

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



AURAT FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2023



Aurat Foundation

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

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

Introduction

Aurat Foundation is actively supporting the Government of Pakistan's gender policies and working towards achieving the gender-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The United Nations' 2030 Agenda includes several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are directly related to gender equality and women's empowerment, including SDG 5: Gender Equality.

During the reporting year July 2022 to June 2023, the political, economic, and security situation was worsening due to Pakistan's government change. The return to power of the Taliban in Afghanistan has created more dangers. The return to power of the Taliban in Afghanistan has created more dangers.

Secondly, Pakistan is exceedingly vulnerable to climate change and faces rates of warming considerably above the global average, making extreme climate events more frequent and intense. The floods submerged one-third of the country in August and September 2022 led to the deaths of more than 1,700 people and 33 million losing their homes, land or jobs. The floods damaged most of the water systems in affected areas, forcing more than 5.4 million people to rely solely on contaminated water from ponds and wells.









The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) banned Khan from holding office for five years over accusations that he made false statements about his assets and liabilities in October 2022. The PTI held regular rallies nationwide after Khan was removed from office.

Thirdly, on 9th May 2023 Khan was arrested. It was triggering violent protests and demonstrations. Internet was blocked indefinitely and social media websites were blocked in Pakistan when the protests began, with YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook blocked indefinitely as of mid-May.

During the reporting period, Pakistani faced a bad economic crisis and part of the political unrest in Pakistan. It has caused severe economic challenges for months due to which food, gas, and oil prices have risen. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has caused fuel prices to rise worldwide. The Pakistani economy is currently trapped in low growth, high inflation and unemployment, falling investment, excessive fiscal deficits, and a deteriorating external balance position. We have faced many issues in the shape of poverty, terrorism, forced disappearance, shrinking space for civil society, honor crimes, violence against women, climate justice, violation the of right to freedom of expression, association, assembly, thought, unemployment, crime, low status of women, child marriage, rape, and gender inequality.

However, there is indeed a significant honor and recognition for AF that the Executive Director, Aurat Foundation, Naeem Ahmed Mirza received the HUM Women Leaders Award. was presented his outstanding contributions to women's rights and gender equality in Pakistan. Such awards not only celebrate individual achievements but also shine a spotlight on the vital work being done by organizations like the Aurat Foundation in advocating for gender equality and women's empowerment. It serves as an inspiration for others to join the efforts to create a more equitable and inclusive society. The award was presented by First Lady Mrs. Samina Alvi. The event was graced by esteemed dignitaries, including Dr. Arif Alvi, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Australian Deputy High Commissioner Damien Donovan, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh

Board of Governors 2021-2023

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

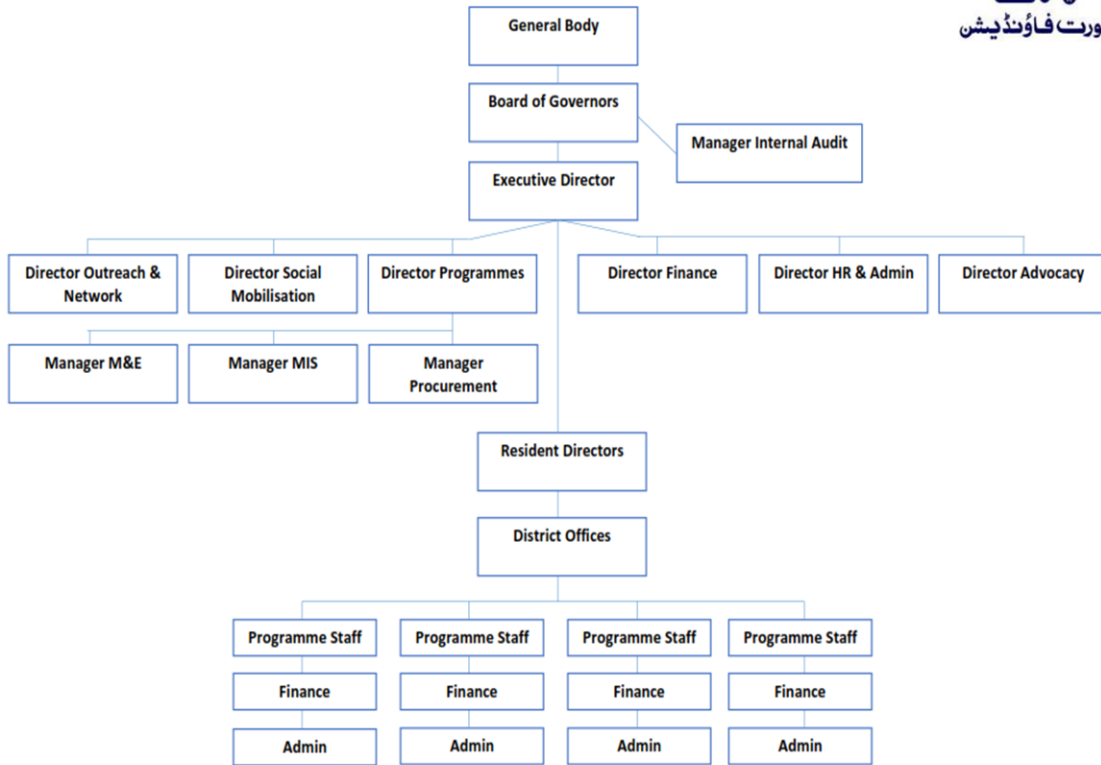
Executive Council of Aurat Foundation July 2022-June 2023

Name	Function	Gender	Affiliation
Naeem Ahmed Mirza	Executive Director	Male	24 years
Mumtaz Mughal	Director Programmes	Female	18 years
Asim Malik	Director of Outreach and Network	Male	24 years
Shabina Ayaz	Resident Director, Peshawar	Female	25 years
Mahnaz Rahman	Resident Director, Karachi	Female	12 years
Alauddin Khalji	Resident Director, Quetta	Male	4 years
Saima Munir	Manager Programmes, KP	Female	21 years
Malka Khan	Manager Programmes, Sindh	Female	18 years

Organogram

Institutional Structure

Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation



List of Operational Projects July 2022-June 2023

Sr. #	Project	Donor
National		
1.	WPP-JAZBA Democracy and Empowered Women (Jamhoriyat our Ba-Ikhtiar Aurat)	SAP-PK/Global Affairs Canada
2.	Promotion of Gender Justice in Pakistan (National)	UNDP
3.	SHE THE Peacebuilder	Search for Common Ground
4.	To establish Legal Aid Desks to improve access to justice services for legal services for key population	UNDP
5.	Women’s Learning Partnership TOT Programme	Women’s Learning Partnership
Regional Projects		
Sindh		
6.	Strengthening of Legislative Watch Programme- Women’s Voice and Leadership – Pakistan	SPO-Oxfam
Lahore		
7.	Pathways to Women’s Substantive Representation in Pakistan	IDEAS
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)		
8.	Feminist Friday - Women’s Voice and Leadership – Pakistan	SPO-Oxfam
9.	CSOs Engagement for Promoting the Rule of Law, Legal Literacy, and, Women’s Access to Justice in KP including newly merged districts	UN Women
Balochistan		
10.	Women’s Access to Justice in Balochistan (WAJIB)	UNDP

Chapter One

Law and Policy Reform

Chapter One:

Law and Policy Reform

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

During this annual reporting year July 2022–June 2023, the following key legislations were introduced for the protection and support of citizens, especially women, children, and other marginalized groups of society in Pakistan.

There was no legislation passed in the National Assembly, or provincial assemblies of the Punjab and Khyber Pukhtunkhwa during a specific period.

The provincial assembly Sindh passed “The Sindh Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2022 on 19th December 2022 and assented to by the Governor of Sindh on 30th December 2022. In the Act, the new clauses shall be inserted:- “(I-a) “business and human rights” means the rights envisaged under the United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGPs) and corporate-related human rights abuses; “National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights” means the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights formulated by the Ministry of Human Rights in keeping with UNGPs to ensure the election of human rights abuses by engaging business to foster corporate respect and due diligence for human right, A person who has been a Judge of the High Court, was or is qualified as such, or a person having a demonstrable experience of fifteen (15) years in the Chairperson Amendment of section 3 of Sindh Act No. XIII of 2011. two Members of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh, to be nominated by the Speaker, Provincial Assembly of Sindh” field of Human Rights, Four persons with demonstrable experience in the field of Human Rights, at least one of whom shall be from minority community and one shall have considerable experience in Business and Human Rights, to be appointed by Chief Minister”; serve as an alternate dispute resolution and accountability mechanism for business-related abuse of human rights and providing easy access to remedy and others.

