak in June 2008 with an unprecedented expression of public support and solidarity for the cause of an 'independent judiciary'. The journalists of free media and members of political parties and civil society were supporting the movement that had been waged by the lawyers since 9 March 2007, in every possible manner. The struggle for the restoration of deposed Chief Justice of Pakistan gradually turned into a movement for rule of law and supremacy of constitution in the country. The northern borders of the country and Balochistan, on the other hand, were witnessing a war-like situation. Taliban were using suicide bombings as a weapon to harass and intimidate their opponents, including members of the security forces, who were targeted at a number of places. All these situations had direct bearing on the women of Pakistan.

This was the overall context of Aurat Foundation's work during year 2008. It remained part of the civil society movement for upholding democracy, restoration of judges, supremacy of parliament and constitutional rule in the country while focussing and mainstreaming gender in each situation as part of its commitment to the cause of gender equality and justice. These efforts are part of narrative and illustrative descriptions under thematic headings in various chapters of the annual report. Briefly, the year was particularly significant in terms of preparing a civil society draft bill on domestic violence; critiquing Muslim family laws to develop alternative amendments for their reform; critiquing manifestoes of major political parties from gender perspective; reviewing the constitutional package of the PPP and offering amendments from civil society perspective; documenting the successes of women parliamentarians of the 12th National Assembly in a five-year report; and also collecting and documenting the success stories of women councillors in several volumes of books, in Urdu and English, under the title "From Home to House". Most of these initiatives were undertaken through on-going projects like Legislative Watch Programme, which entered its twelfth year in 2008, with the Norwegian development assistance; and Enabling Women's Effective Participation in Political Institutions project being implemented with the support of Heinrich Boll Foundation.

The AF started four new projects or programmes during the year. These are: the Policy and Data Monitoring on Violence against Women in partnership with the Trocaire South Asia; the CEDAW follow-up process with the support of UNIFEM; the Raising Her Voice programme in partnership with OXFAM-GB; and two projects in partnership with The Asia Foundation on women's political empowerment. Under the Policy and Data Monitoring on Violence against Women initiative, the AF documented the incidents of violence against women occurred during 2008, in an annual report.

Aurat Foundation also went through organisational restructuring during 2008, under the able guidance of the Board of Governors, which also ensured the preparation and launching of the five-year Strategic Plan of the organisation through sincere advice and practical assistance. The members of the Executive Council have also been active in streamlining things with complete devotion. The details of the organisational reform process and the Strategic Plan are presented in the beginning of the report.

The most enduring, encouraging and inspiring aspect of the whole story of Aurat Foundation's being 'alive and kicking' even today is the presence and leadership of Nigar Ahmad. Her vision engrained in women's faith in their own self, and her indefatigable nerves, made all this possible that a journey began by her and Shahla Zia, 23 years ago, has turned into a movement that today represents the strengths of women in their consciousness, knowledge and abilities.

The staffs of Aurat Foundation, particularly the promising cadre of women and girls and their men supporters, who withstood all challenges and difficulties during the crisis period and did not leave the organisation when not paid for months, are its proud owners. Most parts of the report are collection and compilation from their reports.

The Citizens' networks of AF and friends of Aurat Foundation, particularly women legislators and councillors, as well as women cadre in political parties, will continue to be our main support and strength.

In the end, we would like to express our profound appreciation to the funding agencies and regional and international partners that provided us support, and are continuing to support us for the achievement of women's rights and equality in Pakistan.

Naeem Mirza
Director Programmes
Aurat Foundation

20 June 2009
Islamabad

AURAT FOUNDATION

Chapter One

Five-Year
STRATEGIC PLAN
2008-2012

**Aurat Foundation's
Institutional
Reform Process**

(As approved by the Board of Directors on 3 February 2008)

Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation

Institutional Reform Process of Aurat Foundation

Aurat Foundation has undergone a major restructuring in 2008 to re-visit its strategic priorities and streamline institutional, managerial and financial aspects of the organisation. The Board of Aurat Foundation set up a Task Force (TF) in the latter half of 2007 to work on a three point agenda:

1. Implementation of the Recommendations of the key reports pertaining to AF's strategic, institutional, managerial and financial issues.
2. Explore sources of funding for AF.
3. Preparation of a presentation for donors which would have AF's strategic vision for the next five years and the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in the documents on AF.

The TF comprised of the following members:

1. Mr. Qazi Azmat Isa, Member Board of Directors
2. Ms. Rukshanda Naz, Regional Director, Peshawar
3. Mr. Younas Khalid, Director Administration & Finance
4. Mr. Naeem Mirza, Project Director & Member MC Islamabad
5. Mr. Sajid Mansoor Qaisarani, Project Director & Member MC Islamabad

The TF also relied on inputs from Mr. Saleem Raza, consultant Manager Finance from time to time.

Right from the outset, the TF stated that the AF was a truly exceptional and unique institution – exceptional, in the quality of its leadership and commitment and dedication of its staff; unique, for it was the only women's institution in the country with grassroots support and outreach.

The TF, therefore, believed that its recommendations were based entirely on ensuring AF's continuity in supporting the cause of the women of Pakistan; its resilience to meet future challenges; with systems that are both responsive to donor requirements and internal needs and in no way reflects on individuals or furthering individual causes.

The TF had six very intensive meetings. The following key tasks were undertaken during these meetings:

1. AF's strategic plan drafted and finalized
2. Matrix of all key recommendations of various donor/consultant reports formulated with the actions taken so far as well as those that are outstanding and require Board approval.
3. Cash flow formulated for the next five years
4. Revised organogram drafted and finalized

Recommendations of the Task Force

The Task Force gave the following recommendations to the Board for and strongly advised that the Board meet at the earliest to discuss the recommendations, take step for their implementation and follow up with a meeting with current and potential donors.

1. Strategic Plan

The Plan provides a five year (2008-2012) vision for AF and clearly articulates the strategic programme directions for AF. Though inputs to the plan also came from the external reviews, extensive in-house discussions within AF staff ensure that the Plan address AF's own needs and has ownership within the organization.

2. Governance

Members of the General Body of AF need to be increased to twenty, from which a new Board of twelve Directors should be elected. The Board should meet quarterly. The new position of Chief Operating Officer (COO) should also act as Secretary to the Board, ensuring compliance with all relevant legal and taxation matters; regular meetings and prompt circulation of minutes. An executive committee of the Board comprising at least three members and the COO should be constituted and meet regularly to ensure progress on implementation of the decisions taken by the Board.

3. Organogram

The organogram was developed taking into account the new realities and program directions of AF. Two key new positions should be added, these are the Chief Operating Officer and the Internal Auditor. Terms of Reference for both are attached.

5. Finance & Administration Manual

The Accounting Manual alongwith the Delegation of Financial and Administrative Powers needs to be approved by the Board.

5. Human Resource Manual

The Human Resources Manual finalized by senior AF management needs to be approved by the Board.

As a result of the extensive consultative process that followed within AF, a new five-year Strategic Plan (including a financial implementation plan and a revised organogram for 2008-2012); the Human Resource Manual; and the Finance and Administration Manual (along with the Delegation of Financial and Administrative Powers) were approved by the Board of Governors at a meeting held in Lahore on 13 February 2008.

The Board decided to include a few more female members to GB and the Board as soon as possible. The Board also approved the shifting of AF's Head-office to Islamabad, and made the following key appointments (based in Islamabad), according to the revised organogram in the Strategic Plan:

- **Ms. Rukshanda Naz** Chief Operating Officer
- **Mr Naeem A Mirza** Director Programmes
- **Mr Younas Khalid** Director Finance & Administration

The Board decided that **Ms. Nigar Ahmad** would continue to be the Executive Director, as per the wishes of the Board, the EC, the staff and networks of AF.

The Board also convened a meeting with a small group of long-time and existing partners in the funding agencies and civil society representatives on 10 March 2008 to take them into confidence on the above measures undertaken.

After the new management decisions, the AF has its Head-office in Islamabad and Regional Offices in all the Provincial Headquarters.

Aurat Foundation's Five-Year Strategic Plan (2008-2012)

The Board of Governors of Aurat Foundation approved the Five-Year Strategic Plan (2008-2012) in its meeting held on 13 February 2008. We are producing its introduction and the process of developing the Plan in its entirety. However, in other areas, only some selective portions have been selected for publication, and the analysis relating to strategic disadvantages, and details of the strategic directions have been left out due to the lack of space. The Plan was unveiled before an audience of the representatives of the civil society organisations and funding agencies on 10 March 2008, by the President of the Board, Dr. Arif Hassan.

Aurat Foundation's Five Year Strategic Plan 2008-2012

Introduction

Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation established in 1986 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, is a national non-profit non-governmental organisation committed to working for women's empowerment. It has its headquarters in Lahore, and five regional offices in the federal and the provincial capitals, with over 120 employees.

Over the years, it has emerged as a major support organisation for civil society organisations, governments and political parties, among other public and private institutions, and presently it has one of the largest citizens' networks in the country, with an outreach extending to all 110 districts of Pakistan and three districts of AJK.

Aurat Foundation is pleased to present its second Strategic Plan for the next five years, i.e. January 2008-December 2012, to a wider audience, including its key citizens' groups, various stakeholders and target groups under different programmes, and funding agencies, of which some are long-term and valued partners.

The Strategic Plan 2008-2012 outlines key areas of strategic interventions for the future on the basis of insights on the organisational strengths and weaknesses and analysis of socio-political context outside the organisation, mainly relating to women's situation and concerns, civil society organisations and governance situation in the country.

The Plan has benefitted from recent organisational reviews and external evaluations of Aurat Foundation's programmes by different funding agencies that reflect an understanding of the inherent nature and functioning of the organisation. Main findings of these reviews have been assessed critically; a number of measures have already been undertaken in recent months to implement some of the recommendations and; others have been prioritised in the Plan to address them.

The Plan, while determining the future directions, also highlights a number of key objectives and successes achieved by the organisation, which have also been acknowledged by the external review reports. One of the most important among these, to put in the words of one of these reports, is *"Conceptually and strategically brilliant programme in bringing together at the district level and in networks volunteer groups of citizens, activists, councillors, professionals and government officials. Not funded (or salaried) directly by donors, these groups give AF's programme its vital political development energy."*¹

Another review report notes that "The experience of interaction with the government and some State institutions show that in most of the cases, they have sought help and input from AF on these matters. This also shows that AF today is recognized by them as an organization that not

¹ Mid-term Review Report by CIDA, 2005

only possesses knowledge and expertise on these issues but also enjoys respect and credibility in the decision-making circles”.²

The clearest theme throughout the strategic planning process has been the institutional strengthening of Aurat Foundation as a sustainable women’s rights organisation. The reform process within AF is the hallmark of the implementation strategies of the Plan. In addition to this, there has been an equal emphasis on strengthening partner networks to enable them to take a more active role in the process of social change at all levels.

There has also been strong realization that new gains secured by women in recent years, along with the existing benefits, must be consolidated; women’s electoral and political constituencies must be strengthened and; gender-based initiatives must be supported, through research and information-dissemination, advocacy and policy development.

At the same time, alliance-building with civil society umbrella organisations, mass movements of marginalized sections, and various interest groups striving for their rights, stands distinctive as the most important strategy to offer resistance to oppressive and unjust policies, they may be undemocratic and unethical, religious extremism or discrimination and violence against women and minorities.

The Plan identifies, in the main, seven strategic priority areas for the next five years with the motto ‘Let’s face the challenge and let’s build a just, democratic and caring society for all the citizens, particularly women’.

Aurat Foundation believes that the achievement of the strategies planned for each of these areas will depend on implementing changes to current organisation structures and systems, in addition to effectively applying new techniques and tools for obtaining results.

Following the successful implementation of this Strategic Plan, by 2012, Aurat Foundation will:

- have enhanced its image and credibility as a role-model women’s rights organisation;
- have attained some level of financial sustainability and stability;
- have more pro-active governance structures with broadened ownership;
- have developed mechanisms to devolve decision-making powers;
- have put in place and strengthened management and programme systems;
- have strengthened institutional capacity and advocacy roles of partner networks;
- have built capacities and skills of partner networks and target groups;
- have contributed to mainstreaming gender into institutional and policy framework;
- have facilitated in building pressure for women’s rights, social justice and democracy.

In the end, we would like to acknowledge input of all those, within AF and outside, who contributed to the planning and developing of this Strategic Plan.

² Mid-term External Review Report by Royal Norwegian Embassy, 2005

Process of Strategic Planning

Aurat Foundation released the first draft of the strategic plan in May 2006, in Karachi, at a joint consultation of Board of Governors, Executive Council and some members of the middle management. The meeting, after making a number of revisions, decided to conduct a 'visioning exercise' to present the draft before a larger audience of AF employees, for further consensus-building and broader ownership.

The 'envisioning exercise' was participated by over 60 programme and administrative/finance staff members of the AF, continued for three days in Lahore, from 11 to 13 September 2006. The meeting made a number of changes in the draft; it revisited the vision, goals and objectives of the organisation and formulated new 'vision, mission, and goals', which are same as presented in the current Strategic Plan.

A second draft of the strategic plan was prepared in October/November 2006, along with a five-year 'Operational Programme', on the basis of the main areas of the strategic plan, which had been approved by the September 2006 meeting. In 2007, the work on the final draft of the strategic plan started again, and the Executive Council reviewed and improved the second draft in its meetings held on 12 January, 19-20 March and 5-6 April, 2007.

However, the process of finalizing the Plan stalled for sometime as the organisation remained engaged in fulfilling its budgeting needs. It was in August 2007, when the Board of Governors set up a 'task force' comprising Board/EC members to finalise the strategic plan and consolidate the 'internal reform process'.

The Task Force immediately set out its work and consulted the following documents for carrying forward the reform process, as well as, finalization of the strategic plan:

1. Concept Paper by Nigar Ahmad, ED AF, 2006;
2. Report of the 'Envisioning Workshop' of AF by Simi Kamal, 2006
3. Organisational Overview (financial management) of Aurat Foundation Report by KPMG, 2006;
4. Mid-term Review Report by Rabia Khan & Robert Mitchell, CIDA, 2005;
5. Mid-term External Review Report by Syed Zaheer Ahmad Gillani, Rahat Kaunain Hassan, Royal Norwegian Embassy, 2005;
6. Performance Management and Review Process of Aurat Foundation Report by MDI, 2005;
7. Aurat Foundation's Strategic Plan 1999-2003;
8. Organisational Development Report by Simi Kamal, Oxfam-Novib, 1999;

The Strategic Plan was finalized and presented to the meeting of the AF Task Force on 10 October 2007. The meeting decided to circulate the final draft to all members of BoG, EC and staff of the AF, as well as, key members of the AF partner networks for their feedback. Some valuable input was received from various people and was incorporated into the Plan. The Board of Governors approved the Strategic Plan on 13 February 2008, at a meeting held in Lahore.

External Analysis

This section deals with crucial factors in our external environment which may influence our future directions and operations. Strategic advantages are the facilitating factors which may help us to devise effective strategies, and strategic disadvantages are the factors which may hamper our work in achieving our goals and objectives.

a) Strategic Advantages

1. Civil society organizations, particularly advocacy groups on human rights and women's rights, have emerged as an important stakeholder of civil society with a distinguishable voice in the present discourse on civil and political matters.
2. The number and outreach of local NGOs and CBOs has increased manifold in recent years and it is continuing to increase. The number of women's village organisations and groups, comprising community women, has also increased substantially.
3. The growth and expansion of civil society organizations has generated social capital in Pakistan. Based on the 'bonds of trust and mutual concern' and the 'art of association' of social networks, this capital has the potential to influence development practices, and to contribute to enhance women's empowerment.
4. National and regional coalitions of NGOs, like PNF & CORIN, and civil society forums, like WAF and JAC, are continuing to represent common concerns and shared vision of civil society organisations on crucial development and human rights issues.
5. There is increased level of awareness on women's rights issues. They are getting more priority and attention by governments, political parties, judiciary, civil society and media, frequently highlighted by public commitments, debates and specific actions.
6. The political climate and external environment is by and large more conducive than ever before for gender-sensitive and pro-women initiatives. The State, too, is ostensibly looking more pro-active and gender-friendly.
7. The MoWD and the NCSW have taken some important initiatives in the context of law reform initiatives and mainstreaming gender into policy framework and institutions, and are looking inclined towards more pro-active measures.
8. The emergence of women in leadership role at the local and national level and the beginning of the process of formation of women's electoral and political constituencies across Pakistan after the local government elections (2000 & 2005) and general elections (2002) is a major gain in recent years.
9. Political party women have increased their say and strength in their parties as compared to the past. Some are holding key offices in their parties and some are busy in performing individual feats in legislatures to bring about positive legislation.
10. There has also been a significant increase in the level of social acceptance of women in their new and non-stereotypical roles in politics, commerce, sports, mass communication and public service.

11. It appears that the liberal viewpoint has taken a slight edge over more prevalent orthodox and obscurantist viewpoint in the battle of two 'ideologies' over the repeal of the Hudood Ordinances, and subsequent amendments in the said laws.
12. The recent judicial activism led by the lawyers' movement for rule of law and the supremacy of Constitution has infused a new spirit of hope and inspiration among common people, the intelligentsia and civil society for constitutional rule in Pakistan.
13. The struggle for democratic governance appears to be gaining ground. A number of events in recent months have shown how strongly people feel about military's increasing role in governance, and how earnestly they yearn for return to a civilian rule.
14. The rapid growth of private media industry and information technologies has opened up new and unlimited opportunities to gather and disseminate information to a broader audience. The newly-acquired media freedom has created a huge impact on the body-politic of Pakistan in terms of accountability of the ruling elite.

Internal Analysis

This section offers discussion and analysis on Aurat Foundation's organisational structures and systems, as well as, its results and achievements. Since, AF's partner are part and parcel of organisation's mission and institutional framework, these are seen as institutional structure of the organisation and, therefore, have been included in this section.

a) Accomplishments

- AF has grown into a major support organization and has partnership with over 1200 NGOs/CBOs in all the four provinces and AJK.
- AF's founders and directors are the pioneers of women's rights movement and prominent activists of WAF.
- It is the founding member of main NGO coalitions in the country, e.g. PNF, JAC, Pakistan Social Forum, SAAG and PIPFPD.
- It has linkages with major networks and organisations in the region and globally, and it is continuing to maintain and strengthen these; three AF directors (Ms. Nigar Ahmed, Ms. Shahla Zia and Ms. Anis Haroon) were among 29 nominees from Pakistan and 1000 women from allover the world, for the Nobel Peace Prize for 2005.
- It has established and is continuing to facilitate about 2600 Information Network Centres at the grassroots level across Pakistan.
- It has established and is continuing to support and facilitate 73 Citizens' Action Committee at the district level and; also has 110 District Coordination Committees in all districts of Pakistan.
- It has established and is continuing to support and facilitate 70 District Resource Centres for Women Councilors at the district level.

- It has established and is continuing to facilitate five Legislative Watch Groups at the federal and provincial levels; it has also established and is continuing to facilitate the All Balochistan Women Political Forum.
- It has developed a cadre of around 700 social and political activists through its Political Education Programme; many of these are now part of AF's District Resource Persons Groups in 56 districts.
- It has imparted information and knowledge, developed skills and raised confidence of members of its networks and groups and other stakeholders of its various programmes through capacity-building, advocacy and information-dissemination.
- It has produced and is continuing to produce publications and radio programmes on issues concerning women in different fields.

It has undertaken major campaigns at the national level, e.g.

- Election campaigns to highlight women's rights issues in 1993, 1997 and 2002;
- National campaign for 33% reservation of seats for women in legislatures;
- National campaign for the repeal of discriminatory laws, e.g. the Hudood laws;
- Citizens' campaign for women's representation in local government elections;
- Campaigns for NICs and voter registration of women in elections;
- Campaign against TRIPS and WTO policies;
- Peace campaigns for end to wars in Afghanistan and Iraq;
- National campaign for inclusion of women's work in 1998 National Census.

