

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



AURAT FOUNDATION

# **Annual Report**

## **2022**



**Aurat Foundation**

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## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>APISF</b>	Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation
<b>BAP</b>	Balochistan Awami Party
<b>CdM</b>	Club de Madrid
<b>CNICs</b>	Computerized National Identity Cards
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>CSW</b>	Commission on the Status of Women
<b>CVE</b>	Counter Violence Terrorism
<b>FF</b>	Feminist Friday
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>GDA</b>	Grand Democratic Alliance
<b>ICT</b>	Islamabad Capital Territory
<b>IWD</b>	International Women's Day
<b>JAC</b>	Joint Action Committee
<b>KP</b>	Khyber Pukhtunkhwa
<b>LG's</b>	Local Governments
<b>LoC</b>	Letter of Collaboration
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MPs</b>	Member Parliamentarians
<b>MQM</b>	Muttahida Qaumi Movement
<b>NSER</b>	National Socio-Economic Registry
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>PWDs</b>	Persons with Disabilities
<b>PCMs</b>	Peace Committee Meetings
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SCSW</b>	Sindh Commission on the Status of Women
<b>SOPs</b>	Slandered Operating Procedures
<b>SWD</b>	Social Welfare Department
<b>VNR</b>	Volunteer National Review
<b>VNR</b>	Volunteer National Review
<b>WDD</b>	Women Development Department
<b>WLP</b>	Women's Learning Partnership

## Introduction

In support of the Government of Pakistan's gender policies, Aurat Foundation is struggling for achieving the agenda of 2030. Pakistan conducted a Voluntary National Review (VNR) of progress on its Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in 2019 and it is going to present a VNR, again in 2022. This important effort included consultation with a broad array of relevant stakeholders and articulated strategies. The protection of the rights of vulnerable groups in Pakistan is a key part of the National SDGs Framework.

The protection of minorities is a priority in Pakistan's National Action Plan for Human Rights, including strengthening the independence and statutory status of the Commission on Minorities and developing a National Policy on Interfaith Harmony. All four provinces have developed plans to protect the rights of minorities and protect their places of worship. Furthermore, a quota (5%) has been allocated for religious minorities in public employment. Additionally, seats are reserved for religious minorities in the National Assembly, Senate and Provincial Assemblies of Pakistan. r continued focus to strengthen the implementation action of specific, priority SDGs. Although the struggle to achieve the SDG agenda is going on. However, according to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Gender Gap Report 2021, Pakistan ranks 53 out of 156 countries on gender inequality, standing seventh among eight countries in South Asia. Gender inequality, patriarchal norms and abuse of power that have risen dangerously over the past few years are the main causes of gender-based violence.

During the reporting year July 2021 to June 2022, the political, economic and security situation was worsening due to Pakistan's government change. The ousted prime minister is leading rallies across the country attacking the government's legitimacy and calling for fresh elections. Violent clashes exploded in the Pakistani capital Islamabad. A large number of anti-government protesters were part of the rally moving towards Islamabad's D-Chowk to stage a sit-in protest. However, the protesters were violently intercepted by the security forces that were deployed in the thousands to block all major entries into the city to prevent protesters from converging in the national capital. The economic situation of the country was also not stable. Because of extreme inflating food prices and energy was high. At the same time, Pakistan is also in the grip of an acute climate emergency; an unprecedented heat wave has enveloped Pakistan for weeks. The above political and security situation also impacted the project activities.

During this year, Aurat Foundation also lost its valued members of the Board of Director Tasneem Siddiqui belonged to the now-extinct class of civil servants who thought about the poor and lived for them. Mr Tasneem Siddiqui held some key positions including Director General (DG) of Excises & Taxation and DG of Sindh Katchi Abadis Authority Secretary of Industries, Secretary of Public Health Engineering, Additional Chief Secretary (Local Govt.) and Chief Secretary of Sindh. M Ziauddin. He was the former editor of Dawn, The News and Executive Editor of The Express Tribune - and a mentor and professional colleague. Aurat Foundation off deepest condolences on the death of its senior member and distinguished human rights defenders.



## Board of Governors 2021-2023

<p><b>Dr Masuma Hasan</b> <i>President</i></p> <p>Development Practitioner; former Cabinet Secretary &amp; Ambassador; Researcher</p>		<p><b>Dr Aliya H. Khan</b> <i>Treasurer</i></p> <p>Educationist; Economist, Development Expert</p>	
<p><b>Anis Haroon</b> <i>Member</i></p> <p>Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women; Women's Rights Activist</p>		<p><b>Samina Rahman</b> <i>Member</i></p> <p>Educationist; Women's Rights Activist</p>	
<p><b>Justice (Retd.) Nasira Javed Iqbal</b> <i>Member</i></p> <p>Eminent jurist International law expert</p>		<p><b>Roshan Khursheed Bharucha</b> <i>Member</i></p> <p>Women Rights Activist</p>	
<p><b>Suriya Amiruddin</b> <i>Member</i></p> <p>Ex-Senator, Human Rights Activist</p>		<p><b>Harris Khaliq</b> <i>Member</i></p> <p>Secretary-General (HRCP)</p>	

## Executive Council of Aurat Foundation

July 2021-June 2022

<b>Name</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
<b>Naeem Ahmed Mirza</b>	Executive Director	Male	23 years
<b>Mumtaz Mughal</b>	Director Programmes	Female	17 years
<b>Asim Malik</b>	Director of Outreach and Network	Male	23 years
<b>Shabina Ayaz</b>	Resident Director, Peshawar	Female	24 years
<b>Mahnaz Rahman</b>	Resident Director, Karachi	Female	11 years
<b>Alauddin Khalji</b>	Resident Director, Quetta	Male	3 years
<b>Saima Munir</b>	Manager Programmes, KP	Female	20 years
<b>Malka Khan</b>	Manager Programmes, Sindh	Female	17 years



# List of Operational Projects

July 2021-June 2022

Sr. #	Project	Donor
<b>National</b>		
1.	WPP-JAZBA Democracy and Empowered Women (Jamhooriyat our Ba-Ikhtiar Aurat)	SAP-PK/Global Affairs Canada
2.	Promotion of Gender Justice in Pakistan	UNDO
3.	Women's Learning Partnership TOT Programme	Women's Learning Partnership
<b>Regional Projects</b>		
<b>Sindh</b>		
1.	Strengthening the Role of Women in Peacebuilding	DAI
2.	Strengthening Sindh Human Rights Commission for CVE oversight and Peacebuilding)	DAI
3.	Legislative Watch Programme	SPO-Oxfam
<b>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)</b>		
1.	Feminist Friday	SPO-Oxfam
<b>Balochistan</b>		
1.	Women's Access to Justice in Balochistan	UNDP

Chapter One

# Law and Policy Reform

## Law and policy reform

### 1.1 Laws Reform and Passed for the Protection of Women and Marginalized Groups in Pakistan

During this annual reporting year July 2021–June 2022, the following key legislations were introduced for the protection and support of citizens, especially women, children and other marginalized groups of society in Pakistan.

This Act shall be called the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Amendment) Act, 2022. This is a significant strengthening of the existing law including expanding the definition of workplace. The bill increased the ambit and scope of the law to include certain professions and employment models that the current legislation does not expressly mention and protects from harassment to people engaged in all types of work – formal and informal. The Act also provided respect to the different kinds of harassment that take place at the workplace to other clarify issues. The Act also amended the definitions provided in the Act; particularly that of “complainant”, “employee”, “employer”, “harassment” & “workplace” to remove ambiguities that litigants have faced and to increase the scope of the workplace to include all forms and categories of work.

The National Assembly of Pakistan passed ‘The Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022’; This act was passed by National Assembly on 1st August 2022. However, the Act was not assented to by the President of Pakistan.

The provincial assemblies and Khyber Pukhtunkhwa could not pass any pro-women legislation during the reporting period. The provincial governments especially the Sindh government took several significant measures to counter gender-based discrimination, and economic, social and political empowerment of women and other marginalized groups of society.

The Sindh Local Government (Amendment) Act, 2021, law and passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 11th Dec 2021 and assented by the Governor of Sindh on 24th December 2021. The act amendment of section 3 of Sindh Act No. XLII of 2013 and inserted a new Clause of in (d) the “of a person with disabilities” and “transgender person” is a person and inserted a new clause of in (f) who is – (i) in the tern-sex (khunsa) with a mixture of male and female genital features or congenital ambiguities, or (ii) eunuch assigned male at birth, but units degree’s genital excision or castration; or (iii) a transgender man, transgender woman, Khawaja Sira or any person whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from the social norms and cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at time of their birth.

The Sindh Factories (Amendment) Act, 2021; latest amended and passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 5th July 2021 and assented to by the Governor of Sindh on 28th July 2021. The act amendment in section 66, for sub-section (1) including margin, the following shall be substituted i.e., “Provision of safe transportation facility to women workers. A woman worker shall be allowed to work in a factory beyond 7:00 pm subject to the mandatory arrangement of transportation facility of pick Secretary-General employer at the doorstep of such worker or the nearest possible place. Provided that prior consent of the woman worker shall be obtained by the employer for such working hours.” e (b) to any span of ten and a half hours, or where the factory is a seasonal one, of eleven and a half hours, between 6 A.M. and 7:30 P.M:

Taking of historic step, the Sindh Students Union Bill, 2019 have been passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 11th February 2022 and assented to by the Governor of Sindh on 02nd March 2022. According to the Act, each Educational Institution shall within two months of this

Act, formulate regulations and procedures for the conduct of the Student Union. Every Educational Institution shall constitute a committee for protection against harassment which shall be gender balanced and have at least one nominee of the elected Student Union. The Act also ensure a democratic and inclusive atmosphere for healthy debate that respects others' opinions about Student Unions. The revival of the student organisation would create a culture of healthy activities, including cultural and sporting events, at vocational institutions.

The Balochistan Local Government (Amendment) Bill, 2022, having been passed by the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan on 15th August 2022 and assented to by Governor Balochistan, on 22nd August 2022. The Act amended and include peasants, workers, and women as determined under Section 12 in urban union councils, municipal Committees, municipal corporations' town Municipal Corporations, and metropolitan Corporations as determined under Section 12. This is also a step forward for gender mainstreaming and political empowerment of women.





Chapter Two

# **Strategic Partnerships with Government Departments, Commissions and Institutions**

# Strategic Partnerships with Government Departments, Commissions and Institutions

## 2.1 Signed MoUs with the Sindh Commission on Human Rights and Sindh Commission on The Status of Women

Aurat Foundation, has strong relationships with the leadership of the SHRC and the proposed activities were developed through meetings held with Chairperson Majida Razvi, The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has a broad mandate to protect and promote human rights, including those within the ambit of CVE and violent extremism. The Commission also has broad powers including the authority to launch inquiries on human rights protecting suo-moto powers) and recommends remedial measures to the government, as well as form and implement human rights policies, and recommend measures for the effective implementation of laws. However, it tracked awareness and understanding of CVE, both broadly, and in the context of existing policy and legal frameworks for human rights. This is due to a lack of opportunities for the commissions to engage in training on CVE laws, policies and issues and interact with key stakeholders and local communities for research, dialogues and collaboration.

The entire concept note was discussed with the Chairperson, SHRC and the activity was carried out based on a mutually cooperative agreement followed by the signing of an MoU. It was agreed that a better understanding of CVE within the SHRC leadership and staff would pro-women to better analyse human rights violations not simply in the broader rights from the works, but also through determining pathways to check these violations in the context of expanding radicalization and extremism in Sindh.

The collaboration (MoU) between Aurat Foundation and SCSW acts as a catalyst to enable critical groups to influence policy, legislation and programs that impact women's participation in peacebuilding. In advocacy on CVE, AF has strategized to develop linkages between grassroots women networks and the Commission. A mutually collaborative relationship has also been developed with various departments and organs of change. This approach has not only strengthened the partners, networks and alliances but successfully created women's peace groups and community-led interventions around CVE and issues of women's social, economic and political participation.

## 2.2 Signed MoUs and LoCs with Four Provincial Government Departments

Aurat Foundation is implementing a project titled "Promotion of Gender Justice in Pakistan with the support of UNDP Pakistan. The project will ensure the availability of and access to gender-informed and gender-responsive, free, authentic and expeditious legal assistance to most marginalized women so they to claim their rights. The project aims at the establishment of a country-wide network of Gender Desks providing free legal counselling, legal representation, case management, referral and protection advisory to women and trans-persons.

In this regard, AF signed the MoU with the provincial Women Development Department, Sindh on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021. MoU was signed by Mr Mahesh Lal Dodani, Director of the Women Development Department Sindh and Ms Mahnaz Rehman, AF Resident Director Sindh while Ms Anjum Iqbal, Secretary of Women Development Department, Government of Sindh and Ms Malka Khan, Member AF Executive Council and Ms Asia Munir Rajpar, AF Gender Desk Officer were also there. WDD also issuance the notation of establishment of Gender Desks at mutually agreed location.

AF signed MoU with the provincial Women Development Department, Balochistan on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021. Mr Zafar Buledi, Secretary WDD, Balochistan and Mr Allaudin Khilji, Resident Director, Aurat Foundation Balochistan signed the MoU. On this occasion, Ms Sadiqa Sultan Director General, WDD, Ms Zarghoona Naseeb, Gender Desk Officer, AF and WDD staff were there.

AF signed a Letter of Collaboration (LoC) with the provincial Social Welfare Department, Government of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Mr Zulfiqar Ali Shah, provincial Deputy Secretary of, the Social Welfare Department and Ms Shabina Ayaz, Resident Director KP signed the Letter of Collaboration on this occasion, Ms Saima Munir, Member AF Executive Council and the staff of the Social Welfare Department were there.

On 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021, Ms Kaneez Fatima, Chairperson PWPA, and Ms Sanum, Resident of Director AF, Lahore signed the LoC. On this occasion, Mr Irshad Waheed, Director General PWPA and the AF Lahore team were present. The event was organized at the office of the Punjab Women Protection Authority, Lahore.