The Sindh Healthcare Service Providers and Facilities (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Act, 2021 was passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 05th August 2022 and assented to by the Governor of Sindh on 26th September 2022. The legislation aims to achieve several objectives, including safeguarding healthcare workers, mitigating instances of violence, ensuring the security of healthcare institutions, and maintaining the uninterrupted provision of healthcare services. The implementation of this measure serves as a proactive strategy aimed at enhancing the overall security of the healthcare industry, thereby fostering a safer and more conducive working environment for all stakeholders.

The Sindh Reproductive Healthcare Rights (Amendment) Act, 2022 having been passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 05th August 2022 and assented to by the Governor of Sindh on 26th September 2022. The following new clause shall be inserted: - “(iii-a) “Counselor” means a Medical Doctor male or female who counsels married couples regarding reproductive health and matrimonial life; “maternal death Review (MDR)” means a qualitative, in-depth investigation of the causes of and circumstances surrounding the maternal deaths in the public or private healthcare facilities; (ix-c) “matrimonial life” means a married life, the period of which

is beginning from the solemnization of marriage; (ix-d) “maternal death” means the death of a woman while pregnant or within forty-two days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and the site of the pregnancy; “woman reproductive age” means reproductive health of a woman aging between the fifteen and forty-nine years; and many more pro-women protection actions and measures.

The Balochistan Occupational Safety & Health Act, 2022, having been passed by the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan on 14th November 2022 and assented to by the Governor of Balochistan, on 18th November, 2022. The Act makes provision for equational safety and health conditions at all workplaces for the protection of persons at work against risk of injury arising out of the activities at workplaces for the promotion of safe, a healthy and decent working environment adapted to the physical, physiological and psychological needs of all persons at work.

The Balochistan Workers Compensation Act, 2022, having been passed by the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan on 14th November 2022. The Act provides for the payment by certain classes of employers to their workers of compensation for injury or death by accident to extend its dimension for enhanced quantum of compensation and coverage to meet the changing requirements of workers and industry. The Act defines the “Dependent” as any of the following relatives of a deceased worker, namely: I. a widow, minor legitimate son, and unmarried legitimate daughter, divorced daughter wholly dependent, or a widowed mother; and ii. (ii) if wholly or in part dependent on the earnings of the worker at the time of his death, a widower, a parent other than a widowed mother, a minor illegitimate son, an unmarried illegitimate daughter, a daughter legitimate, or illegitimate if married and a minor or if widowed, a minor brother, an unmarried and widowed sister, a widowed daughter-in-law a minor child of a deceased son, a minor child of a deceased daughter and son where no parent of the child is alive, or, where no parent.

Chapter Two

Strategic Partnerships with Government Departments, Commissions, Institutions, Academia & Organizations

Chapter Two:

Strategic Partnerships with Government Departments, Commissions, Institutions, Academia & Organizations

2.1 Signed MoUs with the Women's and Human Rights Institutions, Academia and Organizations

Aurat Foundation has strong relationships with the leadership of the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women (SCSW), the National Commission on the Status of Women (SCHR), and the academia.

Aurat Foundation provincial teams signed MoUs with provincial women's and human rights commissions and academia in the SHE – The Peacebuilder project.

Ms. Shabina Ayaz, Resident Director AF Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, signed MoU with Dr. Faiz Ullah Jan, Chairperson, Department of Journalist and Mass Communication of KP University on 14th Sept. 2022.

Mr. Allauddin Khilji, Resident Director of Aurat Foundation signed MoU with Ms Farkhanda Aurangzeb, Provincial Members NCHR at Quetta, Balochistan on September 14th, 2022. Mr. Allauddin Khilji, also signed MoU with Ms. Fouzia Shaheen, Chairperson, PCSW, Balochistan on September 22nd, 2022. On this occasion, Mumtaz Mughal, Manager SHE The Peacebuilder, Ms. Yasmeen Mughal, Ms. Nusrat Jahan from AF and staff of respective offices were there.

Ms. Mahnaz Rahman, Resident Director, Aurat Foundation Karachi, signed an MOU with Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson of the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women (SCSW), Karachi Office on September 22nd, 2022 for the Capacity Building program of 'Women Peace Architects'.

Ms. Sara Sheraz, Resident Director AF Lahore has significant ties with important stakeholders of the region. She signed the MoU with Dr. Raana Malik, Chairperson Gender Studies Department, Punjab University, Lahore on 21st September 2022 in Lahore.

Memorandum of Understanding

AF Singed MoUs/LoC with Punjab and Khyber Pukhtunkhwa

AF signed MoU with Gender Studies Department of Punjab University. Ms. Raan'a Malik, Chairperson, Gender Studies Department, signed MoU on 21st Sept. 22



AF signed MoU with Department of Journalist and Mass Communication of KP University on 14th Sept. 22



Overall, these MoUs represented a multi-pronged approach to advancing peace and gender equality, bringing together diverse perspectives, resources, and expertise to create a more comprehensive and effective strategy for positive change.

Institutionalization of 4-Gender Desks (Swat, Lahore, Multan & Karachi)

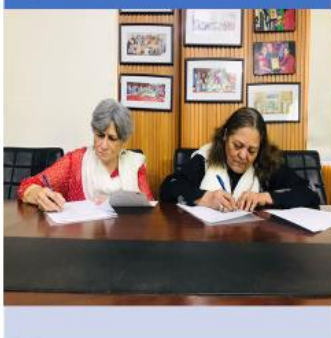
Promotion of Gender Justice in Pakistan project is implemented with the support of UNDP Pakistan. The project is ensuring the availability of and access to gender informed and gender-responsive, free, authentic and expeditious legal assistance to most marginalized women in order for them to claim their rights.

The institutionalization of the Gender Desk has been agreed upon by the partner departments in all three provinces, which is reflected through the meetings' notes and minutes.

Memorandum of Understanding

AF Singed MoUs/LoC with Sindh and Balochistan

AF signed MoU with Sindh Commission on the Status of Women. Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson SCWS and Ms. Mahnaz Rehman signed MoU on 22nd Sept. 22



AF signed MoU with Provincial National Commission on Human Rights . Ms. Farkhanda Aurangzeb Member, NCHR and Mr. Allaudin Kilji signed MoU on 14th Sept. 22



AF signed MoU with Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women. Ms. Fouzia Shaheen, BCSW and Mr. Allaudin Kilji signed MoU on 20th Sept. 22



In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, AF team had discussions with the Secretary and Deputy Secretary SW&WDD on the institutionalization of the Gender Desk. The concerned official had great ownership of this concept and asked AF to expand the scope of the initiatives in the five (5) districts where the department is already working through the Bolo Helplines. The department suggested using their external resources as the Gender Desk, adopting the ToRs and requested for the project's continued support in capacity building and awareness raising.

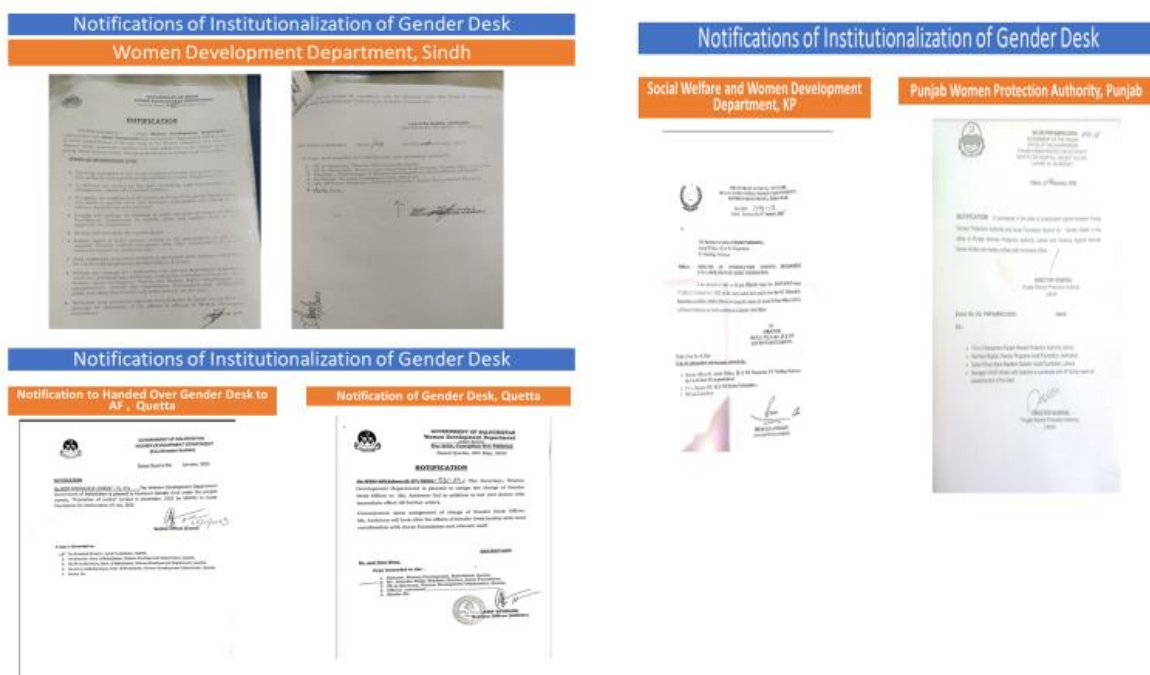
The Social Welfare and Women Development Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa notified two (2) gender desks one at Swat and other one in Peshawar on 17 January 2023. It was also ensured that AF will strengthen the capacities of the notified desks.