Some of the objectives achieved by the organisation include:

- Increased awareness, gender sensitisation and visibility of women's rights issues;
- Widespread support against discriminatory laws, VAW and minorities;
- Formation of common platforms/coalitions of NGOs and advocacy organisations;
- Strong linkages with communities, line depts., politicians & legislators;
- Knowledge enhancement, information-transfer to partner networks, target groups;
- Development of social capital and facilitation in giving women a voice;
- Reservation of 33% seats for women in the local government;
- Reservation of 17% seats for women in national/provincial legislatures;
- Increased social acceptance of women in leadership and non-stereotypical roles;
- Establishment/strengthening of the NCSW;
- Enactment of law on 'honour' killing and amendments in the Hudood Ordinances;

- Amendments in MFLO prepared and some crucial amendments enacted;
- Development of national policy documents, plans & programmes on women;
- Involvement in NPA and CEDAW follow-up, review and monitoring processes;
- Support to women public representatives to raise voice on women's rights issues;
- Input to State, political parties for mainstreaming gender into laws and policies.

b) AF's Strategic Advantages

1. Commitment to ideology of women's empowerment continues to provide inspiration to rank and file of the organisation. The AF has come to be recognised nationally and internationally as a major NGO in the country committed to working for women's rights with a broad vision, political consciousness and intellectual vigour.
2. There are some ingredients of a movement in the organisation, although the political ideology is not stated. It was born out of women's movement in Pakistan, with the consciousness that inequalities and injustices faced by women must end, and they should have due share in economic resources and role in decision-making processes;
3. The leadership of the organisation, particularly the founder-Executive Director, has broad vision, commitment and energy to develop future directions for the organisation to protect its core interests, internally and externally, and to achieve its strategic objectives.
4. The partner networks and groups of AF, with an outreach extending to all districts of Pakistan, are the main strength of the organisation. There exists a unique bond of trust and respect between the organisation and these networks. AF is maintaining person to person relations with the activists.
5. The partner networks have developed recognition and ownership at the local level. They have matured in terms of skills and knowledge. Several are undertaking independent initiatives and some have developed partnerships with other mainstream NGO and donor agencies.
6. AF has enormous capacity to mobilise local groups, networks and communities for quick action on local and national level campaigns. Some say that AF "mobilises local groups at the speed of light". This is perhaps organisation's most significant strategic advantage, particularly in terms of running and managing national-level campaigns.
7. AF's capacity and capability with relevant skills and experience of the staff in different fields and disciplines, as well as, their understanding of women's rights issues have contributed immensely in empowering local communities and target groups.
8. AF does not do only project-oriented work. It is involved in activism, which is round-the clock, because it has to respond quickly, particularly on issues of violence against women and customary practices.
9. There exists a sense of commitment and continuity within an overall climate of self-confidence in the organisation due to regular core programmes at the community, intermediary and macro levels.

10. The management systems, including financial and HRM systems, are operational and delivering. There have also been some important improvements and reforms in these systems recently.
11. The culture of 'caring and sharing' in the organisation and a women friendly environment has glued the staff and the organisation together in an inseparable bond, with the commitment to stand together in hours of trial.

Vision

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

Mission

To create, facilitate and strengthen civil society networks and groups for promoting trust and collaboration to mobilize public pressure for women's empowerment and a people-centered development.

Goals

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

Values and Culture

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

WE WILL ENSURE that in the next five years our vision, mission and goals remain our guiding principles; and our core values continue to bind us together as a team working to achieve the following **Strategic Objectives**:

1. Reinforcing commitment to gender equality and equity;
2. Building relationships, based on mutual trust, within AF and with social networks and groups;
3. Mobilising public pressure for implementation of all affirmative actions for women;
4. Mobilising public pressure against discriminatory laws, customary practices and violence against women and minorities;
5. Rallying public support to demand free and fair elections;
6. Developing women's sustained capacity to participate in national and local politics; and influencing policy and decision-making;
7. Building pressure to push women's rights issues higher on the national agenda;
8. Mobilising public pressure for actions on election promises, public commitments;
9. Mobilising public pressure for equitable development plans and policies;
10. Rallying support for a sustainable devolution of political, administrative and fiscal power for women.

Strategic Directions

The strategic planning process has led to develop the following seven strategic priorities:

Internal Vision:

1. Strategic Priority One:

Ensuring gender identity, sustainability and stability of the organisation

This covers strategies to further strengthen AF's identity as a women's rights organisation and; measure that will create sustainable and stable conditions.

2. Strategic Priority Two:

Strengthening governance structures and management systems

This covers measures to address problems of decision-making and accountability in the organisation by streamlining governance structures and management systems.

3. Strategic Priority Three:

Integrating programme structures and institutional mechanisms

This covers changes in institutional framework and programme implementation structures by introducing a more integrated approach and links.

External Vision:

4. Strategic Priority Four:

Strengthening institutional capacity and advocacy roles of partner networks

This covers measures to strengthen organisational capacity of partner networks to undertake more pro-active advocacy role on behalf of their communities.

5. Strategic Priority Five:

Building knowledge capacities and skills of partner networks and target groups

This covers measures to enhance knowledge of partner networks, community women and target groups through knowledge-based information-transfer and skill-building.

6. Strategic Priority Six:

Engendering public and private institutions, laws and policy framework

This covers interventions with a number of stakeholders, including government and political parties, to mainstream gender into institutions, laws and policies.

7. Strategic Priority Seven:

Increasing public pressure for women's rights, social justice and democracy

This covers strategies of advocacy campaigns and alliance-building for an enabling environment to promote women's rights, social justice and democratic governance.

Board of Governors

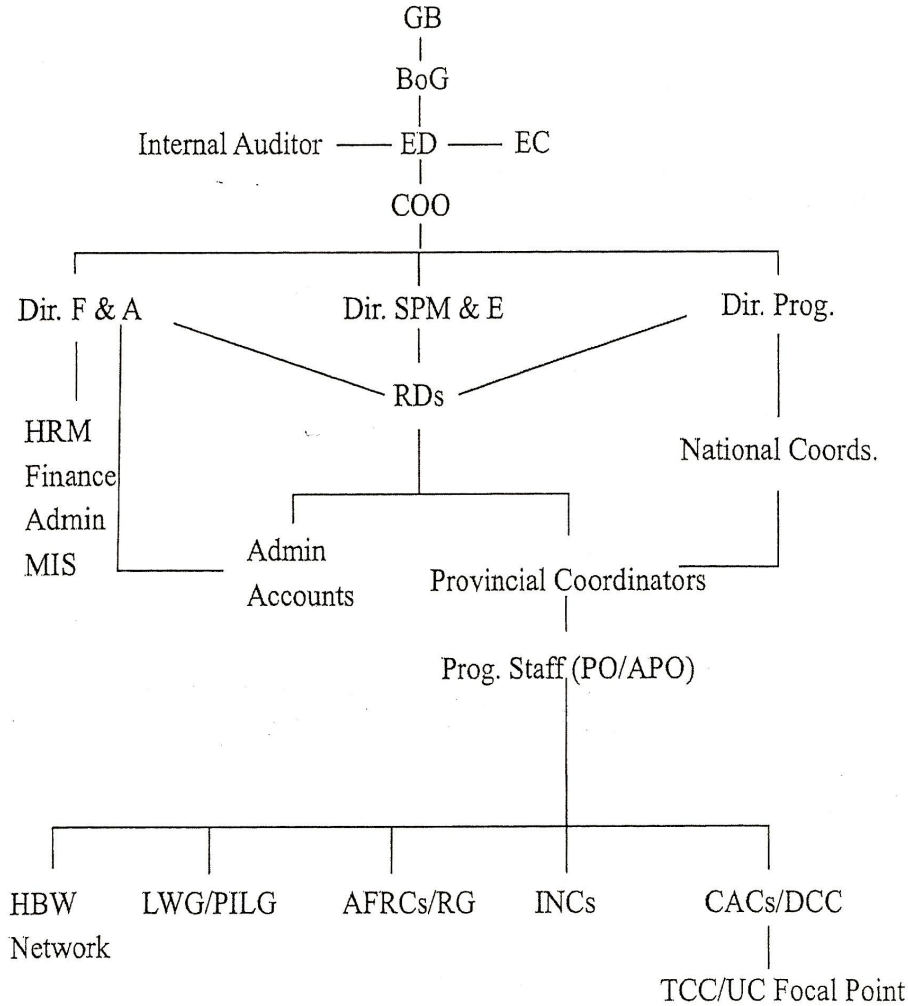
1. **Mr. Arif Hasan** (Chairperson): Mr. Arif Hasan is a prominent development practitioner and human rights activist based in Karachi. He is an architect and planner by profession. He made immense contributions towards Orangi Pilot Project, an important development initiative based in Karachi. For his services Mr. Arif Hasan was awarded Netherlands Urban Heroes Award 2000 and Pakistan's Hilal-i-Imtiaz, one of the highest civil awards for a living person.
2. **Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan:** Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan is the most prominent development expert and practitioner in Pakistan. He founded The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme and now heads Rural Support Programme Network, a coalition of about a dozen rural support programmes in the country. He has received the Global 500 award in 1989, the Sitara-e-Imtiaz in 1990, the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1992 and the WWF Conservation Medal in 1994.
3. **Ms. Masuma Hasan:** A prominent development expert, Ms. Masuma Hasan is a former civil servant and has served as Cabinet Secretary, Pakistan's ambassador to IAEA and Austria (with accreditation to Slovenia and Slovakia).
4. **Mr. Tasneem Siddiqi:** A development expert Mr. Tasneem Siddiqi is a former civil servant. He rose to fame for his monumental work "Khuda ki Basti" to regularize slums in the country and make them livable.
5. **Mr. I A Rehman:** A prominent human rights activist Mr. I A Rehman is a journalist and intellectual who served as Editor of the daily paper The Pakistan Times during 1990,s and is continuing to write on current affairs. Currently he is a Director of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP). He has received the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2004.
6. **Dr. S M Nasim:** A prominent economist Dr. SM Nasim has served in various international organizations including the World Bank. He was previously Professor of Economics at Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad.
7. **Ms Samina Rehman:** Ms. Samina Rehman is a prominent women's rights activist and educationist from Lahore. She is an active member of Women's Action Forum.
8. **Qazi Azmat Isa (Mr):** Qazi Azmat Isa works for the World Bank as Senior Community Development Specialist. He is development practitioner and has served as head of Balochistan Rural Support Programme.
9. **Ms. Nigar Ahmad:** Ms. Nigar Ahmad is the founder Executive Director of Aurat Foundation. Trained as an economist she taught economics at the Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad before switching over to the development world. She is an active member of Women's Action Forum and Chairperson of South Asia Partnership-Pakistan.

The 8-member Executive Council consists of the senior management/directors of all the offices, of which five members are women and three men. The total strength of the organization is around 80, of which over 50% are women. The programme staff has expertise in relevant programme areas.

Organogramme

Institutional Structure

Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation



List of Abbreviations

| | |
|--|--|
| AFRCs: Aurat Foundation Resource Centres | HRM: Human Resource Management |
| BoG: Board of Governors | INCs: Information Network Centres |
| CACs: Citizen Action Committees | LWG: Legislative Watch Group |
| COO: Chief Operating Officer | MIS: Management Information System |
| DIR: Director | PILG: Public Interest Litigation Group |
| EC: Executive Council | RG: Resource Group |
| F & A: Finance and Administration | SPM&E: Strategic Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation |
| GB: General Body | TCC: Tehsil/Town Coordination Committees |
| HBW: Home Based Workers | UC: Union Council |

Audit Report



KPMG Taseer Hadi & Co.
Chartered Accountants
201-Office Block
Siddiq Trade Centre
72-Main Boulevard, Gulberg-II
Lahore, Pakistan

Telephone +92 (42) 578 1751-6
Fax +92 (42) 578 1757
Internet www.kpmg.com.pk

Auditors' Report to the Board of Governors

We have audited the annexed balance sheet of the **Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation ("the Foundation")** as at 30 June 2008 and the related income and expenditure account and cash flow statement together with the notes forming part thereof for the year then ended.

It is the responsibility of the Foundation's management to establish and maintain a system of internal control, and prepare and present the financial statements in conformity with the approved accounting standards as applicable in Pakistan. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statements presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

1. Our procedures for verification of expenditure related to "Enabling Women's Effective Participation in Political Institution" funded by Henrich Ball Foundation were based on photocopies of original bills/invoices. We were informed that original bills/invoices are sent to the donor as required under the provisions of the contract.
2. The management of the Foundation is of the view that the income of the Foundation is exempt from tax under clause (c) of sub section 36 of section 2 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 and accordingly no provision for tax has been made in the financial statements. The Foundation has not obtained approval for such exemption from the income tax authorities.

Except for the effect on the financial statements of the matters referred to in 1 and 2 above, if any, in our opinion the financial statements present fairly in all material respects the financial position of the Foundation as at 30 June 2008 and of its deficit and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with the approved accounting standards as applicable in Pakistan.

Lahore:

KPMG Taseer Hadi & Co
Chartered Accountants

Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation
Income and Expenditure Account
 For the year ended 30 June 2008

| | Note | Aurat | | Consolidated | |
|--|------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | foundation Rupees | Projects Rupees | 2008 Rupees | 2007 Rupees |
| Income | | | | | |
| Grants | 13 | - | 39,784,767 | 39,784,767 | 59,370,793 |
| Less: Overheads and institutional fee transferred by donor to Aurat Foundation | | 2,078,762 | (2,078,762) | - | - |
| Fixed assets purchased transferred to capital grants | 6 | - | (151,135) | (151,135) | (116,734) |
| | | 2,078,762 | (2,229,897) | (151,135) | (116,734) |
| | | 2,078,762 | 37,554,870 | 39,633,632 | 59,254,059 |
| Add: Proceeds from sale of fixed assets | | - | - | - | 1,430,000 |
| | | 2,078,762 | 37,554,870 | 39,633,632 | 60,684,059 |
| Donations | 14 | 8,278,294 | - | 8,278,294 | 1,586,678 |
| Other income | 15 | 335,251 | - | 335,251 | 136,400 |
| Transferred from capital grants | 6 | 1,221,736 | - | 1,221,736 | 1,501,837 |
| | | 11,914,043 | 37,554,870 | 49,468,913 | 63,908,974 |
| Expenditure | | | | | |
| Salaries, wages and other benefits | | 8,063,129 | 15,665,393 | 23,728,522 | 27,660,495 |
| Meetings, seminars and workshops | | 510,778 | 10,789,747 | 11,300,525 | 21,710,103 |
| Professional fee | | 136,444 | 1,581,750 | 1,718,194 | 1,574,490 |
| Office rent | | 2,422,074 | 1,191,350 | 3,613,424 | 3,480,957 |
| Printing and publications | | 337,375 | 3,736,710 | 4,074,085 | 8,419,069 |
| Communication | | 672,932 | 1,049,728 | 1,722,660 | 1,637,870 |
| Stationery, supplies and computer expenses | | 254,977 | 536,632 | 791,609 | 882,002 |
| Vehicle running, repair and maintenance | | 151,728 | 679,100 | 830,828 | 1,422,317 |
| Electricity, water and gas | | 303,912 | 236,483 | 540,395 | 711,347 |
| Travel and conveyance | | 199,798 | 118,102 | 317,900 | 355,007 |
| Audit fee | | 120,000 | - | 120,000 | 177,500 |
| Miscellaneous admin expenses | | 723,312 | 119,267 | 842,579 | 1,808,926 |
| Repair and maintenance | | 399,102 | 23,779 | 422,881 | 585,729 |
| Educational assistance | | 444,895 | - | 444,895 | 777,914 |
| Audio and visual | | 5,340 | 102,828 | 108,168 | 239,740 |
| Flood relief activities | | 158 | 1,724,000 | 1,724,158 | 193,740 |
| Bad debts | | 1,601 | - | 1,601 | - |
| Depreciation | 10 | 1,563,068 | - | 1,563,068 | 1,993,846 |
| | | 16,310,623 | 37,554,869 | 53,865,492 | 73,631,052 |
| Excess of expenditure over income | | (4,396,580) | - | (4,396,579) | (9,722,077) |
| General fund balance brought forward | | | | (11,084,465) | (1,362,388) |
| General fund balance carried forward | | | | (15,481,044) | (11,084,465) |

The attached notes 1 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Handwritten mark

Lahore:

Nigar Ahmad
 Executive Director

[Signature]
 Director

Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation
Cash Flow Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2008

| | Note | 2008 Rupees | 2007 Rupees |
|---|------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| RECEIPTS | | | |
| Grants received | | 38,367,829 | 53,151,477 |
| Donations received | | 8,278,294 | 1,586,678 |
| Sale of publications | | 5,149 | - |
| Bank profit received | | 4,636 | 22,766 |
| Other receipts | | 47,574 | 99,288 |
| | | <u>46,703,482</u> | <u>54,860,209</u> |
| PAYMENTS | | | |
| Current expenditure | | | |
| Payment to employees and suppliers | | (52,201,557) | (67,697,102) |
| Taxes paid | | (68,421) | (91,486) |
| | | <u>(52,269,978)</u> | <u>(67,788,588)</u> |
| Cash outflow from operating activities | | (5,566,496) | (12,928,379) |
| Cash flow from investing activities | | | |
| Fixed assets purchased | | (212,955) | (248,453) |
| Proceeds from sale of fixed assets | | 610,150 | 1,457,800 |
| Cash inflow from investing activities | | 397,195 | 1,209,347 |
| Cash flow from financing activities | | | |
| Loan from directors | | (1,992,300) | 11,220,000 |
| Endowment fund received | | 275,019 | - |
| Cash (outflow)/inflow from financing activities | | (1,717,281) | 11,220,000 |
| Decrease in cash and cash equivalents during the year | | (6,886,582) | (499,032) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year | | 7,448,755 | 7,947,787 |
| Exchange gain | | 9 | - |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year | 12 | <u>562,182</u> | <u>7,448,755</u> |

The attached notes 1 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements.

WATTS/HT

Lahore:

Nejar Ahmad
Executive Director

[Signature]
Director

List of Operational Projects

| S. No. | Title of Projects | Funding Agencies |
|---------------|--|-------------------------|
| 1 | Legislative Watch Program (LWP) | RNE (Norway) |
| 2 | Policy and Data Monitoring - Violence Against Women (PDM-VAW) | TROCAIRE |
| 3 | Women Effective Participation and Leadership in Decision Making Process (WEPLDP) | OXFAM-GB |
| 4 | CEDAW Follow-up | UNIFEM |
| 5 | Women's Participation in Political Process (WPPP) | The Asia Foundation |
| 6 | Women's Local Government Association (WLGA) | The Asia Foundation |
| 7 | Documentation of Successful Human Stories | UNDP |
| 8 | Strengthening of the Tuberculosis Control Program (STCP) | GTZ |

Chapter Two

**Law and
Policy Reform**

WORKING GROUP MEETING ON
MUSLIM FAMILY LAW
5 AUG. 2008 AT ISLAMABAD HOTEL, ISLAMABAD

ORGANIZED BY: LEGISLATIVE JUDICIAL PROGRAM



Law and Policy Reform

Aurat Foundation has been taking law and policy reforms initiative through its Legislative Watch Programme, now in its tenth year. The programme has gained recognition and credibility among concerned stakeholders, particularly the policy-makers and legislators, including women legislators, due to a long and lasting relationship with them continuing for almost two decades. The linkage-building and mutual trust developed during this period could hinge upon AF's expertise gained over the years and the confidence acquired by the project's primary stakeholders (core group of legislators in most of the political parties & women legislators). The expertise, knowledge and insight possessed by AF into the issues of women's rights draws more attention of the law-makers to seek AF help; the AF and LWP teams were present and offering input at concerned Standing Committees of the NA and Senate on different legislative drafts.

