

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



AURAT FOUNDATION

Annual Report

2017



Aurat Foundation

Report: Annual Report 2017
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Reporting period: July 2016 to June 2017
Published by: Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAC	AAWAZ <i>Agahi</i> (awareness) Centre
AAF	AuratActionForum
ADF	AWAZ District Forum
AF	Aurat Foundation
AGHS	Asma, Gulrukh, Hina and Shahla (law firm)
AJK	Azad Jammu and Kashmir
ANF	AAWAZ National Forum
ANP	Awami National Party
AOM	Area Opening Meeting
AOR	Agreement Officer Representative
ASF	Acid Survivors' Foundation
ATF	AAWAZ <i>Tehsil</i> Forum
AUF	AAWAZ Union council Forum
AVF	AAWAZ Village Forum
BBC	BISP Beneficiary Committee
BISP	Benazir Income Support Programme
BTCC	BISP <i>Tehsil</i> Coordination Committee
BUCC	Beneficiary Union Council Committee
CAC	Citizen Action Committee
CAO	Civic Advocacy Organization
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CLAAS	Centre for Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement
CNIC	Computerized National Identity Card
CRM	Child Rights Movement
CSC	Civil Society Coalition
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAI	Development Alternatives Incorporated
DV	Domestic Violence
ECP	Election Commission of Pakistan
GBV	Gender-Based Violence

GCI	Gender Concerns International
GEP	Gender Equity Program
HRCP	Human Rights Commission of Pakistan
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IFT	Insan Foundation Trust
IHI	Insani Huqooq Ittehad
IRC	Interactive Resource Centre
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
LG	Local Government
LISTEN	Leverage in Social Transformation of Elected Nominees
LRC	Labour Resource Centre
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MSI	Management Systems International
NADRA	National Database and Registration Authority
NAF	National Advisory Forum
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PCSW	Provincial Commission on the Status of Women
PFC	Provincial Finance Commission
PGC	Pakistan Gender Coalition
PM	Prime Minister
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PMU	Project Management Unit
PPAF	Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund
PPP	Pakistan People's Party
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf
PTV	Pakistan Television
RHV	Raising Her Voice
SDPI	Sustainable Development Policy Institute
SJA	Sindh Judicial Academy
SM	Social Mobilization
SMC	School Management Committee

SO	Social Organizer
SPO	Strengthening Participatory Organisation
SSO	Senior Social Organizer
SWWDD	Social Welfare and Women Development Department
TAF	The Asia Foundation
ToT	Training-of-Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAW	Violence Against Women
WDD	Women Development Department
WGW	Working Group for Women
WLG	Women leader Group
WLP	Women's Learning Partnership

Introduction

This year, unfortunately, we had a great tragedy to face. Nigar Ahmad, one of the pioneers of women's rights movement in Pakistan and the founder of Aurat Foundation, passed away on the 24th of February 2017, in Lahore. This colossal tragic loss left the organisation and social and political activists in Pakistan and South Asia in deep shock and grief. Nigar Ahmad was a friend, colleague, leader and a mentor for many and a great inspiration for at least two generations of human rights and social activists for her relentless work for the women of this country. Aurat Foundation has lost a passionate and devoted leader who stirred the organisation till the very end. Nigar and Shahla Zia founded the Aurat Foundation in 1986, and both touched the hearts and minds of thousands through their work. We lost Shahla Zia in 2005. Nigar was able to positively affect the lives of women and men at all levels in society. AF resolves to ensure that the purpose and the work of the organisation continues with as much vigour, passion and commitment in the future. In that sense Nigar and her spirit will forever live on.

This year brought about some revolutionary changes with respect to legislation for women's rights and minorities on national scale, such as: Criminal Law (Amendment) (Offense of Rape) Act 2016; Criminal Law (Amendment) (offences in the name or pretext of honour) Act 2016; Prevention of Electronic Crimes act 2016 and; Hindu Marriage Act 2017.

As we celebrate the success of civil societies for crossing this milestone, Pakistan looks as grim as ever when it comes to tolerance and freedom of speech as a young student of Mardan city is brutally lynched by a mob for false accusation of committing blasphemy. This is just one of the incidents that took place relative to this subject. Just six days later when the Prime Minister supposedly took oath to pursue this and bring Mashal to justice, a similar attack was carried out in the city of Sialkot against a 'faith healer' by three men storming into his house and killing him.

Parallel and informal justice systems continued to undermine the rule of law and to issue unjust "verdicts" that punished women and girls. In July, a village council in Multan district ordered and carried out the rape of a teenage girl in "revenge" for a crime allegedly committed by her brother. In August, the bodies of a teenage couple in Karachi were exhumed to reveal evidence of electric shocks. The couple had been sentenced to death by a jirga (tribal council). In September, a man in Peshawar city killed his two daughters because he suspected they had boyfriends.

The 2016 law, which brought the penalties for so-called "honour" crimes in line with murder, proved ineffective. The law, which provides for the death penalty, allows the judge to decide whether the crime was "honour-based". In some cases in 2017, the accused successfully claimed another motive and was pardoned by the victim's family under qisas and diyat laws, which allow for "blood money" and forgiveness instead of punishment.

Nevertheless, hope is not lost. Aurat Foundation is more committed than ever and aims to work harder to bring about peace and tolerance within the society. It might seem that the times are unforgiving and cruel, but that only provides more reason and motivation to keep

working towards the end goal; that is a tolerant Pakistan where everyone is considered and treated equal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a thin black rectangular border. The signature reads "Naeem Ahmed" in a cursive script, followed by a period.

Naeem Ahmed Mirza
Executive Director
Aurat Foundation
April 2018, Islamabad

Board of Governors

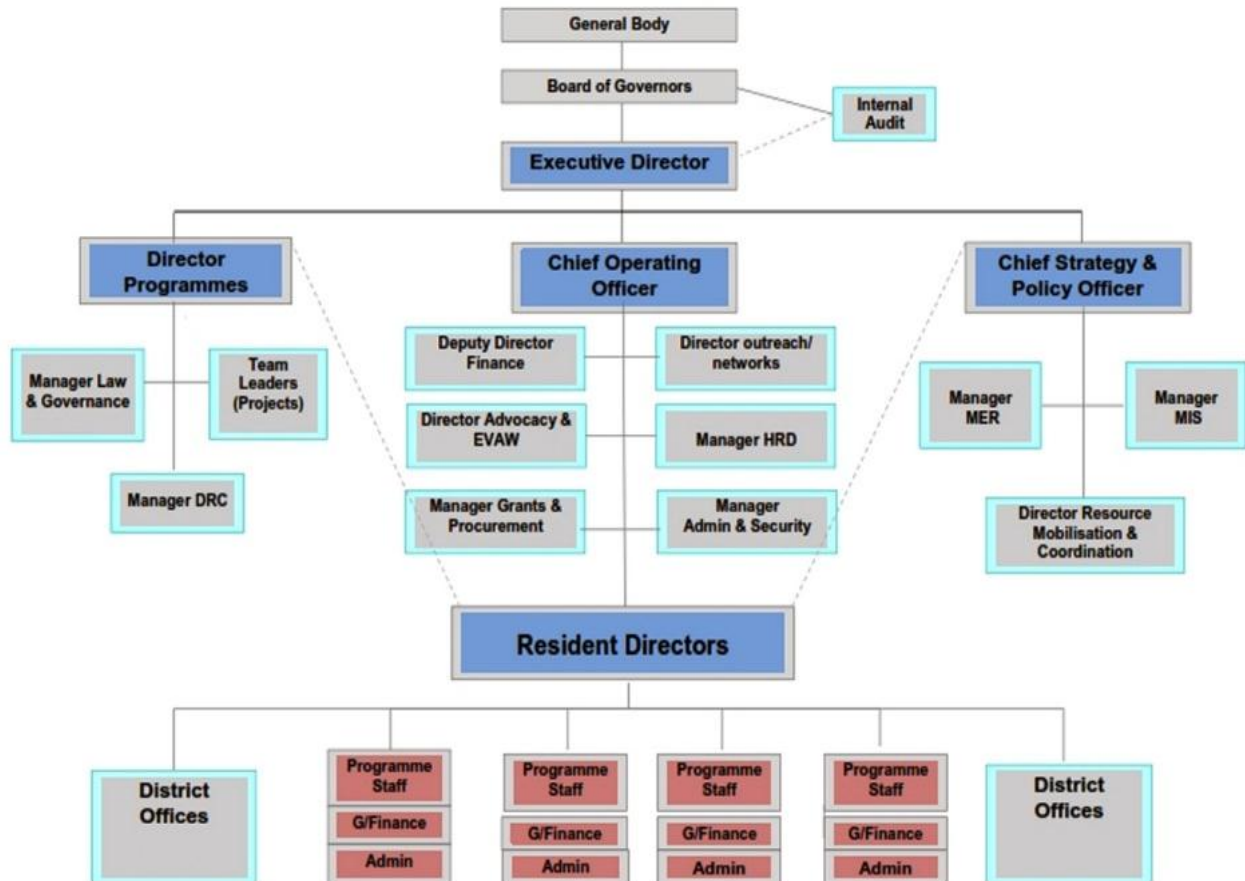
<p>Dr. Masuma Hasan <i>President</i></p> <p>Development Practitioner; former Cabinet Secretary & Ambassador; Researcher</p>		<p>Nigar Ahmad <i>Member/Executive Director</i></p> <p>Economist; Human Rights Activist; Development Practitioner</p>	
<p>Mohammad Tahseen <i>Treasurer</i></p> <p>Executive Director, South Asia Partnership Pakistan; Development Expert; Human Rights Activist</p>		<p>Arif Hasan <i>Member</i></p> <p>Architect & Planner; Social Researcher and Writer; Development Practitioner</p>	
<p>Anis Haroon <i>Member</i></p> <p>Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women; Women's Rights Activist</p>		<p>Tasneem Siddiqui <i>Member</i></p> <p>Chairman Saiban; former Director, KatchiAbadis, KDA; Development Practitioner</p>	
<p>Samina Rahman <i>Member</i></p> <p>Educationist; Women's Rights Activist</p>		<p>Anjum Riyazul Haque <i>Member</i></p> <p>Development Professional, former UNESCO head in Pakistan</p>	
<p>Dr. Aliya H. Khan <i>Member</i></p> <p>Educationist; Economist, Development Expert</p>			