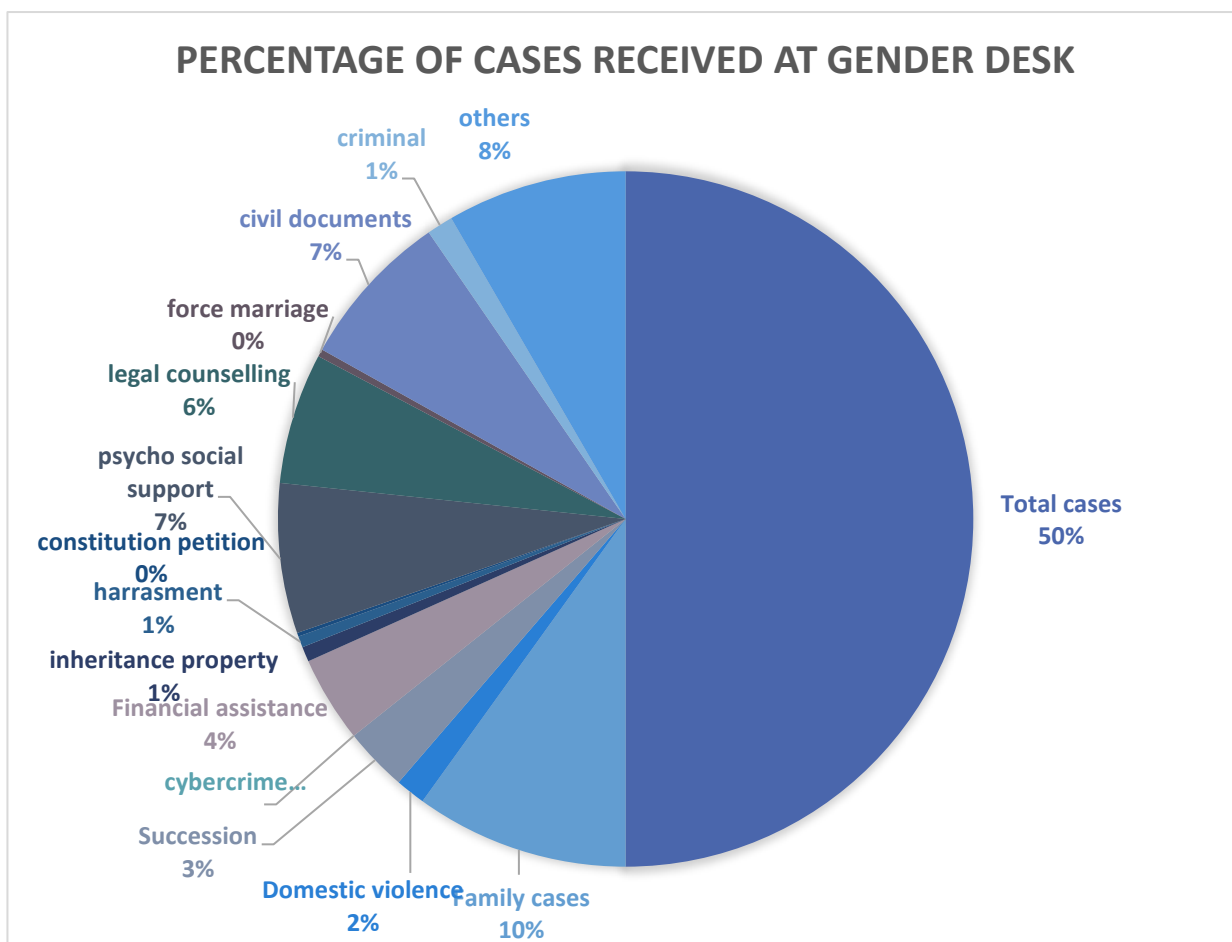
In Punjab, it was observed that the existing Gender Desks at Lahore and Multan were not only providing legal assistance and counseling but also community outreach with regard to awareness about legal rights and protection mechanisms. The PWPA has shown great interest and support for the concept of dedicated Gender Desks at the Authority as well as the Protection Centers. Several meetings were held by the AF team to discuss the various options to institutionalize the concept of Gender Desks. The Women Protection Authority proposed to institutionalize the Gender Desk through their existing structures. It was agreed that the Authority will notify their existing institutions and resources as the Gender Desk, adopting the Terms of Reference and AF will continue supporting them in raising awareness, building capacities and institutional support to establish the Gender Desks.

The Punjab Women Protection Authority issued the notification of Gender Desk at Multan and Lahore on 6th January 2023.

In Sindh, Women Development Department notified Gender Desk Officer in Directorate of WDD Sindh on 9th Feb 2023.

In Quetta, Women Development Department handed over the Gender Desk to AF on 25th January 2023 now WDD notified its own staff as a gender desk on 29th May 2023.





Increase Access to GBV Surviovers through Gender Desk

Throughout the duration of the "Women's Access to Justice in Balochistan" project, a total of 287 cases were received, reflecting the pressing need for legal and psychosocial support for women in the region. The cases covered a diverse range of issues, shedding light on the challenges faced by women and their families. The analysis of these cases provides valuable insights into the types of support required and the impact of the project's interventions.

The cases can be categorized as follows: **Family Cases (57)**: These cases encompassed issues such as divorce, dowry articles, maintenance, custody, and guardianship – highlighting the vulnerability of women in family disputes. **Domestic Violence (8)**: The cases of domestic violence underscored the urgent need for protection and support for women facing abusive situations. **Succession Certificate/Letter of Administration (17)**: The cases related to succession matters highlighted the importance of legal assistance in securing inheritance rights for women. **Financial Assistance (23)**: Women seeking financial aid showcased the socio-economic challenges they encounter, necessitating targeted support.

2.2 Strategic Planning Workshop of SHE The Peacebuilder

AF designed a One Day Start-Up Workshop for the project on 7th July 2022 at Roomy, Hotel, Islamabad. Overall, 23 persons participated from AF, KCC, SFCG, and USAID Embassy. The senior management of all three organizations along with the project implementation team participated. The main objectives of this workshop were; to build a common understanding of all

partners on the project’s objectives and approaches as well as to discuss the implementing strategies of both partners as well the specific role of each partner on the allocated components. The participants discussed the merits and demerits of the various activities and came up with



Mr. Asad Jan, Country Director SFCG, Ms. Gulshan, Community Engagement Expert, US Embassy, Mr. Naeem Ahmed Mirza, Executive Director AF & Mr. Irfan, Board Member, KCC addressing in Start Up Workshop

unique insights into how to implement the project. It was suggested that the WPA training sessions and women’s circle be held at the various Linco In Corners established all over the country as a partnership between the Embassy of the USA and selected institutions within Pakistan. AF will take the lead role in the TORs for WPAs. The participants urged that the selection process of the 50 WPAs should be transparent and must involve the assent of all the stakeholders. Initially, a pool of 100 potential WPAs would be formed out of which we will narrow down the number to select fifty (50) WPAs.

It was also suggested that AF should develop updated TVE guidelines or training curricula for the WPAs training program. SFCG said that KCC will fully participate in the training will assist the implementing partners in forming the social media groups. The discussion on the women’s circle and working group activities is more required. A brand ambassador for this project is under consideration and a final decision will be taken in this regard after the budget is agreed upon. All parties have agreed to increase the branding and visibility of this project.

Mr. ‘Jahanzeb, Finance Manager SFCG, gave an orientation on financial reporting. He said that accurate timesheets should be maintained by all partners at all times. Financial reports will be sent to SFCG at the end of every month.

The closing remarks were delivered by Mr. Asad Jan of SFCG. He appreciated all the participant's commitment enthusiasm for the project. He gave highly values for their practical suggestions to make this project impactful. He assured his and SFCG support to both partners.