Memorandum of Understanding			
AF Singed MoU with Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa and Punjab			
Mr. Mehash Lal Director WDD and Ms. Mahnaz Rehman, Resident Director, Aurat Foundation Sindh signed the MoU on 16 Sep 21. Ms. Anjum Iqbal, Secretary WDD Sindh and AF team were also there	Mr. Zafar Buledi, Secretary WDD and Mr. Allaudin Khilji, Resident Director, Aurat Foundation Balochistan signed MoU on 22nd Sep 21	Mr. Zafar Buledi, Secretary WDD and Mr. Allaudin Khilji, Resident Director, Aurat Foundation Balochistan signed MoU on 22nd Sep 21	Ms. Kaneez Fatima, Chairperson, Punjab Women Protection Authority and Ms. Sara Anum, Resident Director AF signed MoU on 5th October 2021.
			

### 2.3 Signed MoU with National Assembly Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Secretariat

Aurat Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Assembly Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Secretariat. The purpose of this MoU was Strategic the framework for cooperation and collaboration between Aurat Foundation and the National Assembly Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Secretariat to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Pakistan. The parties are to form a collaboration to carry out capacity-building training of fellow parliamentarians and legislators on their role in ensuring gender equality through the implementation of SDG-5. According to MoU, The National Assembly Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Secretariat will function to:

Support Aurat Foundation to network with Parliamentarians, Standing Committees, relevant /government Commissions, Departments, and Directorates;

Invite Aurat Foundation to participate in the National Assembly SDGs Secretariat's research activities, meetings, dialogues and consultations as a strategic partner;

Help secure the participation of parliamentarians, and members of the National Assembly Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Secretariat to participate in Aurat Foundation's training, consultations and other events.

Assign training from the National Assembly SDGs Secretariat to coordinate with Aurat Foundation.

## AF in Media

6<sup>th</sup> Aug 2021 AF JAZBA team Meeting  
National SDG Secretariat

Signing of MoU with National Secretariat of SDG . Mr. Riaz Fatyana signed MoU on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2021 to with AF to achieve the agenda of SDG 5. Ms. Shandana Khan, Chairperson SDG 5 and AF staff was also there.



Chapter Three

# **Capacity Building and Consultative Processes**

# Capacity Building and Consultative Processes

## 3.1 Capacity Building and Consultative Processes

Capacity building and consultation is the key to the intervention of Aurat Foundation through which AF is building the skills of member parliamentarians, political parties and civil society organizations to make their contribution to the development and democratization processes. Aurat Foundation is providing technical assistance to women's groups, political parties, legislators, civil society organizations, alliances and others to advocate for women's empowerment and mainstreaming gender.

## 3.2 Role of Parliamentarians in Ensuring Gender Equality through Implementation of SDG-5 in Balochistan

Aurat Foundation capacity building workshop organized a Two-Days session on the Role of Parliamentarians in Ensuring Gender Equality through the Implementation of SDG 5 in Balochistan Province, Quetta in collaboration with South Asia Partnership Pakistan with the financial support of Global Affairs Canada (GAC) on the 15th & 16th July 2021 in Quetta Serena Hotel. The objective of the activity was that the role of parliamentarians and politicians, as publicly elected agents, representing the voice of the common citizens, has been globally recognized as fundamental to the achievement of Agenda 2030. Because of their strategic foothold in the government, dialogue and debate led by the parliamentarians go a long way, in mainstreaming and accelerating action plans on gender-informed agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted on 25 September 2015 by Heads of State and Governments at a special UN summit. The foundation of the 2030 agenda lies in 3 Principles: Universality, Integration and Leaving No-one Behind. The Agenda is a commitment through 17 SDGs and 169 targets to eradicate poverty and achieve inclusive and participatory sustainable development by 2030 worldwide.

Pakistan was among the first countries to establish a Parliamentary Taskforce on Mr and declare the Global Agenda 2030 as its national agenda through a Resolution of the parliament in 2016. This manifests honest-level political ownership of the global agenda and strong parliamentary accountability on the implementation of SDGs. The National SDGs framework was approved by National Economic Council in March 2018 and provincial and states SDGs frameworks are in process of development and approval. The first secretariat of the Taskforce was established within the premises of the Parliament House Islamabad. The Parliamentary SDGs Taskforces were established in all four provincial assemblies as well. The parliamentarians in general and Parliamentary Taskforces on SDGs in specific are managed to review progress on the implementation of SDGs, provide legislative support, aware fellow parliamentarians of Agenda 2030, ensure the availability and commitment of resources for achieving the SDGs, and oversee the allocation and utilization of funds by the Feder of as well as the provincial government.

AF conduct a session with the members of the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan on the role of ensuring gender equality through the implementation of SDG-5. The main objectives of the session are to analyse the current situation of SDG 5 in Balochistan province, be aware of the parliamentary tools to where its implementation, develop action on the plan and ensure cross-party political support for gender equality in the province.

Mr Allauddin Khilji, Resident t Director of Aurat Foundation Quetta welcomed the participants and introduction of participants. After the introduction, Ms Mumtaz Mughal, Director of Programmes gave a brief introduction. After this, Mr Ali Imran, gave a brief presentation on

Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and he also briefed the Members Provincial Assembly on their role in ensuring the achievement of the SDG-5 agenda. Furthermore, Ali explained the role of Parliament in gender equality regard. The Discussion was held for the conservation of SDG 5 and participants shared their views and thoughts. He further said that the role of parliamentarians is very important in the consultation and decision-making process of Gender Equality policy in Balochistan. He added that members of the Provincial Assembly can provide legislative accountability representation and research search support to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5. The SDGs need to play the full role of MPAs.

Mr Qadir Nayel said that the biggest problem in Balochistan is data collection but the provincial government is working on it. The ongoing development work in the mandate of the SDGs in our central council. There are also women from whom development schemes related to women have been included in the PSDP. We believe in SDGs.

Mr Sana Baloch, Mr Ahmed Nawaz and Mr Mrabid Reiki said that commissions are formed for the implementation of laws but unfortunately after passing the legislation here the majority of laws are not rules of business. SDGs are formed in the Provincial Assembly but in three years, there has not been a single meeting conducted. 25 Members of the SDG task force committee, but the majority may not know about the SDGs.

Women's parliamentarians discussed the inherent and historical role of women. They also proposed research, policy advocacy grassroots mobilization for ensuring women's role in SDGs. Many examples are shared that how behavioural changes lead to big evolution. The participants appreciated the work of the Foundation in the South Asia Partnership Pakistan and Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and had given their valuable input in this regard.



### 3.3 Orientation Workshop for SHRC Staff and Members

A Two-Day Orientation on Peacebuilding Canada took place in batches of two from 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at Marriott Hotel, Karachi. SHRC members and staff were oriented on VE concepts, definitions, CVE policies and laws, as well as a review of human rights laws and the way forward for SHRC in the context of CVE. The orientation also included a session on Women in Leadership in Government. The lead trainer along with the legal expert implemented a two-day training for each batch. The participants included a total of 15 SHRC members and 14 SHRC staff making a total of 29, exceeding the target strategies. The orientations took place in batches

to comply with the SOPs. Most of the participants are mid-level managers they found the session beneficial for their grooming as well as to discharge the commission duties.

Syed Mohsin Abbas (legal expert) gave brief background that tends to lead the CVE policies and laws. He described the concepts of extremism, radicalization, de-radicalization and rehabilitation. He briefed that an agreed National Action Plan was devised after the attack on the Army Public School – Peshawar and subsequent policy measures were taken like National Internal Security Policy 2018, National Counter Terrorism Policy Guideline 2018 and Paigham-e-Pakistan 2018.

CVE Laws were enacted in all provinces of Pakistan to counter violent extremism. SHRC members and staff were oriented on the CVE laws of Sindh, critical analysis of these laws was also conducted during the orientation sessions. The following CVE laws were discussed;

- Sindh Protection of Communal Properties of Minorities Act, 2013
- Sindh Witness Protection Act, 2013
- Sindh Information of Temporary Resident Act, 2015
- Sindh Sound System Regulation Act, 2015
- Sindh Charities Registration and Regulation Act, 2019
- Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2013 was also discussed as it was also seen as a
- Human Rights violation issue.

The purpose of this session was to enhance the overall leadership skills of SHRC Staff. The trainer briefed the participants on the history and background of the Human Rights and Women's Rights movement globally and in Pakistan. Concepts of leadership, attributes and different leadership styles were also briefed to the participant's role of Women in

Leadership in the government sector was also explained by providing different examples. Participants were also trained in different communication and negotiation skills. Challenges, coping strategies and best practices were also explained to the participants.

Participants took the sessions positively and considered this session a good learning process. They believe that sensitizing the Commission on CVE laws will add to the capacity of the participants and equip them to counter the challenge and growing extremism in society.

### 3.4 CVE Orientation/Sensitization Sessions

A Two-Day Orientation on Peacebuilding for SCSW was attended by 20 participants in batches of two from 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at Marriott Hotel, Karachi. The participants included a total of 11 SCSW members and 09 SCSW staff making a total of 20 (M-01, F-17, TG-02). The orientations took place in batches to comply with the SOPs.

The objective was to orient SCSW members and staff were oriented on VE concepts, definitions, CVE policies and laws, as well as a review of government members' context of CVE.





The orientation also included a session on women in leadership in government. The team lead along with the legal expert implemented two-day training for each batch. He stated the members also participated in small task-based activities where they also learnt practically to make for an excellent team-building activity and to enhance workplace collaboration and cohesion. They positively reinforce learning behaviours that lead to knowledge retention and provide ongoing

An overview of Orientation Sessions with Staff of Sindh Commission on the Status of Women (SCSW) on Sindh CVE Laws on 4-6 November 2021



performance feedback. This, in turn, inspired team members to step up their tasks to keep pace with the competition. The staff and the members were delighted to take part in these task-based activities.

### **3.5 Orientation Session on Women in Leadership in Government**

Aurat Foundation organized an orientation session on „Women in Leadership in Government with SHRC a Staff of Batch II. A Training on Women in Leadership in Government with SHRC staff was conducted on October 12, 2021, at Marriott Hotel, Karachi. A high-profile trainer, Simi Sadaf Kamal was hired to carry out the training of grassroots 11 SHRC staff members (7 F, 04 M) who participated in the training.

The purpose of these behavioral changes leads to the overall leadership skills of SHRC Staff. The trainer briefed the participants on the history and background of the Human Rights and Women’s Rights movement globally and in Pakistan. Concepts of leadership, attributes and different leadership styles were also briefed to the participants. The role of Women in Leadership in the government sector was also explained providing different examples.

Participants were also trained in different communication and negotiation skills. Challenges, coping strategies and best practices were also explained need to the participants. Most of the participants are mid-level managers they found the session beneficial for their grooming as well as to discharge the commission duties.

### **3.6 Enhanced the Capacities of MPs on Social Media Trends & Techniques**

Aurat Foundation organized a 2-Day Workshop for the women members of provincial assemblies on Social Media Trends & Techniques on 24-25 October 2021 at Muree. The objective of the training was to enhance the capacities of women’s MPAs in such skills as message development, media relations and communicating with voters and constituents.



Ms Malka Khan, Manager JAZBA AF said that women’s political participation and leadership are in many cases hindered by a range of institutional or structural constraints, underpinned by cultural and attitudinal barriers that suggest women should not have a role in public life. There is the best way to identify the good practices in the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment and contributes to the body of knowledge parliamentary structure promote gender equality.

Addressing the workshop, Ms Tanzeela, MPA Sindh Assembly said that campaigning on social media has become a core feature of political communication. social media influence politicians' and citizens' relationships through the moderating effect of political slogans.



Ms Shamim Raana, MP said that the digitalization of communication means has revolutionized the way people observe and react to the social and political developments in their surroundings. Social media not only enables politicians to directly communicate with the citizens but also encourages political participation of citizens in the form of feedback via comments on social networking sites. Political slogans play a significant role in the image of women of a particular political force in the eyes of citizens.

Mr Hassan, Consultant AF shared that according to one of the recent surveys, 44.61 million people in Pakistan are internet users and 37 million people are active on social media platforms. The survey further analyzed the usage of popular social media platforms and reported 36 million Facebook users, 6.30 million Instagram users, 2.15 million Snapchat users, and 1.26 million Twitter users. It also pointed out that 77% of the total active social media users are 18–34 years old. Due to the large youth population of Pakistan, politicians make an effort to encourage them to vote for them. The popularity of social media among the youth has made it the most attractive platform for political communication in election campaigns. Large and popular social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube are used to target political communication campaigns.

Ms Nosheen Khurram, National Manager of JAZBA said that the effects of digital and social media marketing can result in several positive and negative outcomes. However, significant challenges exist from negative electronic word-of-mouth as well as intrusive and irritating definitions presence. AF is struggling to provide technical assistance to establish or strengthen mechanisms to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment in electoral and governance processes.

Women MPs stressed that we need to break the stereotyping of gender roles and biases which are reflected in the social, economic, and political systems. Social and digital marketing offers team-building opportunities to women political activists through lower costs, improved brand awareness and increase visibility of their social and political work. Around 11 MPs got training on use the of social media techniques. They also produced their short media by using their own social media channels.