During year 2008, Aurat Foundation has been mainly devoted to policy and law reform, particularly on the development of alternative legislative drafts on 'domestic violence', Muslim Family Laws and the constitutional package by PPP, in addition to the documentation of the achievements of women parliamentarians of the previous National Assembly; activism and lobbying for free and fair elections and incorporation of women's concerns in election manifestos of political parties.

Two major legislative drafts were prepared by Aurat Foundation teams during the year 2008. The Resource Service at Islamabad developed an alternative draft on 'domestic violence' after a comprehensive consultative process spanning over several months. Similarly, the process to update and develop alternative suggestions to reform MFLO (Muslim Family Laws Ordinances) on the basis of MFLO amendment drafts prepared by AF in 2000-02, was also completed through two expert group meetings during the reporting period. The regional offices of AF contributed legislative input to women legislators through Questions and Resolutions etc. The project team also gave its input on 80 draft amendments contained in proposed constitutional package through a critique published in the form of a booklet and five seminars held in federal and provincial capitals.

Through another major programme, the Policy and Data Monitoring on Violence Against Women (PDM-VAW), Aurat Foundation collected, reviewed and published the data on the cases of violence against women in the country, and contributed to the law and policy initiatives for elimination of violence against women in Pakistan.

A number of public representatives, particularly women parliamentarians and ministers at the federal and provincial capital, made public commitments to introduce and ensure the passage of DVB from their respective assemblies. Ministers for Women's Development at the federal and provincial levels have pledged the same on AF platforms, as well as, at the floor of the provincial assemblies. As an outcome of these initiatives was that the issue of violence against women earned more recognition among policy-makers and legislators since it was highlighted with statistical evidence in the form of quarterly reports. Also, linkages were built among key and concerned stakeholders on the issue while more supportive environment was created for affirmative actions on addressing the situation of violence against women in Pakistan.

A Legislative Review of

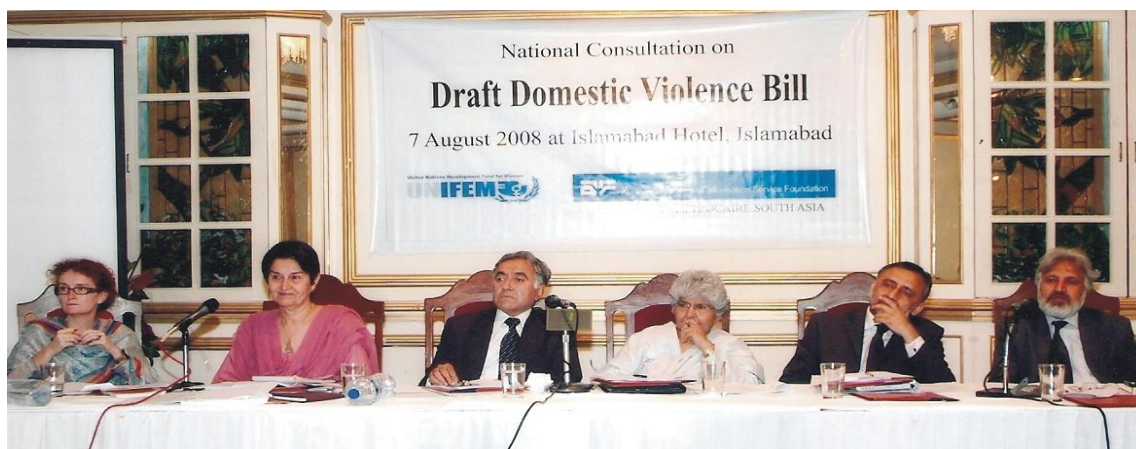
Domestic Violence
(Prevention and Protection)
Bill, 2008

On behalf of civil society organizations and individuals
who participated in the consultative process:

Aurat Foundation

*(The title of the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2008, Prepared
by Aurat Foundation)*

Civil Society Draft Bill on Domestic Violence



A National Consultation was held on 7 August 2008 in Islamabad with the purpose of discussing and finalizing an alternative draft on domestic violence or the civil society draft in response to the proposed government draft that had been circulated by the MoWD in the beginning of the year 2008 for feedback among various stakeholders, including CSOs. The consultation was organised by Aurat Foundation in collaboration with the UNIFEM because UNIFEM had also commissioned a draft on domestic violence. The meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Arfa Sayeda Zehra, Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women and Dr. Faqir Hussain, Secretary Law and Justice Commission. Since, Aurat Foundation had already prepared a draft with the help of Justice (Retd.) Nasira Javid, it requested Justice Nasira to present her findings before the consultation that was being attended by representatives from all over Pakistan. Barrister Zafarullah presented the draft proposals on behalf of UNIFEM. Prominent among those participated in the discussion included, Justice (Retd.) Majida Rizvi, Justice (Retd.) Shaiq Usmani, Syed Iqbal Haider (HRCP & former Federal Law Minister), Ms. Naheeda Mehboob Elahi (Senior Advocate/HRSP), Prof. Akmal Waseem (Hamdard Law College, Karachi), Ms. Shamsa Ali (Senior Advocate), Mr. Shamim Malik (Advocate), Mr. Habib Tahir (Advocate), Ms. Shahnaz Hameed Khattak (Advocate), Mr. Shakeel Azam Awan (Advocate), Ms. S. K. Kausar (WAF), Ms. Anis Haroon (Aurat Foundation), Ms. Fareeda Shaheed & Mr. Imran Qureshi (Shirkat Gah), Ms. Maryam Bibi (Khoweno Kor), Dr. Sabiha Syed (APWA), Ms. Rehana Hashmi (GRAP), Ms. Huma Chughtai (UNIFEM), Ms. Noor Naz Agha (Advocate), Ms. Rubina Saigol (WAF), Dr. Rakhshanda Perveen (SACHET), Ms. Sameena Nazir (PODA), Ms.



Maliha Zia (AF), Mr. Ali Imran (MDM), Ms. Zakia Arshad & Ms. Naeema Malik (SAP-PK), Ms. Zubeida Noor (NET), Ms. Shabana Arif (Rozan), Ms. Naumana Suleman (NCJP), Ms. Uzma Irum (Sach), Dr. Noreen Khalid (OXFAM-GB), Ms. Aqsa Khan (Action Aid), Ms. Alice Shackelford (UNIFEM) and Mr. Naeem Mirza (AF).

The participants of the National Consultation critiqued the bills that were presented in the plenary. The participants also looked into the MoWD-circulated draft. The consultation scrutinized the bill clause-wise and gave their opinions as to how to make the bill as effective as possible, keeping in mind that the terms/definitions should be clear and unambiguous and not open to manipulation. There was a great deal of attention paid to implementation procedures and whether there should be any provisions for reconciliation at all. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was decided



that a further set of provincial consultations will take place before the final draft is prepared. These consultations took place in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta and Islamabad, soon after the participants reached their places. Upon receipt of their recommendations, a final draft was prepared by AF's legal experts, which was shared with the Ministry of Women's Development,



Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights and National Commission on the Status of Women. The preparation of an alternative draft by civil society organisations for the elimination of domestic violence is considered an historic step in the struggle to achieve equality of rights and status for women in Pakistan.

The process of drafting an alternative draft of Domestic Violence Bill (DVB) by Aurat Foundation in collaboration with other like-minded civil society organisations, committed women's rights activists and legal experts might be recorded as a milestone in women's movement if the efforts for enactment of a good law on domestic violence meet success.

Domestic Violence Bill – The Trailblazers

Two private member bills were moved by two distinguished women parliamentarians on the issue of domestic violence in the 12th National Assembly (2002-2007). The first bill was moved by Ms. Sherry Rehman and 14 other MNAs of the PPP on 10 March 2005, and was laid before the House on 8 August 2006; the second private member bill was moved by Ms. Mehnaz Rafi and another MNA of PML-Q on 23 December 2005, and was also laid before the House on 8 August 2006. The Bills lapsed with the completion of the National Assembly's 5-year tenure in November 2007.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS IN MUSLIM FAMILY LAWS

Working Drafts:

- The Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961 (Act VII of 1961)
- The West Pakistan Rules Under the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961
- Form of Nikahnama
- The West Pakistan Family Courts Act, 1964 (XXXV of 1964)
- The West Pakistan Family Courts Rules, 1965
- The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (XIX of 1929)
- The Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939 (VIII of 1939)

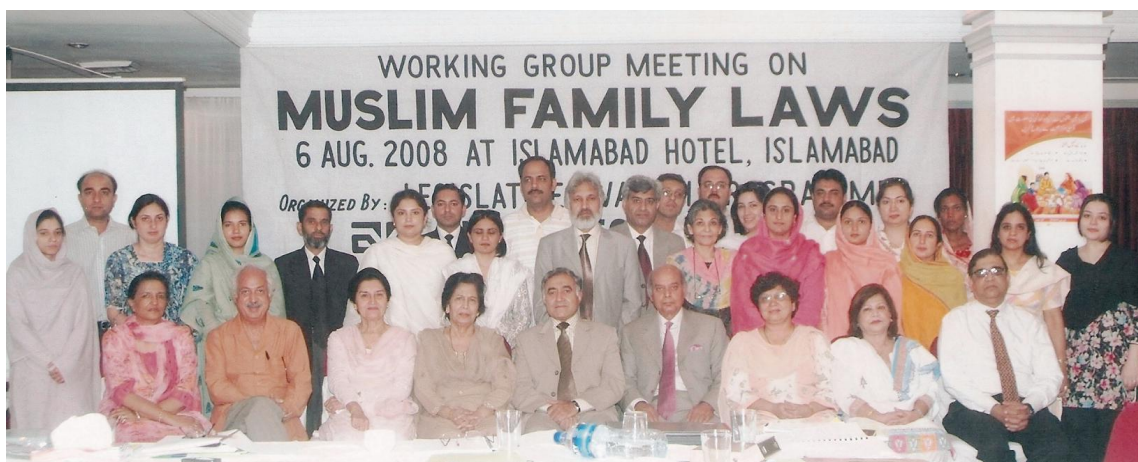
Working Group Meeting on Muslim Family Laws
6 August 2008, Islamabad

Legislative Watch Programme
Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation

(The title of the Suggested Amendment in Muslim Family Laws)

Reform of Muslim Family Laws

A National Working Group meeting was held in Islamabad on 6 August with eminent lawyers and jurists, as well as civil society activists to review and reform the Muslim family laws. The participants conducted a clause-wise scrutiny of the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance 1961; the West Pakistan Rules under the MFLO; Form of Nikahnama (marriage contract); the West Pakistan Family Courts Act, 1964; the West Pakistan Family Courts Rules, 1965; the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 and the Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act. The house discussed in detail clauses that need to be amended to facilitate women seek justice in matters related to marriage, divorce, 'khula,' maintenance and discouraging practice of child marriages. The meeting analysed the set of laws on the basis of an up-dated version of previous recommendations, authored by Dr. Faqir Hussain, Secretary Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan. After a day long detailed discussion, a set of recommendations were agreed upon and a smaller working group was designated to finalize the set of recommendations. **The second Working Group meeting** was held on 29 October 2008 in Karachi and included the participation of a number of the country's top legal minds. After detailed discussion and analyses, recommendations for four of the above-mentioned acts were finalized.



Seated (L to R): Shamsa Ali (Senior Advocate), Syed Iqbal Haider (HRCP & former federal law minister), Justice (Retd.) Nasira Javid Iqbal (member Law and Justice Commission), Justice (Retd.) Majida Rizvi (former chairperson NCSW), Dr. Faqir Hussain (Secretary, Law and Justice Commission), Justice (Retd.) Shaiq Usmani, Noor Naz Agha (PAWLA/Advocate), Anis Haroon (Aurat Foundation, Karachi), Prof. Akmal Waseem (Hamdard Law College, Karachi). Standing (L to R): Shabina Ayaz (AF Peshawar), Habib Tahir (HRCP/Advocate), Saadia Mumtaz (Advocate), Shumaila Tanveer (AF), Shakeel Azam Awan (Advocate), Rubina Barohi (AF/Advocate), Imran Quershi (Shirkat Gah/Advocate), Mumtaz Mughal (AF Lahore), Shamim Malik (Advocate), Naeem Mirza (AF Islamabad), Younas Khalid (AF Islamabad/Advocate), Akbar Ali Shah (Advocate), Nasreen Zehra (AF Lahore), Haroon Dawood (AF Quetta), Maliha Zia (AF Islamabad/Advocate), Shahnaz Hameed Khattak (Advocate), Amir Ali (AF Quetta), Ume-e-Laila (AF Lahore), Uzma Mehboob (AF Peshawar/Advocate), Farhat Fatima (journalist), Aqsa Khan (Action Aid), Samreen Sadouzai (Advocate).

CEDAW Follow-Up Process & Preparation of Pakistan Shadow Report

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is an international human rights treaty meant to remove discrimination against women resulting in gender inequalities. The State obligations imposed by CEDAW are primarily obligations to guarantee equality and freedom from discrimination for women in all fields and all walks of life. The UN General Assembly adopted the CEDAW Convention on 19th December 1979.

Pakistan ratified the CEDAW Convention in 1996 with a Declaration to the effect that accession to the Convention was subject to the provision of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Pakistan also notified its reservations to the Article 29. Pakistan has neither signed nor ratified the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW.

Pakistan presented combined Initial, Second and Third Periodic Report, before the CEDAW Committee during its 38th Session at the United Nations, New York, on 22 May 2007. The Pakistan Report was supported by Responses to the List of Issues and Questions raised by a Pre-session Working Group of the CEDAW Committee. Mr. Mahmood Salim Mahmood, Secretary, Ministry of Women Development (MoWD), who was heading the Pakistan delegation, presented an Introductory Statement, on the occasion.

A delegation of Pakistani NGOs, which included two Aurat Foundation persons, also participated the CEDAW Committee session at the UN. The Pakistan delegation lobbied with the CEDAW Committee on the basis of a ‘Shadow Report’ prepared by National Commission on Justice and Peace; an ‘Alternative Report’ prepared by Shirkat Gah; and an NGO Statement prepared by Aurat Foundation. The NGO statement was read before the CEDAW Committee on 21 May 2007 and the Pakistan delegation answered several queries made by CEDAW experts.

The CEDAW Committee, after a day-long meeting with the official delegation from Pakistan on 22 May and an informal meeting with NGO delegation on May 21, released “Concluding Comments” on the Pakistan Report. The 53-point concluding comments contain a number of ‘principal areas of concern and recommendations’ requiring action and clarification on them by the Government of Pakistan (GoP). The CEDAW Committee has requested the GoP, the State Party, to respond to the concerns expressed in the present concluding comments in its next periodic report under Article 18 of the Convention, which is due in April 2009.

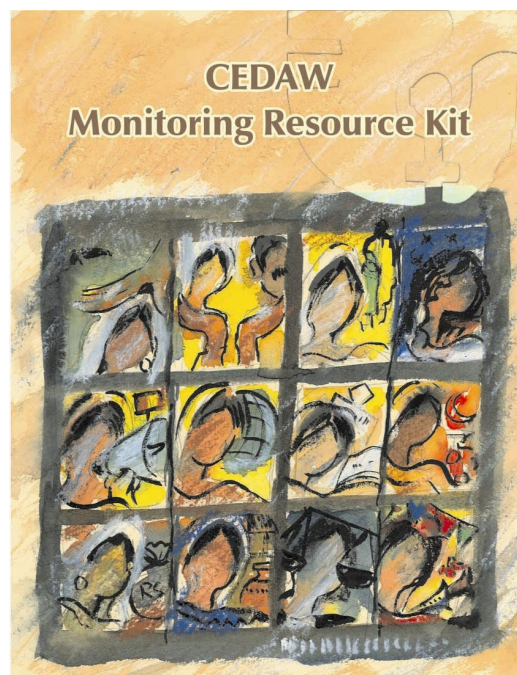
The MoWD started the process of preparing the next periodic report recently. The MoWD has also involved NGOs in the process.

The CEDAW Committee while considering the country reports, also draw on information provided by women’s rights NGOs from the reporting countries. Therefore, women’s rights NGOs submit alternative reports on their countries’ progress – often called “Shadow Reports” – to the Committee. The Committee places great value on hearing from women themselves about the situation in their countries.

Aurat Foundation undertook a project with the support of UNIFEM in 2008 to monitor the process of implementation of CEDAW by the GoP and other stakeholders and highlight strengths and gaps of the process through consultation and documentation. The main objectives of the project were to: i) strengthen the capacity of the concerned staff of AF and other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)/individuals on CEDAW monitoring and reporting mechanisms; lobbying and advocacy on CEDAW follow-up process and implementation; ii) undertake data collection and consultative processes on the implementation of CEDAW by the Government of Pakistan and other stakeholders with critical input from representatives of government, legislatures, political parties, civil society and media; and iii) document the findings of monitoring and consultative process on CEDAW implementation through a 'Shadow Report' highlighting the achievements and gaps of different stakeholders, including the State Party.

Aurat Foundation organised a one 1-day National Planning/Consultative Meeting of the previously constituted National CEDAW Committee to prepare and finalize the CEDAW follow-up process and allocate responsibilities for accomplishment of tasks. The meeting was held on October 13, 2008 in Islamabad. 15 new and previous NGOs CEDAW Committee members, 4 UNIFEM representatives and 5 CEDAW Focal Persons (FPs) and 5 members of AF senior management participated in the meeting.

The AF CEDAW FPs had individual meetings with government representatives and through meetings arranged by UNIFEM and government. The first round of meetings was held on 19 November in Karachi, on 21 November in Lahore, on 24 November in Quetta and on 22 November in Peshawar. The CEDAW Expert Group meeting was held on 18 December 2008 and the FPs were given the task to get information about government report and sharing of Shadow Report process and identification of government officials for upcoming AF CEDAW trainings.





Chapter Three

**Capacity Building and
Consultative Processes**

On Gender Mainstreaming of Provincial Budgets

At **Lahore**, the consultation was held on 3 June 2008. The theme of consultation was “Current Fiscal Proposals & Mainstreaming Gender in Provincial Budget”. Out of 77 participants, 35 were women MPAs along with activists of political parties, activists of civil society organizations, media and programme staff of Aurat Foundation. Ms. Neelam Jabbar, Minister for Population Welfare, (PPPP), Punjab chaired the meeting, while Spekaer Punjab Provincial Assembly, Rana Muhammad Iqbal Ahmed Khan gave the concluding remarks. Ch. Hasnat Ahmed, Senior Chief, Planning &



Development Commission, Punjab, Ms. Khalida Ahsan, Gender & Governance Consultant and Raza Hassan Gerdezi, Provincial Manager GRBI, Punjab were the resource persons. Panellist included: Ms. Arifa Khalid, MPA, Pakistan Muslim League (N), Ms. Sajida Mir, MPA, PPPP, and Ms. Mehnaz Rafi, ex. MNA, Pakistan Muslim League (Q). Mr. Sohaib Margoob, Senior Journalist, Editor Weekly Sunday Magazine of “Jang Group” and moderated the first session. Ms. Khawar Mumtaz, Advisor, Shirkat Gah moderated the first and second session, respectively.

At **Karachi**, the consultation was held on 4 July 2008. The theme was ‘Provincial budget



analysis from gender perspective’. Syed Tariq Ali Shah, Deputy Secretary, Finance, Provincial Government, Ms. Naushaba Khatoon, gender analyst, Mr. Sabhiuddin Ghausi, senior economic journalist, Mr. Mohammed Sabir, senior economist – SPDC, Ms. Humera Alvani (MPA PPP), Ms. Zareen Majeed (MPA MQM) and Ms. Marvi Rashdi (MPA PML-F) were among the panel of speakers. The participants, 48 in total, included 31 women and 16 men.