Chapter Three

Capacity Building and Consultative Processes

Chapter Three:

Capacity Building and Consultative Processes

The Aurat Foundation's approach of capacity building and consultation is a valuable strategy for fostering positive change and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in Pakistan's political and civil society landscape. The Aurat Foundation's approach of capacity building and consultation is a valuable strategy for fostering positive change and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in Pakistan's political and civil society landscape.

3.1 Access to gender informed and gender-responsive, free, authentic and expeditious legal assistance help women to claim their rights

Aurat Foundation conducted a training need assessment exercise by engaging the staff of Ombudsperson Office, heads of Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women, Regional Member of National Commission of Human Rights, Women Development Department and Social Welfare Department around the objectives of the project. The respondents gave the recommendations to enhance their knowledge and build their capacities.

In this regard, AF WAJIB team organized 2-Day Training Workshop for Government Stakeholders on Women's Access to Justice in Balochistan on 15-16 December 2022 at office of Balochistan Ombudsperson, Quetta. Around 35 staff members and member of inquiry committees participated. The topics covered including; ; the definition of harassment, sexual harassment, pretexts and myths about harassment, types and consequences of misconduct with a particular focus on sexual exploitation and abuse, mandate and function of the office of Ombudsperson, the Code of Conduct on Sexual Harassment at Workplace, core values, the obligation to report misconduct, how to report wrongdoing, disciplinary and administrative procedures, individual and management responsibilities of the duty bearers and right holders understanding the community needs and barriers to access, provision of gender-sensitive services, discussion on Best practices and provision of expeditious and effective social legal protection services for women.

Mr. Zulfiqar Durrani, Provincial Head, UNDP Balochistan said that women harassment is a punishable crime which cannot be protracted under the cloak of tradition, it is necessary to spread wide spread awareness in the society so that such situation that give rise to violent attitudes can be eradicated. He said that the project ensure availability of and access to gender informed and gender-responsive, free, authentic and expeditious legal assistance to most marginalized women in order for them to claim their rights.

Ms. Fouzia Shaheen, Chairperson, Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women said that it is very important to create awareness among the people regarding Gender Desk and women rights by inculcating collective thinking in the society.

In the closing ceremony of workshop, Syed Sikander Shah, Provincial Secretary, Women Development Department, Balochistan paid a warm thanks to AF, UNDP and all the stake holders for organizing such a fruit full workshop. He also added that government is committed to provide its rights to every citizen and effective legislation was being in acted in Balochistan to empower women, bring them forward in the political arena and discrimination through this, various draft laws are being worked on for the economic advancement of provincial women,

prevention of domestic violence and provision of their rights. Furthermore, he appreciated the efforts of Aurat Foundation, UNDP in this regard. Ms. Sadia Sultan, Programme Officer UNDP

14-15 Sept. 2022: 3-Day Training of Members Inquiry Committees on Sexual Harassment at Workplace in Quetta



کوئٹہ، سیکرٹری وین ڈویلپمنٹ ڈیپارٹمنٹ سید سکدر شاہ عورت فاؤنڈیشن کی انسداد ہراسگی تربیت کے اختتام پر شرکاء میں سر تیشیش تقسیم کر رہے ہیں
and Mr. Allaudin Kilji, Resident Director, AF were also there.

3.2 Development of Training Manual

The Aurat Foundation team held a number of consultations to finalize the training manual on TVE and PVE. The Search team, especially Mr. Shahid also gave his technical input. A workshop was also organized to test different concepts and exercises, and stories on CVE/PVE were tested. After long discussions and input from of relevant stakeholders, the manual has been finalized. TVE manual consisted on 10 chapters and covered the following content:

1. Conceptual Grounding in Countering Violent Extremism
2. Drivers of Violent Extremism
3. Engaging Community and Women in Countering Violent Extremism
4. UNSCR – 1325 Local Context
5. Understanding Gender and Women & Girl's Engagement In CVE
6. Understanding and Engaging Youth in Countering Violent Extremism
7. Education's Role in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
8. Role of Media in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
9. Leveraging New Media and Technology
10. Development of Action Plans

AF with the input of partners finalized the pre and post-test documents for the curriculum validation training workshop.

Emerging social media trends and techniques for women's parliamentarians

Dr. Shahida Rehmani, Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus, National Assembly said that learning emerging social media trends and techniques is crucial for women parliamentarians, as it can significantly enhance their ability to connect with constituents, raise awareness about key issues, and build a strong online presence. Social media is a powerful communication tool that allows parliamentarians to reach a broader audience instantly. Staying updated on emerging trends ensures effective communication and outreach efforts. She was addressing in closing of 2-day workshop on emerging social media trends and techniques for women's parliamentarians organized by Aurat Foundation under JAZBA project in in Dhirkot, Bagh on 29 Oct 2022.



Ms Javeria Zafar Aheer, MNA-PTI, said that social media provides a direct channel for interacting with constituents. By learning new techniques, parliamentarians can engage with their audience in real-time, respond to concerns, and gather valuable feedback.

Ms. Wajiha Qamar, MNA-PTI, said that women parliamentarians can use these platforms to share updates on legislative activities, achievements, and challenges, keeping constituents informed.

Ms. Rubina Irfan, MNA, Balochistan Awami Party said that social media can be used as an educational tool. By adopting innovative trends, parliamentarians can share educational content, break down complex issues, and provide their constituents with a better understanding of legislative processes. She further added that social media allows parliamentarians to reach diverse audiences. Learning about accessibility features and inclusive practices ensures that their messages are accessible to individuals with different abilities and backgrounds.

Nosheen Khurram, National Manager JAZBA said that social media facilitates networking and collaboration with other lawmakers, advocacy groups, and influencers. Learning about emerging trends helps parliamentarians leverage these platforms for effective collaboration.

3.3 Pilot Testing and Validation of Training Curriculum

A three-day training workshop was organized in the Grand Islamabad Hotel, Islamabad for the pilot testing and validation of the training curriculum for women peace architects (WPAs) from 7th – 9th December 2022. The objectives of the workshop were to add additional components on practices to positively influence women’s agenda and issues related to gender-based violence or discrimination and offer insights on how to incorporate a gender-sensitive approach to countering violent extremism.



The participants of the training workshop were from Islamabad, KP, Balochistan, Sindh, and Punjab. The trainees were development practitioners, having extensive and diverse experience in development sectors i.e., peace, gender, GBV, social inclusion, Leadership, communication CVE and others with the expertise of conceptualizing ideas into practice-program planning-designing-management-execution with team building. They have delivery training also profound in quality assurance through methods of monitoring, evaluation accountability and learning.

The method of training was participatory. The trainer used participatory and interactive training techniques including presentations, group work, role play, experience sharing and plenary discussion. Energizers were also done to make participants active and ready to learn.

In addition, handouts and other IEC materials were provided in the training to support the learning process. The training was conducted in the national language Urdu; however, the reference material will be used in English.

The outcomes of the training were tested and validated the contents and exercises of the training manual on TVE with guidelines of Search. Enhanced the knowledge and skills of women trainers on concepts of CVE, TVE, gender-based violence, radicalization, inclusion, fundamental and legal rights, role of youth, women, and media in PVE & Improved individuals’ attitudes and practices and development of local action plans for women’s inclusion in public spheres.

Enhance the capacity and capabilities of Gender Justice Committees

Gender Justice Committees received refresher training to build upon their existing knowledge and skills. Aurat Foundation organized six capacity building workshops of Gender Justice Committees of Pishin and Quetta in December 2022. The objectives of the training were to enhance the capacities of members of GJC. Around 150 members of GJC were trained. These committees had previously undergone training, the focus of the refresher sessions was to enhance the capacity and capabilities of community members. The training aimed to equip them with essential tools to better address gender-based issues and advocate for women's rights in their respective communities.

During these training sessions, the committee members were provided with a precise booklet containing women-related laws, ensuring they had a comprehensive understanding of the legal framework concerning women's rights. This booklet served as a valuable reference guide, empowering committee members to navigate legal complexities and assist women in accessing justice. Additionally, a referral directory was distributed to the committee members, establishing a robust referral mechanism. This directory included contact information for various departments, including the Gender Desk, ensuring a smooth coordination and support system when addressing women's issues that required specialized intervention.



At the conclusion of the training sessions in District Pishin and Quetta, the community members actively participated in developing action plans. These action plans outlined specific goals and initiatives that the Gender Justice Committees aimed to pursue in their respective areas. The action plans were designed to address pressing community needs and issues, reflecting the collective aspirations of the community members towards positive change.