### **3.7 Strengthening Referral and Legal Aid Providers on Ensuring Women’s Access to Justice**

Aurat Foundation in collaboration with respective line departments and UNDP organized a 3-day training for Gender Desk Officers, Government Officers, Referral and Legal Aid Provers on Ensuring Women’s Access to Justice in five districts. In this regard, a comprehensive, training manual was prepared and got approval from UNDP. The training was organized on the following locations and dates:

<b>Sr. #</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Districts</b>	<b>Vein new</b>
1	16-17 Nov. 21	Quetta	Committee Room of the Directorate of Women Development Department, Govt. of Balochistan
2	16-17 Nov. 21	Swat	Swat Continental Hotel, Swat
3.	17-19 Nov. 21	Karachi	Committee Room of the Directorate of Women Development Department, Government of Sindh
4	24-26 Nov. 21	Lahore	Flatties Hotel, Lahore
5	6-8 Dec. 2021	Multan	Avalon Hotel, Multan

The method of training was participatory. Aurat Foundation engaged two training experts (one as a lead trainer and the other will be facilitator) to impart the training programme. Participatory and interactive training techniques were used including presentations, group work, role play, experience sharing and plenary discussion. Energizers were done to make participants active and ready to learn. In addition, handouts and other IEC material will be provided in the training to support the learning process. The training was conducted in the national language Urdu.

The participants of the 3-Day training were Gender Desk Officers, Government Officers, and Referral and Legal Aid Service providers. The training agenda of each training was included the following:

- Understanding of Gender, GBV, Impersonality within vulnerable groups, access to justice, and barriers to justice in the context of intersectionality within vulnerable groups.
- Legal and policy framework in Pakistan to protect the rights of women, children, minorities, PWDs and transgender persons *and other vulnerable groups*.



- Availability and accessibility of legal aid to protect women, PWDs, transgender persons, minorities and children.
- Mapping exercise of referral mechanism for promotion and protection of women, PWDs, transgender persons, minorities, children and other vulnerable groups.

The participants of the training were gender desk officers, staff of identified line departments that are providing legal relationships using legal aid, i.e., human rights, home, prosecution police,

prison, WDD, SW department, members of district groups of legal aid committee, district bar association and others.

**Below is the breakdown of the participants of each training:**

Sr. #	District	# Of participants		Total
		F	M	
1	ta	19	12	31
2	Swat	8	12	20
3	Karachi	19	8	25
4	Multan	15	18	33
5	Lahore	19	4	23
<b>Total</b>		<b>80</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>132</b>

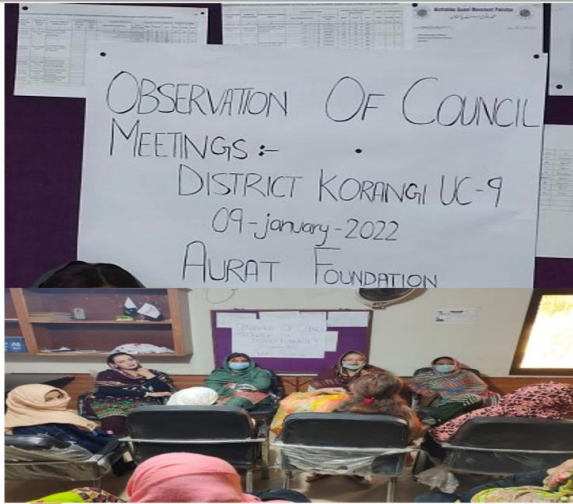
The outcomes of the training were:

- Enhanced the knowledge and skills of 132-Government officials and legal experts (80 women and 54 men) who gained knowledge on concepts of gender-based violence, inclusion, intersectionality, multiple identities, and fundamental and legal rights of GBV survivors.
- Improved individuals' attitudes and practices toward services providers by building a sense of teamwork and collaboration for GBV survivors at the provincial level.
- Strengthen the free referral and legal aid system for women, transgender persons and vulnerable groups in five identified districts.

### **3.8 Observation of Councils Meeting**

During the reporting period, the Aurat Foundation JAZBA project team organized six (6) training on "Observation of Councils Meetings" very specifically aiming at improving the participation of women, minorities, people with disabilities and transgender in the democratic and political process by influencing supply and demand of process. Out of a total of 154, females below 25 were 23% while those above 25 were 65%, several, 2% PWDs, and mostly males participated in these meetings.

Being the part of JAZBA project, JDF, WLG, and WVN members have gradually enhanced their leadership skills to get engaged with the formal and indecision-making kings for as at district and sub-district levels. These meetings equip them with support and knowledge to raise the problems of their constituent popular yearly issues related to women. White the second part of this thing's participants went through mock sessions. how a council act in a council meeting. The participants divided the role of Nazim/Chairperson, vice-chairperson women minority, Youth, and Kisan councillors participating in the council meetings. A secretary was nominated to document the proceedings of the council meeting. These mock sessions were followed by group work in which participants shared that women have different types of challenges but the most common are; and to eliminate the below-mentioned challenges, the participants shared a few recommendations which could help to from a gender sensitive society.



### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. At 33 % seats for women should be reserved in all categories of seats including Nazim and Naib Nazim in the Local Government system.
2. Political Parties should give tickets to women to contest on general seats.
3. Women, minorities, PWDs, and TGs should be consulted before preparing annual development schemes.
4. The election result of such constituencies where women are stopped to participate in LG elections as voters/candidates should be declared null and void.
5. Women in council meetings raised this issue that it should be made mandatory for district governments to give honorarium to all councilors, especially women.

### **CHALLENGES**

- I. In electoral system of Pakistan, the male dominations from local to national level is a reason of a patriarchal mindset and it is a key hurdle in allowing space to women as councilors to play their role effectively.
- II. The institutional resistance by male colleagues towards women's political participation is very discouraging which is a major cause that women do not actively participate in political activities.
- III. Women councilors face discriminatory behavior at the district, tehsil and UC level are often not allowed to speak in the meetings.
- IV. Due to the reason that women are elected on reserve seats, their schemes are not included in development schemes.

### **3.9 Enhanced the Capacities of WLGs on Advocacy, Participatory Budgeting and Social Accountability**

Aurat Foundation organized a 3-Day Training, Participatory Budgeting and Social Accountability on 13-16 March 2022 at Quetta. More than 30 women leaders from union county coil to district level participated. The objective of the training was to enhance potential community women's leadership skills, facilitation, communication, advocacy, and budgetary and political skills so that



poor people especially women have a voice in more transparent planning and budgeting processes.

This will support marginalized women and men from the community to participate in decision-making participatory accountability processes at the district the land the and province with undelete solution plans. This will help in opening up spaces for advocacy and lobbying for civil society groups provincial level through participatory monitoring mechanisms as part of district influencing plans of civil society in solidarity with local government.





Chapter Four

# **Social Mobilisation & Citizen Engagement**

# Social Mobilisation & Citizen Engagement

## 4. Social Mobilisation and Citizens' Engagement

Social mobilization is seen at AF as a means to motivate economic sustainable change by bringing awareness among people and ultimately for ordinary citizens to demand and claim their rights. This is through engagement at all levels and the decentralization of policy and decision-making.

### 4.1 Experience Sharing on Best Practices of Inclusion of Youth in Politics

Aurat Foundation organized the meeting with the Women Voter Network, political workers and young activists of JAZBA on 12th July 2021 at Rawalpindi district. The meeting comprised two groups. One with the political workers and the other with the women voter network. It was an interactive meeting that how JAZBA is working and what spaces can be created with this project. It was a participatory and healthy discussion.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Arshad Gill from Global Affairs Canada. Many political workers, district and tehsil representatives, lawyers, media training and young activists and minority group was part of the meeting.

The meeting was participatory, brainstorming with their experiences and ideas that enabled participants to innovate ideas and perspectives. Each of the participants was given chance to actively participate blowing to share their views and experience. There is an aura of comfort and mutual understanding among the participants that generated adherence and their full and devoted attention.



Ms Shafaq has given an overview of their work in JAZBA in two years and shared the achievements and challenges in their work. Mr Arshad talked about training where still women can create their space. Participants talked about the barriers and hurdles to enhancing the participation of women in the Local Government system. How can we increase women's seats and participation in Local and government and what provision JAZBA can provide to its groups? The group talked about the minority towards that what are the hurdles they are facing and what are the spaces for their participation to increase.

Mr Arshad also talked to the women voter network that how are they working and what are the ground realities in their communities. Mr Arshad discussed training and barriers to their working and how can they further enhance their outreach and work in their constituencies. In training was decided that these young activists will form a women's voter network through advocacy in their District Rawalpindi. These political workers will further mobilize and advocate for the increase in representation of women in Local government. This meeting was a guideline for the groups to continue their struggle to increase women's participation

## **4.2 Strengthen the linkages between Community Women Leaders and SHRC**

Aurat Foundation organized the 10-Community meetings conducted from 18 – 22 October 2021 in the targeted areas of the project (Nawabad, Paposh Nagar, themra Goth, Saeedabad and Shireen Jinnah) where community women including youth were oriented on CVE Laws and the mandate of the SHRC. A total of 100 females participated in SAPs.

Maleeha Manzoor, Program Assistant, and Fareeda Tahir, Public Relations Officer from SHRC also accompanied the AF team during the combine-chairperson and took the lead in delivering SAPs. During the meetings, the directive of SHRC was shared with community women by SHRC staff, also the members were briefed about the complaint registration process. SHRC also informed the community women about the cases received and addressed by SHRC. The types provided a platform to create the link between SHRC and the below-mentioned many women discussed CVE laws and peacebuilding efforts during the panel discussion. Peace Committee Members also shared their field experience of sensitizing the community about CVE laws. IEC material including leaflets and posters was shared with the community women. AF briefed on the dissemination strategy of IEC material.

The trained Peace Committee Members discussed how they are working to promote peace by sensitizing community women on related laws and promoting community harmony. Trained Youth members were also engaged and actively participated in the debate competitions elaborating on their role as peacebuilders by sensitizing youth in educational institutes. Community women said that they did not have prior knowledge about the SHRC before these sessions and that they will disseminate this information with other women of their community. They felt the sessions provided some very useful information for their community where human rights are violated every day, but community people have not reported these cases.

SHRC team also said that they do not conduct very many sessions in Karachi, under the project they got an opportunity to meet with the community women and establish links with the communities in Karachi.

Aurat Foundation also organized 5-corner meetings with religious leaders, minorities, community influential and community elders in the project areas (Nawabad, Paposh Nagar, Chakra Goth, Saeedabad and Shireen Jinnah) were also conducted from 18 – 22, October. A total of 36 participated in SAPs; - M 35 / F 1. AF technical experts, Shahida Parveen, Sarfraz Jamali and Zaheer Hussain from SHRC led the corner meetings. The purpose of the meetings was to create linkages between SHRC and the community. Religious scholars can play an important role to spread the message of peace. It is important to engage them on a single platform to raise the message of peace and the importance of unity in their area, as community people listen to them. Community male members and religious scholars discussed the issues of their areas and shared their thoughts and ways to promote interfaith and religious harmony.

- Participants were oriented on the mandate of the SHRC and ways to report human rights violations to the SHRC. Linkages were developed between SHRC and the community people.
- Superintendent Complaints - SHRC gave a detailed introduction of the SHRC to the participants, he said that two judges oversee the complaints and take immediate actions. He shared the project leaflet on which the address, phone number and email address of the Commission was available and explained that they could file a complaint with SHRC if they noticed human right violations in their community.
- Technical Expert - Aurat Foundation explained the purpose behind the project was to counter the extremist mindset in a specific segment of our society; targeting religious scholars, minorities, mosques, churches, temples etc. After the attack on our school children, National

Action Plan was designed and implemented with the national consensus, and provincial governments also enacted CVE Laws.

- Participants were oriented on CVE laws passed by Sindh Government. In addition to the CVE Laws, participants were also told that Sindh Government has enacted a Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2013, that prohibits the marriage of any child under the age of eighteen years old and provides penalties for a male contracting party, the person who solemnizes the marriage as well as the parent or guardian concerned.
- Social activists (s) were engaged in community meetings and appreciated the efforts to raise the voices for the marginalized segments of society and segregation based on their ethnicity or sectarian beliefs.
- Imam(s) of the Mosque said that our religious scholars can play an important role to spread the message of peace. They can tell the people in their Friday sermons to live with harmony, setting aside their sectarian as well as religious differences.

A total of 20 Community sessions were held in five project district areas (Nawabad, Saeabad, Paposh Nagar, Chakra Goth and Shirin Jinnah), and 04 community sessions in each project district. The target to sensitize 500 was achieved successfully. Community-women were mobilized and engaged in these community sessions. Community-Community womenitized to CVE Laws. Following activities were also conducted in these community sessions;

- Development of posters and peace messages through Art Work;
- Speech Competition;
- Panel Discussion;
- Sharing of Success stories;
- Screening of video clips on the topic of women in peacebuilding and
- Peace songs were also sung in this session
- Three Project Staff members along with the Social Mobilizers were engaged in the SAPs – Community meetings.

Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson Sindh Commission on Status of Women and members of the commission also attended the community sessions. Chairperson said that she has enjoyed

Community Meeting session at Chakra Goth , Karachi



Peace message developed by youth member during Art Activity in SAP



participating in these sessions, she further said, “SCSW will remain connected with these community groups beyond the project”. She also explained the mandate of the SCSW to the

community women, she said that the SCSW is the oversight body, that reviews the laws and monitors the work of the other government departments working for women. Discussion on CVE laws was held with Peace Committee members (PCMs) and the community women. She said that they had reviewed the Pro women's laws like Domestic Violence Act, 2013, the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010 and The Sindh Child Marriages Restraint Act, 2013.