Executive Council of Aurat Foundation

Name	Function	Gender	Affiliation
Nigar Ahmad	Executive Director * (Passed away 24 th February 2017)	Female	31 years
Naeem Ahmed Mirza	Chief Operating Officer	Male	20 years
M. Younas Khalid	Chief Strategy & Policy Officer	Male	22 years
Mumtaz Mughal	Resident Director, Lahore	Female	43 years
Shabina Ayaz	Resident Director, Peshawar	Female	21 years
Haroon Dawood	Resident Director, Quetta	Male	20 years
Mahnaz Rahman	Resident Director, Karachi	Female	13 years

Organogram

Institutional Structure Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation



Audit Report



KPMG Taseer Hadi & Co.
Chartered Accountants
351-Shadman-1, Main Jail Road,
Lahore 54000 Pakistan
+92 (42) 111-KPMGTH (576484), Fax +92 (42) 3742 9907

Auditor's report to Board of Governors

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of **Aurat Publication and information Service Foundation (the "Foundation")**, which comprise the balance sheet as at 30 June 2017, and the income and expenditure account, the statement of other comprehensive income, the statement of changes accumulated funds and the statement of cash flow for the year then ended, and notes in the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Foundation as at 30 June 2017, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with approved accounting and reporting standards as applicable in Pakistan.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Pakistan. Our responsibility under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of financial position section of our report. We are independent of the Foundation in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants as adopted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

The Board of Governors (the "Board") is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the approved accounting standards as applicable in Pakistan, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board is responsible for assessing the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Foundation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Foundation as financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibility for the audit of Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs as applicable in Pakistan will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.



KPMG Taseer Hadi & Co.

As part of our audit in accordance with ISAs as applicable in Pakistan, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Foundation internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention to our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statement or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Foundation's to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Lahore

Date: 26 March 2018

KPMG Taseer Hadi & Co
Chartered Accountants
(M. Rehan Chughtai)

Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation
Balance Sheet
As at 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 Rupees	2016 Rupees
Funds and liabilities			
<u>Accumulated funds</u>			
General fund		11,852,958	10,354,772
Endowment fund - restricted		1,035,924	1,035,924
		12,888,882	11,390,696
<u>Non-current liabilities</u>			
Donated funds - restricted	6	2,750,287	(20,866,665)
Deferred capital grants - restricted	7	37,975,346	48,768,410
		40,725,633	27,901,745
<u>Current liabilities</u>			
Trade and other payables	8	104,334,501	67,871,629
Short term loan	9	-	500,000
Staff severance pay		13,363,690	12,799,256
Donated Funds - restricted	6	6,226,980	-
		123,925,171	81,170,885
		<u>177,539,686</u>	<u>120,463,326</u>
Contingencies and commitments			
	10		
Assets			
<u>Non-current assets</u>			
Property and equipment	11	45,818,400	50,871,456
Intangible assets	12	2,254,276	3,381,245
		48,072,676	54,252,701
<u>Current assets</u>			
Advances, deposits, prepayments and other receivables	13	110,755,737	36,622,912
Cash and bank balances	14	18,711,273	29,587,713
		129,467,010	66,210,625
		<u>177,539,686</u>	<u>120,463,326</u>

The annexed notes 1 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Lahore

Naemangmel
 Executive Director

Abulhasan
 Director

Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation
Income and Expenditure Account
For the year ended 30 June 2017

Note	Aurat		Consolidated	
	Foundation	Projects	2017	2016
	Rupees	Rupees	Rupees	Rupees
<u>Income</u>				
Grants-restricted	-	781,171,806	781,171,806	1,037,786,392
Surplus on fixed price contract transferred to general fund	5,036,712	-	5,036,712	499,478
Donations	4,200,226	-	4,200,226	410,471
Other income	10,328,250	-	10,328,250	2,259,233
Amortization of capital grants	-	10,765,571	10,765,571	15,777,247
	19,565,188	791,937,377	811,502,565	1,056,732,821
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Sub - Grants awarded	-	338,064,086	338,064,086	417,257,933
Salaries and benefits	3,525,080	265,787,471	269,312,551	379,353,549
Meetings, seminars, workshops and advertisement	4,472,695	78,271,155	82,743,850	129,780,683
Utilities	-	3,192,252	3,192,252	5,122,884
Communication and mailing expenses	3,108	5,036,040	5,039,148	8,617,360
Vehicle running, repair and maintenance expenses	24,238	13,267,535	13,291,773	49,290,692
Office rent	-	25,081,582	25,081,582	35,510,534
Repair and maintenance expenses	16,500	5,394,081	5,410,581	8,355,989
Printing, stationery and supplies	-	17,977,930	17,977,930	17,005,469
Traveling and conveyance	5,160	5,932,924	5,938,084	6,066,256
Newspapers and periodicals	6,000	193,302	199,302	475,484
Legal and professional fee	-	5,976,800	5,976,800	4,131,322
Bank charges	79,051	949,224	1,028,275	2,361,169
Insurance expenses	25,525	6,954,984	6,980,509	8,330,944
Security charges	-	4,627,036	4,627,036	11,506,424
Flood relief activities	-	-	-	12,000
Audit fee	-	4,465,404	4,465,404	1,309,658
Depreciation	474,177	9,886,086	10,360,263	14,494,294
Amortization	247,484	879,485	1,126,969	1,543,978
Foreign currency exchange loss	9,187,984	-	9,187,984	13,891,160
	18,067,002	791,937,377	810,004,379	1,114,417,782
Net surplus / (deficit)	1,498,186	-	1,498,186	(57,684,961)

The annexed notes 1 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Lahore

Naeem Ahmed
Executive Director

Shamsh
Director

List of Operational Projects

Sr #	Project	Donor
1	Gender Equity Program (GEP)	USAID
2	SUBAI – Strengthening provincial Assemblies	EU/PALLADIUM
3	Social Mobilization-WeT	BISP
4	AAWAZ -Voice & Accountability	DFID
5	Strengthening Participatory Local Governance	OXFAM/EU
6	Women’s Learning Partnership TOT Programme	Women’s Learning Partnership

Chapter One

Law and Policy Reform

1. Law and Policy Reform

Keeping in line with the Constitution of Pakistan and our various international commitments, Pakistan has shown some progress towards introducing pro-women laws. These newly enacted laws are attempting to address discrimination and the inequality gap between women and men. Aurat Foundation, since its inception, has worked towards lobbying legislators towards progressive law. This includes firstly, amending existing legal provisions that are discriminatory against women and girls and secondly, to create new laws to address specific issues, which women in Pakistan face. Examples of AF's relentless campaigning have included the recognition of "honour" crimes as specific crimes under the Penal Code. This was achieved in 2014. In terms of domestic violence, AF's hard work of drafting and lobbying saw results in Sindh with the Sindh Domestic Violence Act 2013. One of AF's major achievements this year has been the Punjab Protection of Women against Violence Act 2016. Aurat Foundation has been part of all stages of this law, including drafting and the various consultative processes and the consistent lobbying of parliamentarians for the passage of the Act. This law recognises domestic violence as an offence, with harsh punishment for the offender. We look forward to its actual implementation and will ensure to monitor it very closely.

1.1 Government asked to implement CEDAW and other international conventions to end violence against women in Pakistan

Speakers at a public event on ending violence against women urged the government to implement CEDAW and other international conventions to end violence against women in Pakistan. They were invited at the launching ceremony of the Institutional Capacity Strengthening of Women Development Department (ICSWDD) project on 11 August, 2016, at Rawalpindi Arts Council. The event was organized jointly by Aurat Foundation, Oxfam Pakistan and Ahsas Foundation.

"Violence against women is on the rise every day, but we can control it. Although civil society organisations are doing their best, but unless the government cooperate and fulfil its responsibilities towards ensuring women's rights, violence against women would continue in one way or the other", said Mr. Shafique Chaudhry, Member National Commission on Human Rights (NCHR), and former Advisor to Ministry of Human Rights. He stressed that that the government shall sincerely implement the international conventions, which it has ratified over the years, including CEDAW, in true spirit. While talking about the objectives of National Commission on Human Rights (NCHR), he said that the NCHR is planning to



introduce the preventive measures to end violence against women.

Mr. Sajid Mehmood, Associate Country Director Oxfam Pakistan, while speaking at the launch, said that Oxfam GB is committed to ensuring women's rights in Pakistan through various programmes like Gender Justice Programme which is operating in 52 districts in Pakistan. Other programmes which directly or indirectly address women and girls rights, include Economic Justice Programme, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Humanitarian Assistance, Governance and Girls Education Programme.

Ms. Khalida Perveen, SHO, Rawalpindi, said that women police is doing its best to address the issue of violence against women. "We have established Women Protection Desks and also developed an online system of FIR registration where women can register complaints of violence against them", she further said.