Some of the key elements included in the action plans were developed by GJC after trainings: Enrollment of Women in BISP Program, availability of Medicines for BHU, Separate Waiting Area for Women at Bus Stops: Demanding designated waiting areas for women at public transportation stops to ensure safety and convenience. Provision of Lady Doctors, Especially Gynecologists: Advocating for the presence of female doctors, particularly gynecologists, to cater to women's healthcare needs at Basic Health Unit (BHU) at union council level. Addressing Educational Issues: Raising concerns about the shortage of free books in government schools and advocating for improvements in the education system. Improving Sanitation System in the both districts Pishin / Quetta: Seeking solutions to enhance the sanitation system, particularly during rainfall, to address health and hygiene concerns. Rehabilitation Centre for Drug Addicts: Proposing the establishment of a rehabilitation centers for drugs addicts to address drug addiction issues in the community. Provision of Parks and Stadiums: Advocating for the development of parks for families and stadiums for youth to promote healthy recreational activities. Hygienic and Safe Drinking Water: Highlighting the need for improved access to clean and safe drinking water in the communities. Formation of BHU at UC Level and Girls Public Schools: Pushing for the establishment of Basic Health Units at the Union Council level and girls' public schools to enhance healthcare and education opportunities for women and girls.

These action plans reflected the community members' proactive approach and commitment to driving positive change in their localities. By identifying key priorities and advocating for concrete solutions, the Gender Justice Committees demonstrated their dedication to building a more equitable and just society for women in Balochistan. Through their collective efforts and continuous engagement, the community members contributed significantly to advancing gender justice and improving women's access to justice in the region.



Enhanced the Capacities of Ombudsperson Office & Members of Inquiry Committees of Government Departments in Baluchistan

With the support of the Government of Pakistan's gender policies, Aurat Foundation is implementing a project titled "Promotion of Gender Justice in Pakistan with the support of UNDP Pakistan. In this context, Aurat Foundation in collaboration with the Ombudsperson's Office, Government of Baluchistan under WAJIB project funded by UNDP/DHL organized 2-Day Training Workshop of the Staff of Ombudsperson Office & Members of Inquiry Committees of Government Departments in Baluchistan on the Implementation of The Baluchistan Protection against Harassment of Women at Work Place Act, 2016

The overall objective of the training programme was to provide the participants an opportunity of enhancing their existing knowledge about their roles and responsibilities as Inquiry committee members.

The training programme covers a range of topics including; the definition of harassment, sexual harassment, pretexts and myths about harassment, types and consequences of misconduct with a particular focus on sexual exploitation and abuse, mandate and function of the office of Ombudsperson, the Code of Conduct on Sexual Harassment at Workplace, core values, the obligation to report misconduct, how to report wrongdoing, disciplinary and administrative procedures, individual and management responsibilities of the duty bearers and right holders.

The opening session was chaired by, Provincial Head of Baluchistan-Mr. Zulfiqar Durrani. He formally welcomed to all the participants and introduced the UNDP and its role in Pakistan, he stated that female participation in economic activities is essential for social evolution.



So, there is need to make rigorous efforts to create an environment in which the rights of women can be secured. For achieving this objective, a conducive and safe workplace has to be created where women can utilize their potential for personal and national growth with peace of mind and confidence.

He further highlighted that the training workshop will be built the capacities of the members of inquiry Committees and duty bearers. The training will provide an opportunity to the participants to address the queries and questions regarding sexual harassment including legal provisions, redressal mechanisms, responsibilities of the duty bearers and information and guidelines for the complainant

Mr. Abdula Qhir Khan, Director to Office of Ombudsperson, Baluchistan warmly welcome to all the participants, provincial government departments, UNDP and AF for taking such important initiatives. He said that this was dire need to activate and trained the members of Inquiry Committees of the department. He shared that Office of Ombudsperson, doing their utmost efforts for implementation of Sexual Harassment Act in Baluchistan. However, there are many challenges faced by the Offices of the Ombudspersons to ensure effective functioning and support the implementation and monitoring of the legal framework.



He further added that it is important to expand the training programme to districts level so that in remote areas. She also emphasized that all the relevant departments should play their role to spread awareness on protection against harassment laws and institutional mechanism set up by

provincial and federal government for working women and common citizens to stop these violations.



3.4 National Training of Trainers Institute on Climate Justice

Aurat Foundation in collaboration with WLP organized a three-day national training of trainers Institute at Islamabad. Around 20 women activists participated from different walk of life women leaders of local government and social activists from different departments and person with disabilities. The training was conducted by the trained resource persons. The training involved an in-depth exploration of women’s leadership role to climate adaptation techniques for local women leaders, democratic political participation as well as discussion of nature of violence committed against women. The training covered The group also refined their strategic communications and messaging to advocate their rights.

The objectives of the training were to develop the inclusive, participatory, and horizontal leadership. AF trainers conduct the training sessions follow by “Leading to Choices” developed by the Women’s Learning Partnership for their partners. Leading to Choices is designed to be easily adapted to suit diverse cultural, political, and socio-economic needs of different audiences.

The trainees explored the strategies and made their action plans for strengthening the full, equal and meaningful participation and influence of women and girls where injustice occurs. They made their plans to promote women’s and girls’ full and equal participation and leadership in the designing and implementation of climate change, environmental policies and programmes moving forward.

They highlighted that climate change has driven women into greater poverty. Many types of natural resources that used to be easily available and free, such as drinking water and native plants for foods, have diminished or are completely gone. In addition to the lack of resources, women who are facing direct confrontation. They get anxious, distressed, and experience a great sense of hopelessness. Women, are becoming more vulnerable to disaster-driven displacement due to informally created roles and responsibilities and male-controlled customs. Women tend to experience an incidence of sexual and gender-based violence, human rights abuses, an economic

uncertainty, a lack of access to information, services and resources, along with discrimination in employment and land rights.

They will do efforts to amplify the voices and knowledge of marginalized women, including indigenous women, older women, women with disabilities, migrant women and those living in rural, remote, conflict and disaster-prone areas.

Strengthen the Capacities of WPAs on Common Ground Approach

A three-day training workshop on the Common Ground Approach (CGA) was organized on 23rd to 25th January 2023 at Hillview Hotel, Islamabad. The main objective of this training workshop was to train and enhance their skills and knowledge of WPAs regarding counter-violent extremism (CVE) and its different laws in Pakistan’s context. The participants of the training were from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Islamabad. Overall, thirty-one (31) participants including females male four males participated.

The training was conducted by Mr. Shahid Rahim, Senior Manager of Programmes, Search for Common Ground-Pakistan conducted. He is an expert on searching common ground approaches. Ms. Ema Miroslava Fong, Conflict Resolution and Psychosocial Practitioner, Conflict Transformation & Trauma Awareness on CGA. She has professional experience and expertise in peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and preventing or countering violent extremism in fragile and conflicted areas. Mr. Ali Hammad, Executive Director, of Shaoor Foundation conducted the session on perspectives and perceptions, the visible and invisible dynamics in conflict.



The following contents were covered; Understanding your role as facilitator (Trainer? Coach? Teacher? Facilitator?), What makes a good facilitator? My identity- key concepts, Defining conflict and violence, The visible and invisible dynamics in conflict, Responding to conflict, Perspectives and perceptions, Conflict analysis, Peace and climate justice & Revealing common ground.

The closing ceremony was attended by Dr. Maria Effendi Ph. D, Ethnic Conflict Resolution (SPIR-QAU, Islamabad), Assistant Professor, Peace and Conflict Studies, National Defence University. Dr. Riffat Haque, Assistant Professor: Peace & Conflict Studies Department, Mr. Ali Hameed, Executive Director, Shaoor Foundation, Mr. Aqeel Khan, Executive Director, Kadam Consultant Company, Mr. Saeed Khan, Executive Director, GLOW Consultants, Ms. Gulshan, Representative of the S Embassy in Pakistan, Ms. Tabinda, Representative of the US Embassy in Pakistan.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the workshop, Dr. Maria Effendi, Assistant Professor, of Peace and Conflict Studies, at National Defence University said that women's equal participation in decision-making has been recognized in all walks of life. All government and nongovernment organizations affirmed the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and emphasized the importance of their equal participation and full involvement. She also said that Women's inclusion in peacebuilding processes is essential for long-term success and prosper communities.

Dr. Riffat Haque, Assistant Professor of the Peace & Conflict Studies Department said that Systematic and representative inclusion of women in a broad range of peace and security issues is not only important to ensure a successful negotiation, but also for ensuring that women's interests are being addressed. She acknowledged the AF efforts for women's empowerment in Pakistan. She emphasized that there is a need to increase coordination and collaboration among women peace architects, government and civil society stakeholders, and cultural influencers in



responding to violent extremism and conflict and promoting peace.