### 4.3 Enhanced the Knowledge of Communities on Legal Rights and State-run Safety Services

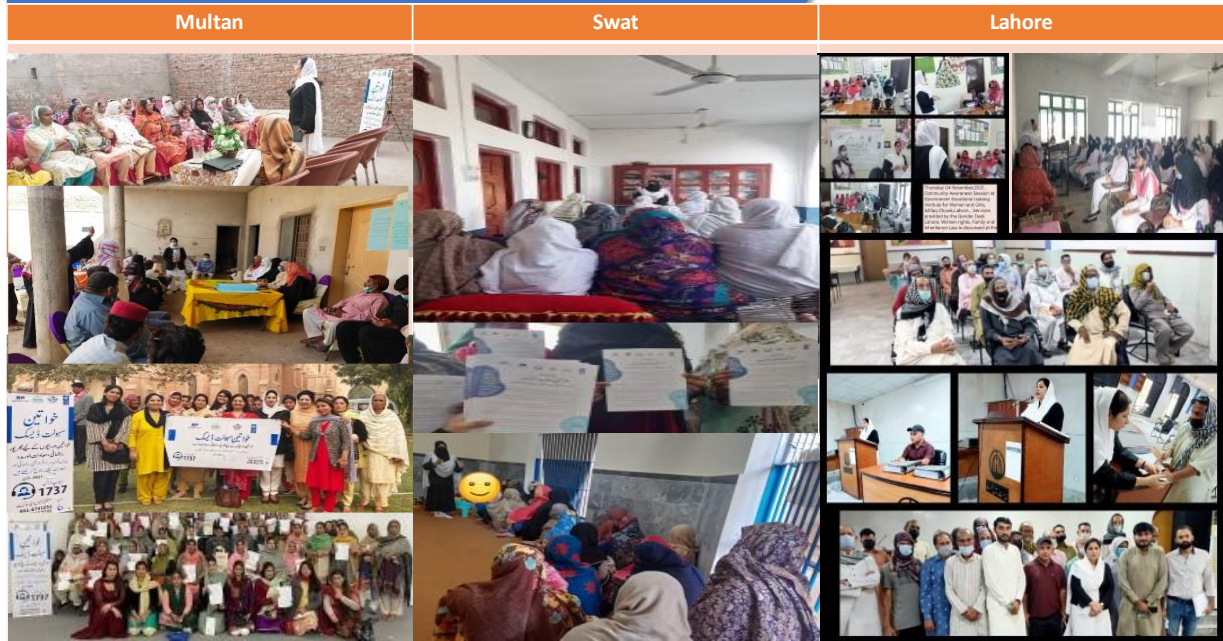
Aurat Foundation organized 34 community meetings in the five target districts under the promotion of the gender justice project. AF hold community awareness meeting and sensitization sessions with youth, transgender persons, a person with disabilities, rural women, domestic workers, home-based workers, agrarian women workers, polio workers, BISP beneficiaries and groups of religious and ethnic minority communities. The community meetings were organized with low-income poor, marginalized and vulnerable groups of society.



The topics of the meeting were; awareness of women's legal rights, pro-women laws, personal family laws, transgender laws, personal family laws, inheritance, rights, harassment at work and public places, gender-based violence, access to safety protection institutions, BISP, economic empowerment, information about access to justice and its services, including legal counselling, legal aid, the importance of 16-days of activisms. AF also conducted the session with rickshaw drivers to aware them of the cause and services of gender desks.

Around **1353** people participated in the meeting (**833** women, **346** men and **174** transgender persons). Overall, 61% of women, 26% of men and 13% transgenders participated. On the other side, 370 youth, 265 PWDs, 280 people from religious minorities and 115 from ethnic communities participated in community meetings. With the notification and placement of Gender Desk Officers, they received around **680 cases**. Out of 580, GDO Karachi received 102, Swat, 202, Quetta 94, Lahore 115 and Multan 67 cases during the period.

## Glimpse of Community Meetings at Multan, Swat & Lahore



### 4.4 Engagement and Development of Women's Safety Response Mechanism

Aurat Foundation organized the eleven (11) Orientation Sessions “to engage and develop women safety response mechanism to address gender-based violence” in project target districts. The core motivation of these activities was to enhance the capacity of JAZBA group members to respond against the issues of violence against women, girls, minorities, Transgender and PWDs and to build linkages with existing district line departments. Selected members of JDF, WLG, and WVN attended these meetings in which officials of line departments, representatives of civil society organizations, Lawyers, and journalists largely participated. Out of a total of 235 participants, 146 were female, 24 were minorities, 4 PWDs, and 54 were male. In the opening sessions of these meetings, the topics like “the importance of NIC and Vote registration”, “gender-based violence”, and the role of “women in politics” were briefly discussed.

In the second part of these meetings, awareness among the participants was created to engage district-level line departments to develop a safety response mechanism to reduce all types of violence against women. The lesson was lessons that by engaging youth and sensitizing them on gender issues, the cases of violence at the UC level have been reduced. By involving media personnel in the JAZBA group, the issues of women are highlighted in local newspapers on regular basis. Linkages with line departments are necessary for the smooth implementation of activities. District forum members are engaged in other activities so sometimes they cannot spare time for meeting or die to any emergency forum members can't attend the meetings.

#### 4.5 Peoples Assemblies on Electoral Reform and Women's Effective Participation in Politics

Aurat Foundation organized nine (9) people's assemblies were held in all the project districts to support women, youth, transgender, PWDs, journalists, lawyers, ex-councillors, ECP, NADRA, university students, members of civil society organizations and workers and local leaders of political parties for public campaigning and interface with political parties and line department at the district level. These assemblies provided a platform to marginalized groups to raise their voice for their rights and thus create an enabling environment and increased opportunities for women in the electoral process.

In these people's assemblies, all the mainstream parties were invited to share their role in the empowerment of women, especially excluded groups. It is worth mentioning that there are 360 political parties which are registered by the Election commission of Pakistan. The presence of 17 parties is in National and Provincial assemblies. Only 7-8 political parties participate in parliamentary elections but they do not share their manifestos publicly. This is the major reason that they do not take such measures which is favourable to women, especially delaying tactics used to conduct LGE.

All the speakers in these people's assemblies shared the issues and challenges faced by women in Pakistan and also recommended action on them for resolution. Their recommendations are incorporated in a charter of demand which will be further used as a guideline to do lobby and advocacy with parliamentarians at the national and provincial levels.

In these people's assemblies, out of 833 participants; females below 25 were 35%, above 25 they



were 40%, 8% minorities, 15% men, and 1% each, transgender and persons with disabilities participated in these activities.

At the end of these assemblies, all the participants jointly signed the Charter of Demands and endorsed it for further lobbying and advocacy with legislators at the national and provincial levels. Through the assemblies, the participants got an awareness of the manifestos of political parties. This platform was beneficial for women to understand why it is important to be in politics. Ex – councillors are ready to contest on reserve seats for provincial and national assembly during GE 2023. More women are motivated to contest in Local Government Elections. The Charter of demand was shared with Policy makers, Line departments, Civil Societies, Party influence, Students, Community and the general public.





## Chapter Five

# **Advocacy, Awareness-Raising and Lobbying**

## 5. 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. Below we showcase what we have worked towards, celebrations and protests on causes and issues we hold close to our hearts and minds.

### 5.1 Leaving No One Behind: An Inclusive Implementation of the SDGs in Pakistan

Aurat Foundation, in partnership with Club de Madrid (CdM), is supporting the inclusive implementation of Agenda 2030 in Pakistan under the Shared Society Project. The session was attended by Ruben Campos, Programme Coordinator, CdM, Mr. Elbegdorj Tskhlagin, CdM Member, President of Mongolia (2009-2017), Ms. Romina Khursheed Alam, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan/ Convener Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, Naeem A. Mirza, Executive Director Aurat Foundation. Ms Mangla Sharma, Member Provincial Assembly of Sindh, Ms. Mary James Gill, Former Member Provincial Assembly, Ms. Tanzila Ume Habiba, Member of the Provincial Assembly Sindh. Ms Abia Akram, ED, Special Talent Exchange Programme, Pakistan, Shahzadi Rai, Transgender Activist, Mr Ali Kemal, Chief SDGs Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives. The session was moderated by Ali Imran, CdM Senior Expert in Pakistan. The leaders of the vulnerable communities from across Pakistan to discuss and reflect on the VNR 2022.

Under the Shared Society initiative, CdM in collaboration with the SDGs Unit Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives and Aurat Foundation is going to organize a virtual session with the CdM Member Mr Elbegdorj Tsakhiagiin, President of Mongolia. The objectives of this session are as follows:

- To learn from the best international and Pakistani practices on engagement between state and religious and ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups for inclusive and participatory development.
- To develop a common roadmap including needs and approaches for inclusiveness of religious and ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups in planning, implementing, monitoring and reporting of agenda 2030 in Pakistan.
- To discuss and reflect on the vulnerable community participation in the VNR 2022.



## **5.2 Implementation of Occupational, Safety and Health Act, 2017**

A consultation was conducted on the Occupational, Safety & Health situation in working establishments of Sindh on December 22, 2021. The guest speaker Syed Ali Ashraf Naqvi, Retired Joint Director of Labour, Sindh under the law told that a Provincial Safety Council is notified with representation from the Labour department and other government departments, employers, workers, trade unions and civil society organizations, but unfortunately only an introductory meeting could be conducted since its notification in 2018. He further said that under the law there should be special chief labour Inspector would be appointed but this position is not yet notified. The basic condition under the law is that a Competent Authority will approve the infrastructure of the factories or any other workplace for registration purposes, but this Competent Authority is also not notified yet. He said that rules of business of OSH law is formed but standards, code of practices and guideline are not yet finalized. He further said that there are only 16 joint health & Safety Officers for the whole of Sindh, this number should have been raised to 200. Therefore, there are a lot of structural changes required in the departments for the implementation of the law in its true spirit.

It is recommended that a meeting will be convened with Secretary the of Labour to raise the following demands:

- Chief Labour Inspector should be appointed on a priority basis.
- A Competent Authority designated for the registration of workplaces and approval of the site should be notified.
- Registration process of industries and workplaces should be started as early as possible.
- A proper database of the industries and workplaces should be maintained.
- Standards and code of practices of OSH Act should be developed on priority, so the law can be implemented.
- Additional labour inspectors including women labour inspectors should be appointed in Sindh.

## **5.3 Reforms are needed in Sindh Legislation in CVE Framework**

A stakeholder consultation on CVE Thematic Areas & Legislative Framework was held on December 13, 2021. A total of 24 participants attended the consultation 15 Male and 09 Female. Honourable Member of Provincial Assembly Syeda Marvi Rashdi also attends the consultation.

Nazish Brohi, Lead Researcher presented policy recommendations based on the prelims ongoing, preliminary research findingsManzoor, Program Assistant working as Research Associate from SHRC arch also presented key findings on the case study of the mob attack on Sant Satram Dham Madir, Ghotki. Syed Mohsin Abbas, Legal Expert provided a critical analysis of the Sindh Witness Protection Law and Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act and solicited recommendations from stakeholders for policy and legal reforms.

The participants deliberated on finding solutions to assist the witnesses and protect them. There should be a witness protection department in the court. Record the witness within 24 hours of the incident, which will be admissible before the trial court and automatically protect the witness. Justice ® Majida Razvi added that it has been proposed to the Chief Justice.

Participants believed that forced conversions in Sindh are legitimized through child marriages in Sindh. It is observed that In 90% of cases of forced disappearances in Sindh the age bracket is from 12 to 17 years, They abduct the child, convert them and also marry them. There is a lot of pressure on the courts to dissolve such marriages as they also believed that it is against Islam.

Although the Sindh government takes credit for becoming the country's first elected assembly to have passed a bill on child marriages in April 2014, which places a ban on marriage of children under 18 years and makes its violation punishable with rigorous imprisonment of up to three years, sadly the law is still poorly implemented. Some other issues are also associated with the law;

- Parents using the law for implicating the girls.
- Institutional births issues (No birth certificates or other documents for age determination)
- Jurisdictional issues (People go to Punjab and Baluchistan where the minimum age for marriage is 16, and after the solemnizations of marriage they came to Sindh)
- Child issues, if the girls become a mother.
- Government departments are not well equipped in case the girls are sent to Dar ul Amans.

The outcome of the Stakeholder Consultation further analyzed and fine-tuned the critical gaps covering minority issues, related laws, policy recommendations and SHRC's role in the entire process.

#### **5.4 Critical Review of Sindh Laws in Human Rights and Framework**

Aurat Foundation conducted a stakeholder Consultation on Legislation in Sindh on December 14, 2021. A total of 38 participants attended the consultation 22 Male and 16 Female. Two MPAs Syeda Marvi Rashdi and Ms Ghazala Sial also attend the event, other stakeholders included were SHRC members and staff, government departments, activists, Civil Society Organizations and Minority rights organizations.

Mohsin Abbas Syed, Legal Expert analyzed the Sindh Minorities Rights Commission bill and the Civilian Victims of Terrorism (Relief and Rehabilitation) act. Participants gave their recommendations for improved legislation. Syeda Marvi Rashdi, Honorable Member of the provincial Assembly volunteered herself to support the Minorities Commission Bill in its tabling and its working.

The critical review of the CVE legislative framework covered during the research process provided the basis (rationale for identifying the two laws:

***Compensating Civilian Victims of Conflict & Terrorism:*** Law identified through grant activities where Sindh parliamentarians learned about CVE laws in other provinces (compensation laws exist In Punjab and Balochistan)

***Establishment of a Minority Rights Commission for Sindh:*** Provincial Commission for Minorities is mandated in the Communal Properties Act law; Aims to institutionalize the protection and enforcement of the constitutional and other legal rights of religious minorities in Sindh and Legislation previously attempted but lacked consultative process.

Through a critical review of the Sindh Protection of Communal Properties Act, 2013, it was observed that a Provincial Commission for Protection of Minorities Rights could not be established in Sindh. Sindh Minorities' Rights Commission Bill-2015 was unanimously passed by The Sindh Assembly the private resolutions presented by opposition lawmakers Nand Kumar Goklani, an MPA of the Pakistan Muslim League-Functional. But later returned by the Governor to the Assembly for reconsideration on the advice of the cabinet and Chief Minister Sindh.