Ms. Sarkar Abbas, Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan, while appreciating Aurat Foundation and civil society's role in ending violence against women through legislation and policies, said that the government shall ensure implementation of pro-women legislation already passed in recent years. She said that courts are always there to do justice on the issues of violence against women if approached properly. She mentioned the acid throwing case of Zakia Begum, and a recent case of rape of Shabana Riffat, where the culprits were sentenced to life imprisonment. Both the cases were advocated by Ms. Sarkar Abbas, who have also been former member of National Safety Commission, and District Public Safety Commission.



"Violence against women escalate manifold during times of conflicts, wars, terrorism and dictatorship", said Mr. Naeem Mirza, Executive Director, Aurat Foundation, while speaking at the project launch. He was referring to suicide bombing and mass shootouts in Pakistan like the Quetta carnage, the other day. While tracing the roots of violence against women, he said that the 'power and control' is the only weapon which men exploit to suppress women through violence. Violence against women is a centuries' old phenomenon, but the positive thing to celebrate today is that now there are laws to protect women against violence and discrimination and empower them



politically and economically. Referring to great philosophers like Aristotle, who said that women are mutilated part of men. He praised women leaders like Razia Sultana, Rani Jhansi, and of recent times, great Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.

Ms. Mumtaz Mughul, Resident Director, Aurat Foundation, Punjab, said that through this



programme Aurat Foundation and Oxfam will work together with the district governments and Women Leaders' Group (WLG) to ensure the implementation of 100 plus women's rights initiatives taken by the Government of Punjab. This project is designed to make its working three districts (Kasur, Rawalpindi and Muzaffargarh) as 'Violence Free Districts'.

Earlier, Ms Shamaila Tanvir, National Programme Coordinator, Institutional Capacity Strengthening of Women Development Department (ICSWDD) project of Aurat Foundation, while sharing the salient features of the project, said that AF, in collaboration with Oxfam GB, is striving to work closely with Women Development Department, Government of Punjab, in developing their road map and enhance their capacity in implementing 'Women Empowerment Package' of the Chief Minister in Punjab which aims to achieve sustainable development through women empowerment and gender justice. She said AF is currently working in three districts of Punjab i.e. Kasur, Rawalpindi and Muzaffargarh to implement, monitor and evaluate women empowerment initiatives to put collective efforts in making these districts 'Violence Free Districts'.

Mr. Shafique Chaudhry, Member NCHR, Mr. Sajid Mehmood, Associate Country Director Oxfam, Ms. Khalida Perveen, SHO, Rawalpindi, Ms. Sarkar Abbas, Advocate Supreme Court, Ms. Asma, Superintendent Dar-ul-Aman, Ms. Mumtaz Mughul, Resident Director, Aurat Foundation, Ms. Razia Sultana and Ms. Riffat Sultana, President and Secretary (respectively) Women Leaders Group Rawalpindi, Mr. Younas Khalid, Chief Strategy and Policy Officer, Aurat Foundation, Mr. Asim Malak, Director Outreach and Networking, Aurat Foundation, Ms. Saleema Muneer, Programme Manager Oxfam, were presented shields for their services for women's rights.

Chapter Two

Capacity Building and Consultative Processes

2. Capacity Building and Consultative Processes

Aurat Foundation's continuous capacity building trainings and workshops are across every project and reaches all spheres of the socio-economic groups with whom we work. This includes extensive training of women community leaders as AF's basic ethos believes in strengthening local women leaders as agents of change. Further to this our continuous engagement with the police and judiciary is considered imperative and has been our focus in most of our projects, particularly LISTEN.AF considers repeated and updated knowledge sharing to be of utmost importance for institutional capacity building among state institutions which women are most likely to come into contact with.

2.1 Workshop on Role and Achievements of Women Caucuses for Pro-Women Legislative and Policy Reforms

Convener Women Parliamentary Caucus of Punjab Assembly, Ms. Kawal Nauaman said that to ensure gender equality, protection of fundamental rights for women and to put an end to social injustice on sustainable grounds, it would be mandatory to enhance women's meaningful participation in the democratic process and decision-making. She said this while addressing an experience sharing workshop at a local hotel, Lahore, organized by Westminster Foundation for Democracy UK and Aurat Foundation.

Chairperson Standing Committee on Gender Mainstreaming, Ms. Raheela Khadim Hussain appreciated civil society's efforts to build the capacity of women parliamentary caucuses to raise women's concerns and mainstream gender in the Assembly business. She stressed that women caucuses should play their role to oversee the implementation of laws and should also highlight the gender gaps related to violence and socio-economic empowerment of citizens.

Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Member National Assembly, said that creation of women and youth caucuses at the federal level has helped in developing pro-women



legislative frameworks. She highlighted the importance of caucuses in strengthening democracy and democratic institutions. She said that the women caucus at the federal level is focusing on women entrepreneurship, skill development and job creation for women in the economic CPEC project.

Ms. Nusrat Sahar Abbasi, MPA from Sindh Assembly highlighted the achievements by the Sindh Assembly and said that women had worked hard to recognize their space in the political arena. She also said that it is very important to create inter-provincial linkages between women parliamentarians to enable learning best practices.

Ms. Shameela Aslam, General Secretary Caucuses, said that there are a number of legislations have been passed so the major focus shall now be to ensure implementation of pro-women legislation.

Ms. Rai Mumtaz Hussain Babar, Senior Secretary Punjab Assembly, said that the assembly secretariat is providing research and legislative services to its members and vows to provide his support for women caucuses. He appreciated the role of women members during assembly business and highlighted that out of 36 private member bills, women MPs moved 16. Moreover, out of 149 resolutions, 46 has been moved by women MPs.

Dr. Farzana Nazeer, Ex. Convener Women Parliamentary Caucus, congratulated to the new caucus and said she has high hopes to push the women legislative agenda for the implementation of the Women Protection Act 2016, amendments in the Punjab Child Marriage Restraint Act 2015 (increase the age of girl marriage), efforts to increase women's participation in sports, efforts for the establishment of health clubs through specific budgetary allocations, trainings through communication skills, IT training and inter provincial women parliamentarian exposure visits .

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ali Imran, Country Representative, Westminster Foundation for Democracy said that the Foundation is committed to strengthening the parliamentary performances through awareness on post-devolution roles and responsibilities of parliamentarians. He also highlighted the need and importance of provincial-federal parliamentary relationships and understanding of parliamentary procedures.

Ms. Mumtaz Mughal, Resident Director, Aurat Foundation said that the Foundation shall provide technical assistance and support for strategic visioning of women caucuses and provide legal backup to the caucuses. She stressed the role of women caucuses in social development, women's empowerment, protection and economic justice.

The session was attended by over 100 parliamentarians, CSOs activists, government institutions and media personnel including MPAs Dr. Nausheen Hamid, Ms. Sadia Sohail, Ms. Nabeela Hakim, Ms. Tehseen Fawad, Ms. Gulnaz Shahzadi, Ms. Nighat Sheikh, Ms. Zebunisa, Ms. Farzan Butt, Ms. Lubna Faisal, Ms. Shah Jahan, Ms. Salma Butt, Ms Shahzadi Shamim, Ms. Rukhsana Kaukab and others. Speaking on the occasion, participants highlighted the importance of the role of assembly in the implementation of laws, strengthening the coordination among departments and enhancing the monitoring mechanisms.

Chapter Three

Social Mobilisation and Citizen Engagement

3. Social Mobilisation and Citizens Engagement

Social mobilization is seen at AF as a means to motivate socio-economic sustainable change by to bring awareness among people and ultimately for ordinary citizens to demand and claim their rights. This is through engagement at all levels and the decentralisation of policy and decision-making. Aurat Foundation has been involved in engagement with ordinary citizens at all levels, concerning issues ranging from the importance of obtaining national ID cards, awareness around pro-women laws, women as voters and political participants and identifying women community leaders.

3.1 Institutional support to Government for women's rights start at Muzaffargarh

Launching ceremony of the 'Institutional support to Government of Pakistan for promoting human and women's rights project' was organized in district Muzaffargarh, on 5 October 2016, attended by women, men, youth, district administration representatives, provincial assembly members, police department, academia, HRCP, and civil society organizations.

The launching ceremony was part of dynamic partnership of Aurat Foundation and Oxfam who are working together for eliminating Gender Based Violence in Pakistan. It was aimed raising awareness of social capital of district Muzaffargarh on Gender Based Violence and mobilizing women, men, youth, CSOs, district administration and bar association to jointly work for eliminating Gender Based Violence in the district.

Ms. Komal Zahra, Secretary Resource Center, in her welcome address shared that Aurat Foundation and OXFAM has initiated this project for raising awareness among men, women and youth to work together for eliminating Gender Based Violence in district Muzaffargarh. Mr. Anjum Rafique, Regional Program Coordinator, gave an orientation of the project. He said that the project has also been started in districts Rawalpindi and Kasur.

Ms. Mumtaz Mughal, Resident Director Aurat Foundation, was invited to share the list of laws that provincial assembly Punjab has passed in recent years. Everybody has the right to get education, basic health facilities and justice, she said.

Mr. Hammad Nawaz Khan, MPA – PKMLN, said that it is a good initiative and need of the area. Domestic violence has become a custom in our society and women are treated in-humanly. While no civil society allows this kind of criminal behaviour, he said. He assured his full cooperation for the cause. Issues of women were manifested through women songs, theatre, poetry, and speeches. In the end Ms. Huma Nawab, Secretary Women Leaders Group, thanked all the participants for attending this ceremony.