Naeem Ahmed Mirza, Executive Director of AF said that through Aurat Foundation programming we strength then the skills and expertise of communities and civil society in peacebuilding; gender, peace, and security; justice sector reform. Peace begins from home and individual small actions. She said that the AF program 'She Peacebuilder' is a unique initiative to build the capacities of women community leaders.

At the end of the training, there were improved individuals' attitudes and practices and developed of local action plans for women's inclusion in public spheres. WPAs developed twelve (12) individual and collective action plans by adopting the CGA approach.

3.5 Understanding of Radicalization and Best Practices of Gender Enagament in PVE

A three-day workshop was organized for WPAs of Sindh and Balochistan on the Common Ground Approach, Understanding of Radicalization, and Best Practices of Gender Engagement in PVE on 6-8 March 2023 at Marriott Hotel Karachi. The main objectives of the CGA training



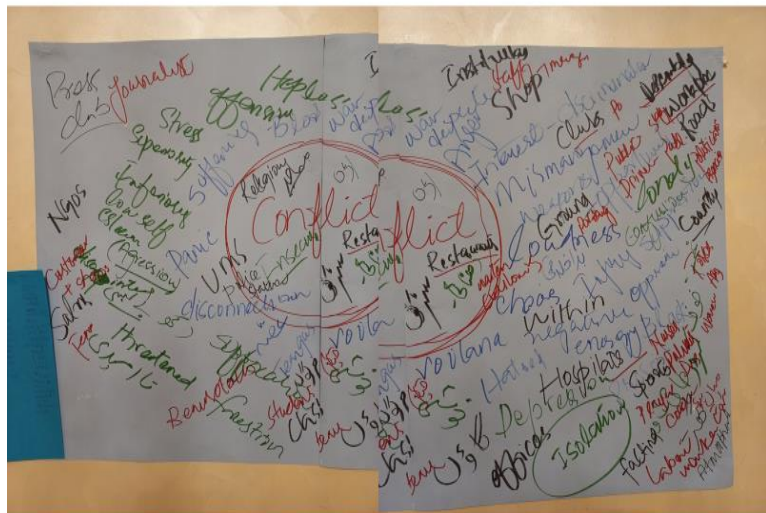
Presented the Souvenirs of SHE Peacebuilder to Chief Guests of Closing Ceremony



workshop were; to straighten the capacities of WPAs on a common-ground approach, to offer guidance and strengthen the capacities of WPAs in peacebuilding and conflict prevention, and to reflect on conflict in own their lives, to explore the different approaches to managing conflict, to enhance their skills and knowledge regarding counter-violent extremism in Pakistan’s context” and Motivating the WPAs to actions for changing behavior after receiving the CGA workshop at the personal, community, and workplace levels.

Based on their learnings, WPAs developed their action plans to replicate the training in their respective communities and circle of influence. All WPAs were divided into six groups; academia, (students & and educationists), religious minorities, lawyers, media, political parties, PWDs, transgender, and civil society. They discussed and devised strategies to replicate the activities. They follow the strategy of action plans 5-Ws and 1-H (why, who, when, where, which, and How). WPAs action plans were the following: Sensitization Workshop on “Responding to Conflict” with Police Officials of Karachi and Sukkur; Inclusion of Women in Peace- and Decision-making Committees in Balochistan and Sindh; My Identity Workshop with Youth (boys and girls) at Karachi University, Bahadur Khan University, Quetta, Govt. School, Khuzdar, Public Health College, Sibi. Sensitization Workshop on “My Identity” with Transgender, PWDs, and religious minority; Session with Councilors, Political and Social Activists on Conflict Analysis, Visible And Invisible Dynamics In Conflict, Perspectives, And Perceptions; Revealing the Common Ground (activities) with media and members of Bar Associations; Honoring Dignity: Understanding what honoring dignity means and being conscious of this powerful dynamic lawyer, Officials of Dar-ul-Aman, Jail officials, and lawyers; The closing session started with a recap of the three-day workshop. Around seven WPAs from Balochistan and Karachi shared their learnings.

Day 1: 3-Day TVE Workshop of Punjab and KP WPAs on 19-21 March at Lahore



Sensitization Workshop on “My Identity” with Transgender, PWDs, and religious minority; Session with Councilors, Political and Social Activists on Conflict Analysis, Visible And Invisible Dynamics In Conflict, Perspectives, And Perceptions; Revealing the Common Ground (activities) with media and members of Bar Associations; Honoring Dignity: Understanding what honoring dignity means and being conscious of this powerful dynamic lawyer, Officials of Dar-ul-Aman, Jail officials, and lawyers; The closing session started with a recap of the three-day workshop. Around seven WPAs from Balochistan and Karachi shared their learnings.

The closing ceremony was attended by the guests; Dr. Masuma Hasan, President, Board of Directors, Aurat Foundation, Ms. Anastasia Kolivas, Public Diplomacy Officer, US Consulate Karachi, Ms. Gulshan Batool, Community Engagement Assistant, US Embassy Islamabad, Ms. Mahnaz Rahman, Resident Director Aurat Foundation Karachi & Ms. Muneezeh Saeed Khan, Programme Specialist, AF Karachi.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Dr. Masuma Hassan, President, Board of Directors, Aurat Foundation thanks Search for Common Ground and the US Embassy for their generous support for such important and wonderful work. She shared that in 2000, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted Resolution 1325, the first time the international community formally recognized either the impact of conflict on women or the need to involve them as active agents in peacebuilding. UNSC Resolution 1325 made an important contribution to the normative framework for the protection of women and girls in armed conflict. She said that in its first National Security Policy (2022-2026), the Government of Pakistan recognized ‘gender

security’ as a key pillar and aimed to “ensure integration of gender equity into national security narratives through full and meaningful participation of women in decision-making, law enforcement, justice sector, and peacekeeping.

Mahnaz Rehman, Resident Director, Aurat Foundation, Sindh said that in a society such as



Pakistan, where patriarchal norms and structural inequalities have restricted women and girls to the margins of the society, entrenched challenges hinder women’s meaningful participation in public and political spheres. Existing inequalities exacerbate sociocultural differences and disparities in access to rights and services, magnifying the gender divide in conflict and crisis scenarios. There is a need to strengthen local women’s groups and CSOs towards building a peace network of local organizations, building their knowledge and capacity on conflict prevention, and implementing g-ender-sensitive interventions.



Dr. Masuma Hasan, President, Board of Directors, Aurat Foundation, Ms. Gulshan Batool, Community Engagement Assistant, US Embassy Islamabad, Mr. Shahid Rahim, Senior Manager Programs, Search for Common Ground (SFCG), Ms. Mahnaz Rahman, Resident Director Aurat Foundation Karachi addressed closing ceremony of workshop and speak about 8th March celebration while Ms. Anastasia Kollvas, Public Diplomacy Officer, US Consulate Karachi, Malka Khan, Provincial Manager, AF Karachi and Mumtaz Mughal, Project Manager SHE Peacebuilder are sitting at stage.

Ms. Gulshan Batool, Community Engagement Assistant, US Embassy Islamabad appreciated and spoke high words for Aurat Foundation and SFCG for organizing very learning workshops for WPAs. She said that the US Embassy is working to strengthen women’s capacities for promoting peacebuilding. They are working with local organizations for socio-economic recovery and building their skills to strengthen women's leadership. The CGA workshop is a unique training to build the skills of WPAs.

Mr. Shahid Rahim, Senior Manager Programs SFCG thanks AF for the selection of wonderful WPAs for the promotion of peace. He said that exclusion from democratic processes, cultural norms, social biases, and militant violence further dissuade youth and women’s participation in the civic space. There is also a need to give a voice to women and to involve them in meaningful decision-making; change itself requires a transformation of patriarchy-ridden culture, procedures, strategic narratives, and support system and an evolution in perceiving personal commitments.

Ms. Mumtaz Mughal, said that the project will also provide platforms and spaces for WPAs to improve their joint influence and expertise in the peace process. She further said that women’s equal participation in decision-making is not only a demand for justice and democracy but can also be seen as a necessary condition for women’s interests to be considered. Without the perspective of women at all levels of decision-making, the goals of equality, development, and peace cannot be achieved. In the end, the guests of the workshop awarded the certificates to WPAs. AF team presented the souvenirs to the guests. A group photo was also taken.



3.6 Engaging Community and Women in Countering Violent Extremism

A three-day training workshop on “Transforming Violent Extremism for Women Peace” Architects of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab on 19-21 March 2022 at Masonite Hotel, Lahore.