It was observed that Pakistan has lost 80,000 lives with the act of terrorism since 2001, it is the duty of the state to compensate the victims and their families who lose lives, are injured or are



otherwise affected by attacks. In Sindh, there is an administrative policy available under which these victims are being compensated, but inequitable compensations are given under the policy, some victims are being paid higher compensations whereas others are paid lesser compensation, and it is also discretionary, further there are delays in compensations and no redressal mechanism is available for the victims. SHRC identifies this as a human right violation and suggested that there should be proper legislation for Sindh Civilian Victims of Terrorism (Relief and Rehabilitation).

Based on the consultative process, the two laws were taken up by Justice ® Majida Razi, Chairperson of SHRC. She said that SHRC will compile the recommendations on the Minorities Rights Commission Bill and Civilian Victims of Terrorism (Relief and Rehabilitation) bill and notify committees to review the recommendations.

### **5.5 Policy Review on CVE Legislative Framework in Gender Perspective**

A Two-Day consultation on CVE legislative framework and policy review from a gender perspective was held in batches of two from 25-26 April 2022 at Marriott Hotel, Karachi. Mahnaz Rahman, Resident Director, Aurat foundation introduced the project to the audience. She said that talking about CVE is important for Aurat Foundation because Aurat foundation has always worked for not women's rights but for Human rights. VE has disturbed the whole world; it is an international issue and to counter it we should spread awareness about it.

Nuzhat Shireen gave opening remarks on SCSW and its mandate. She said that The Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Bill, 2015 had been passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh in April 2015. It was published as an Act of the Legislature of Sindh. Sindh Commission on the Status of Women was set up for the promotion of social, economic, political and legal rights of women, as provided in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973, and international declarations, Conventions, treaties and agreements relating to women, including CEDAW. She also said that our role is to raise awareness and to link bridges between community women and government. She said that the key driver of CVE in society is also blocking justice and oppressing them.

Mohsin Abbas, a legal expert gave e model review of the Sindh Sound System Regulation Act, 2015, Sindh protection of communal properties of Minorities Act, 2013 and Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2013. Critical areas of the Acts were also discussed along with the recommendations from the participants.

## **Recommendations**

- A separate Commission should be formed for the Sindh Protection of Communal Properties of Minorities Act, 2013.
- Legislatures had several meetings for the formation of the Provincial Commission of Minorities under the law of Sindh Protection of Communal Properties of Minorities Act, 2013 but has not been established yet.
- In every Commission, there should be a trans representative to talk about their issues.
- Ownership of all stakeholders while making any law.
- Implementation of the laws is not possible without the rules of the business, it is important to develop comprehensive rules of business.
- District committees are formed on violence against women. They have established their TORs, these committees can be linked with the provincial women's caucus and district commissioner office Karachi.
- Develop a strong narrative that child marriage is against Islam
- There is no child's consent. The marriage should be dissolved the moment the child is recovered
- In the case of child marriage, the prosecution should be done with everyone who has been a part of the marriage.
- Youth awareness of laws to be made part of the curriculum in schools in Pakistan studies.
- Police awareness and judges' awareness are highly important.
- Legal obligations should be advertised in media and illegitimacy should not be promoted.
- Sensitization sessions for parents must be arranged.
- Police should also be trained on these Laws.
- In the statutory rape Act, the age should be 18 years instead of 16 to avoid child marriage.
- Local bodies should have the database of the children and in case of any child marriage, they should be involved in the investigation of the case.
- Forced conversion bill is also one of the most important bills and it should be passed. It was also tabled but could not be passed due to some pressure from the religious leaders.
- Civil society and the State should move hand in hand and the hurdles to the registration of an organization should be removed.

## **5.6 Needs for Meaningful Participation of Women in Peace Councils and Political Transitions**

Aurat Foundation in collaboration with the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women organized a provincial conference as part of the project to share the finding of the research report on June 13, 2022. A total of 69 participants attended the conference the parliamentarian government officials, Social Welfare department-department sights depart departments, the Law department, the Home department, Peace Committee Members Civil Society Activists, SCSW Members and Staff of Aurat Foundation.

Ms Palwasha Shahab reviewed CVE policy and legislative framework through a ga-ender lens. Yasmeen Arshad shared the key findings & recommendations of the research report. Dr Masuma Hasan, President of the Board of Governors Aurat Foundation suggested that Pakistan should make an action plan under the UN resolution 1325, titled women, peace and security. She also said that many countries of the world have already made action plans under resolution 1325.



Shahana Ashar, MPA, MQM Pakistan requested Shahla Raza, Minister of Women Development Department, Government of Sindh to ask Rehana Laghari, Deputy Speaker, Sindh Assembly / Patron (WPC) and women MPAs for the reactivation of the peace council. Shahla Raza talked about the importance of enhancing women in every other order to promote peace and harmony in society. Nuzhat Shirin, pledged to take on peacebuilding networks like the peace council forward as well as ensure the nation of an action plan under the UN resolution 1325, along with Minister WDD and Aurat Foundation.

The panellists included -Islamic Women Religious leader- Seemi Ikramullah Chairperson of Women's Network of Faith Pakistan and Asia Region, Religions for Peace / Recipient of Women's award, Community Service & Peace Award), Secretary General of Religions for Peace Pakistan (headquarters UN, New York), Dr Samea Raheel Qazi -Virtual (President International Muslim Women Union (NGO with ECO SOC Status in UN) Former MNA. The only woman to be appointed as a member of the Council of Islamic Ideology. Dr Shahdev (Senior Member of Hindu Patron Council, Chairperson Interfaith Harmony - Hindu Religions for Peace

Pakistan), Pastor Ateeq and Pastor Ghazala (Chairman Pakistan Churches Alliance, Founder Six, Foundation Media Channel on Faith & Development, Chairperson Interfaith Harmony-Christian, Religions for Peace Pak)

### **Recommendations:**

- Action plan under UN resolution 1325 should be formed in Pakistan.
- In future, a peace network project should be initiated in Sindh.
- Women's Peace Council should be reactivated so that the coordination can be strengthened again.
- Local laws should be included in light of international laws like CEDAW.
- Women should be included in all peace negotiations.
- Communities should be empowered to identify the educational and community-resilient activities that they believe will provide a safeguard against violent extremist ideologies.
- Better provincial laws for the transgender community; though we have good national laws for transgenders but crime rates are still high.
- Programs should be directed primarily to youth and young adults, including programs that are designed and operated by young adults, especially in educational institutes.

## 5.7 Interface Dialogues with Legislators for Social Inclusion

Aurat Foundation organized four (4) Interface dialogues with legislators in all four provinces. These activities were with 127 participants. These participants, JDF and WLG members participated while legislators and political leaders were invited to attend the interface dialogues held. The purpose of these dialogues was to develop a good working relationship with legislators and political leadership to eliminate issues and challenges faced by communities including women and excluded groups.

As the dialogues processed WLs and JDF members presented the issues and problems of women and excluded groups which are as follows;

1. No proper waste management system causes unhygienic conditions for communities living in the us.
2. Blocked sewerage system is a major cause of the rise in hepatitis and other diseases.
3. Safe drinking water is not available due to people having waterborne diseases.
4. Political parties should adjust emerging women leadership at the UC level by adding them to women's wings.
5. Political parties should initiate NIC and Voter registration campaigns at the UC level.
6. Increase in jobs for women at the district level.
7. 33% representation quota of seats for women local government system

Through these dialogues, participants raised demands for a 33% quota of seats for women in the local government system. MPAs and district-level leadership ensured to raise their voices for 33% of seats in assembly sessions. The regional women leader groups presented the “Charter of Demand” to parliamentarians and district leadership and they ensured to discuss them in the assembly

Ms. Shehla Raza, Minister WDD with her closing remarks during Provincial Conference . Dr. Masuma Hasan, President AF Board of Governor, Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson SCWS, Ms. Mahnaz Rehman, Resident Director, AF Karcchi on the stage while Ms. Palvasha Shahab-Researcher presenting key finding of SCSW Research Report on 13 June 2022



## 5.8 Raising Awareness and Increased Access of Survivors to the Gender Desks for Legal Facilitation

AF with the collaboration of respective line departments and UNDP launched the Communication Campaign in the following districts:



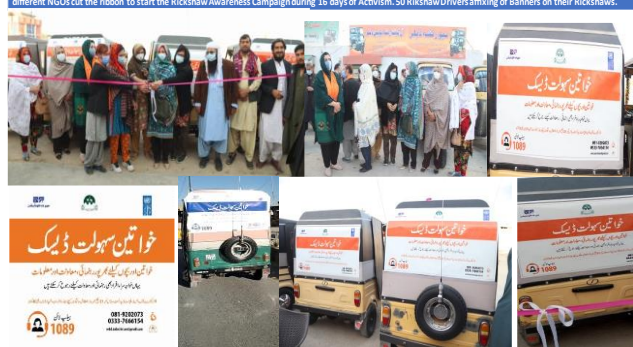
Sr. #	District	Date	Venue
1	Quetta	24 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 21	Office Rikshaw Driver Association, Sipin Road, Quetta
2	Multan	25 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 21	Outside Press Club, Multan
3	Karachi	25 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 21	Mazar-e-Quaid Car Parking Area, Karachi
4	Lahore	26 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 21	Outside Flatties Hotel, Lahore
5	Swat	26 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 21	Outside, Jahanzaib College, Swat

### Quetta

On 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021, AF fixed the panaflex on 50-Rikshawas to create awareness among the public for raising awareness about Gender Desks and increased the access of survivors to the gender desk for legal facilitation. The campaign was launched jointly by the Aurat Foundation, the Women Development Department, the Government of Balochistan and UNDP outside of ice Rikshaw Driver Association, Sipin Road, Quetta. Around seventy-three (73) participants attend the event.

#### Lunch of Rickshaw Campaign at Quetta

Aurat Foundation, Women Development Department, Balochistan and UNDP launched jointly Rickshaw Awareness Campaign, all female representatives from different NGOs cut the ribbon to start the Rickshaw Awareness Campaign during 15 days of Activism. 50 Rickshaw Drivers affixing of Banners on their Rickshaws.



The campaign was launched by Ms by Ms Sana Durrani, Social and Political Activist and Ex. Member National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), Ms Sania Ahmed, Representative UN Women, Balochistan, Ms Urooj Fatima, Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences, Mr Mehtab, Coordinator, Transgender Alliance, Mr Tariq Mehmood General Secretary Rickshaw dealers Association, Mr Allaudin Kilji, Resident Director Aurat Foundation, Ms Yasmeen Mughal, Senior Programme Officer, Aurat Foundation, Ms Zarghoona Barrech, Gender Desk Officer AF, Ex women councillors and representatives of political parties jointly cut the ribbon, pray for the prosperity of peaceful and violence against women free Pakistan.

### Multan

On 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021, AF fixed the panaflex on 50-Rikshawas to create awareness among the public for raising awareness about Gender Desks and increased the access of survivors to the gender desk for legal facilitation. The campaign was launched jointly by the Aurat Foundation, Punjab Women Protection Authority, the Social Welfare Department not, the Government of Punjab and UNDP outside Press Club, Multan. Around eighty-six (86) participants attend the launching ceremony including social and political women activists, government officials, media officials and students.



Mr Jalil, Chief Traffic Police Officer, Multan launched the campaign by cutting the ribbon. He said that there is a dire need to spread awareness about the

rights of women. Several pr women’s laws have haven passed but the common women are unaware of these laws and thus could not initiate legal proceedings against the inhumane torture and violence inflicted upon them. They need to create awareness among them. He appreciated the Aurat Foundation for launching such a wonderful event to create awareness among communities.

On this occasion, Ms Muneezeh Butt, in Charge of the Violence Against Women Centre (VAWC) Multan said that the centre aims at improving the criminal justice system in the country. The centre is also responsible for the collection of forensic and other evidence, besides offering mental health and counselling services, and post-trauma rehabilitation under one roof, to increase complainants’ access to justice. She also shared that the prime objective of the VAWC is to streamline the speedy justice delivery process for women and all services to women including First Aid, FIR lodging, prosecution, medical examination, forensics, post-trauma rehabilitation and shelter home for female victims have been provided under one single roof.

### Karachi

On 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021, AF fixed the panaflex on 50-Rikshaws to create awareness among the public for raising awareness about Gender Desks and increased the access of survivors to the gender desk for legal facilitation. The campaign was launched jointly by the Aurat Foundation, the Women Development



Department t, the Government of Sindh and UNDP at Mazar-e-Quaid Car Parking Area, Karachi. Around seventy-four (74) participants attend the launching ceremony including social and political women activists, government officials and media.

Dr Masuma Hasan, President AF Board of Governors and Chairperson, Pakistan Institute of International Affairs, Ms. Munira Hirwani, Provincial Lead UNDP, Mr. Mahesh Lal Dodani, Mahnaz Rehman, Resident Director AF, Ms. Malka Khan, Senior Programme Officer, AF, Asia Munir Gender Desk Officer and others jointly cut the ribbon and launched the campaign.

Dr Masuma Hasan, President of the Aurat Foundation Board of Governors and Chairperson of the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs cut the ribbon and delivered the keynote ad speaking speech on reasons for violence against women in Pakistan and various types of violence. She was of the view that femicide was common around the globe and India was being called the rape capital of the world. Each year, around 1,000 women in Pakistan were killed in the name of honour, the speaker lamented. She said girls continued to be abused in the country and their bodies were found in garbage



dumps. She also mentioned the increasing incident of cybercrimes against women in Pakistan, which had added to the deteriorating socio-economic condition of women in the country.

Mehnaz Rehman, Resident director of the Aurat Foundation, spoke about how there had been a change in the reporting of harassment the world over; first women were afraid to report it because of several reasons which included being blamed for being raped or harassed. Now, however, they are more willing to fight back.

Ms Munira Hirwani, Provincial Lead of UNDP said that there is a need for attitudinal changes in society so that both men and women are equal and deserve equal treatment. For this, we need men to be part of the conversation we cannot achieve women's rights. Ms Malka Khan said that lack of social, economic, and political support is the cause of violence.