Chapter Four

Advocacy, Awareness-Raising and Lobbying

4. Advocacy, Awareness-Raising and Lobbying

Aurat Foundation is essentially an advocacy organisation that has established a wide network around the whole country, lobbying and creating awareness around gender related issues, including pro-women laws and women's political participation. As an organisation, we have also raised our voices against societal injustices, protesting against the lack of State involvement to protect persecuted groups and marginalised people. Below we showcase what we have worked towards, celebrations and protests on causes and issues we hold close to our hearts and minds.

4.1 Aurat Foundation Lahore welcomes renowned Nepalese feminist, Ms. Chandani Joshi

Aurat Foundation welcomed renowned Nepalese feminist and AF's dear friend, Ms. Chandani Joshi to the AF's Lahore offices.

Ms. Joshi recollected her memories of working with Ms. Nigar Ahmad and Aurat Foundation in the early 90s.

She recalled Nigar's passion to help peasant women acquire knowledge of their rights and take charge of their financial and economic conditions. Ms. Joshi recalled Nigar's passion being turned into real action with the First National Haryali Peasant Women Conference in November 3-4, 1991 and Second National Haryali Peasant Women Conference in February 17-20, 1993, the first of their kind in Pakistan. The conference allowed a chance and space for these women to discuss their social, political, economic and environment issues and suggested solutions at the community and government level. Chandani Joshi also recalled the memories of the Peasant Women National Summit on Environment and Development 1991, Katmandu, Nepal and the Regional Conference on Women and Environment in



February 10-12, 1992.

She talked fondly of Shehla Zia and paid tribute to the commitment of both founding members, Nigar and Shehla for their devotion and struggle towards women's rights. She also recollected fond personal memories of their personal friendship over these years. Commenting on the status of women in Pakistan today, Ms. Joshi she said that she believed that the country was heading in the right direction with legislation coming into effect and the overall silence over these issues gradually ending.

Ms. Chandani Joshi played a great role for the women of Pakistan as well. Women in Pakistan. She setup the first South Asian Regional United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in Pakistan and India.

Besides a large number of Aurat Foundation's Women Leaders present at the event, Nigar Ahmad, herself was present at the occasion. Others included members of the provincial assembly, members of civil society organisations and individual activists and members of the media.

4.2 A Discriminatory social mind-set biggest hurdle in way of women's political participation



Discriminatory social mind-set is the biggest hurdle in the way of women political participation which restricts their growth as true political leaders. The views were expressed at the fifth four-day leadership Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop organized by Aurat Foundation under Women Learning Partnership (WLP). Women community leaders from different parts of the country participated in the training that was meant to build the capacity of women leaders so that they can utilize their capabilities in building a truly democratic society.

The ToT was organized at a time when country prepares for the general elections 2018 and women make an integral part of this changing political situation and emerging political institutions. Keeping this situation in mind, the training was themed around characteristics of true democracy, functioning of democratic institutions, importance of tolerance and dialogue in a democratic system and role of true leader in the promotion and protection of democratic norms. The interactive

training workshop had session based on the training manuals developed by WLP including Beyond Equality, Leading to Choices, Claiming our Rights and Leading to a Culture of Democracy. The objective of the training was to build the knowledge and training capacity of facilitators who will take this training further into the community.



The participants used creative ways to bring the concepts of leadership, equality, democracy and human rights under discussion. In one of the sessions, participants analysed educational institutions and local bodies for being democratic or undemocratic in their functioning and reached to a conclusion that institutions in Pakistan are largely undemocratic in their functioning. They said that democratic institutions are with equal opportunities, merit, justice, freedom of expression, accountability, transparency and rule of law. “All these qualities are found missing in the institutions of Pakistan,” said Kanwal Shauzab from PTI. Sadia Kamal from media said that women are still unacceptable in leadership role in the society. “This resistance increases at higher level especially in the case of political parties. We can hardly find any women without family background of politics at higher level in the political parties,” she said. The participants were of the opinion that those who can think beyond themselves and can bring positive change in the lives of others are leaders. The WLP’s, an international network of learning partnership, vision is to achieve democratic and peaceful societies that embrace pluralism and tolerance and are governed by gender-equitable norms, legislation, and policies that translate into equal rights and equal levels of participation and decision-making for women and men in the family, community, and politics.



Chapter Five

Support for Civil Society Organizations

5. Support for Civil Society Organizations

Gender Equity Program - GEP is a grant-making programme being implemented in collaboration with the Asia Foundation, funded by USAID. It will extend over 400 grants to civil society organizations and governmental gender entities. It has four key objectives:

- i. women's access to justice and human rights
- ii. women's economic empowerment
- iii. combating gender-based violence, and
- iv. capacity-building of Pakistani organization.

Gender Equity Program achieved following outreach and mobilization targets:

- 1,956 women home based workers were mobilized
- About 308 selected women home based workers were trained as master trainers through a total of 30 Training of Trainers (TOTs)
- 12 Trade Facilitation Centres (TFCCs) were established in 12 districts to facilitate women home based workers
- 14 advocacy activities sensitized 1,372 key stakeholders (725 women and 647 men)
- 41 Women workers conventions were organised in 15 districts of Pakistan.
- 6,475 women workers and 890 men workers also participated in these conventions
- 1,762 women workers were sensitized about their rights through 62 trainings
- 219 women employer and 268 men employers were oriented about workers laws and work environment in 25 sessions
- 378 women leaders were trained to take forward GEP objectives beyond GEP. They have further reached out to 1898 women workers through 66 rollout activities
- 14 district level networks established in 14 districts of Pakistan. In addition, one District Women Protection Network was also established in Skardu, GB.
- 1,326 GBV survivors were provided services like shelters, psycho social counselling, legal counselling, legal aid and helplines services.

In July 2014 Grant Cycle 7A was launched. A total of 27 sub-grants were awarded under this grant cycle out of which 14 completed their performance period on 30 September, 2015.

5.1 GEP & FWBL Celebrated Independence Day 2016

Gender Equity Program (GEP) of Aurat Foundation and First Women Bank Limited (FWBL) celebrated Independence Day in a ceremony held at FWBL on 12 August, 2016. Chief of Party, GEP, Ms. Simi Kamal and Ms. Mahpara Shakil Ghori, Director CB&EU, FWBL, attended the Ceremony.



5.2 Lahore University of Management Sciences, Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law (LUMS, SAHSOL) signed an MoU

2 November 2016: Lahore University of Management Sciences, Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law (LUMS, SAHSOL) signed an MoU with Aurat Foundation on November 2, 2016 at the LUMS Founders' Room. Prof. Dr. S. Sohail H. Naqvi, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Martin Lau, Dean of SAHSOL, attended the event on behalf of LUMS, while Aurat Foundation was represented by Ms. Mumtaz Mughal, Resident Director Aurat Foundation, Ms. Hasna Cheema, Deputy Programme Manager GEP, Provincial Manager AAWAZ Voice and Accountability Programme, Mr. Anjum Rafiq, Regional Coordinator LISTEN and ICSWDD Programme.



The MOU attempts to create training for of SAHSOL students and other research work, which includes:

- a. To provide students with internship/externship opportunities (that are full supervised and certified) in order to develop a specialist knowledge transfer across AF and SAHSOL;
- b. To collaborate on awareness raising sessions together; and
- c. To collaborate on originating, designing and submitting research and policy grant applications, especially on the topics of human rights, law and gender.

Aurat Foundation and LUMS are assured that this important step will add towards gender mainstreaming and add to the debate of women's empowerment.

5.3 Rich tributes paid to Nigar

Glowing tributes were paid to late Nigar Ahmad, the founder of Aurat Foundation and one of the pioneers of Women's Action Forum with passionate vows to continue her mission of establishing a peaceful, tolerant, just and caring society at a remembrance ceremony on Thursday. Nigar Ahmad passed away on 24 February, 2017 in Lahore. Organised by the Aurat Foundation, the ceremony was attended by people from all walks of life, including foreign dignitaries, political leaders, academicians and members of various minority communities from all over the country.



The event started with the screening of a short video about Nigar's life and her journey towards becoming one of the leading voices for the emancipation of women and the pioneering founder of the women's movement in Pakistan. The screening was followed by the small speeches from those who worked closely with Nigar.

A number of speakers, some in tears, spoke about Nigar's revolutionary ideas and described her as the visionary feminist leader of women's rights movement in Pakistan and South Asia. She was remembered as the torchbearer of change and development for poor and vulnerable sections of the society.

For her co-workers, family and close friends, Nigar's extraordinarily kind, humble and caring approach was the best part of her personality where as her students and co-workers praised her intellect, selflessness and pain for the vulnerable.

I.A Rehman, legendary human rights activist, spoke about Nigar's real understanding that change is only possible through the emancipation of women. "Nigar strongly believed in this and this was visible through her life long struggle through Aurat Foundation," he said.

Tahira Abdullah, well-known rights activist, said Nigar was Pakistan's quintessential renaissance woman. She spoke about Nigar's commitment to rural, poor women,



particularly labourers. She ended her tribute with a poem by Faiz Ahmed Faiz, often recited by Nigar. Ubaidullah Chaudary, a close friend and previous colleague of Nigar's at AF, described Nigar as a complete human being.

Istaqbal Mehdi, a friend from Nigar's government college days, spoke about Nigar's student days and her love for life, heated discourse, defiant nature, cricket and her insatiable desire to change the world. Dr. Alia Khan, professor Quaid-e-Azam, a student of Nigar's spoke about her time with Nigar as a teacher and mentor and how she encouraged her to become an academic activist.





Anis Haroon, ex-chairperson NCSW, spoke about Nigar's warm and ever giving personality that she applied to her work till the end of her life. She spoke about how Nigar's vision is seen today in AF and the best way to pay tribute to her life would be keep struggling for the things we believe in.