The sessions were held on Identity: Who Am I - Important Parts of My Identity, Understanding Violence, Extremism, Violent Extremism (VE), Terrorism, and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, Understanding of Radicalization, Drivers of Violent Extremism, Push and Pull Factors of Violent Extremism, UNSCR – 1325 Local Context, National Instruments; Laws, policies, and institutions, Women, Peace, and Security in the context of Pakistan, Understanding the Term Gender and Sex, Developing the Self for Leadership, Women Building Social Cohesion, Importance of the role of youth in P/CVE, Identify the steps for youth involvement in P/CVE, Barriers that might hinder youth engagement in CVE, Best Practices of Engagement with the Community. Role of Education in P/CVE, Actions required in education to build resilience, understand how VE groups use technology to promote their narrative, learn how to engage people through social media and technology, and development of local action plans for women's inclusion in public spheres.

Ms. Najeeba Syed, a development practitioner with extensive and diverse experience in the development sector with expertise in conflict management and deradicalization conducted the training.

Through the training, WAPs improved individuals' attitudes and practices on identity and understanding of conflict and violence, increased sensitization about the impact of violence, sensitized about women's role in peacebuilding and women's inclusion in public spheres and developed their action plans

Chief guest of the closing ceremony, Dr. Raana Malik, Chairperson Gender Studies Department of the University of Punjab said that when we talk about inclusiveness it means the inclusion of all types and kinds of gender. She further said that women are an important part of the peace-making process. But even when women are included in these processes they don't have any say or any right to decision-making. She said that just the inclusion of women in the system is not important but the role of these women and their participation is equally important.

WAPs Describing the Peace



Dr. Malik said that more capacity-building workshops like these should be conducted. She added that there are two types of inclusion, one is of the women who come on reserved seats, they have no decision-making or no right to speak and no one takes them seriously but on the other hand, there are women who contest, and get a position on merit. They are respected and asked for discussions. We need to make the women aware and empower them to contest for general seats.

Day 3: 3-Day TVE Workshop of Punjab and KP WPAs on 19-21 March at Lahore



Mr. Naeem Mirza, Executive Director of Aurat Foundation said that we need to empower our women so that they are able to make decisions that are beneficial for themselves and other women. He said that such training workshops are important in furthering the CVE agenda and there is a need of the hour because of the extremist and intolerant society we find ourselves in. He also thanked Dr. Raana Malik and the gathered participants and said that we will continue to make efforts to empower the women of this country.

Ms. Mumtaz Mughal said that the training will increase the coordination and collaboration among women peace architects, government and civil society stakeholders, and cultural influencers in responding to violent extremism and conflict.

To improve and strengthen the competencies and abilities of Legal Aid Desk Officers

Aurat Foundation organized a 3-Day orientation workshop for Legal Aid Desk Officers of Sindh on 7 - 9 April 2023 at Hotel Mehran, Karachi where Legal Aid Desk Officers by way of targeted districts of Sindh, representatives of COBs, AF and UNDP participated. The objective of the workshop was to bolster the knowledge and skills of legal aid desk officers on issues affecting KPs, PLHIV, and people at risk of HIV.

The workshop was designed for capacity building and to enhance the apprehension of Legal Aid Desk Officers on the issues of KPs, PLHIV, or at risk of HIV moreover to provide them with details on the project, deliverables, legal framework, and resource channels accessible at the district and provincial levels. Additionally, they received training on work procedures, implementation strategies, and handling PLHIV or HIV-at-risk cases with dignity, esteem, and confidentiality.

To pique participants' interest, various approaches were implemented. There were structured group activities, interactive sessions, plenary debates, and brainstorming sessions. During the workshop, aside from reading materials provided to the participants, PowerPoint slides and multimedia were also used as teaching aids. The attendees avidly engaged in the discussions and added to the proceedings with their extensive field knowledge.



Ms. Shamaila Tanvir, Project Manager provided the project introduction while Ms. Mahnaz Rahman, Resident Director gave presentation on Sex vs. Gender, and concepts of GBV. Ms. Irum Khan, UNDP Islamabad and Dr. Rabnawaz from UNDP Karachi hold the sessions on stigma and discrimination linked with PLHIV & KPs, and basic information on HIV.

An opportunity was also made available for COBs to join and communicate with the Legal Aid Desk Officers during the second portion of the first day in order to further coordinate and carry out activities.

Sessions were held on the second day of the workshop on 'Social Inclusion in the Context of KPs', 'Overview of Constitutional, National and Provincial Legal and Policy Frameworks for the Protection of Human Rights of PLHIV or at Risk of HIV', and 'Mapping Exercise of Referral Mechanisms for Protection of KPs PLHIV or at Risk of HIV'.

Ms. Kalepna Dev Advocate, Additional Attorney General provided a brief presentation on the legal framework available for the protection of KPs, PLHIV, or at risk of HIV. The legal aid desk officers drafted their action plans on the third day of the course and presented them at the conclusion of the session. Work methods and implementation plans were carefully examined and decided upon.

Ms. Shamaila Tanvir, Project Manager, Aurat Foundation, Islamabad, moderated and facilitated the workshop. Ms. Malka Khan, Regional Manager, Karachi gave closing remarks and expressed gratitude at the conclusion of the workshop.

3.7 Women’s Leadership in Peacebuilding and Sustain Peace

A three-day training workshop on “Professional Leadership Skills” was organized by Aurat Foundation on 4th – 6th June 2023 in Ziarat, Balochistan. The objectives of the training were to improve the leadership skills and activities of women waging peace, with a focus on ensuring the mental and general health of the women, supporting social networks, and, building women's capacities in peace-negotiation, leadership and, civic engagement skills, as well as expanding their income-generating opportunities through occupational training to improve socioeconomic status.

The session was conducted by Mumtaz Mughal, Director Programmes, AF, Malka Khan, Senior Programme Officer, Karachi, Mr. Waqar Ahmed, Programme Officer SHE The Peacebuilder, Mr. Saleem Shah, Communication Specialist, AF, Mr. Asim Malik, Director Outreach and Network and Naeem Ahmed Mirza, Executive Director, AF training team covered different topics of leadership skills including leadership, types of leadership, leadership qualities, advocacy, lobbying and networking, alliance building communication, and negotiation skills.



While taking the leadership session, Naeem Ahmed Mirza, Executive Director, AF shared that decades of studies show women leaders help increase productivity, enhance collaboration, inspire organizational dedication, and improve fairness. Despite these benefits, only 10% of Fortune 500 companies are led by women. A dedicated struggle is needed to bring women as peace and political leaders.

Women have their own potential to build peace in their homes, neighborhoods, communities, workplace, and society at large. Hence, their active participation in the peacebuilding process is essential to ensure sustainable peace. In Pakistani traditional society has not allowed both women and men to equally participate in society in developmental and political issues. Now, there is a need to speak up for each gender. It is important to ensure that both genders are involved in policy making and legislative work.

Malka Khan, Senior Programme Officer, Karachi, conducted the session by exploring the answer to the question; Why women should have an equal share of leadership decision-making? Why women’s participation in the peace negotiation process? Barriers of women’s effective participation in decision making? How WPAs can break these barriers and ensure women’s participation in decision making and peace talks? She divided the participants into groups. After thorough discussions in the groups, each group gave their presentation.

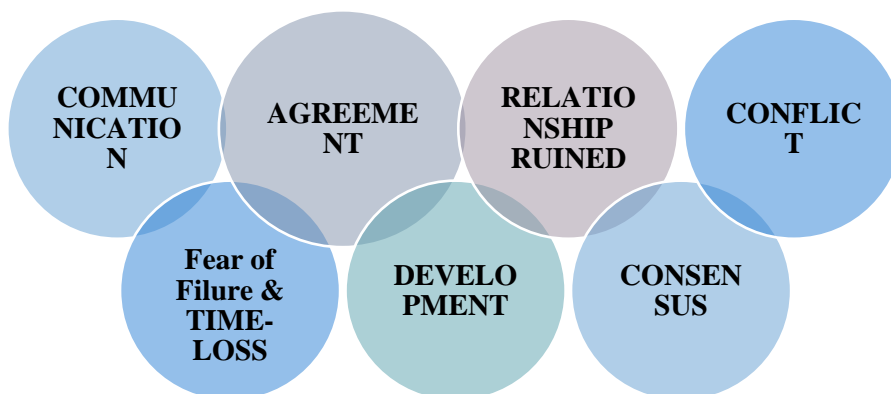
Mr. Waqar Ahmed, Programme Officer SHE the Peacebuilder, conducted the session on **is** negotiation skills. He defined the Negotiation skills by sharing that negotiation is back-and-forth communication designed to reach agreement while leaving the other side intact and positive. After holding the brainstorming exercise, he will share the key elements of negotiation on power point

Mr. Saleem Shah, Communication Specialist, AF, conducted the session on communication skills. Recognizing the importance of communication skills to leadership, this session deals with concepts and methods that will help the WPAs harness their skills.