At Peshawar, the provincial consultation was held on 27 June 2008. The theme of the consultation was “NWFP Budget 2008-2009 in Gender Perspective”. The panellists included Mr. Mohammad Hamayun Khan, Minister for Finance, Ms. Sitara Imran, Minister for Social Welfare and Women’s Development, Mr. Waqar Ahmed, Associate Professor at Institute of Management and Sciences University, Peshawar and Mr. Saif-ur-Rahman Usmani, Director Finance. Among the 127 participants, there were several women parliamentarians, civil society representatives, media persons, political workers, students and lawyers.



At Quetta, the provincial consultation was held on 4 June 2008. The theme of the consultation was “Process of budget making and gender mainstreaming”. Mr. Abdul Rehman (professor economics, University of Balochistan) and Dr. Irfan Ahmed Baig (feature writer, daily Jang) were the resource persons while the discussants included Ms. Hussan Bano, MPA (MMA), Dr. Fauzia Nazir Marri (BNP-Awami), Ms. Samina Razzik (PPPP) and Ms. Uzma Ahad Piralizai (ANP).

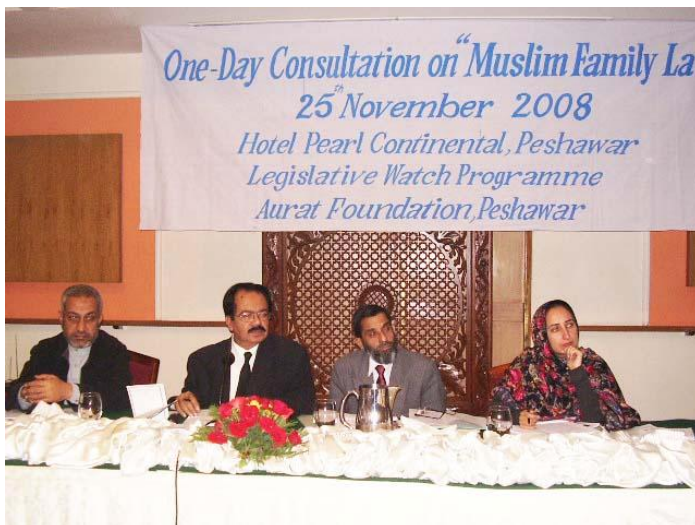
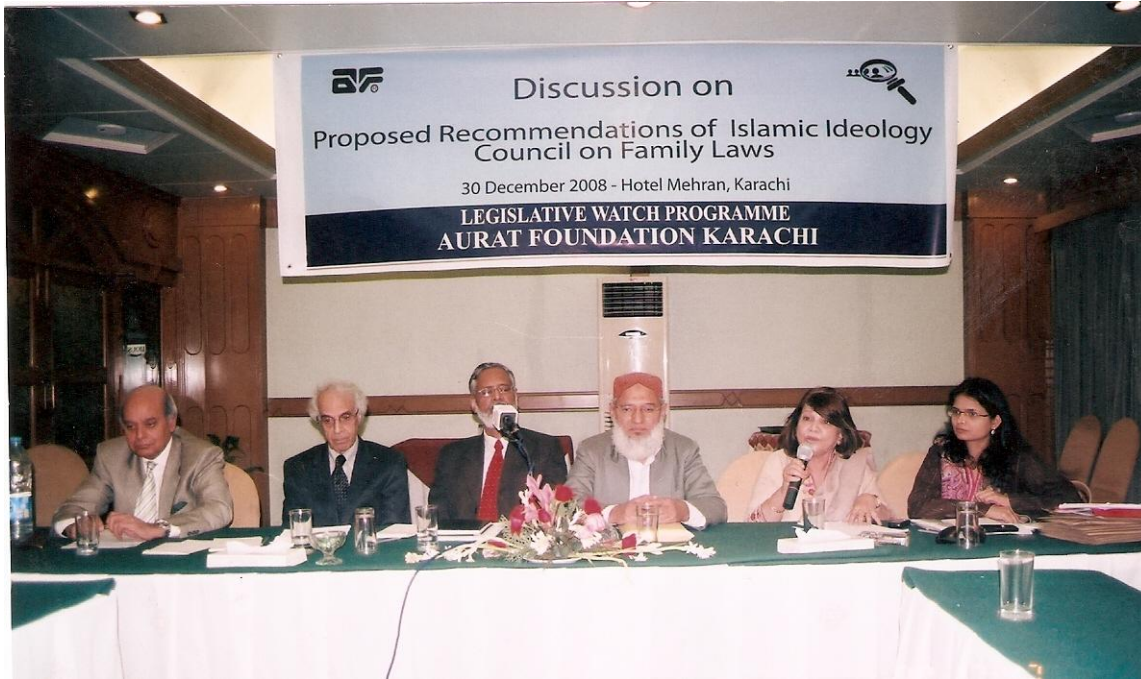
On Proposed Amendments in Muslim Family Laws Ordinance

At Lahore, the consultation was held on and 2 December on the issue of “Proposed Amendments in Muslim Family Laws Ordinance”. Out of 99 participants, 23 women were MPAs, 2 were women MNAs, some former women parliamentarians of Punjab and National



Assembly, office bearers of women’s wings of major political parties, district members, lawyers, activists of civil society organizations and media. The consultation was presided over by the Speaker of the Punjab Provincial Assembly, Mr. Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan. Mr. Rashid Bin Ahmed, Secretary Directorate of Human Rights and Minority, Government of Punjab, was the Guest of Honour. Justice (R) Dr. Nasira Javed Iqbal was the resource person and Dr. Robina Saigol, Independent Researcher, moderated the consultation.

At Karachi, the consultation focussing on Muslim Family Laws and Domestic Violence Bill was held on 31 October 2008. Ms. Shahla Raza, Deputy Speaker of Sindh Provincial Assembly presided over the consultation. Justice (Retd.) Majida Rizvi, Justice (Retd.) Nasira Javed Iqbal, Justice (Retd.) Shaiq Usmani, Prof. Akmal Waseem (Hamdard College of Law) and Ms. Noor Naz Agha (senior advocate/PAWLA) were the resource persons. The consultation was attended by 72 people (54 women and 18 men).



At Peshawar, the second consultation, held on 25 November 2008, focussed on “Muslim Family Laws”. Mr. Shakeel Azam Awan senior Advocate, Mr. Akhter Ali Khan Advocate Principal Frontier Law Collage Peshawar were panellists, who presented recommendations in the Consultation that had been finalised by the LWP working groups. Mr. Arshad Abdullah, Minister for Law, NWFP and Mr. Saleem Khan, Session Judge deputed as Secretary NWFP Assembly chaired the meeting. 66 participants included civil society representatives, media persons, political workers, students and lawyers.

At Quetta, the provincial consultation was held on 26 November 2008 and was attended by 63 participants. The consultation focussed on the topic of Muslim family laws. Mr. Habib Tahir, Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan, was the resource person. The participants included women parliamentarians namely Dr. Fauzia Nazeer Marri (BNP-Awami), Ms. Hussan Bano (MMA) and Ms. Bibi Zarina (BNP-Awami).

On Women's Effective Participation and Leadership in Decision-making

Aurat Foundation in partnership with OXFAM-GB started a 5-year project titled 'Raising Her Voice - Women's Effective Participation and Leadership in Decision-making in Pakistan', in July 2008, under a world-wider initiative by the Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF). Main objectives of the project are "to strengthen the role of poor and marginalized women in governance and to achieve pro-poor development for women and the wider society". In addition, a consultative process was undertaken to identify issues and practices constituting barriers to women's right to vote. The target groups of the project involved working with religious groups, local elders, CBOs, NGOs, academic institutions, local government representatives, law enforcing agencies, Public Safety Commission, legislators, media, women and other vulnerable sections of society. Local government representatives were actively involved in each project activity.

Elections play an important part in contributing to the political empowerment of the marginalized sections of society. An inadequate and flawed framework of elections holds back many voters who stay away from the polling stations. Aurat Foundation has been active in raising concerns about the significant disparity between the number of men and women registered as voters on the electoral rolls. Of the total number of registered voters (80.4 million) in the general elections of 2007-08, about 56% (over 45 million) were men, while 44% (over 35 million) were women. Several million of the women on the electoral rolls were not able to vote because they did not hold the Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) issued by National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). According to the preliminary statement of the European Union Election Observation Mission (EUEOM) 2008, there were around 14 million women voters whose names were missing, of which 7 million women did not hold CNICs. This flaw aside, it is feared that as many as 15 million voters (17.65% of an estimated 87.5 million citizens of voting age) may still be missing from the Final Electoral Rolls. Also, during the General Elections 2007-08, women were barred from participating in the elections in the tribal areas. There were reports of several agreements among political parties, religious groups and tribal elders in FATA, NWFP, and Balochistan whereby it was agreed that women will not be allowed to come to vote. These agreements turned the election into a male-only affair at scores of polling stations. It is feared that women would again be barred from casting their votes unless all political and religious parties refuse to support such *jirgas* that ban women's right to vote.

The district partners were asked to identify minimum 1,500 women (50 from each of the selected 30 districts) from community women groups/individuals, women elected representatives in the local government, representatives of government institutions concerned, like NADRA, MoWD (GRAP), provincial women and social welfare ministries and education departments, personnel

of line departments concerned, and women cadre of civil society organisations to undertake project activities, which included:

District-level Sessions

Fifteen one-day district-level sessions were held with community women, elected representatives and concerned personnel in the local government in 18 target districts for action-planning, awareness-raising, identification of issues, assessment of training needs of key stakeholders and orientation of political rights of women. There were a total of 465 participants (30 to 35 participants in each meeting). These sessions contributed to improving their awareness and understanding of human rights and ability to claim rights.

Women Leaders' Profiles

The project team developed a profile of women leaders in 5 target districts of Punjab and 3 districts of NWFP. In total, the profiles of 806 women leaders of Punjab and 234 of NWFP were collected from the above-mentioned districts. These women represent local governments, government institutions concerned, social welfare ministries, education departments, health departments, and women cadre of civil society organizations, female students of secondary and tertiary education institutions, media personnel and bar associations.

District-wise Registration Campaigns

District-wise civil registration campaign was carried out in the target communities in 30 districts. AF Citizens' Action Committee members and women councillors extended help to make Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) and domiciles/local certificates for 37,500 eligible women (1,250 in each district). CAC members and women councillors' delegation met the district officers of NADRA & assistant election commissioners. They found out that hundreds of women didn't have CNICs in villages so they requested the NADRA to assign mobile vans to the respective areas. The women councillors assured the CACs and the women leaders of their full support.

Awareness Raising Meetings (ARMs)

Fifteen one-day Issue-sensitization, Action-planning and Awareness-raising meetings (ARMs) were organized at the district level with community women, elected representatives and relevant personnel in the local government in 30 target districts (1 combining two districts) on identification of issues, training needs of key stakeholders and orientation of political rights of women (30-35 participants in each meeting). The participants of these one-day sessions were largely women leaders, i.e. women councilors (Union, Tehsil and district), women working in different government and non-government institutions, women serving duties as office-bearers of political parties, and women social and political activists. Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) tools were used to involve the participants of these sessions in the process of assessing the issues of women in their respective areas. The participants of these ARMs put forward recommendations and actions to address the problems faced by poor women of this society.

Special Activities

In all clusters, CACs undertook some special initiative like developing an innovative media and communication strategy to be used independently or during an advocacy campaign at the local level to highlight and share the best practices for influencing the decision-makers and the duty-bearers. In 30 districts, special activities engaged more than 1,767 women and men in these activities. Different issues were highlighted by these activities such as: violence against women, women in politics, improving girl's education, basic women's rights, mother & child health and violence, and discriminatory laws.

On Enabling Environment for Poor Women's Participation in Politics and Development

Aurat Foundation in collaboration with The Asia Foundation initiated the 'Enabling environment for Poor Women Participation in Politics and Development' project in 2008. The project was implemented through AF's Karachi and Peshawar offices. The district representatives of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) were invited in several meetings with women councillors and office bearers and members of women's wings of political parties. They facilitated sessions dwelling on issues related to their respective work areas, however, the problems regarding women's obtaining Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) and enrolment to voter register were the key focus of their talks.

The rationale of the initiative is that participative and decentralized form of governance creates greater space for citizens to participate in governance processes and structures. It also creates space for greater interaction between the state and the society

Several activities in this project were designed to strengthen the Women Councillors Associations and the newly established Caucus of Women Parliamentarians while the training programme will help women's wings of political parties in their institutional development. Towards identification of administrative barriers in women's obtaining their CNICs and enrolling into the voter register, a leaflet was developed, published and widely disseminated. The leaflet illustrated the step-by-step process of obtaining CNIC and enrolling into the new computerized voter list. The suggestions and recommendations to remove the legal and administrative barriers faced by women voters were compiled during these meetings. Several drafts of these proposals and recommendations were produced and shared with the experts. A final version thus produced was also translated into and posted at AF website <http://www.af.org.pk> for signatures and public endorsements.

In NWFP, the project was implemented in 7 districts, namely Mardan, Charsadda, Swabi, Malakand, Dera Ismail Khan, Karak and Mansehra. Some other districts like Nowshera, Kohat, Haripur and Abbottabad were also visited by the project team to gain the experiences of the already formed Women Councillors Associations (WCAs) in these districts. The Peshawar office held a series of meetings with District Nazims, Naib Nazims, DCOs and women councillors:

On Problems in Data Accessibility on Violence against Women

The PDM-VAW teams at Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta offices conducted 4 FGDs on one common theme i.e. "Problems of data accessibility on violence against women" with the concerned stakeholders, which included public representatives, women ministers and legislators, police officials, medico-legal officials, civil surgeons, media personnel and official of shelter homes. The Quetta office held the FDG on 30 June 2008 which was attended by 50 participants which included 7 women; the FDG by Karachi office was arranged on 15 September, attended by 51 participants including 28 women; the FDG by Peshawar office was held on 15 November, attended by 67 including 36 women, and Lahore office held the FDG on 31 December 2008 which was attended by 34 participants which included 14 women. Since, the process of development of the DVB was also on, some participants also touched the issue. A number of suggestions were forwarded at these forums to streamline the access to data on VAW.

On Enabling Women's Effective Participation in Political Institutions

Enabling Women's Effective Participation in Political Institutions, in partnership with Heinrich Boll Foundation, is a project aimed at strengthening women councillors to gain legitimacy as public representatives in effectively addressing the concerns of their constituents. The methodology of the project was to focus on those councillors who were successful in their first tenure (2000-2005) and bring them together in the workshops. The main strategy was experience-sharing and documentation of their success stories.

The project teams conducted 90 workshops in a period of three years (2005-2008), in which around 900 women councillors were engaged. The participants recorded their successes for documentation, and collectively analysed what strategies were employed and which were more successful than the others. The Five Regional Offices organized thirty workshops each year. Each Regional Office covered not only the districts with the CACs and AF resource centres but also adjoining districts where there were successful examples of women councillors.

The workshops were organized cluster-wise. From each cluster of four to five districts, about five women were selected from each district to participate in the workshop. They were asked to send a brief write up to the Regional Project Coordinator (RPC) about their success stories, highlighting the strategies used by them, or the factors that played a positive role in their success. This preliminary information enabled the RPC to select the participants and to plan the workshop programme. A few participants were included from the category of political party women at the district level who were aspiring to stand for Local Government elections in 2005.

The workshop agenda included the following:

- recounting of success stories by the participants, identifying the reasons for their success,
- group discussions to analyse and develop an objective understanding of the actual factors that played a role in their success, and to identify the lessons that need to be learnt,

- identification by the participants of a specific problem in environmental degradation in their community/area and, keeping in mind the successful strategies and lessons learnt, give a commitment to resolve the problem, collectively with some of their colleagues.
- presentation of analytical report by each participant six months later (in a follow up workshop), to highlight the reasons for their successful or unsuccessful intervention.

The material from these workshops was compiled and six volumes of books in Urdu under the title “*Angan say Aiwan tak*” and three volumes in English titled “From Home to House” were brought out on the success stories of women councillors and their strategies by the end of three years in 2008. These books demonstrated substantively how women can be successful as public representatives and how important is to strategise.

(The titles of these books are reproduced in Chapter Six “Research and Publications”)

Chapter Four

Advocacy, Awareness-raising & Lobbying

HONOURKILLING
IS Against
THE LAW

عورتیں پر تشدد کے

er 25, 2008

”ظلم پھر ظلم ہے بڑھتا ہے

عورتوں پر تشدد کا شرمناک فیصلہ جرگوں میں

عورت فا
Aurat Foundations

Stop Violence

نے والے
ن۔ بچارانی
ہو سکتے۔

مل۔ عداہر

On the Assassination of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's return to Pakistan on 18 October, 2007, after eight years in self-exile, was seen a ray of hope for the marginalized section of the country, especially women. The people of Pakistan, crushed by the dictatorship and terrorism, were taking her return as return of peace and democracy in the country. Her assassination on 27 December 2007, in a suicide bombing-gun attack in Rawalpindi was a shock for all those hoping peace and democracy in the country. Peoples from all walks of life condemned and mourned her assassination through various activities. Aurat Foundation, along with other civil society organizations held references and democracy vigils in all its regional offices as well as at Islamabad.

Karachi Reference for BB - Peace, Harmony & Democracy

A reference for Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto on Peace, Harmony & Democracy (A legacy of Benazir Bhutto) was held on 12 January 08, followed by a Candle light vigil at Karachi press club, under WAF with the collaboration of Aurat Foundation. Participants included Justice (R) Majida Rizvi, Fauzia Wahab (PPPP), Shazia Mari (MPA PPP), Mehtab Akber Rashidi, Fehmida Riaz, Sherry Rehman (PPPP), Nafisa Shah (PPPP), Anis Haroon, Nighat Saeed Khan, Fareeda Shaeed, Khawar Mumtaz, Nuzhat Qadwai, Tahira Abdullah and a number of other politicians, legislators, and councillors.



Islamabad Reference for Shaheed Benazir Bhutto

Aurat Foundation's Islamabad team arranged a condolence meeting at Islamabad office on 1 January 2008, to pay homage to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto. Senator Dr. Babar Awan, Dr. Khalid Masud, Nargis Faiz Malik, Iftexhar Arif, Kishwar Naheed, Dr. Inayatullah, Naheed Aziz, Samina Khan, Tahira Abdullah, Harris Khalique, Mehbood Sada, C. R. Shamsi, Rakhshanda Perveen, Samina Nazir, Aliya Mirza, Prof. Rasheed Khalid, Sajid Mansoor Qaisrani and Naem

Mirza spoke on the occasion and paid homage to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, whereas a large number of political and civil society activists participated in the meeting.



Democracy Vigil

In Islamabad, a 'Democracy Vigil' was organised under the auspices of Insani Haqooq Ittehad (IHI), a coalition of human right and women rights organization of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, to express solidarity with democratic forces in the aftermath of the assassination of Benazir Bhutto from 4-8 January on a daily basis for two hours (5-7 pm) at the Super Market, Islamabad. Representatives of civil society and political parties were visiting the site everyday to light a candle and stand in solidarity.