### Lahore

On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021, AF fixed the panaflex on 50-Rikshawas to create awareness among the public for raising awareness about Gender Desks and increased the access of survivors to the gender desk for legal



facilitation. The campaign was launched jointly by Aurat Foundation, Punjab Women Protection Authority, the Social Welfare Department, the Government of Punjab and UNDP outside Flatties Hotel, Lahore. Rikshaw rally was also planned from Flattie's hotel to the office of the Minister of Social Welfare. Around One hundred (100) participants attend the launching ceremony including government officials of different departments, political and social activists, women leaders, representatives of community-based organizations, CSOs, members of EVAWG Mumkin Alliance, lawyers, students and media etc.

The chief guest of the ceremony was Syed Yawar Bukhari, Minister for Social Welfare Punjab, the guest of honour was Ms Kaneez Fatima Chaddar, Chairperson, Punjab Women Protection Authority while Mr Mudassar Riaz Malik, Director General Social Welfare Department, Irshad Waheed, Director General, Punjab Women Protection Authority and other participated

On this occasion, Ms Kaneez Fatima Chaddar, Chairperson of, the Punjab Women Protection Authority shared that PWPA is working to extend maximum relief to women in case of violence. Violence against marginal groups in society is a long-standing issue. She appreciated AF & UNDP's efforts to organize an awareness campaign on the 16 days activism campaign to eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls, now!

Addressing the ceremony, Ms Sara Sheraz, Resident Director, AF said that budgetary allocations and human resource allocations are just some of the hurdles, including lack of political commitment and implementation of laws.

Syed Yawar Bukhari, Minister for Social Welfare Punjab said that Pakistan Tehreek-Insaf (PTI) govt had a full understanding of the challenges faced by the masses and was making all-out efforts to meet them. A collaborative approach and support for media personnel would contribute a lot to creating public awareness regarding women's rights, and ending GBV.

### Swat

On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021, AF fixed the panaflex on 50-Rikshawas to create awareness among the public for raising awareness about Gender Desks and increased the access of survivors to the

gender desk for legal facilitation. The campaign was launched jointly by AF, the Social Welfare Department, the Government of KP and UNDP at Outside, Jahanzaib College, Swat. Around seventy-one (71) participants attend the launching ceremony including government officials of different departments, political and social and trade union activists, representatives of community-based organizations and the media.

The chief guest of the ceremony was Ms Nusrat, District Officer of the Social Welfare Department Swat while the guest of honour was Mr Sajjad Khan Vice President of the Bar Association, Swat and Mr Jahanzeb, President, of Rickshaw Association, Swat.

Addressing to launching ceremony, Ms Nusrat, District Officer of the Social Welfare Department Swat shared the free services offered by the gender desk. She asked the participants to create awareness in their families to end VAWG. There is a need for joint efforts to end VAW in society for a peaceful Pakistan

Mr Sajjad Khan Vice President of the Bar Association, Swat said that the world recognized the important roles of the public and private sectors, communities, and individuals in helping to prevent and address domestic violence and create a culture that refuses to tolerate abuse. we integrity the great dedication of advocates and service providers, honour the courage and resilience of survivors and recommit ourselves to standing with them for safety, dignity, and justice.

Mr Jahanzeb, President, of the Rickshaw Association, Swat assured that now the drivers must give the message and spread it throughout our swat. He appreciated the service of the desk and was where thankful to AF UNDP and also requested the DO SW to extend the gender desk at the village council level.

Ms Samreen Advocate and Gender Desk Officer said that we must rededicate ourselves to creating a society where domestic violence is not tolerated, where survivors are supported, and where all people have an opportunity to thrive without fear of violence or abuse. AF will continue its support to create awareness among communities and do efforts to strengthen legal aid referral services.



## Media Campaign

AF developed and broadcast Public Service Messages about the establishment of Gender Desks for its publicity in targeted districts to enhance its accessibility and visibility. The 30-second message about the “Women’s Facilitation Desk” was broadcast and aired 5 times a day of air on the radio and social media of t AF Facebook, website and youtube during the sixteen days of activism. Aurat Foundation staff, Gender Desk Officers and other guests appeared on radio and tv talk shows on television to highlight the issues of GBV faced by the target vulnerable groups of society and inform the public about the services of Gender Desks established in respective districts. They also highlight the gaps and loopholes in the implementation of laws and existing legal frameworks to protect women. They also recorded statements on the importance of celebrating 16 days of activism. AF team recorded five radio programmes (one in each district) and five tv talk shows (1-in each province).

## Radia Programmes

AF hold 5-programmes (1 in each district) FM 101, 96, Radio Pakistan, Karachi and Swat to highlight the impact of GBV on family and society, create awareness on GBV and women-friendly laws and raise awareness on Gender Desks in each province.

## 5.9 Balochistan Local Government Act 2010 & Women’s Political Participation

Aurat Foundation Quetta conducted "Consultation on Balochistan Local Government Act 2010 & Women Political Participation" with the support of South Asia Partnership Pakistan in collaboration with NCSW at Quetta, on 17th February 2022. Total of 72 participants attended the consultation.

## TV Programme at Quetta

On 25 Nov 2021: Live tv interviews as guest Ms. Zarghoona Barech GDO, Quetta, Aludin Kihilji, RD, AF Quetta at Geo on VAWG sitituiion in Balochistan. On 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021: Live PTV Program in Pashto Language on 16 Days of Activism. On 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021: Live programme at Voice of America Ms. Zarghoona Barrech (GDO Quetta) invited by PTV Bolan on women rights and pro women laws in Balochistan. Aurat Foundation activities were mentioned and GDO Quetta was discussed in talk show on PTV Program



Ms Nilofar Bakhtiar Chairperson NCSW, Munawara Bibi MNA from Balochistan, Mr Ahmed Nawaz Baloch MP, Mr Qadir Nail MPA, Mr Yousuf Shah Director MoH, Ms Shazia Riaz Director WDD, Mr Arif Secretary NCSW, Ms Nabila Malik UN Women Islamabad, Ms Ayesha Wadood Head sub-office ice UNWOMEN, Mr Hanif DG Rural Development Academy, Syed Ehsanullah DD ECP (LGE), Ex-Women Councilors, members NCSW from Balochistan, Representatives of Line Departments (PBS, Health, LG etc.) Members of EVAW/G Alli representatives from Political Parties, CSO, Academia and Media persons participated in the Consultation.

### 5.10 Balochistan Women Urge Party Tickets on General Seats

Women belonging to different political parties in Balochistan on Tuesday said that they are willing to contest forthcoming local body and general elections urging political parties to issue party tickets to women candidates for general seats so that women can use their abilities in the political and decision-making process. They expressed these views while addressing a women's convention on "Local Government System, Government Challenges and Opportunities for the Future" jointly organized by Aurat Foundation and South Asia Partnership here at a local hotel.

#### Stakeholder Consultation on Balochistan Local Government Act 2010 & WPP

Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar Chairperson NCSW, Munawara Bibi MNA from Balochistan, Mr. Ahmed Nawaz Baloch MPA, Mr. Qadir Nail MPA, Mr Yousuf Shah Director MoHR, Ms. Shazia Riaz Director WDD, Mr. ARIF Secretary NCSW, Ms. Nabila Malik UNWomen Islamabad, Ms. Ayesha Wadood Head of sub office UNWOMEN, Mr. Hanif DG Rural Development Academy, Syed Ahsanullah DD ECP (LGE), Departments (PBS, Health, LG etc) Members of EVAW/G Alliance, Representative from Political Parties, CSO, Academia and Media persons were participated in the Consultation on Balochistan Local Government Act 2010 & Women Political Participation on 17 Feb 2022 at Quetta



PTI Women Wing Balochistan President Zulaikha Mandokhel, PPP's Kulsoom Iftikhar, BNP (Awami) 's Fatima Baloch, Balochistan Awami Party's Shania Khan, former women councillors Nargis Mustafa, Zubeida Parveen, Fazeela Baloch spoke on the occasion. They said that women may be provided with ed an opportunity of contesting election on the general seats and in this regard mainstream political parties should play their role and choose women on merit for this purpose. This initiative would help strengthen the democratic system and give the rest of the worth the message that women are given equal opportunities by the political parties he Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, BNP Member of Balochistan Assembly Shakeela Naveed Dehwar said that Women Parliamentarian's Caucus Forum has played an active role in legislation regarding women and we can further improve it. She said that the development goals could be easily achieved by making the local government system financially autonomous. However, effective monitoring of financial matters was necessary as most cases of corruption in the local government department were under investigation by investigative agencies.



## Electoral Reforms for Strengthening Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Sen. Taj Haider (PPP), Mehnaz Akbar Aziz (PML-N), Parliamentary Secretary for Law & Justice, Ayub Malik (PNP) Tariq Malik, Chairperson NADRA, Naeem Mirza, AF Executive Director, Irfan Mufti, Deputy Director SAP-Pk, Tahira Abdullah, Human Rights Activist, Paul Godbout, Counsellor Political, Embassy of Canada, Nadeem Kashish and Julie Khan were among the speakers on Electoral Reforms for Strengthening Gender Equality and Social Inclusion on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022



Human rights activist Tahira Abdullah presented key recommendations on constitutional and electoral reforms, including the extension of women’s reserved seats Constitutional provision for the next 30 years, with a Parliamentary review every 10 years; increasing reserved seats from 17% to 33% in all legislatures and local government tiers; adding one seat for ICT; reservations for transgenders (5%), PWDs (10%), peasants (5%), workers (5%) and 33% women within reserved seats for religious Minorities; increased quantum of political party tickets for women contesting on general seats from 5% to 15% across the board; tickets to be awarded on ‘winnable’ and ‘electable’ seats and parties to fund 50% of women’s election campaign expenses; mainstreaming “Women’s Wings” outside the “Zana Dibaba”; increasing women’s political party membership; party appointments at senior policymaking positions; gender training of all legislators; women’s appointment as Chairs of 33% Standing Committees.

She listed the ECP’s responsibilities: reducing/waiving fees/security deposit for women candidates; updating electoral rolls; working with NADRA to ensure CNICs and automatic voter registration for all women above 18; ensuring privacy and security at women’s polling stations; recruitment, training and promotion of women staff at all tiers of ECP, including POs, DROs, and ROs; zero tolerance of illegal agreements/jirgas for prevention or exclusion of women candidates or voters. All recommendations were unanimously endorsed by all participants by a show of hands.

Harris Khaliq of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) also endorsed them, saying we should not back down on these demands; as active sets, we should continue the movement for democracy and political rights.

PPP Sen. Taj Haider commended and endorsed all the recommendations, pledging to convey them to the PPP leadership and also to the coalition government, currently working on the Electoral Law Reform Bill, which is easier to achieve than a Constitutional Amendment requiring a two-thirds majority vote.



Tariq Malik, Chairperson of NADRA presented a comprehensive list of progressive measures he has initiated at NADRA for gender equality, TGIs and social inclusion. NADRA issues 125,000 CNICs daily (56% women); the gender gap has decreased from 14.7% to 8.9% within one year.

PML-N MNA Mehnaz Akbar Aziz, Parliamentary Secretary for Law & Justice, commended the organizers' initiative, despite the heavily polarized political environment. She pledged to continue working on women's, men and children's rights; marginalized women's political participation and promised to support inclusion of the proposed recommendations in the draft Bill.

Paul Godbout (CHC) reiterated the importance Canada places on women's political participation, gender equality and social inclusion. He was pleased to see so much diversity in the gathering. Local problems need local solutions to come from Pakistani civil society, and programmes like JAZBA are of immense importance, bringing about visible changes. Nadeem Kashish and Julie Khan spoke on TGI issues, while Imran and Zulqarnain Asghar highlighted PWDs' problems.

In conclusion, Naeem Mirza thanked all participants and announced the formation of a working group to present the proposed reforms to the Law Ministry and Parliamentary Standing Committees.



Chapter Six

# **Support for Civil Society Organizations**

## Support for Civil Society Organizations

### 6.1 Observed National Voter's Day

The Provincial Election Commission arranged an event in collaboration with UNDP on 7th December 2021 to observe National Voters Day's "My Voice, My Voice and My Choice." Participants of the seminar included government officials, INGOs/NGO representatives, Social activists and media representatives have attended the seminar. The seminar started with a welcome note from a representative of the Election Commission of Pakistan. Mr Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Murad, Election Commissioner Balochistan said all possible steps are being taken to hold free, fair and transparent elections in the country. He also urged people to participate in an ongoing campaign of voter registration and updating the voter list.

Mr Allauddin Khilji, Resident Director of Aurat Foundation speaks on the occasion urged people especially women to get themselves registered as voters and cast a vote in every electoral process in their respective localities. He said that AF in collaboration with ECP created awareness among people especially women about the significance of CNIC / voter registration, and voters in a democratic system. He said that Aurat Foundation has worked for almost 35 years for building and strengthen the foundations of a sustainable democracy; national consensus on strengthening participatory, transparent and accountable governance; impartial, free and fair elections to restore the electorate's rapidly declining faith in the electoral process. Issues like disenfranchisement of women, intra-party women's quotas on general seats and access to disaggregated data are also highlighted. Engagement with democratic institutions through planning and development of legislative agendas is AF's core strength. He further said that AF established District Coordination Committees in 32 districts of Balochistan as part of a mobilization campaign to ensure women's representation at all three tiers of local government under the Devolution plan. He said that keeping in view, in the next local bodies' elections, Aurat Foundation will start an awareness campaign through its network in coordination with ECP to ensure the women check their votes. At end of the ceremony, Mr Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Murad, Election Commissioner Balochistan presented the shield to AF Resident Director on acknowledging his services.

#### National Voter Day at Quetta

Mr. Allauddin Khilji, Resident Director Aurat Foundation spoke on the occasion of National Voter Day organized by ECP Balochistan and UNDP.