Kishwar Naheed, well known poet, paid tribute to her dear friend with an ode that spoke of Nigar's belief, commitment and struggle for the people of Pakistan and their emancipation. Alia Mirza, feminist poet and dear friend of Nigar's spoke about the love and encouragement Nigar showed to her friends and ensured that others always realised their full potential. Naheed Aziz, activist and well-known professional, said that along with Nigar's passion for women's rights, she was also passionate about children's rights and mobilised a huge protest in Lahore in the 1980s, when AF was newly formed, to raise awareness around the rights of children.

Shohiab Sultan, AF board member and initiators of the Agha Khan Rural Support Programme spoke emotionally of Nigar's life and commitment towards which she worked to the end of her life. Masooma Hassan, President of the Board of Governors, AF, begun by saying that Nigar's life should be celebrated. She also highlighted how the working culture of AF has always carried Nigar's belief in a caring work environment.

Earlier, Naeem Mirza, AF's Chief Operating Officer, begun the session by welcoming all the people that gathered to pay tribute to Nigar. He started by giving a brief background as to how Nigar Ahmad and Shela Zia founded Aurat Foundation.



Younus Khalid, Chief Policy and Strategy Officer, AF, spoke of his first interaction with Nigar, her inspiring leadership skills and her commitment and devotion to all staff members. Mehnaz Rehman, Shabina Khan, Mumtaz Mughal, directors AF, moderated the session, each giving their personal account of their interaction with Nigar as a friend and colleague. Saima Munir, of AF, spoke of Nigar as a diligent and tough but also caring boss and friend.

Nigar's son Bilal Siddiqui said that if one wanted to really understand his mother, it was to emphasize the one quality which she believed and carried with her in her personal and professional life that being a caring person and working towards a caring society is the only way to change the world.

Kate, her daughter in law, took to the stage and spoke passionately about Nigar's personal attributes of generosity and affectionate nature. Kate said Nigar never treated her like a daughter in law and always encouraged her career. She said the country and the world would be a better place if Nigar's message, in terms of public policy and her personality and interaction with people, was promoted and followed by more people.

Nigar's drivers, personal assistants, and those personalities from all over the country that she interacted with, both professionally and personally, recalled fondly memories they had of Nigar, her work and her positive impact on their personal life. The evening was sombre, filled with memories to cherish a pioneering personality but it was also reflective and inspiring.

5.4 Rights activist and editor of Legislative Watch passes away

Wasim Wagha was an integral part of the AF team, having joined the organisation since September 2003. He was the longest serving co-editor of this newsletter. His contributions and intuitive understanding were exceptionally valuable and made the newsletter richer and ever more relevant.

Wasim completed a masters in Siraiki language in Islamia University, Bahawalpur in 1998. He also studied for an M.Sc from South Bank University, London in 1994. Wasim had extensive research experience and insight into indigenous riverine people, particularly challenges faced by women and other vulnerable people. He was also an expert in local languages and their importance towards empowerment and awareness. He was a true rights activist, who independent of his job, was always present and vocal on the rights of the deprived section of society. He was the son of prominent and senior Siraiki scholar and linguist, Dr. Ahsan Wagha.



Wasim worked across various projects at AF, supporting numerous programmes and providing timely insights and advice. His most recent post was manager resource centre. His love for the books and documents in the AF library was inspiring for all at AF. He was a source of great knowledge, which he passed on to other CSOs, students and the media.

Apart from his professional high standards, Wasim was one of the most loved colleagues at AF. He was humble, sincere and kind beyond words and a true example to those around him. He was a wonderful father to his children and a great friend and mentor to have around.

He was well known in the development sector as a progressive and budding professional and at AF as a wise and kind person. His death, after a sudden and short illness, has left all his friends at AF devastatingly sad and with a great void to fill.

He will be greatly missed.

Wasim has left behind his wife, Shazia, who is a teacher at a private school, his two children, both his parents and sisters. Khuda Hafiz Wasim (1971 - 2016).

Chapter Six

Research and Publications

6 Research and Publications

As the organization's full name suggests -Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation - we are committed to publication and wide dissemination of material in order to create awareness among women and men regarding the rights of women and girls. In addition to raising awareness, the aim of publishing and dissemination of advocacy flyers and posters is to help create awareness around fundamental human rights and create a demand from ordinary citizens to fight for change. Every year and under every project AF publishes vast amounts of literature ranging from basic information for grassroots level communities, analysis of relevant laws, women's political participation to socio-economic issues that relate to women. Amongst our research we include date on reported cases of violence against women.

عورتوں کو کام کی جگہ پر ہراساں کیے جانے کے خلاف قانون 2010

کارکنوں کے لیے ضابطہ اخلاق

خواتین کو کام کرنے کی جگہ پر جنسی طور پر ہراساں کرنے کے خلاف قانون 2010 اس خیال کے ساتھ منظور کیا گیا ہے کہ اداروں کے اندر اپنا حقوق کا نظام کامی ادارے میں کام کرنے والے مردوں اور عورتوں کو کٹھناتی طور پر حساس پلیٹ فارم مہیا کرے گا جس کے ذریعے جنسی طور پر ہراساں کیے جانے کی شکایات دائر کی جاسکیں گی۔ اس نظام میں ایک ادارے کے اندر ایک ضابطہ اخلاق اور ایک متن کی کاپی موجود ہے جو جنسی طور پر ہراساں کیے جانے کے خلاف شکایات کو مؤثر طور پر منظر کشی کی تحقیقاتی کمیٹی کی موجودگی میں کارکن اپنی شکایات آسانی سے آگے بٹھانے میں مددگار ہوگا۔

تاہم کارکنوں کو مطلع ہونا چاہیے کہ 29 جنوری 2010 کو حکومت نے تقریرات پاکستان کے سیکشن 509 میں ایک ترمیم کی منظوری دی ہے جس کے تحت نہ صرف کام کرنے کی جگہ پر بلکہ ہر جگہ پر جنسی طور پر ہراساں کیے جانے کو جرم قرار دیا گیا ہے۔ اس جرم کی سزا پانچ ماہ تک دیکھ کر پانچ سال تک کی قید یا ایک لاکھ روپے تک جرمانہ اور تین سال تک کی قید یا ایک لاکھ روپے تک جرمانہ دونوں ہو سکتی ہیں۔ اگر کسی کارکن کو جنسی طور پر ہراساں کیے جانے کو کوئی واقعہ پیش آیا ہو تو ادارے کی انتظامیہ اس بات کو ترجیح دے گی کہ واقعے کی شکایت ادارے کے اندر ہی دائر کی جائے لیکن انتظامیہ اس بات کی ذمہ داری نہیں دے گا کہ وہ اپنے کارکنوں کا پاس بارے میں باخبر رہے کہ ان کے پاس یہ اسٹیج موجود ہے کہ وہ دفعہ 509 کے تحت پٹریس سے رابطہ کر سکتے ہیں اور پٹریس میں رپورٹ درج کرا سکتے ہیں۔ ہم سمجھتے ہیں کہ پاکستان میں زیادہ تر عورتوں کو جنسی طور پر ہراساں کیا جاتا ہے۔ تاہم انصاف کی بات یہ ہے کہ جنسی طور پر ہراساں کرنے کے واقعات مردوں کے ساتھ بھی پیش آ سکتے ہیں۔ اس لیے اس بات کو یقینی بنانے کے لیے کہ جاری توجہ نامناسب رہے جو عورتوں کو جنسی طور پر ہراساں کیا جاتا ہے اور جن عورتوں کو ان کے لیے ہے۔ اس کی توجہ کا مرکزی نقطہ کام کی جگہ پر جنسی طور پر ہراساں کیا جاتا ہے اور یہ کام کرنے کی جگہ کے حامل کو اس طرح بھتر بنانے میں مدد دے گا کہ یہ جنسی طور پر ہراساں اور خوفزدہ کیے جانے سے اور زیادہ توجہ سے پاک ہو جائیں۔

عدم تصحیل کی سزا

کئی آج کل کی طرف سے اس ضابطہ اخلاق کو منظم کرنے میں کامیابی کی صورت میں کوئی بھی کارکن جنسی طور پر ہراساں کرنے سے روکتا ہے اور اس کے خلاف شکایت دائر کرتا ہے تو اسے عدم تصحیل کی سزا دی جائے گی۔ اگر کوئی کارکن جنسی طور پر ہراساں کرنے سے روکتا ہے اور اس کے خلاف شکایت دائر کرتا ہے تو اسے عدم تصحیل کی سزا دی جائے گی۔ اگر کوئی کارکن جنسی طور پر ہراساں کرنے سے روکتا ہے اور اس کے خلاف شکایت دائر کرتا ہے تو اسے عدم تصحیل کی سزا دی جائے گی۔

مقابلہ قبول رویہ

کوئی بھی کارکن جنسی طور پر ہراساں کرنے سے روکتا ہے اور اس کے خلاف شکایت دائر کرتا ہے تو اسے مقابلہ قبول رویہ کی سزا دی جائے گی۔ اگر کوئی کارکن جنسی طور پر ہراساں کرنے سے روکتا ہے اور اس کے خلاف شکایت دائر کرتا ہے تو اسے مقابلہ قبول رویہ کی سزا دی جائے گی۔ اگر کوئی کارکن جنسی طور پر ہراساں کرنے سے روکتا ہے اور اس کے خلاف شکایت دائر کرتا ہے تو اسے مقابلہ قبول رویہ کی سزا دی جائے گی۔