On Independence of Judiciary and Human Rights

Ms. Tahira Abdullah, an eminent human rights and women's rights activist, wrote on the 'lawyers' movement' in the Legislative Watch Newsletter Issue No. 23. Some excerpts from her article are reproduced below:

“No one could have foretold that 9th March 2007 would be a turning point in Pakistan's chequered history of interminable spells of military misrule, interspersed with brief quasi-democratic elected governments, being regularly ejected for alleged corruption and misgovernance by far more corrupt, greedy and self-seeking military juntas. But so it proved to be, when the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), the Honourable Mr. Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry uttered that immortal monosyllable: “NO”, in response to the Chief of Army Staff-cum-President, General Pervez Musharraf's pressurizing him to resign or face deposition and charges of corruption. He was deposed, he faced and fought the charges in the Supreme Judicial Council, but was restored with as the CJP on 20th July 2007. However, again, on 3rd November 2007, when Gen. Musharraf imposed his second Martial Law-cum-Emergency, the entire superior judiciary was required to take a fresh oath of allegiance to the amended Constitution (PCO or the Provisional Constitutional Order, 2007). The CJP and several other Supreme Court Judges, as well as almost 60 courageous Judges nationwide refused to do so. The CJP and his peers were put under house arrest along with their entire families on 3rd November 2007, and were released only after the PM-elect, Mr. S. Yusuf Raza Gillani succeeded in obtaining the vote of confidence in the Parliament on 24th March 2008 and simply ordered the Islamabad ICT Administration to release them. The struggle for honourable restoration of the CJP was still to be continued. The Movement witnessed exemplary determination and innumerable sacrifices by lawyers, including a number of innocent lives lost in the Karachi carnage on 12th May 2007. Lawyers, women's rights activists, students, NGOs, political workers, traders and mediapersons have been arrested, jailed, manhandled, beaten, tear-gassed, water-cannoned and stoned with impunity. Lawyers, women's rights activists, students, NGOs, political workers, traders and mediapersons have been arrested, jailed, manhandled, beaten, tear-gassed, water-cannoned and stoned with impunity. But such brutal repression has not succeeded in diminishing the fervour and spirit of the Movement, which has resolved to carry on until the restoration of the non-functional CJP and the Judges – with full honour and dignity. In January 2007, it would have been inconceivable that a single word, symbolizing an act of defiance to a military dictator, could so fire the imagination of millions of Pakistanis across the rural/urban, age and gender divide, as well as across the political, economic, occupational, social, ethnic, linguistic and sectarian/religious spectrum. It is indeed a source of hope for a brighter future.”

Aurat Foundation Joined Lawyers' 'Long March'

Aurat Foundation's Lahore team along with members of LWG Lahore, representatives of civil society organizations, members of Citizens' Action Committees for Women Rights and representatives of labour unions formed a group to join the lawyers' long march to Islamabad. The group started its journey when small processions and the main caravan left for Islamabad on 11 June and reached Islamabad on 13 June. On its way, group members gave a number of interviews and statements on electronic and print media at each town or city they stopped. Local and international media gave wide coverage to AF group's participation in the long march.

Political Parties, lawyers and other civil society groups also acknowledged AF's gesture of solidarity with the lawyers' cause and movement for the restoration of judiciary.



The AF Karachi team held a 'Long March Rally' in solidarity with Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry & other deposed judges on 12 March. Participation in the rally was huge. Thousands of people joined the rally from different parts of Sindh and Balochistan to reach Sukkur from where to leave for Multan and then for Islamabad. An AF team also embarked upon a long journey from Karachi to be part of the long march and reach Islamabad in a caravan.



One seminar at Lahore was held on 29 December 2008 on "Situation of Human Rights in 2008". The panellists were: Mr. I.A. Rehman, senior analyst and director HRCPC, Mr. Abid Hassan Manto, intellectual, senior analyst and political activist, Mr. Awais Ahmed Advocate, ex-

president Supreme Court Bar Association and Ms. Beelum Husnain, MNA (PPPP). More than 100 participants participated in the seminar from civil society organizations, lawyers (male & female), office bearers of political parties, members of district councillors, students, media representatives (electronic & print) and programme staff of AF.

On Violence Against Women (VAW)

An intense advocacy and lobbying effort was undertaken under Aurat Foundation's 'PDM-VAW' project during 2008, with key representatives of federal and provincial assembly legislators, political party members, government officials, legal experts and civil society organizations to address the issue of VAW by according it a high priority on the national agenda through a number of FGDs, public seminars and media inputs. The project is a research tool for advocacy. It aims to disseminate this information widely, include all sorts of actors and stakeholders in focus group discussions, consultations and seminars etc.

Hundreds of people were directly or indirectly conveyed the message for a women-friendly society and laws. Linkages were developed and strengthened with various government departments and civil society organizations. Representatives of concerned CSOs, ministries, government departments, political parties and legislatures, law-enforcement agencies, as well as people from different communities e.g. from legal, medical, educational and media were involved in PDM-VAW activities. The dissemination of material on violence against women and regular interaction with them has further strengthened these linkages. The data that collected and compiled was from already either public sources (i.e. media) or from the police and medico legal centers, who themselves have confidentiality clauses and therefore do not disclose the details of these cases, including the names, addresses of the persons involved.

Press Conferences to Release Quarterly Reports on Situation of VAW

Twenty quarterly reports on 'situation of violence against women' covering the period from January to December 2008, were prepared by the PDM-VAW teams and were released to public through press conferences in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta. The press conferences were addressed by AF/PDM-VAW staff and members of the VAW-WGs, including women legislators. TV channels and national and regional print media covered the launching ceremonies of these reports. VAW-WG members and PDM-VAW teams were also frequently interviewed by media persons on these occasions.



The quarterly reports on VAW were widely disseminated among all stakeholders. Since, PDM-VAW reports and other material is also available on the AF website, a number of queries was answered through e-mail and internet. The data on VAW was stored and utilized through a database designed for the purpose. It was improved with the passage of time and extra features were added to make it more user friendly and compatible for the staff members because it was observed that not everyone was able to operate the database.



اسلام آباد: عورت فاؤنڈیشن کی رابعہ اپنے ساتھیوں کے ہمراہ پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کر رہی ہیں (فوٹو نوائے وقت)

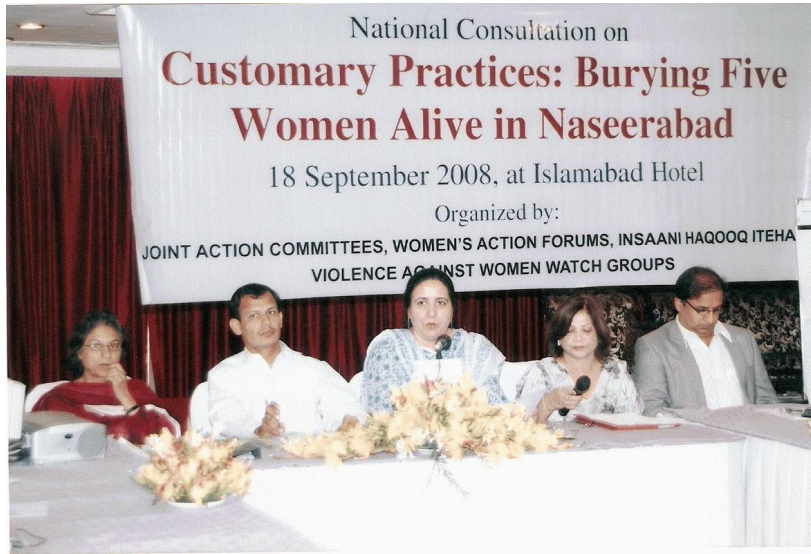
سال رواں کے دوران خواتین پر تشدد کے تین ہزار پانچ سو اکتیس واقعات ہوئے

ایسے واقعات سے خواتین کی جسمانی اور ذہنی نشوونما پر بے اثرات مرتب ہو رہے ہیں

تشدد کے سب سے زیادہ واقعات صوبہ پنجاب میں سامنے آئے، عورت فاؤنڈیشن

اسلام آباد (ایڈی رپورٹر) پاکستان میں رواں سال کے
 لواتر میں خواتین پر تشدد کے کل تین ہزار پانچ سو اکتیس
 واقعات رپورٹ کئے گئے ہیں۔ ایک ہزار نو سو تریس
 واقعات کی ایف آئی آر درج کی گئی جبکہ باقی ماندہ کی کوئی
 شہادت موجود نہیں ہے رواں سال خواتین پر بدترین ظلم
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On Burial Alive of Five Women in Naseerabad



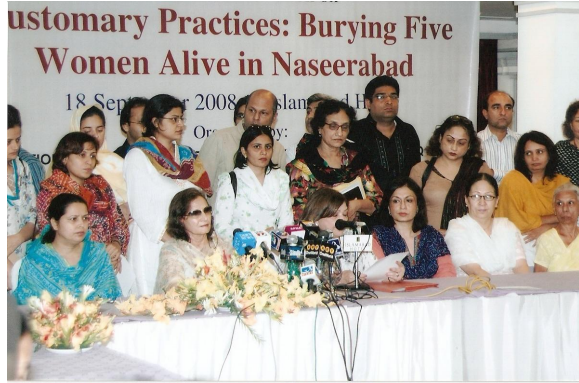
A national consultation was organised by Aurat Foundation in collaboration with Joint Action Committees (JACs), Women's Action Forums (WAF chapters), Insaani Haqooq Ittehad (IHI), Legislative Watch Groups (LWGs) and Violence Against Women Watch Groups on 18 September 2008 on the issue of 'Honour' killing and burial alive of Five Women in Naseerabad'. The participants, including civil society activists from Naseerabad and senior



journalists, discussed the issue in detail and devised strategies to deal with the alarming situation of violence against women and formulated a future plan of action for a nationwide campaign against honour killing and other inhumane practices. Prominent among those attended included Asma Jahangir (HRCP/WAF), Anis Haroon (AF/WAF), Nasreen Azher (IHI/WAF), Tahira Abdullah (HRCP/WAF), Prof. Amar Sindhu (WAF), Maryam Bibi (khowendo Kor), Shah Taj Qizalbash (AGHS), Harris Khalique (SPO), Samina Khan (Sungi),

Naeema Malik (SAP-PK) and Gulnar Tabassum (Shirkat Gah), Rukhshanda Naz and Naeem Mirza (AF). An Islamabad Declaration released at a press conference on the occasion declared that i) killing of women or burying them alive is the most inhuman, heinous, barbaric, unspeakable crime amongst the vast spectrum of violent crimes against women; that the defence of such inhumanity in the name of so-called "honour", or tribal customs, traditions and norms is totally unacceptable and indefensible; that we will employ all our strengths, energies and efforts to prevent any form of a cover-up of such heinous crimes against women by the entrenched tribal, feudal and patriarchal structures and systems; and that we will no longer allow women to be used as pawns – as convenient expendable targets – in feuds between men over murder, property, money, political and tribal rivalries, blood vendettas and misplaced perceptions of "honour" issues. The consultation demanded that: i) a high





powered commission be set up to present a report to the Parliament on Violence Against Women (VAW), particularly focusing on state responsibility and to present its recommendations for policy and legal action by the government; ii) the Penal Code be further amended so that murder is brought back as a crime against the state and should under no circumstances be compounded; that government undertakes legislation against Jirgas/Panchayats and all other informal judicial structures; that the government should provide

protection to potential victims of “honour killings” and restraining orders be passed against those accused of conspiracy to murder; that Senator Zehri and all those public representatives who defended ‘Honour Killings’ should be disqualified from holding public office; that the government should provide protection to women NGOs undertaking fact finding missions in incidents of “honour killings”; and that public representatives denounce all forms of killings particularly of women whether in the name of “honour”, “tradition” or “custom”. The consultation also offered *Dua* (pray) for *Shaheed Aurtaain* (Women killed in the name of “honour” are Martyrs); and decided to dedicate 16 Days of Activism this year (2008) to *shaheed* women killed in the name of honour. The civil society representatives also decided to start a signature campaigns to have public endorsement of this declaration; and to form a group of concerned, individual, including lawyers, retired Judges, human right activists and media persons, and other eminent personalities to follow such cases. The consultation decided that vigilant committees should be formed in region to monitor day to day updates and reporting to everyone; and women and human rights group will hold 4 seminars at provincial levels in order to build support against “honour killings”. The meeting also acknowledged the courage and stance of Senator Yasmeen Shah and many media persons who have continued to report on this issue despite threats to their lives.



At Islamabad, AF was also part of joint efforts in organising and participating in protest demonstrations against burial alive of five women in Naseerabad before the Parliament House on 1 September and 20 September. The demos were organised under the joint platform of IHI.



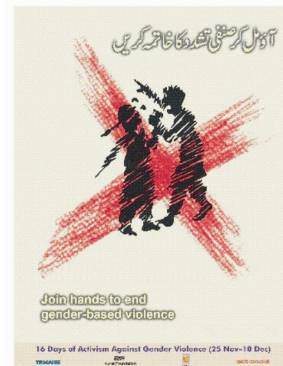
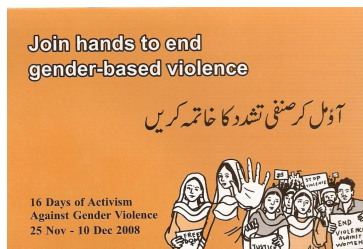
The AF Lahore office organised press conferences and demos on burying 5 women alive in Naseerabad during 2 to 15 September 2008, in Lahore, Vehari, Multan, Gujrat, Khanewal and R.Y.Khan districts.

Special Activities to mark 16 Days of Activism

Sixteen-days of activism against gender-based violence is a worldwide campaign marking the advocacy against violence against women. According to the data collected by Aurat Foundation under PDM-VAW, the statistics show an alarming increase in the incidents of VAW. In September 2008, the horrifying story of burial alive 5 women in Naseerabad was reported by brave journalists, despite the threats to their own security. Such blatant disregard of the law and violation of basic human rights of women shocked the conscience of the entire society, including the members of civil society, who have been in the forefront of the struggle for elimination of violence and discrimination against women. Therefore, networks of civil society organisations, along with other partners, met in a national consultation in Islamabad on 18th September 2008 to discuss a nationwide campaign against murders and crimes committed in the name of “honour” and customary practices. The consultation unanimously passed the Islamabad Declaration which declared that all women who have been brutally murdered under such practices are to be considered ‘*Shaheed Aurat*’ (martyred women). The government must take responsibility to uncover the true stories and not to protect people within its own government and those who have

are involved in such crime against women. The declaration also demanded that action be taken against Senator Israrullah Zehri for supporting such heinous crimes while sitting in the Senate. The house also decided that the 16 days of activism 2008 will be dedicated to these *shaheed* women. During this campaign, following activities were arranged by the AF offices:

By Islamabad: On the occasion of 16 days of activism against violence against women, Aurat Foundation brought out three publications: i) '*Kari Nehin, Shaheed Auratain*', a book dedicated to the victims of 'honour' killings; ii) a poster and iii) a postcard campaigning against gender-based violence. These publications were launched at a seminar at the AF office on 3 December 2008. A *mushaira* of feminist poetry was also conducted with participation from some of the leading and upcoming poets in the country.



By Lahore: The Lahore office prepared the following material: i) buttons with title "say no violence against women"; ii) pocket calendar of 2009 with symbol of stop violence; iii) flyers with history of 16 days of activism; and iv) posters on the rights of woman victims. This material was distributed in different colleges for boys and girls and all the students and teachers wore white ribbon and badges during 16 days. The material was also disseminated through traffic police wardens all over the city and also through their training centers also. The Lahore office also held a candle-light vigil on 28 November.



By Karachi: The Karachi office organised a rally on the eve of International Day for the Elimination of VAW in collaboration with WAF and other civil society organisations on 25 November from Regal Chowk to Karachi Press Club. The rally was participated by around 400 persons (385 women and 15 men) from Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Badin and other areas of Sindh. The procession was led by representatives of AF, WAF, Sindhyani Tahreek, Awami Tahreek, PML-N, PPP, Women's Welfare Development Organisation, Helpline Trust, Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum, Women Peace Committee, PILER, HRCF, PR and other individuals. The participants carried banners and placards inscribed with the slogans, such as, 'Stop violence against women', 'Abolish Jirga system', 'Till when will religious parties keep mum on killing of women? 'Ensure special transport for women', 'Honour killing is against the law', 'where are the killers of women who were buried alive in Balochistan? 'Israrullah Zehri and Hazar Khan Bijarani who support Karo-Kari and Jirga system are not our representatives,' etc.



By Peshawar: The seminar at Peshawar titled '16 Days of Activism and Violence against Women' was held on 4 December, 2008. Minister for Social Welfare Ms. Sitara Ayaz chaired the seminar. Ms. Rukhshanda Naz, Ms. Shabeena Ayaz, Ms Farzana Ali Reporter Aaj TV, and Mr. Ajaz Durrani from SPO were the main speakers. The participants, 57 in total, included representatives from different segment of life attended the seminar.



By Quetta: The Quetta office organized two information dissemination (IDM) meetings to mark the 16 days of activism. The first IDM was held on Gender and Development and International Commitments at SBK Women's University on 25 November and the 2nd IDM was held on gender-based violence and role of youth at University of Balochistan on 4 December 2008. The PDM-VAW also arranged banners with citation of slogans on gender-based violence to be exhibited in different important places of the Quetta city for awareness. Mediapersons as the result of this campaign approached AF Quetta office for informative material on the background of 16 days of activism and recorded interviews of AF staff about the situation of violence against women in Balochistan and 16 days of activism. UNHCR Quetta office made request to AF Quetta office for participation in their radio programme especially planned for 16 days of activism. Mr. Haroon Dawood and Ms. Saima Javaid participated in this programme.



Participation in “We Can End Violence against Women Campaign”

Aurat Foundation participated in the “We Can End Violence Against Women Campaign” launched by the OXFAM-GB in collaboration with its partners, in five districts of NWFP namely Peshawar, Mardan, Charsadda, Swabi, Nowshera through awareness raising workshops, sensitization workshops, capacity building workshops; change-makers’ assemblies, corner meetings, in addition to street theaters, speeches competition and seminars.

Different strategies were adopted to deal with different thematic areas of the campaign. It was observed many times that after hearing the word violence against women, what comes into the mind of the audience was the relationship of wife and the rights debate associated with the rights of a wife. This feeling made them feel reactive instead of being proactive. The staff members during the workshops arranged by the AF discussed the matter and it was advised to them that start discussing women rights with the rights of woman as mother, daughter, sister, grand daughter, and later in the end discussion related to the rights of the wives should be incorporated. They had to make it clear that women’s right does not mean rights exclusive to wife. This

strategy worked very well and gave fruitful outcomes because nature of relationship changed the whole patriarchal way of thinking and attitude towards women. With the passage of time through different activities people started sharing their personal stories and problems with each other and they felt the responsibility as the change maker.

The slogan of the campaign also helped people to associate themselves with it. The insignia or the logo of the WE CAN, which is also imprinted at the background of the change maker form, made people to discuss it a lot. Different groups of men and women imagined it differently. Some of them took it as a ray of hope and better tomorrow others associate it with light. They visualized themselves as the candles and felt the duty of spreading the light and enlighten the world and shun away with the darkness. The women section especially highlighted that the campaign WE CAN has brought significant changes in their lives. They feel worthy and think of themselves as a valuable individual of the family. Their husbands treat them respectfully and do not beat them, which was the everyday routine earlier. They feel confident and their self-esteem got better.

On Constitutional Rule and Democratic Governance

Aurat Foundation's Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar and Karachi offices held one seminar each on the common theme i.e. "Overview of Proposed Constitutional Package: Political and Civil Society Perspective".

At Peshawar, the seminar was held on 12 June 2008 on the above mentioned theme. The panellists included Mr. Mian Iftikhar Hussain (Provincial Information Minister), Mr. Pir Sabir Shah, MPA (PML N, Provincial President, NWFP), Mr. Qazi Muhammad Jamil (Senior Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan), Mr. Fareed Toofan (Senior Leader. PPP), Dr. Said Alam Mahsood (Senior Member Pakhtoonkhwa, Milli Awami Party), Mr. Muhammad Riaz (Senior Reporter Daily DAWN), Mulana Jalil Jan (Senior member JUI-F), Hashim Baber (Additional Secretary ANP), Muhammad Zubair (Senior Lecturer, Department of International Relation, University of Peshawar), Mr Anwar Kamal Marwat (PML-N). The seminar was attended by 90 civil society representatives, media persons, political workers, students and lawyers.