## 6.2 Humatrain Assistance Distributed Among Vulnerable Communities and Persons with Disabilities in all four provinces

Aurat Foundation in collaboration with UNDP and line departments distributed humanitarian assistance among Vulnerable Communities and Persons with Disabilities in all four provinces. The details are following:

### Quetta

Aurat Foundation in collaboration with the UNDP and Women Development Department and the Social Welfare Department distributed humanitarian relief packages (food items) and Assisted Aid for PWDs among vulnerable communities. AF selected **the communities that** included Women home-based workers, domestic workers, minorities, PWDs, transgender, single and pregnant mothers for relief packages and Assisted Aid. The list of beneficiaries was verified and distributed the relief packages.

The guests invited for the distribution ceremony were Mr Abdul Latif Kakar, Secretary of Social Welfare, Mr Zia, Additional Secretary of SW Department, and D.G. Social Welfare Department Ms Shazia Riaz, Director of Women Development Department Balochistan and Ms Roshan Khursheed, Member AF BoGs, Mr. Allaudin Kilji, RD Quetta, Ms Zarghoona Bareech, Ms Yasmeen Mughal, Mr Ishfaq Mengal and other AF team facilitated the whole process.

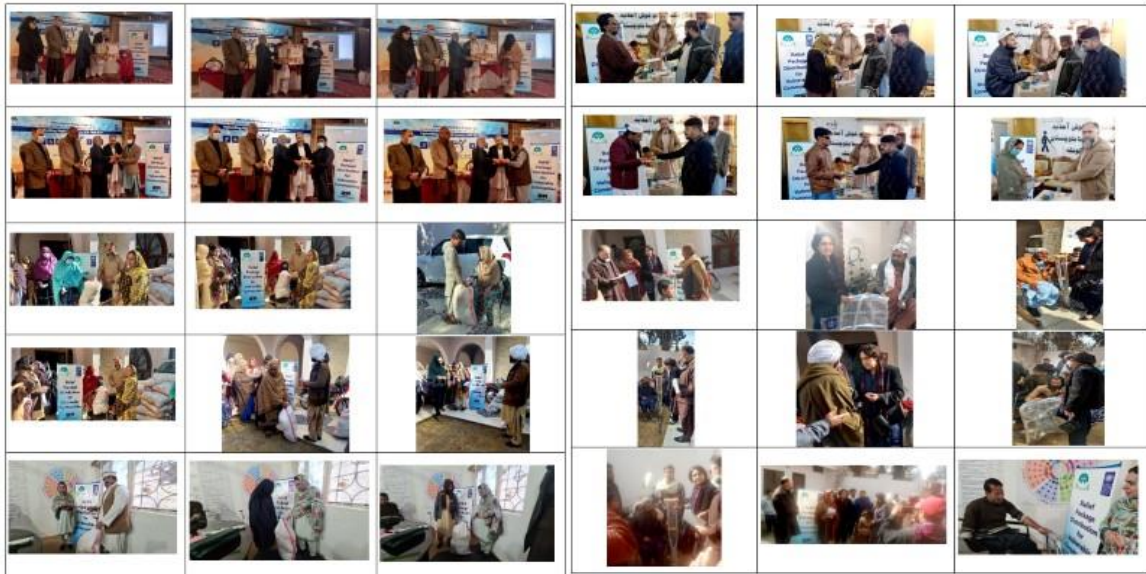
S. No.	Description	Number of Distribution
1.	No. of Women HBWs	45
2.	No. Transgender benefitted	15
3.	No. of PWD benefitted	14
4.	No. of Widow	2
5.	No. of Minority	16
6.	No. of pregnant women benefitted	02
7.	No. of Afghan Refugees	06
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

AF selected PWDs who were Blind, Partially Blind, Deaf, Physical Disability, Partially Physical Disability, Polio Persons for Assisted Aids, Internal Vision of the Blind (IVB) and distributed Assistant Aids among more than (200) two hundred persons from PWDs. The list of beneficiaries was verified and distributed the relief packages;

S. No.	Description	Number of Distribution
1.	Crutches (2)	25
2.	White Canes	25
3.	Talking Watches	25
4.	Headphones	25
5.	Walkers	25
6.	Magnifiers	25
7.	Standing Sticks	25
8.	Personal Amplifiers	25
9.	Walking sticks/canes – Adjustable	25
	<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>

## Humanitarian Relief Packages Assisted Aid

AF with collaboration of UNDP and Social Welfare Department and Women Development Department distributed the 100-Humatarin Relief Packages among deserving families and 225-Assisted Aids for PWDs in Quetta during 10-24 Dec 2021



## Punjab and Sindh

Aurat Foundation distributed the Relief Package among the vulnerable communities with the support of UNDP and the Directorate of Human Rights Department Punjab and Sindh. 200 Relief Packages were distributed (100 in Karachi & 100 in Lahore). The representatives of line departments along with AF teams distributed the relief packages among vulnerable communities.

## Sindh and Punjab

Aurat Foundation with collaboration Govt. Departments facilitated UNDP for distribution of relief package's at Karachi and Lahore on 6-10 Dec 2021



## Khyber Pukhtunkhwa

Aurat Foundation distributed more than 100- Relief Packages with the collaboration of UNDP and Law, Parliamentary Affairs & Human Rights Department, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa.

Relief Packages were distributed among poor and most marginalized women; widows, minority women, refugees, transgenders, PWDs, women-headed households and pregnant women. The Relief Packages were distributed in different phases on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021: MR Qaisar Khan, Additional Secretary Planning and Development Department, KP distributed fifteen (15) Relief Packages at the PC hotel Peshawar and the rest of the 85 packages were distributed by the AF Peshawar team.

Relief Packages distribution with support of UNDP in KP in Dec2021



Food Distribution with support of UNDP Dec 2021



### 6.3 Humanitarian Support Provided to Maraglined Women in Swat

Ms Samreen Hakeem Advocate, Aurat Foundation Gender Desk Officer Swat distributed winter garments for women and children and other basic requirements donated by a senior lawyer Mr Aurangzeb Advocate at Dar Ul Aman, Swat on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

On this occasion, Ms Nusrat Jabeen, District Social Welfare Officer, Swat and Manager Dar-ul-Aman were there. they apricated AF support to the most vulnerable communities in the winter session.

#### Relief Package Distribution at Swat

24<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021, distribution of winter garments for women and children and other basic requirements donated by a senior lawyer Mr Aurangzeb Advocate at Dar Ul Aman, Swat.



### 6.4 Violence Against Women is Not Acceptable, Nor Excusable

Aurat foundation with the collaboration of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women organized a seminar on the “Role of Media in the eradication of Gender Balance Violence” (GBV). On 2nd December 2022 at Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Auditorium, Department of Archeology, university of Peshawar.

Miss Rubab Mehdi, Regional Commissioner for Protection of Women against Harassment at Workplace, Peshawar was the chief guest. She said that “violence against women is not acceptable, nor excusable and neither tolerable anywhere in any community. She said that it is the responsibility of the media not only to report the harassment of GBV cases but also to talk about the solution as well to the survivors. The Ombudsperson office, the national commission on the status of women and the Provincial commission on the status of women are the institutions where they can seek remedy and will be facilitated by her.

Mr Ishfaq Ahmad Deputy Secretary, Social Welfare, Usher & Zakat, Special Education and Women Empowerment, Miss Shabina Ayaz Resident Director Aurat Foundation, Doctor Riffat Sardar, Chairperson KPCSW, Mr. Faiza Ullah khan Chairman of the Department of Mass Communication, University of Peshawar, Miss Riffat Shah spokesperson Peshawar Institute of Cardiology, Professor Doctor Kaneez Fatima Haider member of KPCSW, Mr Ali Imran and Doctor Irfan also spoke on the occasion and said that gender-based violence cannot be tolerated at any level and in any form.



To sum up the whole discussion in the seminar, “a collaborative approach, that combines sensitive reporting with advocacy, sensitization, and support for media personnel would contribute a lot in public awareness regarding women’s rights, the relevant laws, which ultimately helps in the elimination of gender-based violence”.

## Celebration of 16 Days of Activism in Peshawar

AF, Bardasht, KP CSW and NCSW jointly organized session on “Role of Media to End VAWG” on 29<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021



## 6.5 Recreational Activities in Swat Jail

Aurat Foundation Gender Desk Officer, Ms Samreen Hakeem Advocate organized the recreational activities for children and women in Swat Jail. She organized the poster coemption on peace. She holds the awareness session on their basic women’s rights.

The objective was to inmates a programme of recreational activities to maintain or improve their overall well-being. She said that the primary recreational activities would be distinct from prison work or vocational training and involve sports or socio-cultural pursuits. She emphasized that the places of detention should provide personnel and appropriate installations and premises to organize and conduct recreational activities. On this occasion, the Superintendent Jail apricated the AF initiative.

Recreational Activities with young children's at Swat Jail in Dec 2021



## 6.6 Resonating from South Asia to the World: Global Norms to Address Violence Against Women and Girls

Women NGOs Federation Nepal for organizing this important Conference, in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission and the National Women Commission on 15-16 March 2022 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The delegates and other experts from South Asia discuss a topic that is so crucial to the welfare of women across the globe, including South Asia. Dr Alyia Khan, Treasures of Aurat Foundation Board of Governors participated in the conference.

The delegates emphasized that the SAARC Leaders have time and again underscored the importance of promoting gender equality during successive summits, which culminated in the adoption of the SAARC Social Charter, incorporating a broad range of targets to be achieved across the region in poverty eradication, population stabilization, empowerment of women, youth mobilization, human resource development, promotion of health and nutrition, and protection of children.

Resonating From South Asia to the World, Global Norms to Address VAW brought together South Asian leaders, subject matter experts, and frontline activists on violence against women and girls to examine existing and prospective responses to this violence. Speakers analyzed government and non-government solutions with particular reference to factors that exacerbate violence against women. Panellists focused on the path forward, discussing innovative policy interventions and the development of new international frameworks, like a binding global instrument to end VAWG in the South Asian context.

The conference also served as the formal launching of the Women NGOs Federation, an umbrella of intersectional women-led organizations that aims to empower its nationwide membership by acting as one strong and unified voice in advancing women's rights.

The **outcomes of the conference were;** they called for a legally binding, global treaty to address violence against diverse women and girls and an emphasis on immediate action to hold the 5<sup>th</sup> Women's World Conference and for it to be held in South Asia.



## **6.7 Women's Political Participation; Challenges, Opportunities and Way Forward**

Aurat Foundation in collaboration with the National Commission on the Status of Women and SAPK organized a very successful consultation on Punjab Local Government Ordinance 2021, Women Political Participation; Challenges, Opportunities and Way Forward on 22 January 2022. The event was attended by representatives of all major political parties and civil society. The consultation formulated a set of recommendations for NCSW to take up with national and provincial level stakeholders.

While addressing the inaugural session, Chairperson NCSW Nilofar Bakhtiar stated that worthy representation of women in legislative bodies is mainly due to the quota system as they are not elected directly by the people but rather are allocated their seats by the party apparatus which means they are not a true representative of the socio- cultural class of the majority women of Pakistan. This is a significant indication of the de-facto lack of women empowerment in political parties. She said the NCSW is committed to ensuring women's participation in the upcoming election effectively. The Commission is taking all possible steps and this consultative meeting is part of our efforts to improve women's participation in the upcoming General Elections. She further said that whenever there is any problem in the country, the agenda of women always go backwards. She pointed out that although women have been given the right to vote but not have the power in decision-making, particularly in the political process.

Faiza Malik, a PPP MPA said that all MPAs will have to come together and approach the speaker for the women's caucus.

Uzma Kardar, PTI MPA, demanded the government consider paying salaries to councillors as they do in London. Sadia Sohail, PTI MPA, emphasize the d training of women in politics so that they play an effective role.

Shamsa Ali, PTI MPA, said political workers of political parties must get seats in Local Government.

Kanwal Liaquat, a PML-N MPA said that you are listened to when you are in a better position politically. There should be two women if there are five seats.

Others who spoke were Neelam Hayat, PTI MPA, Humaira of PTI, Shamim Aftab, MPA and Samina Saeed, JI MPA, from Sargodha among others.

Local Government expert Zahid Islam said PLGO 2021 (Punjab Local Govt Ordinance) is with the standing committee. The Local Government in Lahore has as many authorities as London Local Government. General seats will be allocated according to votes. For the first time, there are reserved seats for transgenders and special people.

Farzana Bari, a women's rights activist stressed ensuring 33 per cent of seats for women on all tiers. there is a need to simplify the elections. At present women find it quite difficult to apply for local government elections. Her reading is that women will not get more than 14-16 per cent of seats.

Ms Mumtaz Mughal, Director of Programmes, Aurat Foundation said that Without women's participation in local government, change and improvement are not possible, and urged women parliamentarians to form a caucus in Punjab Assembly for better coordination and output. They also demanded an increase in seats for special persons, transgenders and minorities. She said, "We can take a stance that if the chairperson is male, the vice-chair should be a woman. In every 3rd constituency, a vice chair or chair should be a woman.

## Consultation on Women's Political Participation in Punjab Local Gov

Punjab Local Government Ordinance 2021 and Women Political Participation; Challenges, Opportunities and Way Forward on 22 January 2022. The consultation was presided over by Ms Nilofar Bakhtiar Chairperson of NCSW. (LoR) Ms Nosheen Khuram, National Manager AF JAZBA, Mr Irfan Mufti, Deputy Executive Director SAP-PK, Mumtaz Mughal, Director Programme AF, Mr Anwar, Secretary NCSW and Mr Zahid Islam, Executive Director Sangat were on stage. Several provincial MPs, and political, social and media activists participated



Mr Irfan Mufti, Deputy Executive Director SAP PK said that there is a need to bring women parliamentarians into decision-making, she said and asked them to speak out for the appointment of Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) chair at the earliest.

The consultation was moderated by the national Manager of AF JAZBA Ms Nosheen Khurram.