انتظامیہ کی ذمہ داریاں

انتظامیہ اس ضابطہ اخلاق کو اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے خلاف شکایات کی تحقیقات کی ذمہ داریاں ادا کرے گا۔ اگر کوئی کارکن جنسی طور پر ہراساں کرنے سے روکتا ہے اور اس کے خلاف شکایت دائر کرتا ہے تو اسے مقابلہ قبول رویہ کی سزا دی جائے گی۔ اگر کوئی کارکن جنسی طور پر ہراساں کرنے سے روکتا ہے اور اس کے خلاف شکایت دائر کرتا ہے تو اسے مقابلہ قبول رویہ کی سزا دی جائے گی۔



جنسی طور پر ہراساں کیے جانے کو ہرگز برداشت نہ کیا جائے



انتظامیہ کی محتسب کی جانب ذمہ داریاں

محتسب جنسی طور پر ہراساں کیے جانے کے واقعات کی توجہ سے لے کر شکایت کو حل کرنے تک کی ذمہ داریاں ادا کرے گا۔ اگر کوئی کارکن جنسی طور پر ہراساں کرنے سے روکتا ہے اور اس کے خلاف شکایت دائر کرتا ہے تو اسے مقابلہ قبول رویہ کی سزا دی جائے گی۔ اگر کوئی کارکن جنسی طور پر ہراساں کرنے سے روکتا ہے اور اس کے خلاف شکایت دائر کرتا ہے تو اسے مقابلہ قبول رویہ کی سزا دی جائے گی۔



مجاز انہاری کا تعین

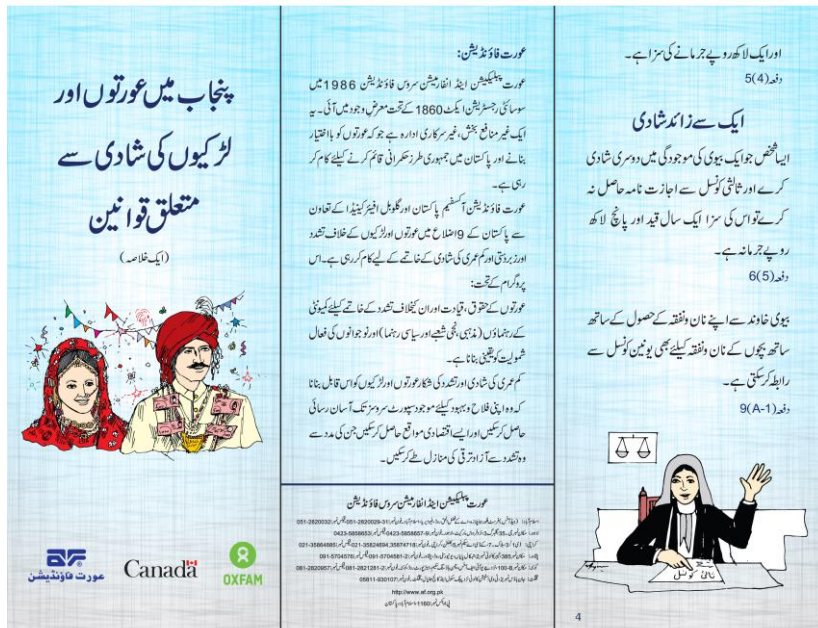
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Keeping in view the elections and other social issues poster, booklets, manuals, pamphlets, CDs and stickers are published and widely shared to highlight the importance of various issues.



The IEC material is disseminated among participants of various project related activities. These have also been distributed among district partners, local and provincial governments, civil society organisations, community based organisations in 30 (LISTEN) project districts. This material was also distributed to AF district offices, AAWAZ Agahi centres, where a huge number of community members visit and receive information.





LEGISLATIVE WATCH



Founded by Shahla Zia

Patron-in-Chief: Nigar Ahmad

EDITORIAL

Legislation to protect women and girls and deter potential violators of the law has seen a very steady pace at the federal and provincial level. This welcome wave of pro women laws has been going strong since 2004. Most new laws enacted are criminal laws that penalise violence against women. Legislatures, who introduced the bills and those that debated and voted in favour of the bills, and governments must be commended for proactively performing their basic fundamental duties to the electorate.

However, critical analysis of case law, conviction rates and statistics on violence against women all show that these laws have not yet fully come to life. The perpetrator is not held to account and thus justice is not ensured to the victim. This lack of implementation of the law shows uniformity throughout the country.

Therefore, to celebrate the enactment of law as sufficient would be premature, not only because many pro-women laws presently are fraught with lacunas that need urgent amendments. Law making is certainly the imperative first step. However, the law is a tool. It would remain merely a piece of paper if it does not perform the essential role of aiding women to get justice, ending gender discrimination and ultimately transferring de jure gender equality to de facto equality.

The next step that should be focused on by successive governments and other relevant agencies is collaborative efforts to implement the law. The wave of enactment has been so fast yet the knowledge that a particular law exists is still very sporadic, with essential agencies of the state, such as the police and lower Judiciary unaware of many pro-women laws. The police, lawyers and the judiciary are all agencies and institutions that require an understanding of what laws exist and how they are to be interpreted. For ordinary citizens, particularly women, state sponsored dissemination of the law, in local and laypersons languages, is the essential pre-requisite. Comprehensive and systemic mechanisms between and across various relevant agencies are also part of the implementation process. As are accountable complaint structures to ensure that institutions implementing the law do so transparently and are held to account for digression.

The real force that will bring the law to life, however, is, and has always lied in, political will and commitment. The next step for successive governments must be to work towards laying ground for effective implementation by ensuring that the intention of parliament - that is to ensure justice to the victim - is fully realised. Without political commitment the law will forever remain a tool, significant only on paper.

The Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence Act 2016: A Critique

By Benazir Jatoi

The Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence Act 2016 has created controversy and confusion amongst various groups, including defenders of women's rights. Many have challenged the new Act passed unanimously, through the democratic process, by the Punjab assembly on 24 February, 2016.

The voices of disapproval with the new law were from many fronts, with the loudest being from the religious clergy, who have declared the Act un-Islamic. In Pakistan we have often found it challenging to counter religious rhetoric when a law or policy comes forward that attempts to provide legal or institutional protection to women and girls. Under the clout of religion, right wing and other religiously inclined lobbies and groups have hijacked the debate to portray a picture that protecting women against violence or other adversities is un-Islamic.

The biggest shortfall in the Act is that it is not under the ambit of criminal law. The architects of the Act have brought this law under civil law. The reasons perhaps are two-fold. Firstly, the burden of proof in a civil case is on the balance of probabilities, i.e., more likely than not. This works in favour of women who have to prove that domestic violence did in fact take place. Under criminal law the test on the applicant is to prove their case beyond reasonable doubt. Secondly, the Sindh and Balochistan domestic violence Acts have both been covered under criminal law but in terms of convictions have showed no results in terms of convictions. Also, the criminal justice system is in need of dire reform and it is perhaps more likely that under civil law the matter will be more effectively and expeditiously dealt with.

Human right groups, were rightly disappointed that domestic violence was not criminalised. Among concerns, it is important to meet on one common ground and that is that the Punjab government has attempted to recognize that domestic violence is an offence. That is a small but significant first step. It is now time to ensure wide dissemination of the law, as promised in the legislation itself, to help the government further strengthened the law and most importantly, to hold the government accountable if there is a failure to enforce the law.

This is a clause by clause critique of the Act, to give a better understanding of what the Act entails, what its shortcomings maybe, and how it can be further strengthened. We have only dealt with the clauses that we believe need amending, repeal or those that have created controversy or have been or are most likely to be misinterpreted. The full text of the Act can be found on AF's website www.af.org.pk.

Section 1(3), **Short title, extent and commencement** is problematic because it is not specific as to when it will come into force. Many aspects of the protection mechanisms are through a phased period and the Act is not universally applicable to all parts of Punjab at once. If a woman attempts to use the provisions of this Act today, how will they work in practice?

Definitions

We have emphasised our critique on the definitions provided in the Act, under section 2. This is because they are the fundamental essence of any Act, constantly referred to when interpreting the law. The definitions are not consistent or in places incomplete.

1. We will discuss definitions of an aggrieved person, children and household.

Section 2(a), **Definitions** of the Act defines aggrieved person:

'...a female who has been subjected to violence by a defendant.'

A layperson's understanding of female is an adult woman who can bare offspring. However, a dictionary definition of female reveals that female includes "of or relating to the sex that can produce young or lay eggs, characteristic of girls or women. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/female>.

The reality in Pakistan is that young girls are often wives and mothers. Hence, for the avoidance of confusion of whether the protections under this Act applies to girls or not, the law needs to further clarify the definition of female. If the Act intends to cover girls as well as women, it will be problematic as to how a girl is dealt with under the law. The needs of young girls are often very different to women.

The Sindh and Balochistan Acts, through custody orders, have covered situations where the victim of violence may be a minor. There should either be a provision that deals specifically with girls or the definition of woman should be broadened to include girls.

Subsection 2(h) defines domestic violence to include violence in a situation where the defendant and aggrieved live or have lived together and *'...when*

Continued on next page

'Human rights ministry is drafting laws to protect women, children'

By A Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Human Rights is working on drafting and amending various women and children-friendly laws, including the draft policy on violence against women which will soon be sent to parliament, said Ministry of Human Rights Director General M. Hassan Mangi.

Talking at a 'Show and Tell convention' hosted by the Aurat Foundation on Wednesday, Mr Mangi said: "We have successfully introduced some amendments to the criminal law and the age of criminal responsibility had been raised from seven to 10 years. We are also working on formulating a law against child pornography."