At Karachi, on seminar on the above said theme was held on 14 June 2008. Mr. Taj Haider, (ex-senator, PPP), Mr. Syed Sardar Ahmad (former Finance Minister, parliamentary leader of MQM), Mr. Zahid Rafiq Butt (Information Secretary & spokesperson (PML-N), Mr. Yusuf Musti Khan (Secretary General NWP), Dr Arif Alvi, (Secretary General of Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf) and Justice (Retd.) Shaiq Usmani were resource persons. A total of 72 participants (24 women and 48 men) attended the seminar.

At Islamabad, the seminar on the theme of "Proposed Constitutional Package: civil society and political perspectives" was held on 19 June 2008. Speakers included Ahsan Iqbal, MNA (PML N), Dr. Hashem Babar, Additional Secretary General (ANP), Dr Israr Shah, member Central Executive Committee (PPP), Mr. Athar Minallah, Advocate and a leading activist of the lawyers' movement and Dr. Rubina Saigol, a renowned women's rights activist and a prominent member of WAF. Over 100 participants attended the seminar.

At Lahore, the seminar on the said theme was held on 23 June 2008. Panellist included Dr. Rubina Saigol (researcher & women's rights activist), Mr. I.A. Rehman, (Director HRCP & senior political analyst), Mr. Hamid Khan, Advocate (member, Pakistan Bar Council, ex-president, Supreme Court Bar Association), Mr. S.M. Masood Advocate (former Federal Minister for Law, PPP), Mr. Awais Ahmed Advocate (ex-president, Supreme Court Bar Association), Dr. Saeed Elahi, MPA (PML-N), Mr. Sarfraz Cheema (General Secretary, High Court Bar Council). The seminar was moderated by: Mumtaz Mughal, Regional Coordinator LWP and Mr. Abdullah Malik Advocate. There were 131 participants including 29 women parliamentarians, activists from civil society organizations, lawyers, office-bearers of political parties (women's wings), media representatives, district councillors and students.

On Women's Effective Participation in Decision-making

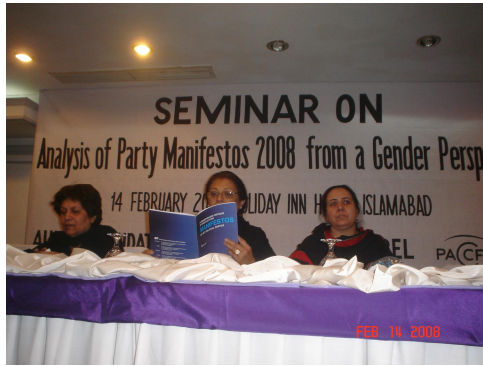
Under its 'Raising Her Voice - Women's Effective Participation and Leadership in Decision-making in Pakistan' project, which started in July 2008, Aurat Foundation organised eight networking and advocacy meetings with concerned government officials in Chakwal, Layyah, Gujranwala, Multan, Tando Allayar, Shikarpur, Hyderabad, and Nowshera districts in which a total of 158 participants took part. The objective of these meetings was twofold: to build the capacity of CSOs to influence government institutions, and to build a relationship with these institutions so that information exchange and collaboration could be strengthened. In this way, a channel of communication was created for influencing government decisions.

These meetings were on a range of issues with the relevant departments: meeting with Election Commission and NADRA on Registration of Women I.D. Cards and Voting rights; meeting with District Bar Association on strengthening linkages with Bar Association for provision Legal aid to women victims; meeting with Executive District Officer for Community Development (EDO CD) and office bearers of CCBs on the current status of CCB (Citizen Community Board) projects submitted by women CCBs; meeting with NADRA, Revenue office and EOBI (Employees Old Age Benefits); meeting with District Election Commissioner on Voters Registration; meeting with District Election Commissioner on Voters Registration and with NADRA on CNIC registration. Numerous meetings were also held with GRAP (Gender Reform Action Programme) staff to obtain more information about the GRAP initiative so that this could be further shared with key stakeholders of the project.

On Free and Fair Elections and Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights

Aurat Foundation conducted and became part of several collective election-related activities before and during the general elections 2008, under the Pakistan Coalition for Free and Fair Democratic Elections (PACFREL), which is a broad coalition of Pakistani national civil society organizations believing in democracy and transparent democratic processes. PACFREL is a coalition of eight national organizations having nationwide outreach, partnership with thousands of organizations and presence in rural and urban communities of Pakistan. These are Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), Ecumenical Advocacy Forum (EAF), South Asia Partnership Pakistan (SAP-PK), Aurat Foundation (AF), Strengthening Participatory

Organizations (SPO), SUNGI Development Foundation (SDF), Interactive Resource Centre (IRC) and Pakistan Institute for Labor Education and Research (PILER).



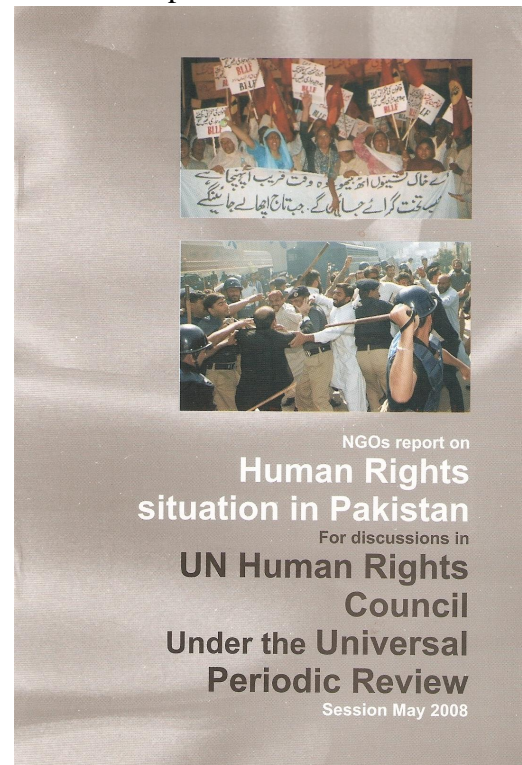
PACFREL launched a Citizens Campaign for Free and Fair Elections (CCFFE), that promoted democratic values by laying emphasis on holding of free and fair elections in Pakistan, allowing all citizens including youth, minorities, women and most marginalized get heard and represented by their own true representatives. It also endeavored to highlight the presence of millions of missing people from the electoral lists, including women, and drew attention of authorities towards providing them “Identity Cards”.

The partner organizations worked to form opinion and institute informed action of citizens by conducting research, building capacities of voters and election monitoring teams, launching media campaigns, holding interactive theatrical performances and by engaging masses, thousands of organizations and electoral candidates into interactive dialogues.

Aurat Foundation also became an important signatory of the ‘NGOs report on Human Rights situation in Pakistan’ which was presented and discussed in UN Human Rights Council, under the Universal Periodic Review, during its session in May 2008. The report was prepared by civil society organizations working in Pakistan, who believed in the destiny of the peoples of Pakistan as honourable, peaceful and responsible nation. The report was prepared through a consultative process, meetings and feedback on the draft was prepared by National Commission for Justice and Peace and Democratic Commission for Human Development.

The report was presented by the following organizations on behalf of the civil society of Pakistan:

1. Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan;
2. Aurat Foundation;
3. Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists;
4. Lok Sangat;
5. National Commission for Justice and Peace;
6. Democratic Commission for Human Development;
7. Pakistan Forum for Social Democracy; and
8. Strengthening Participatory Organization



On International Day of Peace

Aurat Foundation in collaboration with Citizens' Action Committee (CAC) staged a peaceful rally on 20 September, on the eve of International Day of Peace (IDP) in front of the Lahore Press Club. The participants were holding placards inscribed with different peace messages. They also expressed their anger over the killings of innocent peoples by the US-led forces while calling it complete barbarism. They warned the United States not to create situation which could create Third World War. They also advocated establishment of peace in Iraq, Afghanistan and tribal areas of Pakistan. They urged the world countries and discourage the US imperialistic efforts to save the human beings from destruction. They also said that many people in Bajaur had to leave their residents and take refuge in the nearby areas.



Celebrating International Women's Day

Aurat Foundations' all five offices celebrated International Women's Day on 8th March in Islamabad, Karachi, Peshawar, Lahore and Quetta. Aurat Foundation's team at Islamabad actively participated in arranging a candle/torch bearing rally from China Chowk to Parliament House on 8 March, while a 'Long Walk' was arranged in Karachi on 7th March. A street theatre on women's issues was also staged by the Theatre Group Rah Roh. Participants included Justice (R) Majida Rizvi, LWG members and members of civil society organizations. A joint walk was also organized on 8th March in collaboration with Labour Education Foundation and HomeNet Pakistan to commemorate International Women's Day. The joint walk started from Regal Chowk to Karachi Press Club. Groups from various districts of Sindh & district Multan also joined the walk.

A 'Welcome Reception' to newly elected Women Parliamentarians was arranged on 6 May 2008, in Karachi. Demands prepared by WAF and other civil society organizations were presented before the parliamentarians. The resource person included Ms. Nargis N.D Khan (Minister Social Welfare), Ms. Shazia Marri (Minister Information), Ms. Shahla Raza (Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly), Justice (Retd.) Shaiq Usmani, Ms. Nargis Rehman (President WPC) and Ms. Anis Haroon.



Aurat Foundation, Peshawar in collaboration with the HomeNet Pakistan, organised a round table meeting with women parliamentarians on 8 March 2008 to celebrate International Women's Day and discuss and highlight issues of women home-based workers. A huge number of people from different walks of life participated in the meeting. The event was marked with the participation of newly-elected women parliamentarians. Rukhshanda Naz Chief Operating Officer of AF presented a charter of demands on women's rights to the women parliamentarians, who took oath on this charter to protect these rights.



A Five-Year Report on:

Performance

Of

Women Parliamentarians

Chapter Five

in the 12th National Assembly (2002-2007)

Legislative Monitoring and Data Collection on Violence against Women

A pioneering effort in participation, persistence and purpose



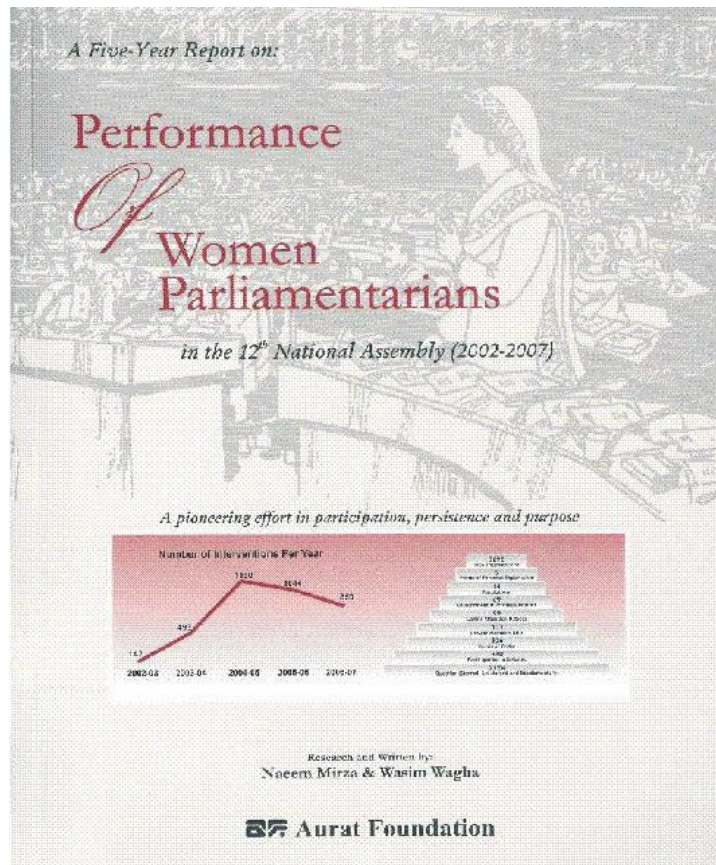
Research and Written by
Noem Mirza & Wasim Wagma

Monitoring of Legislatures & Decision-making Bodies

The monitoring of National and Provincial Assemblies through attendance of assembly sessions, has remained a core programme activity under the Legislative Watch Programme since its inception in 1997. The LWP teams monitor the proceedings of the legislatures and lobby with law-makers through an almost permanent presence in the Assemblies. Through this engagement, the AF/LWP staff remained engaged in hectic advocacy and lobbying for positive law reform and the repeal of the discriminatory legislation through regular attendance of the sessions of federal and provincial legislatures, including the Senate throughout the year in 2008 like in previous years. The AF/LWP staff also conducted individual and group meetings with parliamentarians and ministers on the sidelines of the assembly proceedings. The AF/LWP staff also provided information and law reform input in the form of legislative drafts to legislators at the premises of the assemblies. The attendance of assemblies also facilitated the AF/LWP staff in obtaining legislative material, e.g. draft bills, resolutions and copies of the agenda and debates. This material was then made available to other concerned civil society organizations and individuals. Media scanning has been also an on-going practice to monitor and evaluate legislative, political judicial and administrative developments, at the federal and provincial level.

“Performance of Women Parliamentarians in the 12th National Assembly”

As a landmark achievement, Aurat Foundation prepared and published a five-year report in January 2009 with the title: *Performance of Women Parliamentarians in the 12th National Assembly*. The study was undertaken by Mr. Naeem Mirza and Waseem Wagha on behalf of the organisation. The purpose of the study was to see critically women parliamentarians’ interventions in the national Assembly, as well as, document and highlight their achievements in the House. For the purpose, over 300 books comprising the National Assembly debates for the five-year period (2002-2007) were scrutinised to appraise i) the quantum of women parliamentarians’ interventions at the floor (questions, calling attention notices, point of orders, resolutions, private and official bills and debates; who and how many women legislators spoke and on how many occasions; ii) the substance of women parliamentarians’ interventions i.e. the issues raised by them; iii) role of men parliamentarians on women’s rights issues; who spoke and said what; and iv) space for participation and constraints etc. The book was planned to be released to public through inaugural ceremonies later in 2009.



The main findings of the study are:

The entry of women politicians into the Parliament, through a special provision of ‘reserved seats’ in 2002, was an important development in the parliamentary history of Pakistan. Enthusiastically aware of their new role, women parliamentarians found themselves surrounded by media attention and increased expectations from different sections of society, soon after their election to the 12th National Assembly.

Women parliamentarians, particularly those who were elected on reserved seats, were equally anxious about the fragility of their status. They, however, looked for means of visibility, expression, articulation and positioning of their political being. Once in the National Assembly, the women parliamentarians went beyond the political borders, expanded their horizons and proved that they were suited to their new role of ‘public representatives’.

On the other hand, people in general and women in particular, civil society organisations, media and other concerned quarters, with or without expectations, kept their attention on women’s presence in the Parliament from day first. It created a potential for debates, opinions, comments, and analyses on women’s political representation, about the impact of quotas, the discussion on ‘beyond the numbers, etc.

The present study is part of these endeavours, which try to understand this phenomenon, perhaps, with a difference, that it is also committed to maximize women’s political representation in all elected institutions, and further strengthen it to achieve the goal of gender equality in Pakistan. Below, we are producing the main findings of the study with the hope that they could result in further discussion and understanding of the legislative role of women parliamentarians in particular:

About background and women’s legislative representation:

1. The political scene was heavily manipulated before the conduct of general elections 2002, through legislative and political measures with the purpose of marginalizing mainstream political parties and their leadership.
2. The 12th National Assembly remained under the shadow of a military dictatorship throughout its 5-year tenure. The passage of 17th Constitutional Amendment by it further consolidated President General Musharraf’s rule.
3. The 12th National Assembly had the highest ever proportion of women’s representation in Pakistan’s legislative history, i.e. 21.3% with 74 women in the House of 342 members. Since, a woman MNA vacated her seat, there remained 73 women in the Assembly for the rest of its tenure.
4. Of the 73 women, 60 came in on reserved seats; one on the seats reserved for non-Muslims and; 12 on general seats by contesting elections in 2002.
5. After mergers of different factions of PML, National Alliance and independents into PML-Q, the party position vis-à-vis women MNAs was: 34 belonged to PML-Q; 20 to PPP; 13 to MMA; 3 to PML-N; and 3 to MQM.
6. Most of the women elected on general seats belonged to traditional political families with feudal background enjoying strong constituency backing. A significant number of women

- elected on reserved seats were party activists with a middle class or upper middle class background and a strong track record in politics, as well as, in activism on women's rights.
7. A number of women were also elected on reserved seats being close to party leaders or being relatives of key party leaders, without having any personal political background.
 8. A majority of women legislators were new entrants in the 12th National Assembly without having any previous parliamentary experience.

About overall performance of the 12th National Assembly

9. The National Assembly barely met the constitutional requirement of 130 days per year during its first four years. It did not fulfil the constitutional requirement in the last and the fifth year, during which it met only for 83 days.
10. The president failed to address the Parliament at the beginning of every parliamentary year, except for the second year; during the 5-year tenure of the National Assembly.
11. The National Assembly endorsed the extra-constitutional act of the Chief of Army Staff of proclaiming 'State of Emergency', and suspension of the Constitution in its last session held on 7 November 2007.
12. The Speaker of the National Assembly twice faced a no-confidence motion in five years for his alleged 'impartial behaviour' towards opposition.
13. The process of law-making was seriously flawed. There was a visible lack of sufficient time for debate in the House. The tendency to bulldoze legislation persisted and most of the legislation was undertaken in a hasty manner.
14. Quorum has also been a persistent issue before the House throughout its five-year tenure. It was broken for 68 times during five years. There had also been 165 walkouts from the House during five years, while the proceedings were boycotted on 45 occasions.
15. The National Assembly passed 50 bills/ordinances and only 38 became Acts during five years, out of total 222 bills/ordinances moved in the House.
16. Around 184 bills/ordinances remained pending and finally lapsed at the culmination of the National Assembly's tenure. This shows a tremendous waste of work spent on preparation and introduction of these bills by the concerned ministries.
17. Similarly, rather more unfortunately, there had been an obvious disregard to the individual efforts of parliamentarians, wherein they moved 240 Private Members Bills, of which only 70 were introduced and the rest were disallowed on various grounds.
18. The same had been the case with Questions and Calling Attention Notices. A total of 47014 questions were submitted, of which 10099 were answered, and nearly two-thirds of these either lapsed or were disallowed. A total of 3157 calling attention notices were put up and only 329 got replies.

About the overall performance of women parliamentarians

19. Four key words – **pioneering, participation, persistence and purpose** – sum up the overall achievements of women parliamentarians in the 12th National Assembly. **Pioneering** in the sense that it was the first National Assembly where women had a substantial strength; there were a lot of expectations attached to them; and that they did not disappoint and lived up to the expectations in many respects; **Participation**-wise, they performed extremely well; and it might be a challenge for their successors to compete with

them; **Persistence** they showed by gradually increasing their interventions in each successive year; **Purpose** they never forgot the commitment to women's cause and spared no opportunity available to speak on behalf of the women and common citizens of Pakistan.