The consultation attended NCSW team, MPAs from all major political parties, women councillors, civil society activists and journalists recommended 33pc representation of women not only in local government but in all commissions.

Chapter Seven

# Research and Publications

# Research and Publications

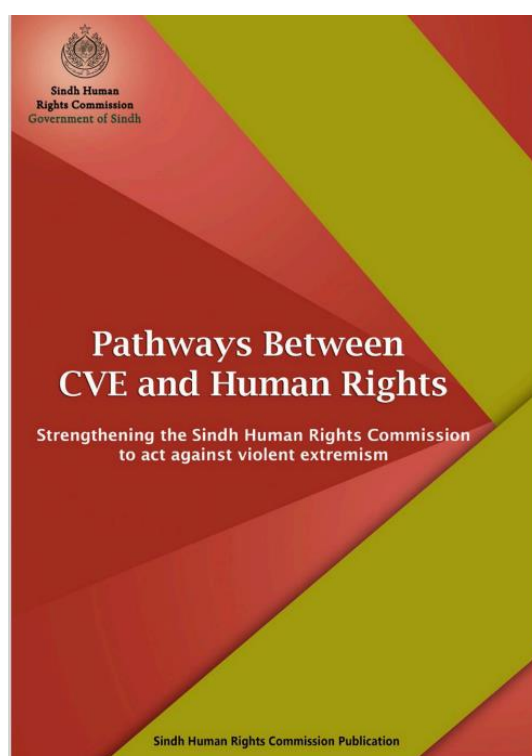
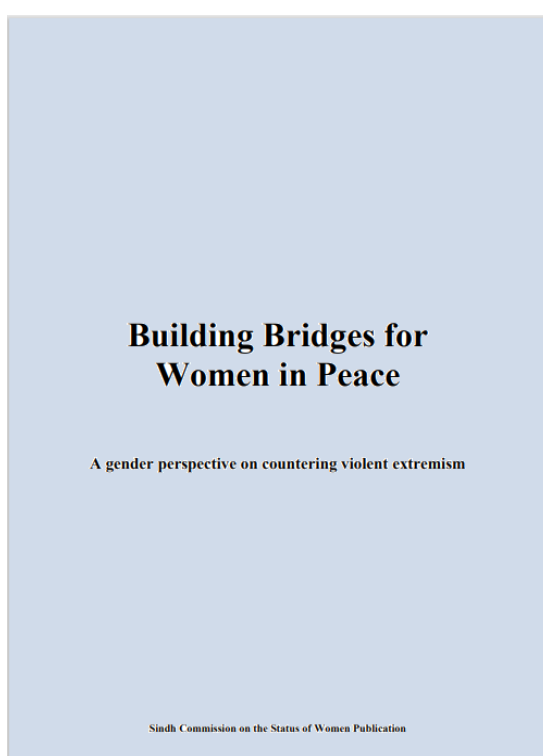
## 7.1 Research and Publications

As the organization's full name suggests -Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation - we are committed to the publication and wide dissemination of material to create awareness among women and men regarding the rights of women and girls. In addition to raising awareness, the aim of publishing and disseminating 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 publish 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 data on reported cases of violence against women.

## 7.2 Research Studies

AF in collaboration with Sindh Human Rights Commission produced a study on "Pathways Between CVE and Human Rights" - by looking at protective laws, their violations and state responses, and examining attacks against them, whether, by communities, state or established VE actors, the study attempted to establish how CVE laws can result in protection of human rights of marginalized groups in society and conversely how human rights protections can be a tool to counter and prevent violent extremism.

Another research study "Building Bridges for Women in Peace" was produced in collaboration with the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women. The SCSW study attempts to understand, contextualize and evaluate the implementation of Countering Violent Extremism ('CVE') strategies in the Sindh province of Pakistan, with a specific focus on gender justice. It also attempts to understand, streamline and deploy sustainable and inclusive peace-building processes in the province. Therefore, through this report, the authors and SCSW stressed the importance









صحتی صحتا بروشنی پختہ اور تعلیم گیس پیل پانی

سوشل سیکورٹی، دیگر بنیادی شہری سہولیات

علاقے کا ہر مسئلہ ہم عورتوں سے زیادہ کس کو معلوم ہے؟

سیاست میں شرکت ہر عورت کا حق۔ اب کونسلر بن کر عوام کا نمائندہ بھی بن سکتی ہوں اور ووٹر بن کر اپنی مرضی کا نمائندہ بھی چن سکتی ہوں۔

ہنوا! کونسلر بنو اور ووٹ بھی ڈالو۔۔۔ ترقی کی راہ پر ملک کو ڈالو

Canada South Asia Partnership Pakistan عورت فاؤنڈیشن جازبہ

ایکشن میں حلقہ ایسا دو جہاں جیت کا موقع زیادہ ہو

عورتوں کی نمائندگی کم از کم 33%

پارٹی عورت

پرسنسی پارٹی بلدیاتی انتخاب میں عورتوں کی 33 فی صد نمائندگی کو یقینی بنانے

Canada South Asia Partnership Pakistan عورت فاؤنڈیشن جازبہ

IEC Material- Gender Desk Addresses Contact #



# 7.4 Press Releases

## Baloch women's role in political process urged

**QUETTA** Women's rights activists Zarghina Naseeb, Yasmeen Mughal and Sami Durani have said that in order to change the plight of women in Balochistan, it is necessary to involve them in the political process at all levels.

They urged the provincial government to make the provincial constitution on the status of women functional as soon as possible in other provinces of the country if

was already functional. Speaking at a press conference at Quetta Press Club on Wednesday, they demanded that the role of parliament and representation of all affected women should be brought to the fore in the assembly and women MPs should be given effective representation in the provincial cabinet.

"The bill should be passed by the Balochistan Assembly immediately," they said. Zarghina Naseeb said that every year 16 days of activism against gender based violence is observed. Starting from November 15 till December 31, "There is also an observance all over the world as a symbol of the struggle against violence and oppression against women," they added.

They said the campaign will be launched on November 25 at a function held at the office of Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP).

The campaign will start on December 15, 2021, on the International Human Rights Day.

Concluding discussion with participating women from different districts against gender based violence a press gathering will also be organized at the end of the campaign, she stated.

She said that if women really want to be given their place in the society, then they have to be strengthened politically, administratively, administratively and financially, adding that until now women have not been voted and no budget has been allocated to them.

She said that the current situation, the violation of domestic violence against women has increased and the law against harassment of women has been enacted in 2016. In this regard, one solution should be found in the departments and public awareness should be enhanced," she said.

Daily FOUNDED BY SIDDIQ BALUCH  
**Balochistan Express**  
 THURSDAY November 25, 2021 www.bexpress.com.pk Quetta

## Speakers call to involve women in political process of Balochistan

**By Our Reporter**

**QUETTA** Leaders of women's rights organizations Zarghina Naseeb, Yasmeen Mughal and Sami Durani have said that in order to change the plight of women in Balochistan, it is necessary to involve them in the political process as well as the provincial level. We urge the provincial government to make the provincial constitution functional as soon as possible with regard to the status of women in Balochistan as in other provinces of Pakistan.

Speaking at a press conference at Quetta Press Club on Wednesday, they said that the bill for rehabilitation and empowerment of acid-affected women should be brought in full force in the assembly and women MPs should be given effective representation in the provincial cabinet.

"The bill should be passed by the Balochistan Assembly immediately," they said. Zarghina Naseeb said that every year 16 days of activism against gender based violence are celebrated which started from 25th November and continued till 10th December. "These 16 days are celebrated all over the world as a symbol of the struggle against violence and oppression against women," they added.

On the occasion of the year 2021 keeping in view the theme "Ending Violence Against Gender Violence, Today and Now" the campaign will be launched on November 25 at a function held at the office of Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP). The campaign will end on December 10, 2021. International Human Rights Day.

Concluding discussions with young students from different districts, against gender based violence, a mega program will also be organized at the end of the campaign.

She said that if women really want to be given their place then they have to be strengthened politically, educationally, administratively and financially. Until now, women have not been considered as human beings.

They have been subjected to various forms of violence.

"Due to the current situation, the incidence of domestic violence against women has increased and the law against harassment of women has been enacted in 2016. In this regard, one solution should be found in the departments and public awareness should be ensured," she said.



QUETTA: Aural Foundation leader Sami Durani addresses a press conference at the Quetta Press Club on Wednesday — PPI



## PPP, PML-N endorse demand to award 15pc tickets to women on general seats

Imam Junaid | Published July 28, 2022



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**ISLAMABAD: Representatives of PPP and PML-N on Wednesday endorsed the demand of a human rights activist, seeking 15pc party tickets on general seats and 33pc on reserved seats for women.**

The demand was presented at a consultation organised by Aurat Foundation (AF) in collaboration with South Asia Partnership Pakistan (SAP-Pk).

The event was attended by political parties' representatives, Senator Taj Haider from PPP and Mehrnaz Akbar Aziz from PML-N. She is also parliamentary secretary on law and justice.

National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) Chairperson Tariq Malik, Counsellor Political Canadian High Commission (CHC) Paul Godbout, civil society organisations, women political workers, party activists, members from transgender community, persons with disabilities, academia and media attended the event.

Human rights activist Tahira Abdullah presented key recommendations on constitutional and electoral reforms, including extension of women's reserved seats provision for the next 30 years, with a parliamentary review every 10 years; increasing reserved seats from 17pc to 33pc in all legislatures and local government tiers; including reservations for transgender persons (5pc), persons with disabilities (10pc), peasants (5pc), workers (5pc) and 33pc women within reserved seats for religious minorities; increased quantum of political party tickets for women contesting on general seats from 5pc to 15pc across the board; tickets to be awarded on 'winnable' and 'electable' seats; increasing

women's political party membership at senior policymaking positions; training women legislators; and women to be appointed Chairs of 33pc standing committees.

Harris Khalique of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCPP) endorsed all the proposed reforms, saying participants should not back down on these demands.

Activists should continue the movement for democracy and political rights, he added.

Taj Haider commended and endorsed all the proposed reforms and pledged to bring them to the knowledge of PPP leadership and also to the Pakistan Democratic Movement coalition, currently working on electoral law reform.

Nadra chairperson Tariq Malik presented a list of all progressive measures he has initiated at Nadra for gender equality.

He said Nadra issued 125,000 CNICs daily, of which 56pc were for women and decreased the gender gap from 14.7pc to 8.9pc within one year.

The chief guest, Mehrnaz Akbar Aziz, parliamentary secretary for law and justice, commended this initiative, despite the polarized political environment.

She pledged to continue working for women and children's rights and bringing more marginalised women into the political process and promised to help include the proposed reforms in the draft bill.

Paul Godbout spoke the importance Canada places on women's political participation and social inclusion.

Nadeem Kashish and Julie Khan spoke on transgender, gender non-conforming and intersex (TGI) issues, while Imran and Zaiqamain Asghar highlighted problems of people with disabilities.

In the end, moderator Naeem Mirza thanked all participants and announced that a working group had been formed to present the proposed reforms to the law ministry and parliamentary standing committees.

Published in Dawn, July 28th, 2022



Lahore

## 33pc women's seats in LG demanded

By Saadia Salahuddin | January 23, 2022

LAHORE : Women at a consultation on their political participation have demanded an increase in seats of women in Local Government (LG) (to at least 33 per cent.



The consultation attended by National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) chairperson and team, MPAs from all major political parties, women councillors, civil society activists and journalists recommended 33pc representation of women not only in local government but in all commissions.

They said any consultation without women was not acceptable. "We want all the powers for NCSW Chair," was another recommendation.

They also demanded an increase in seats of special persons, transgenders and minorities.

Without women's participation in local government, change and improvement is not possible, said Nilofar Bakhtiar, NCSW chairperson and urged women parliamentarians to form a caucus in Punjab Assembly for better coordination and output.

There is need to bring women parliamentarians in decision making, she said and asked them to speak out for appointment of Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) chair at the earliest.

The consultation on 'Punjab Local Government Ordinance 2021 and women's political participation, challenges, opportunities and way forward' was held here on Saturday in a local hotel in collaboration with National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), Jazba Foundation, South Asia Partnership Pakistan and Global Affairs Canada.

There is a need to simplify the elections. At present women find it quite difficult to apply for local government elections. There was a suggestion to ensure all political parties give five percent seats to women. Farzana Bari who heads FAFEN (Free and Fair Election Network) stressed on ensuring 33 per cent seats of women on all tiers.

Her reading is that women will not get more than 14-16 per cent seats. She said, "We can take a stance that if chairperson is male, vice-chair should be a woman. In every 3rd constituency a vice chair or chair should be a woman.

The panel of political parties should ensure that," she suggested.

"MPAs will have to come together and approach the speaker for women caucus," said Faiza Malik, a PPP MPA. "You are listened to when you are in a better position politically. There should be two women if there are five seats," said Kanwal Liaquat, a PML-N MPA.

Uzma Kardar, PTI MPA, demanded the government consider paying salary to councillors as they do in London. Sadia Sohail, PTI MPA, emphasised training of women in politics so that they play an effective role. Shamsa Ali, PTI MPA, said political workers of political parties must get seats in Local Government.

Others who spoke were Neelam Hayat, PTI MPA, Humaira of PTI, Shamim Aftab, MPA and Samina Saeed, JI MPA, from Sargodha among others.

Local Government expert Zahid Islam said PLGO 2021 (Punjab Local Govt Ordinance) is with the standing committee. The Act will be there in 10 days, he said and informed delimitations will be announced by March 22 and the Local Government elections will be held on May 15.

"The Local Government in Lahore has as many authorities as London Local Government," he said which can be downloaded from internet. General seats will be allocated according to votes. For the first time there are reserved seats for traders and special people, he said.

With the effort of Zahid Islam and his associates, the Punjab University Political Science Department has launched a one-year diploma on Local Government and 42 students have enrolled in this course which is no mean feat. After two years the Punjab University plans to start a degree in Local Government Studies.











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