The ministry is working on devising laws to address child labour in the

Islamabad Capital Territory, he added.

"We are finalising the draft policy for home-based women workers and adopting it for implementation. The Law Reforms Committee in Senate is also reviewing laws to end violence against female workers," he said.

Also speaking at the event was Chairperson Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Shaista Pervaiz Malik who said WPC has been at the forefront for ensuring women empowerment through active legislation.

She added that WPC is partnering with the civil society, national and international organisations to end violence against women.

Deputy Director National Police Bureau (NPB) Mehrreen Maqsood emphasised on the need for training women police officials in how to respond to cases of violence against

women for which, she said, NPB needs support from the civil society.

Director General, Ministry of Health, Shafqat Javed said the issue of violence against women is also a public health issue.

"We need to see if the health policy also addressed violence against other sections of the society, such as the transgender community. There are a lot of gaps in medical services in addressing gender based violence, which should be addressed," he said.

Member KP Assembly Meraj Khan and chairperson of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Women Parliamentary Caucus said that a united struggle of members of the provincial caucus has brought many achievements such as the formation of a separate ministry for women and the celebration of Women's Day in the provincial assembly for the first time.

LEADLINE

Friday, September 16, 2016

Story on Front Page

Honour killings

Murders on rise as govt sits on pro-women bills

Data shows relatives behind most murders of women

A QADDER YANOLI

ISLAMABAD

As the government continues to drag its feet on two crucial women's protection bills, previously unpublished data has revealed that an overwhelming majority of those killing women in Punjab are husbands, brothers or fathers.

According to data compiled by the NGO Aurat Foundation, of the 724 women murdered in the province last year, 190 were killed by their husbands, 60 by their brothers and 24 by their fathers. The pattern was prevalent especially in honour killing cases, where

75 out of 170 women were killed by their brothers, 36 by their husbands and 20 by their fathers.

Despite calls for the swift passage of the anti-honour killing and anti-rape bills, the government has appeared unwilling to expedite the legislations even as incidents of violence against women increase across the country. Deepening political turmoil in the shape of anti-government protests by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and other parties has effectively kept the two pro-women bills on the back burner.

Talking to The Express Tribune

DAMNING STATS

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of the 170 women murdered in Punjab in the name of honour were killed by husbands, brothers or fathers

last week, Pakistan Peoples Party Senator Farhatullah Babar accused the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government of not being serious about legislating on important issues. "After the

Panama leaks, the government has become vulnerable and is pandering to the demands of religious parties," he suggested.

Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Law and Justice Zafarullah Khan, however, disagreed with the notion of delay and said instead the reason was building consensus of all the stakeholders.

The two bills were originally presented in Senate in January 2014 by former senator Sagha Inam. However, they could not be presented during a joint sitting of parliament in April this year, in HONOUR KILLINGS, PAGE 9

Murders on rise

HONOUR KILLINGS, FROM PAGE 1

the face of opposition from the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F). A special parliamentary panel finally passed the bills unanimously on July 21, paving the way for them to be adopted during a joint parliamentary session in August. But the joint sitting was delayed amid political bickering between the government and opposition.

The two bills have proposed amendments in sections 302, 309, 310, 338-E of PPC and Section 345 CrPC to do away with the waiver of Qisas by a wali and include the offence committed in the name or on the pretext of honour. Similarly, existing provisions of sections 336-A and 336-B of PPC have also been proposed by the Cabinet Committee on Law Reforms for amendments.

Violence against women remains a serious issue in Pakistan and Punjab seems to be leading in this heinous practice. As many as 5,827 cases were reported in 2015 and

data, Rahimyar Khan trailed behind Faisalabad with 439 cases. Rawalpindi and Lahore reported 321 cases each while Sahiwal reported 254 cases.

Violence against women included incidents of kidnapping, acid-throwing, burning, torture, Vani, Watta-Satta, murders, honour killings, rapes/gang rapes, Karo-Kari, early and forced marriages.

Beating women appeared to be the preferred mode of maiming and murdering women and 832 cases were reported in this connection while use of gun was reported in 725 cases. The use of poison stood at third position with 693 cases while there were 612 cases of kidnapping at gunpoint.

Coercion, harassment, threats and deception were also used in violence against women.

Acid was used in 84 attacks, knives in 120 incidents. Axe and other sharp implements were used on 90 occasions, while there were 99 cases of strangulation.

in cases of crimes against women remained the highest with 384 cases, fathers were involved in 80 such cases, 70 by brothers, 51 by parents, 43 by in-laws, 50 by former husbands, nine by step-fathers, five by step-brothers, 35 by sons, 30 by step-sons, 676 local residents, 148 neighbours, 435 by strangers, 100 by relatives, 36 by police, 19 by PAs, 156 by influential persons.

Director Advocacy, Aurat Foundation, Rabeba Hadi said that in urban areas, specifically in industrial cities, more cases of violence against women were reported because of easy media access.

She said the factor of poverty also played an important role in these crimes.

"Women are not allowed to do things of their free will and men want to control their lives. This control mechanism generally generates domestic violence against women irrespective of the victim's relation: she may be a wife, daughter, mother, sister or any other relative," she maintained. (WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY OUR

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

'No society can progress if it suppresses its female component'

Home - Today's Paper - Karachi - 'No society can progress if it suppresses its female component'

By Anil Datta January 31, 2017 Print: Karachi



Mehnaz Rehman blames retrogressive values such as male chauvinism for LHWs' plight

"Our dilemma right now is not as much poverty as it is lack of social justice," Mehnaz Rehman, the resident director for the Aurat Foundation's Sindh chapter, said on Monday.

She was addressing a consultation on the problems of lady health workers (LHWs) and the injustices being meted out to them on account of various social factors.

"We should struggle for electoral reforms whereby the common folk, the disempowered can also contest the elections," she said. "This will be an ideal way to wipe out injustice."

She blamed retrogressive values such as male chauvinism for LHWs' plight. She also lamented that the gap between the rich and the poor in Pakistan was burgeoning with every passing day and that was what caused injustices to women.

Begum Surayya Amiruddin, former Pakistan Peoples Party senator from Balochistan, said it was sad that even though women formed 52 per cent of the country's population, they were victims of atrocities at the hands of male chauvinists.

She asserted that there was no hope for a society that treated its women as inferior beings and that women had to go side by side with men if the country was to flourish.

She lamented that even though Benazir Bhutto had formed the lady health visitors' force in 1994, and children began to be vaccinated, she was not allowed to live to see the fruition of the programme.

The force, she said, was regularised in 2012. However, she regretted that Benazir could not live to see the complete implementation of the plan.

She reiterated that if a country were to progress, it had to treat the female component of the population as an equal and march hand-in-hand with them.

LHWs were present in large numbers and put forth their complaints and problems. One of the problems, they said, was the issue of delayed and meagre salaries, which exerted excruciating pressures on their family life which, apart from other things, led to domestic violence.

Apart from other things, they said, they suffered from low self-esteem. Fifty-seven per cent of the LHWs said that given their rickety financial position, they were often forced to borrow from local retailers and by the time they received their emoluments, the retailers were at their doorsteps to pester them for repayment of their loans and financially they were back to square one, which led to family problems.

An LHW, Shama Noorani, said that by implication the NGOs were to blame because the government had all the required tasks accomplished by them and the LHWs' hard work went by default.

All the LHWs complained of sexual harassment and some said that even applying lipstick was misconstrued by the male staff as a sign of being footloose. They said that all sorts of allegations were levelled against them by men.

Earlier, noted journalist Moniza Inam's report on LHWs' problems – such as sexual harassment, delayed salaries and domestic violence – was read out. The report included problems such as going to "uncovered areas" where the uninitiated people were hostile and often LHWs were molested.

Noted labour leader Habibuddin Junaidi said it was not just the workers and the peasants who were exploited by the feudals, but women too. He said women had to cope with the extra curse of sexual harassment.

Junaidi said the poor, the lower-middle classes and the middle classes would have to put up a concerted struggle to throw off the yoke of exploitation. He said that no society could progress if it meted out stepmotherly treatment to its women.

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

Nepali feminist meets local activists

By Xari Jalil

LAHORE: Civil society activists converged together to pay their respects to leading Nepali women's rights activist Chandni Joshi who had come to Pakistan to attend meetings on the discussion of women representation at SAARC level.

In a candid meeting with Lahore-based activists at the Aurat Foundation office, Ms Joshi talked about her experiences of working in Pakistan with the women rights activists like Shehla Zia, Nigar Ahmed, Farida Shaheed and Khawar Mumtaz.

Although belonging to Nepal, Ms

Joshi played a great role for the women of Pakistan. She set up the first South Asian Regional Office of the United Nations development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in Pakistan and India.

"I remember how Nigar Ahmed and I used to discuss problems of peasant women because these were the women who were the worst off in terms of economic and social rights," she remembered. "Today, the issues are the same."

Discussing the women issues in Nepal and Pakistan, Ms Joshi said it was superfluous to compare the conditions of the two countries because the problems of women were the same more or less every-

where.

"Whether it is a South Asian country or a developing country the point is that women, who make up a huge chunk of the global population, are not given the respect that they deserve," she said.

"In South Asia too, a few of the millennium development goals revolving around women's rights have been achieved."

Mr Joshi said that it was important to see the prevailing perspective in a country. "Is the woman being treated as a commodity? Because it's the mindset that causes gender inequality. Meanwhile, women of different tiers face slightly different issues."

In Nepal, she added, the new constitution has made the representation in the parliament compulsory for every community whose population exceeded 20,000, including women and transgender persons. The country has a woman president who struggled her way to the top and was not handpicked. It also has a woman as the Speaker and chief justice.