20. Women parliamentarians were learning rules of procedure, perhaps as quickly as possible, and applying them judiciously in order to perform well in the elected and the most august House – a sense of responsibility inspired by enthusiasm to do something for their own people was quite visible from their speeches and interventions.
21. There have been altogether 3698 interventions by 58 women legislators during the five years. There were:
 - 2724 questions (which came on the agenda);
 - 380 times participation in debates;
 - 306 Points of Order;
 - 99 Calling Attentions Notices;
 - 101 Private Members' Bills;
 - 14 Resolutions; and
 - 69 Adjournment & Privilege Motions.
 - 5 Points of Personal Explanation
22. The number of their interventions, if calculated on a per day average on the basis of actual days in each parliamentary year, shows that women parliamentarians have on an average made 10 interventions per day, i.e. they have made an overall 3698 interventions in five years of the National assembly, which actually met for 384 days.
23. The increase in participation was not limited to quantity but was also manifested in quality. Women legislators were expanding the range and scope of their vision and outlook; and were picking issues of public importance.
24. Women legislators made most of their interventions during the 'Question Hour' as far as the number of various types of interventions were concerned, followed by their participation in debates (380); Points of Order (306); Private Members Bills (101); Calling Attentions Notices (99); Adjournment & Privilege Motions (69) and Resolutions (14).
25. Women parliamentarians utilized 'Question Hour' and 'Points of Order' to the maximum. In fact, they reacted and complained, both formally and informally, to the Speaker each time the Question Hour was suspended or Points of Order were denied. Most of the substance of women's intervention, thus, made its way to the floor of the House through questions hour and points of order.
26. Most of the questions put by MNAs were, in fact, initiated by their voters, party workers and human rights activists and organizations. Putting or submitting Questions to the relevant ministries provide opportunity to the parliamentarians in public dealing. Simultaneously, it also provides an opportunity to learn in details various affairs of the state institutions.
27. Among the women's rights, the issues which were raised frequently included, the elimination of *Karokari* and the Hudood Ordinances; the cases of violence against women; discriminatory practices in institutions; posting of husband and wife in the same city; promotion of women's work, proposal for women TV channel; resolution against acid throwing on women; life threat to Solangi family in interior Sindh; number of women working in various ministries and government departments; number of women put as Ambassadors of Pakistan at present; sexual harassment of women at work place, the

incidence of sexual harassment of women in government offices, and implementation of 'Code of Workplace Ethics'; discrimination against the women MNA on reserved seats compared to elected women MNAs; non-availability of seats for ladies on local transport; women's rights to get their foreign spouse registered as Pakistani citizens; welfare of imprisoned women; preventing women from casting vote; attack on women in Gujranawala etc.

28. Women legislators also spoke on a number of other issues apart from issues directly concerning women, minorities and governance. They expressed extreme concern on some significant public issues like, health, foreign affairs, environment, economy, energy, education, natural resources (land, water, forests etc), finance and accounts, food & agriculture, legislation, import export, privatization, governance, employment, language & culture, tourism, business & trade, media/PTV, railways, rules of procedure and business and situation of crime and courts.
29. Women parliamentarians were discriminated in terms of time and opportunities to speak and raise issues in the legislatures; there were several instances when they were ignored or disallowed to make an intervention by the chair; their questions, calling attentions notices and resolutions are delayed without reason and explanation from the chair.
30. Women parliamentarians' share in some categories of interventions as compared to men parliamentarians during five year is:
 - 27% of the total questions;
 - 30% of the total calling attentions notices;
 - 42% of the total private members bills;
 - 24%. of the total resolutions; and
 - 8% of the total adjournment & privilege Motions.
31. Out of a total 38 laws that were made during five years, two related to women's concerns, i.e. to reform or amend laws concerning women: the first one was an official bill on the elimination of 'honour' killing, which was passed by the National Assembly on 30 July 2004. The second important bill moved in the National Assembly by the government sought amendments in two of the Hudood Ordinances, i.e. the Offences of Zina and Qazf Ordinances.
32. Women parliamentarians participated to varying degree in the proceedings of the National Assembly – both in terms of quantity and quality – and also both as a whole in all-round performance in most of the areas of interventions, as well as, in exclusive areas of their interest and expertise. Some parliamentarians moved more questions; some were keen on participating in debates; some were bringing resolutions and private bills; while some were more interested in raising issues through points of order.
33. 25 women parliamentarians altogether made 3132 out of 3698 total interventions in five years, meaning there by that they actually dominated the proceedings of the House in various categories from amongst the 58 women parliamentarians.
34. The highest numbers of questions were asked by Ms. Yasmeen Rehman (286) followed by Ms. Beelum Hasnain (218); Ms. Fauzia Wahab (208); Ms. Samia Raheel Qazi (180); Ms. Inyat Begum (168); Ms. Samina Khalid Ghurki (151); Ms. Shakila Khanam Rashid (103), and Ms. Mehnaz Rafi (99).

35. Ms. Mehnaz Rafi took maximum part in parliamentary debates (25 times), followed by Ms. Samia Raheel Qazi (21); Ms. Naheed Khan (20); Ms. Fauzia Wahab (18); Ms. Yasmeen Rehman (17); Ms. Sherry Rehman (16); Ms. Bilqees Saif (15) and Ms. Kaniz Aisha Munawar 14 times.
36. Ms. Naheed Khan made the highest number of interventions through points of order, i.e. on 36 times, followed by Ms. Mehnaz Rafi (31); Ms. Sherry Rehman (17); Ms. Samia Raheel Qazi (16); and Ms. Kashmala Tariq (12).
37. The highest numbers of calling attention notices were put up by Ms. Mehnaz Rafi (15), followed by Ms. Kashmala Tariq, Ms. Sherry Rehman and Ms. Samia Raheel Qazi putting up 6 notices each; and Ms. Fauzia Wahab put 4 calling attention notices.
38. Ms. Mehnaz Rafi brought the highest number of resolutions (6) in five years, followed by Ms. Rozian Tufail 2; Ms. Kashmala Tariq, Ms. Asiya Azeem, Ms. Aisha Munawar, Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar, Ms. Yasmeen Rehman and Ms. Beelam Husnain 1 each.
39. Ms. Sherry Rehman, Ms. Samia Raheel Qazi and Ms. Kashmala Tariq moved the highest number of private members bills, 11 bills each, followed by Ms. Mehnaz Rafi and Ms. Beelum Hasnain who moved 8 bills each; Ms. Samina Khalid Ghurki moved 6 bills, while Dr. Farida Ahmed, Ms. Yasmeen Rehman, Ms. Farhana Khalid Banoori and Ms. Rubina Saadat Qaimkhwani moved 5 bills each.
40. The increased number of private members bills moved by women during five years showed their enthusiasm and eagerness. This also demonstrated their ability to identify the issue, scrutinise the existing law, decide the proposed content and then to perform the most difficult task, i.e. to draft the bill.
41. The enthusiasm shown by women parliamentarians to get some positive legislation done for women was not responded in the same manner by the House. Firstly their bills came on the agenda after much delay and, secondly, they were rejected, disallowed, deferred or dropped in the House immediately, and if by any luck, they were introduced, they remained pending with the House for a long time further and finally lapsed.
42. Only one private members bill was passed out of the total 240 moved in the 12th National Assembly. It speaks of the parliamentary culture in Pakistan vis-à-vis the treatment of the elected House towards private members bills.
43. The majority of private members' bills moved by the women legislators were either moved individually, or more often, jointly with other male and female colleagues of their parties. Most of the times, the private bills were prepared and moved in groups of women parliamentarians, supported by their men colleagues.
44. Some private bills were also cross-party initiatives and had members, both male and female, of different parties as the movers. This indicates the possibilities of securing broader consensus on important issues of public interest, if desired.
45. Ms. Yasmeen Rehman of the PPPP, with the individual score of 322, has to her credit the highest number of interventions in five years; Ms. Fauzia Wahab (PPPP) came second in the ranking of individual score with 242 interventions, followed by Ms. Samia Raheel Qazi (MMA), who came on third position with 238 interventions. Ms. Beelam Hasnain of PPPP stood at fourth position with 231 interventions. The fifth position is held by Ms. Mehnaz Rafi (PML-Q) with 187 interventions.
46. Ms. Inyat Begum of MMA is sixth in ranking with the individual score of 179, followed by Ms. Samina Khalid Ghurki of PPPP with 165 interventions. The eighth position is held by Ms. Kashmala Tariq (PML-Q) with 132 interventions, followed by Ms. Shakila Khanam

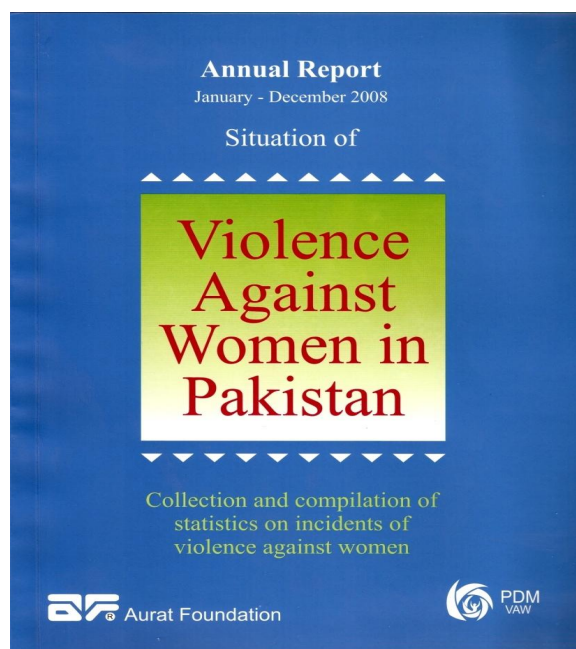
- Rashid (PPPP) with 114 interventions. The tenth position is held by Ms. Sherry Rehman with 106 interventions.
47. Only two women legislators in the list of 25 most active women parliamentarians were elected to the National Assembly on general seats. All the rest of 23 women legislators were elected to the National Assembly on reserved seats. Almost all women in the list of 25 were experienced politicians having long associations with their respective parties.
 48. The PPPP has the largest group among the 25 most active women MNAs with its 14 MNAs in the list, sharing together 1772 initiatives. They are followed by 7 women legislators of MMA with an overall 784 initiatives; 3 of PML-Q women MNAs with 392 initiatives, and one from PML-N with initiatives 95.
 49. The record of women parliamentarians of the ruling party, PML-Q, is not encouraging, despite having the highest number of women legislators in the House. Only three of its members were able to make it to the list of 25, however, several are there with intervention ranging from 1 to 50.
 50. Among the most active women MNAs, 22 out of 25 parliamentarians of the 12th National Assembly belonged to the opposition parties, and only three were from the ruling party. Women legislators below the ranking of 25th have made overall interventions going down from 48 to 1 at the bottom.
 51. Women on reserved seats contributed more in terms of raising issues in the National Assembly and undertaking other legislative initiatives. Women who came in on general seats were mostly ineffective in their performance and their participation was limited to occasional interventions.
 52. An ideological divide clearly appeared among political parties with the initiation of debate on the Hudood Ordinances in the House. This initiated a battle of bills also on amendments in these laws. The PPPP women and their male supporters in the party were asking for the repeal of these laws, while the MMA women and their colleagues in the alliance were preparing to put up tough resistance towards any such attempt. The PML-Q women were trying to tread the middle path with some amendments in the laws.
 53. The overall increase in women legislators' participation, in fact, was the result of a progressive working relationship between the treasury benches and the opposition. This progressive working relationship changed the proportion of women's participation in the proceedings.
 54. There was lack of technical assistance or support for drafting of bills and other legislative inputs, either from the parties or the National Assembly itself.

Data Collection on Violence against Women

Aurat Foundation collected and compiled data on violence against women under its Policy and Data Monitor on Violence against Women (PDM-VAW) by regularly monitoring and scanning newspapers at all five offices. In addition to this, they gathered data from police, medico-legal centres, women crisis centres and some NGOs dealing with the issue of VAW, particularly in service delivery. The PDM-VAW headquarters at Islamabad developed a specially-designed software to facilitate data entries at all AF offices for the purpose of documentation of these cases of VAW. The data gathered during the reporting period mostly related to 'reported cases' of physical violence and there was lack of data on incidents of domestic violence, particularly

emotional and psychological violence, due to inaccessibility of such data from concerned quarters.

During the year 2008, PDM-VAW teams at all offices prepared quarterly reports on data of VAW in their respective provinces and released these reports at public seminars. Islamabad office prepared national reports on the basis of provincial reports. The Islamabad office also prepared one National Report on 'Situation of Violence against Women in Pakistan' covering the period from January-December 2008.



A summary of the report is as follows:

A total of 7571 cases of violence against women were recorded all over Pakistan during 2008. Of these, 4416 cases of violence were recorded in Punjab, followed by 1380 in Sindh, 779 in NWFP, 767 in Balochistan and 209 in Islamabad Capital Territory (Islamabad). These incidents of violence against women occurred during a period of one year commencing from 1 January 2008 and ending at 31 December 2008. Almost 90% of these cases were reported in the print media and were picked from there by the Aurat Foundation's teams. Out of a total of 7571 cases of violence against women in Pakistan, the offence-wise and province-wise breakdown is as follows:

According to the statistics gathered primarily through Aurat Foundation's Press Clipping Service, the crime rate of violence against women is on much higher side in big cities or the main urban centres of the country, including the federal and provincial capitals.

During the first quarter of the 2008, there were 1172 cases in Pakistan (545 in Punjab; 275 in Sindh; 160 in NWFP; 149 in Balochistan; 43 in Islamabad); there were 1669 cases in second quarter (878 in Punjab; 325 in Sindh; 170 in NWFP; 233 in Balochistan; 63 in Islamabad); 2580 cases in third quarter (1600 in Punjab; 428 in Sindh; 267 in NWFP; 219 in Balochistan; 66 in

Islamabad and; 2150 cases in fourth quarter (1393 in Punjab; 352 in Sindh; 202 in NWFP; 166 in Balochistan; 37 in Islamabad).

It appears from the data collected and presented below in tabular form that over half of the total cases of VAW were occurred in Punjab i.e. 4416 out of 7571 with the percentage of the total at 58%. In Sindh, the number of such incidents was 1380 with 18 percent of the total cases. In NWFP, the number of cases were 799 (11%), and in Balochistan the number of such cases was 767 (10%). In Islamabad, the number of these cases was 209 (3%).

It is observed from the data produced above that murders of women have occurred with some similar proportions in all provinces and Islamabad, though most cases of murder have occurred in Punjab, followed by NWFP. Twenty women were killed even in Islamabad in 2008. However, killings of women in the name of 'honour' are mostly committed in Sindh and Balochistan, and more noticeably, in some districts of the two provinces situated in close proximity to each other forming a geographical belt.

This is also surprising that out of the 12 districts where at least 150 or more cases of violence against women were actually reported, 8 were in Punjab; and 7 of all the 12 districts were City Governments.

The District Lahore has the highest crime rate in terms of the incidents of violence against women with 911 cases out of a total of 7571 cases in Pakistan and a total of 4416 cases in Punjab; followed by Faisalabad (494); Rawalpindi (492); Quetta (334); Peshawar (331); Sheikhpura (322); Multan (235); Islamabad (209); Kasur (196); Gujranwala (184); Sahiwal (176) and Karachi (163).

Murder and 'Honour' Killing: The prevalence of the crimes of murder and 'honour' killing in the four provinces and Islamabad Capital Territory is broadly shown in the graphs below. Of the total 1,422 cases of murder, there were 695 (49%) cases from Punjab; 352 (25%) from NWFP; 240 (17%) from Sindh; 115 (8%) from Balochistan and the remaining 20 (1%) cases from Islamabad.

uring 2008, 475 women were killed in the name of 'honour' (karo kari) all over Pakistan. Out of these 475 cases, 244 (51.37%) were reported from Sindh; 127 (26.74%) cases mainly from some districts of Balochistan, 89 (18.74%) from Punjab; 13 (2.74%) from NWFP and 2 (0.42%) cases from Islamabad.

The cases of 'honour' killing are found to be higher in rural/tribal areas where jirgas and panchyat system is still operational and override the law of the land and formal institutions of conflict resolutions. The highest cases of 'honour' killings were reported from the following districts of Pakistan: 44 from Jaffarabad; 31 from Naseerabad; 36 cases from Ghotki; 28 from Kashmore; 27 from Shikarpur; 24 from Sukkur; 29 from Jacobabad; 25 from Khairpur Mirs; 11 from Qambar Ali Khan Shahdad Kot; and 16 from Lahore.

'honour' killings which were committed more in numbers in Sindh and Balochistan, the highest number of cases of abductions of women occurred in Punjab.

In fact, abductions or kidnappings of women appeared to be a major crime in Punjab, and 1439 cases of abductions out of the total of 1784 abductions occurred in the province of Punjab, which is 81% of the total figure in the province, meaning thereby that four women were reportedly abducted everyday on an average in Punjab. Also alarming and quite 'unthinkable' is the figure of abductions from Islamabad as compared to the provinces of NWFP and Balochistan.

The total numbers of reported cases of suicide were 599 in 2008, according to the media scanning by the Aurat Foundation teams. Unfortunately like the abductions, the highest number of cases of suicide occurred in Punjab, followed by Sindh and NWFP with high percentages. 362 (61%) women committed suicide in Punjab in 2008, followed by 146 (24%) in Sindh and 66 (11%) in NWFP. There have been 18 (3%) cases of suicide from Balochistan and 7 (1%) of the total cases of suicide from Islamabad.

Rape/gang-rape: Most regrettably and shamefully, the numbers of incidents of rape and gang-rape also form a very high percentage of all the crimes committed against women, i.e. overall 778 such incidents occurred in 2008 in different parts of the country. This shows the extent of suppression and humiliation creeping into the society and how women are being made victims of this most heinous crime which uins the lives of the women along with their family and children for the rest of their lives, with the situation going even worse when they do not find any recourse to justice.

The highest number of cases of rape and gang-rape were committed in Punjab, i.e. 608 of the total 778 cases (365 or 77% cases of rape and 243 or 80% cases of gang-rape), or 78% of the total cases. Sindh, too, have a higher degree of occurrence of this crime and 139 (18%) cases of rape and gang-rape (85 or 18% cases of rape and 54 or 18% cases of gang-rape) were reported from the province. In NWFP and Balochistan, the incidents of rape/gang-rape were reported significantly less than other provinces, 9 and 12 cases, respectively. However, there were ten such incidents in Islamabad during 2008.

Acid throwing and stove burning: Acid throwing and stove burning are the most ignominious of all gender-based crimes. Acid throwing is a form of violent assault. Perpetrators of these attacks throw acid at women, usually on their faces, burning them and mutilating and damaging their skin tissues, often exposing and sometimes dissolving the bones. The consequences of these attacks include blindness and permanent scarring of the face and body.

In majority of the cases, the motives behind the offence are domestic conflict or husband's desire to remarry, demand of dowry items, demand of divorce or showing resistance against husband's second marriage. In most of the cases the perpetrators were in-laws, specially husbands of the victims/survivors. It was found that most of the victims were young married women, and also daughters-in law.

Domestic Violence: Overall, the number of cases in the category of domestic violence is small i.e. 281 (out of a total of 7571). However, it was observed that the majority of the cases in the category of hurt and body (846), as well as, 312 cases of torture, 172 cases of sexual assault, 74 cases of threat to violence, and even 61 cases of stove burning were related to one or the other form of domestic violence, mostly relating to physical violence within the domestic sphere. This

brings the total number of cases, having some linkage with the domestic violence, to roughly about 1746 cases out of a total of 7571 during 2008. The percentage is around 23.06. Sadly, it is a huge ratio of the total figures suggesting the wide prevalence of domestic violence in Pakistan despite the non-inclusion of data in the present report about the emotional and psychological violence against women due to its non-availability for various reasons mentioned earlier.