Besides the members of the Aurat Foundation, officials of South Asia Partnership (SAP-PK), Women in Struggle for Empowerment (WISE) and Strengthening Participatory Organisation (SPO) were also present.

Friday, January 27, 2017

'Gender discrimination not limited to developing countries'

By Moayyed Ali Jafri and Sher Ali Khattai
LAHORE

PAKISTANI women are politically more aware, courageous and vibrant for movement as compare to other women of South Asia.

This was acknowledged by Programme Director of UNIFEM former Regional Director and leading women rights activist from Nepal Chandni Joshi in an exclusive interview with The News. Dedicating virtually her entire life to the cause of women rights, especially in the economic domain, Ms Joshi has fought and won many battles in the policy domain, regionally and internationally. She

was the prime force behind setting up South Asian Regional Office of UNIFEM in Pakistan and India while bringing various governments, gender advocates and researchers together to common platforms along with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

As she looked back on all that she has done to this day, she said that it was an uphill task to convince the policy makers regarding the economic contribution to national development by women not just through professional jobs, but through the management of domestic household. It really does not make intelligent sense, that if two individuals are doing the same job with similar results,

one is undermined and underpaid based only on their gender and not performance, she said. "Gender discrimination regarding acknowledgement and compensation for work is not a problem exclusive to developing countries, she said, citing the examples of same disparity in the US. Before this seeps into minds of the policy makers, this concept needs to be corrected through awareness among the masses in general, and that is where the real challenge is", she said. It is heartening to see that these issues which were not even considered as worthy of discussion have now become a part of the public and policy discourse in the region and internationally, however, the road to

absolute parity is long and difficult, she commented.

She was concerned over the fact that not a single country of the world was able to achieve the targets set by the Beijing Declaration, not even the Scandinavian countries. However, she was hopeful that at least some of them would be able to do so by the next deadline set till 2030. Commenting on the status of women in Pakistan, she said that she believed that the country was heading in the right direction with progressive legislation coming into effect and the overall silence over these issues finally ending. Government should make macro policies for the welfare of women, he said.

First and foremost mindset needs to be changed for working women, unfortunately, women are being discriminated not only in South Asia but around the world, said Ms Joshi.



Nigar Ahmed passes away

By Xari Jalli

LAHORE: The country's civil society lost a star on Friday when Nigar Ahmed, known for her luminous contribution to women's rights, passed away at a hospital here after a prolonged illness. She was 72.

She leaves behind her husband Tariq Siddiqi and two sons, Bilal and Ahmed. Informally known in activist circles as Nigar 'Aun', Nigar Ahmed came to the forefront with her activism, especially during the Zia period, and helped form the Women's Action Forum (WAF) in Lahore in 1982. She is also known for founding the Aurat Foundation in Lahore in 1985.

One of Nigar's closest companions Niglat Khan says she was a forceful and determined personality, never ready to take no for an answer.

"Nigar's strategy was that the WAF made the space with their movement and the Aurat Foundation would enter that space to move into the mainstream," she said. "During the oppressive Zia years she would never back down even though at that time all progressive elements were pushed against the wall. She was one of the

Nigar Ahmed passes away

Continued from Page 17

came with the late Shehla Zia who was a lawyer and provided her intellectual input and Nigar who gave it fire with her vision and dynamism. A rationalist and practical person she wanted the foundation to remain in the mainstream and work on legislation and other issues.

"It was initially meant for research but slowly spread out to other areas," said Niglat. "It started out after a three year project in villages led to an understanding of the women in rural areas and the need for them to be in leadership roles and to have economic empowerment."

She went to the Convent of Jesus and Mary, followed by the Government College and then Cambridge where she specialised in development economics. She was also the recipient of many

national awards for her work. Under her, the Aurat Foundation mobilised women candidates for national and local government elections to generate debate across the country about women's political and economic empowerment and has worked on issues relating to peace and democracy.

"I have had a very long association with Nigar Aun," said Naqeen Mirza, CEO of the Aurat Foundation. "She was visionary, and back in 1986, she was probably the first to stress on the fact that women needed to be given information. Foundation's motto is still 'Information is Power: Share It', he added.

"It's a great loss for everyone," said rights activist A Rehman. "She has had a huge role in raising women's issues. She faced every difficulty with the establishment with bravery and strength. She was a

largehearted person."

Muhammad Tabeem from the SAP PK said that apart from her work, she was a warm and doting person. "I can never forget how often we went to her house to seek refuge from Zia's 'loyalists' when we were under attack. I was her friend and that has made me the luckiest person today having learnt so much from her."

Nigar contracted Parkinson's disease in 2011 and she was on medication. In her last days, she developed a pulmonary infection which could not be sorted out by the doctors. She was on ventilator for 12 days, but because of the Parkinson's disease, was kept drugged. She passed away on Friday evening after suffering from a heart attack.

The namaz-i-janaza will be held at 4 pm today, at house 163, street 4, Cavalry Ground.

Saturday, April 01, 2017

Rich tribute paid to Nigar

Myra Imran
Islamabad

Glowing tributes were paid to late Nigar Ahmad, the founder of Aurat Foundation and one of the pioneers of Women's Action Forum with passionate vows to continue her mission of establishing a peaceful, tolerant, just and caring society at a remembrance ceremony on Thursday. Nigar Ahmad passed away on 24 February, 2017 in Lahore.

Organised by the Aurat Foundation, the ceremony was attended by people from all walks of life, including foreign dignitaries, political leaders, academicians and members of various minority communities from all over the country.

The event started with the screening of a short video about Nigar's life and her journey towards becoming one of the leading voices for the emancipation of women and the pioneering founder of the women's movement in Pakistan. The screening was followed by the small speeches from those who worked closely with Nigar.

A number of speakers, some in tears, spoke about Nigar's revolutionary ideas and described her as the visionary feminist leader of women's rights movement in Pakistan and South Asia. She was remembered as the torchbearer of change and development for poor and vulnerable sections of the society.

For her co-workers, family and close friends, Nigar's extraordinarily kind, humble and caring approach was the best part of her personality where as her students and co-workers praised her intellect, selflessness and pain for the vulnerable.

IA Rehman, legendary human rights activist, spoke about Nigar's real understanding that change is only possible through the emancipation of women. "Nigar strongly believed in this and this was visible through her life long struggle through Aurat Foundation," he said.

Tahira Abdullah, well-known rights activist, said Nigar was Pakistan's quintessential renaissance woman. She spoke about Nigar's commitment to rural, poor women, particularly labourers. She ended her tribute with a poem by Faiz Ahmed Faiz, often recited by Nigar. Ubaidullah Chaudary, a close friend and previous colleague of Nigar's at AF, described Nigar as a complete human being.

Istaqbal Mehdi, a friend from Nigar's government college days, spoke about Nigar's student days and her love for life, heated discourse, defiant nature, cricket and her insatiable desire to change the world. Dr. Alia Khan, professor Quaid-e-Azam, a student of Nigar's spoke about her time with Nigar as a teacher and mentor and how she encouraged her to become an academic activist.

Anis Haroon, ex-chairperson NCSW, spoke about Nigar's warm and ever giving personality that she applied to her work till the end of her life. She spoke about how Nigar's vision is seen today in AF and the best way to pay tribute to

her life would be keep struggling for the things we believe in.

Kishwar Naheed, well known poet, paid tribute to her dear friend with an ode that spoke of Nigar's belief, commitment and struggle for the people of Pakistan and their emancipation. Alia Mirza, feminist poet and dear friend of Nigar's spoke about the love and encouragement Nigar showed to her friends and ensured that others always realised their full potential. Naheed Aziz, activist and well-known professional, said that along with Nigar's passion for women's rights, she was also passionate about children's rights and mobilised a huge protest in Lahore in the 1980s, when AF was newly formed, to raise awareness around the rights of children.

Shohiab Sultan, AF board member and initiators of the Agha Khan Rural Support Programme spoke emotionally of Nigar's life and commitment towards which she worked to the end of her life. Masooma Hassan, President of the Board of Governors, AF, begun by saying that Nigar's life should be celebrated. She also highlighted how the working culture of AF has always carried Nigar's belief in a caring work environment.

Earlier, Naeem Mirza, AF's Chief Operating Officer, began the session by welcoming all the people that gathered to pay tribute to Nigar. He started by giving a brief background as to how Nigar Ahmad and Shela Zia founded Aurat Foundation.

Younus Khalid, Chief Policy and Strategy Officer, AF spoke of his first interaction with Nigar, her inspiring leadership skills and her commitment and devotion to all staff members. Mehnaz Rehman, Shabina Khan, Mumtaz Mughal, directors AF, moderated the session, each giving their personal account of their interaction with Nigar as a friend and colleague. Saima Munir, of AF, spoke of Nigar as a diligent and tough but also caring boss and friend.

Nigar's son Bilal Siddiqui said that if one wanted to really understand his mother, it was to emphasize the one quality which she believed and carried with her in her personal and professional life that being a caring person and working towards a caring society is the only way to change the world.

Kate, her daughter in law, took to the stage and spoke passionately about Nigar's personal attributes of generosity and affectionate nature. Kate said Nigar never treated her like a daughter in law and always encouraged her career. She said the country and the world would be a better place if Nigar's message, in terms of public policy and her personality and interaction with people, was promoted and followed by more people.

Nigar's drivers, personal assistants, and those personalities from all over the country that she interacted with, both professionally and personally, recalled fondly memories they had of Nigar, her work and her positive impact on their personal life. The evening was sombre, filled with memories to cherish a pioneering personality but it was also reflective and inspiring.



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