آنگن سے ایوان تک

مقامی حکومت میں خواتین کونسلرز کے تجربات

Chapter Six

جلد اول

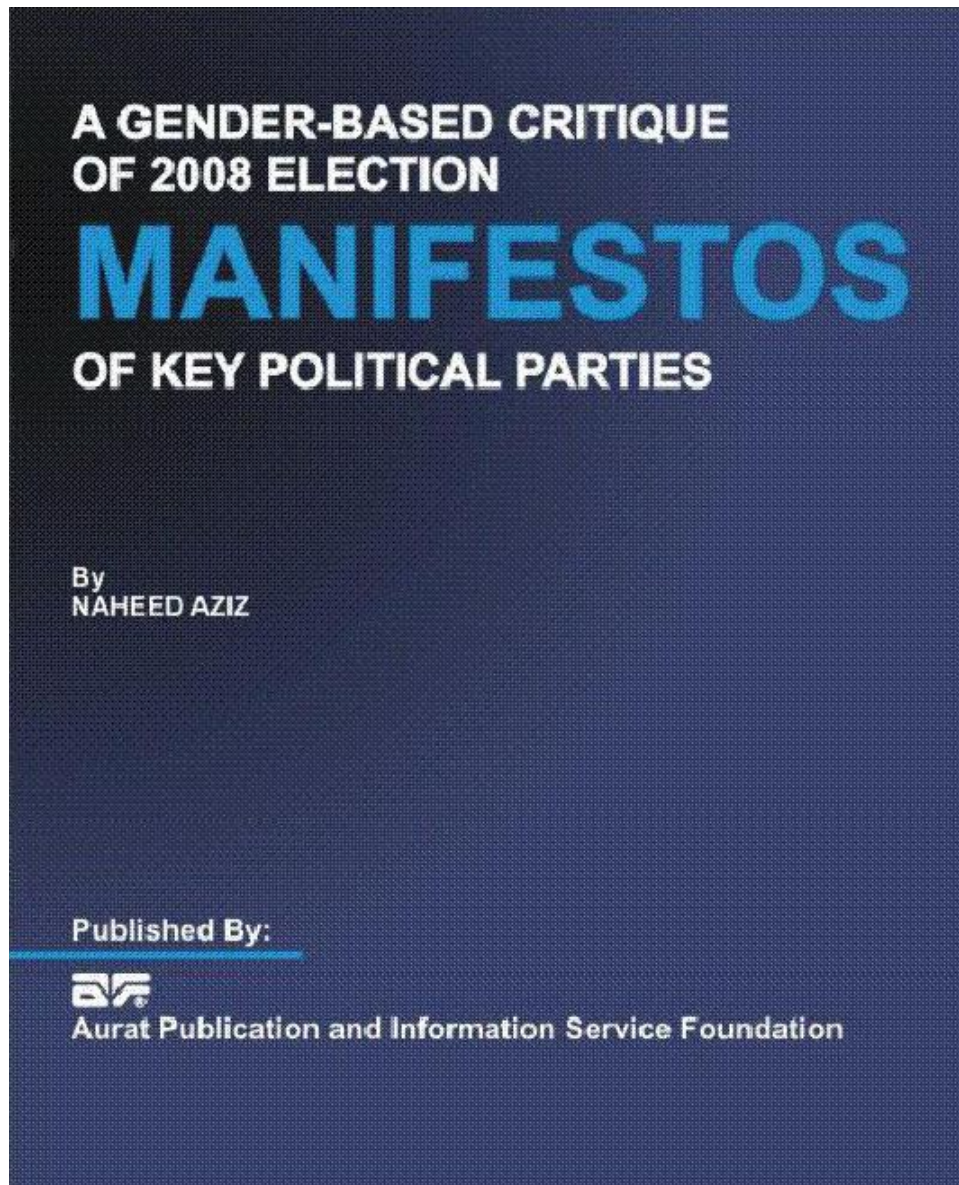


**Research and
Publications**

عورت فاؤنڈیشن

Critique of Political Parties' Manifestos for General Elections 2008

Aurat Foundation organised a study of the manifestos of political parties that were participating in the general elections 2008. Ms Naheed Aziz, who has been associated with the women's movement in Pakistan for almost three decades identified the positive features outlined in these manifestos, besides the aspects which have possible negative implications for women, as well as the lack of attention to women's issues in areas of concern to them in a study "Gender-based Critique of Election 2008 Manifestos of Key Political Parties", in February 2008.



(The study is available at AF offices)

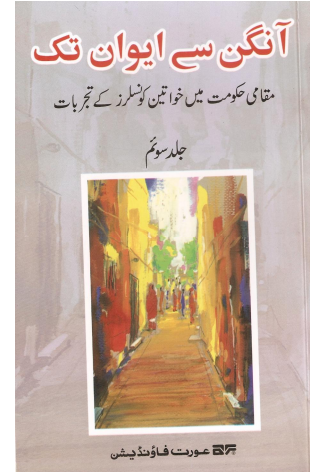
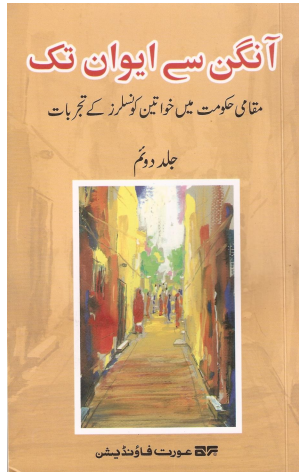
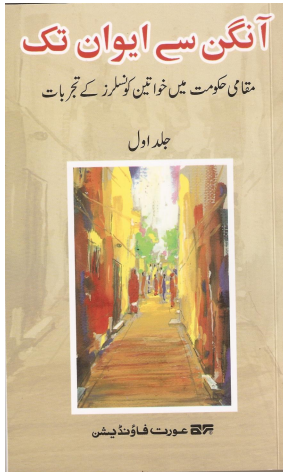
Books on Enabling Women's Effective Participation in Political Institutions

Enabling Women's Effective Participation in Political Institutions, a project in partnership with Heinrich Boll Foundation, was aimed at strengthening women councillors, so that they gained legitimacy as public representatives in effectively addressing the concerns of their constituents. The methodology of the project was to focus on those councillors who were successful in their first tenure (2000-2005), bringing them together in the workshops, and collection and documentation of their success stories. The success stories and experiences from these workshops were compiled and published in six volumes of books in Urdu under the title "Angan say Aiwan tak" and three volumes in English titled "From Home to House".

"Angan say Aiwan tak", Volume 1, contains 12 success stories under interesting titles such as 'Kaka ki bicycle', 'Phaney Khan', 'Socha na tha', 'Waqt kam, muqabala sakht', 'Seekhney ki seerrhian' etc.

"Angan say Aiwan tak", Volume 2, also contained 12 stories of successful councillors under interesting titles like 'Mein ney apna naam khud rakha', 'Mein ney apney apko aag laga de', 'Goya hamein zaban mil gae', 'Allah chup na karaey', 'Zehn ki paki' etc.

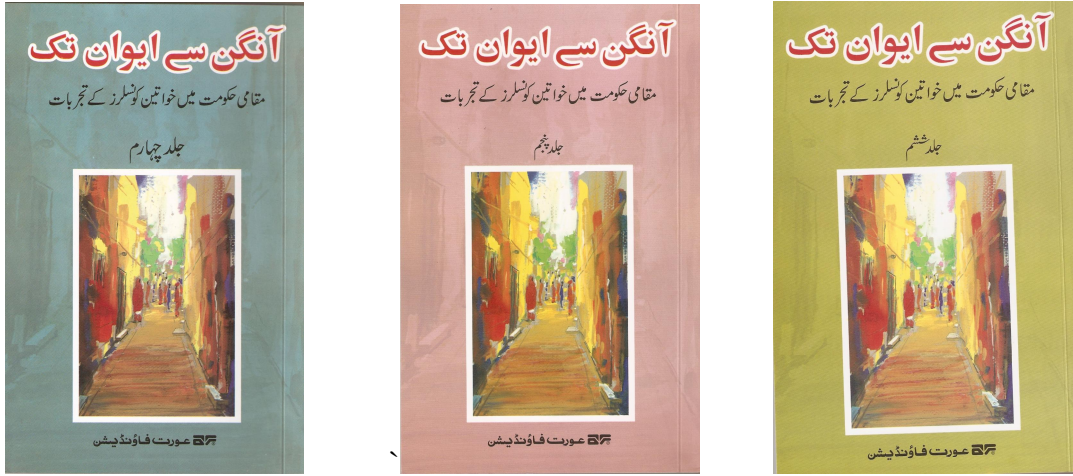
"Angan say Aiwan tak", Volume 3, contained an analysis of the success stories as published in previous two volume, 12 new success stories under interesting titles such as 'Himat-e-mardan, madad-e-khuda', 'Ghariboon ki khadim', 'Ayun ki maseeha', 'Ab chup naheen rehna', 'Tangey wala kher mangda', 'New pind' and 'Intezar Gah'.



"Angan say Aiwan tak", Volume 4, contained another set of 14 success stories under interesting titles such as 'Mein jo kisi ke divani thee', 'Nambar darni', 'Pani vali Tahira', 'Rivaetoon ki aseer', 'Inqalabi leader' etc.

"Angan say Aiwan tak", Volume 5, contained a fresh set of 15 success stories under interesting titles like 'Sakht muqabala', 'Thaney dari nahein manti', 'Haan mein khatawar hoon', 'Anhooni hooni ho gaie', 'Sehra mein phool', 'Vo vaada hi kia jo wafa ho gia' etc.

“Angan say Aiwan tak”, Volume 6, the last among the Urdu set of success stories, contained 15 success stories under various titles like ‘Sachi lagan ki jeet’, ‘Bahadr aurat’, ‘Apney paraey’, ‘Riwayet shikan’, ‘Jhanjhat sey bach gaie’, ‘Jaily angootha’ etc.

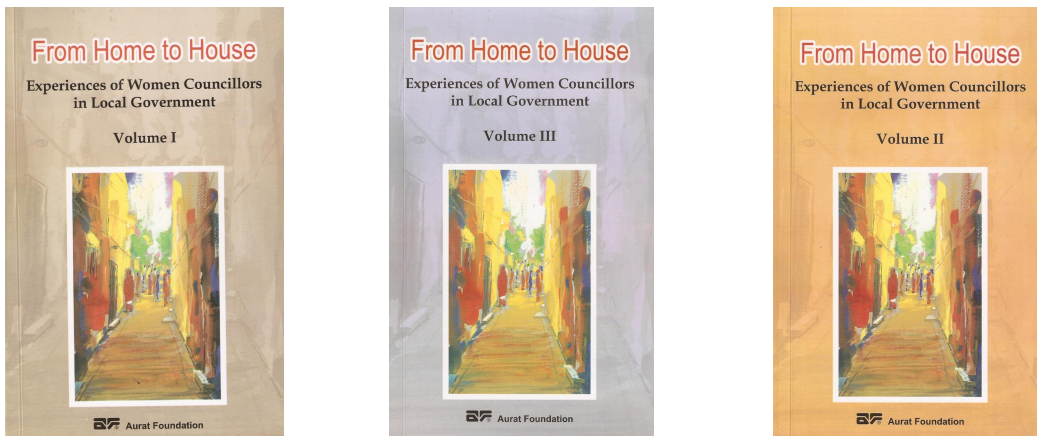


Some of the selected success stories of the women councilors were also published in English language in three volumes under title “From Home to House”. The details of the interesting titles included in each volume are as under:

“From Home to House”, Volume 1, contained the success stories of 12 women councilors under interesting titles like ‘Politics Runs in the Family’, ‘Poverty couldn’t Stop Me’, ‘Like a Dream’, ‘No Time to Lose’, ‘Step by Step’ etc.

“From Home to House”, Volume 2, contained the success stories of another 12 women councilors under interesting titles like ‘A Name of Myself’, ‘Overcoming Ignorance’, ‘Seeds of Change’, ‘No Longer Silent’, ‘Who Will Take the First Step’, ‘With Good Intentions’ etc.

“From Home to House”, Volume 3, the last in English series contained an analysis of the experience of women’s councillors’ success stories, and a set of 12 selected success stories women councilors under titles like ‘A Kind of Madness’, ‘Servant of the People’, ‘The Healer of Kalash’, ‘What Kind of Justice is This?’, ‘Lucky Symbol’, ‘Bus Shelter’ etc.

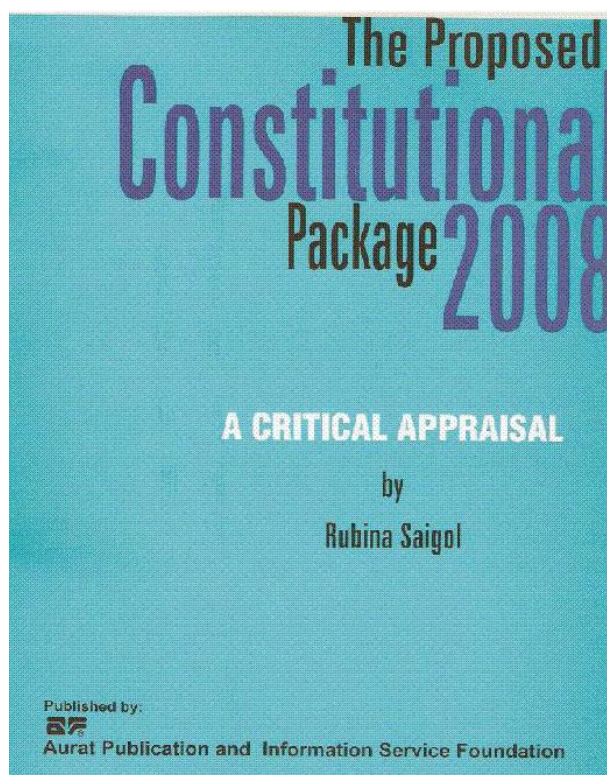


Critique of PPP's Proposed Constitutional Package in 2008

Aurat Foundation facilitated a critique of the proposed constitutional package presented by the Pakistan People's Party in early 2008. Dr. Rubina Saigol, who has been involved in the field of Education and Social Development for the last fifteen years, undertook this critique in the form of a booklet titled "The Proposed Constitutional Package: A critical Appraisal", in June 2008.

The author writes in her concluding remarks:

"The Rule of Force emanating from the Rule of Men has led to gross legal absurdities in Pakistan. In November 2007 a President and a COAS, the two rolled into one, played a cruel game with Pakistan's system of Rule of Law. The COAS assumed the authority to declare emergency-cum-martial law and then transferred the power to lift it to the President, also himself! One part of him kept transferring power to another part of him without those powers being granted to any one of him in the constitution! This is the clearest example of absolute power creating absolute chaos. The lesson to learn is that rule by individuals can never be a substitute for rule by institutions and systems. However, institutions and systems are ultimately only as good as the people that run them. If we continue to deviate from the agreed social contract that emerged as a result of national consensus, we will remain stuck in the legal quagmire forever. The people's representatives have a unique opportunity in history to finally rectify the wrongs done to our system and our institutions. The time to begin is now."



(The booklet is available at AF offices)

Legislative Watch Newsletters

The Legislative Watch Newsletter Issue No. 23, covering the period from January to March 2008, mainly deals with the results of general elections held on 8 February 2008 on seats reserved for women, as well as on general seats. The Issue also focuses on core issues currently pertaining to women in Pakistan, and also provides an insight into the lawyers' movement for independence of judiciary; incidents of violence against women in the first quarter of the year; and the damage inflicted to body-politic of Pakistan by the extra-constitutional measures taken by General (Retd.) Pervez Musharraf on 3 November 2007 and during the period of emergency (3 November to 15 December 2007).

The Legislative Watch Newsletter Issue No. 24, covering the period April to June 2008, mainly focused on Hudood Ordinances in the context of their repeal and not just the amendments; salient feature of the 'Protection of Women (Criminal Laws Amendment) Act 2006', and the comparison between the two; amendments in the Offence of Qazf Ordinance and Offence of Zina Ordinance; incidents of violence against women during second quarter of 2008, lawyers' Long March and the constitutional package as proposed by the government.

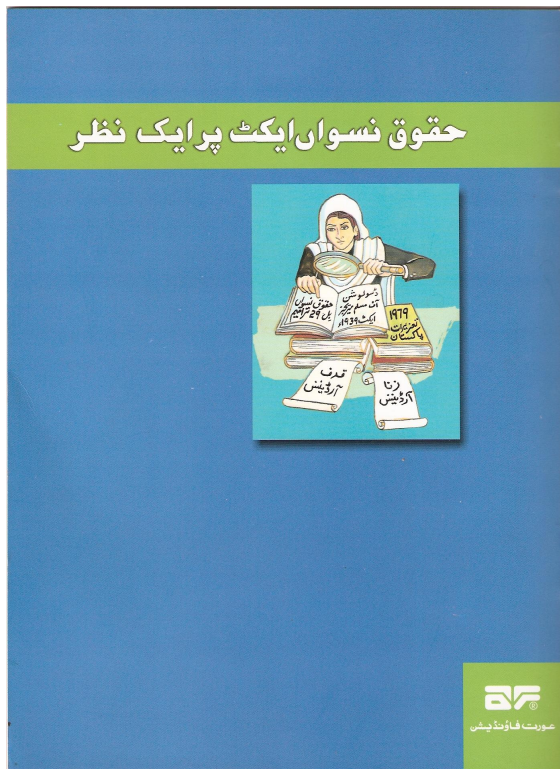
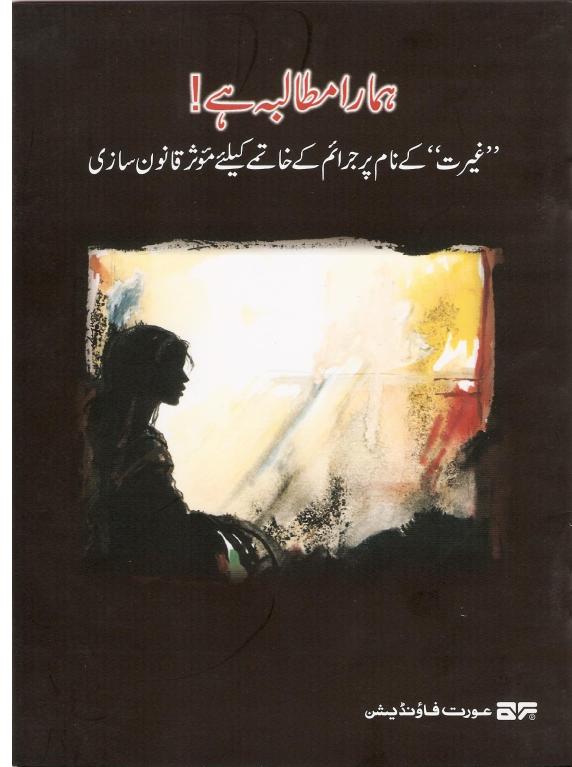


The Legislative Watch Newsletter, Issue No.25, from July to September, discussed in details the domestic violence bill, the critical gaps left in the proposed bill, a comparative analysis of the bill as proposed by the Ministry of Women's Development (MoWD) and the one proposed by the civil society; and a brief on the national consultation on the issue of 'Burying Five Women Alive in Nasseerabad and the Customary Practices', held in Islamabad on 18 September 2008.

The Legislative Watch Newsletter, Issue No.26, which covered the period from October to December 2008, carried a critique on the process of reforms in Muslim Family Laws, the critical issues still to be addressed, and summary of recommendations as discussed and finalized by eminent lawyers and jurists from across the country during the two working group meetings held during 2008; situation in Swat, bombing of girls schools in the area; the incidents of violence against women in 2008; and a brief report on the activities of '16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence'.

Booklets on Law on “Honour” Killing and Women’s Protection Act, 2006

A booklet “*Hamara Mutalba Hey! ‘Ghairat’ key naam par jaraem key khatamey keyliey mooasar qanoon sazi*”, an Urdu translation of Aurat Foundation’s English booklet, titled “We Demand Strong and Effective Legislation to Eliminate ‘Honour’ Crimes”, was published with the support of Oxfam-GB under its ‘We Can Campaign’. The booklet carried in easy language a comparative analysis of the government’s bill on ‘Honour’ killings and the bill that was proposed by the civil society organizations, and the critical gaps left unaddressed in the government’s proposed bill.



A booklet in Urdu language, titled “*Haqooq-e-Niswan Act par aek Nazar*”, with the support of Oxfam-GB under its ‘We Can Campaign’. The Bill was presented by the PML(Q) government on 21 August 2006, passed by the National Assembly on 16 November and by the Senate on 23 November 2006, and became law after the President signed it on 1st December 2006. The booklet contains a brief description of five major changes introduced in the Hudood Ordinances. Each of these five changes are further explained in pictorial forms also.