Mr. Asim Malik, Director Outreach and Network The session will start with brainstorming exercise of What is networking? What are the benefits of networking as a group of WPA?

He explained that a network provides a structure that allows members to cooperate, color plate share experiences, expertise, and resources, and pull their power together to bring about change. Networking is a means of securing greater national, regional, or international cooperation which can strengthen the impact of activities carried out by community-based organizations. He explained that successful networking helps to:

At the end of the workshop, certificated were given to participants and group photo was also taken.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve what could not be achieved alone; • Strengthen advocacy • Influence others inside and outside the network; • Broaden the understanding of an issue or struggle by bringing together different constituencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share the work • Reduce duplication of efforts thereby wasting resources • Promote the exchange of ideas, insights, experiences, and skills • Provide a needed sense of solidarity, and moral and psychological support; and • Mobilize financial resources in some instances.
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3.8 Understanding Gender, Women, and Girls' Engagement in CVE & PVE

Aurat Foundation organized a three-day capacity-building workshop on Transforming Violent Extremism (TVE) for Women Peace Architects (WPAs) on 7-9 June 2023 at Lourdes Hotel, Quetta. Around 35 WPAs of Sindh and Balochistan participated. The key objective of the training was to build the skills of WPAs on TVE/CVE and motivate the WPAs to action for changing behavior after receiving the training workshop at the personal, community, and workplace levels. Mr. Sajid Pervez, an Expert on Conflict Transformation, Peacebuilding, Women's Peace, and Security conducted the training. He guided that women can play multiple roles in reducing PVE and CVE as teachers, religious influential, elected representatives, community leaders, mothers, mentors, social activists, and, community organizers. These roles are vital and women can properly support through sustainable initiatives such as engaging with local women who are already organized in their constituencies of influence and strengthening their support networks. The closing ceremony was attended by the guests; Ms. Saleha Zakir Shah, Director CVE, NACTA, Ms. Shaina Khan, Media Coordinator to Chief Minister, Quetta, Ms. Fauzia Shah, Chairperson, Balochistan Commission for the Status of Women (BCSW), Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb, Member, National Commission for Human Rights, Balochistan, Ms. Jahanara Tabassum, Deputy Secretary, Women Development Department (WDD), Mr. Naem Mirza, Executive Director, Aurat Foundation, and Mr. Allauddin Khilji, Resident Director Quetta, Aurat Foundation,



In the closing ceremony, Ms. Saleha Zakir Shah, Director Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) said that NACTA has a toll-free helpline 1717 which should be called in case of emergencies such as terrorism, anti-terrorism or CVE related incidents. She said that NACTA recently invited vice-chancellors (VCs) of all the major public and private universities in order to introduce a peace course to the curriculum of all the universities. She added that in this course, we are proposing to trace the history of Pakistan from ancient history and the Indus Valley civilization (IVC) instead of the usual trend of tracing our history back to M. Bin Qasim's arrival on the Indian subcontinent. She said that there is a need to revive Sufi Islamic thought and NACTA is fully behind this effort.

Ms. Shah said that NACTA is ready to have one-on-one workshops and a memorandum of understanding (MOU) can be done with them in order to engage them in meaningful counter-radicalization activities. She said that NACTA has an active Twitter handle and the organization actively hosts a poster competition to which everyone should apply. She further said that we are ready to engage the youth in peace clubs in their universities since the youth has so much energy.

Ms. Fauzia Shaheen, Chairperson, of Balochistan Commission for the Status of Women (BCSW) said that she started working and is in this position because of Ms. Nigar Ahmed and Ms. Shehla Zia, the founders of Aurat Foundation.

She said that the next generation is aware and will perform better than us and said that after many years, the early child marriage bill has finally received approval from the Balochistan cabinet. She added that this is a big success and all the women who lobbied for its approval deserve special praise. Ms. Shaheen said that in the recent floods, women suffered tremendously and were not given the same medical treatment as their male counterparts due to the rescue staff being untrained to help women. In response to this, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is rolling out a gender matrix for the first time. This matrix will have detailed guidelines on how to deal with women during disasters. She said that there is also a need to have gender cells in the more male-dominated environment departments. She further said that a clause regarding harassment of female journalists has been added to the Balochistan Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act.

Ms. Shaina Khan, Media Coordinator to the Chief Minister, Balochistan emphasized that the nucleus of PVE is women and youth. We need to ensure the inclusion of a gender perspective across all our PVE activities and create a local-level mechanism to prevent all forms of violence against women.

Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb, Member, National Commission for Human Rights, Balochistan, said that preventing violent extremism is a commitment and obligation under the principles and values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. To be effective and sustainable and in line with Member States' obligations under international law, all legislation, policies, strategies, NAPs, and practices adopted to prevent violent extremism must be firmly grounded in the respect for human rights

Ms. Jahanara Tabassum, Deputy Secretary of the Women Development Department (WDD), Balochistan said that with the support of women's rights organizations, we need to devise strategies to engage with community-based organizations and develop and implement a Local Action Plan with the support of local resources

Mr. Naeem Mirza, Executive Director of Aurat Foundation said that we need to empower our women so that they are able make decisions that are beneficial for themselves and other women. He said that such training workshops are important in furthering the CVE agenda and are the need of the hour because of the extremist and intolerant society we find ourselves in. Ms. Mumtaz Mughal, the Project Manager, moderated the event.

3.8 Building Bridges for Women in Peace

A stakeholder consultation was organized to build working relationships among women peace architects and diverse state and non-state actors, and to support critical thinking around women's inclusion in TVE strategies and policies at Peral Continental, Hotel, Lahore. A total of 72 people

participated. Apart from the above, current and former Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs), former inspector general of Punjab Police (IGP), prominent lawyers and members of academia also participated in the CWG. The participants were different walk of life included supreme court, high court bar association, media, civil society, women headed NGOs, lawyers, women peace architects, representatives of political parties, ex. Councilors and parliamentarians, academia, sports, youth and others.

The speakers were including; Mr. Sher Ali, Reporter the News International, Sumaira Samad, Secretary Women Development Department (WDD), Govt. of Punjab, Nabeela Javeed, Secretary, Punjab Commission on the Status of Women, Dr. Raghieb Hussain Naeemi, Principal Jamia Naeemia, Moulana M. Abdul Khabir Azad, Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee (Imam Badshahi Masjid), Dr. Bushra Jamil, Superintendent Police, Punjab Police, Sarmad Saeed, Former Inspector General of Police (IGP), Ghalib Bandesha, Former Inspector General of Police (IGP), Prof. Dr. M. Nizamuddin, Pro-Rector, Superior University, Mian Imran Masood, Vice-Chancellor, University of South Asia, Bushra Butt, Ex-MPA, PML-N, Punjab Assembly and Mr. Nadeem Ashraf, Member National Commission of Human Rights Punjab.

In the end of consultation, a list of recommendations was developed for creating spaces in public spheres of women inclusion in peace building processes in Punjab and increased coordination and collaboration among WPAs, government and civil society stakeholders and cultural



influencers in responding to violent extremism and promotion of peace. Main recommendations were following Women Development Department and PCSW ensured that women will be included in the peace committees as per the Punjab Fair Representation Act 2014.

Police representative said that they will be willing to get their field staff trained on common ground approach (CGA). Participants also recommended that “Peace” as a subject should be in training curriculum of police training. Gender sensitization and CVE training sessions should be integral part of police and other law enforcement agencies.

There is dire need to build the capacity of CTD department. Members of the academia gave their consent that peacebuilding should be added as a separate chapter in their curriculum. It should be added from primary to high school curriculum. A module on human rights should be sensitively developed without segregating women rights as separate from human rights; and our heroes should not remain limited to men, but female figures should also be included in curriculum. The civil society representatives and WPAs said that women should be included in the decision-making process and should be included in the district peace committees. Promote inclusion of women in the decision making positions in their respective governments as well as in regional and international organizations.

The parliamentarians and former members of provincial assembly’s said that a peace caucus should be formed in the national and provincial assemblies. A training programme should be initiated for parliamentarians on National Action Plan and security policies.

Dr. Raghbir Hussain Naeemi, Principal Jamia Naeemia, Moulana M. Abdul Khabir Azad, Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee (Imam Badshahi Masjid) emphasised to increase the role of women in public sphere and gave a recommendation that during the Friday prayer sermon (khutba) there should be a brief section on peacebuilding and the importance of peace building. community awareness and sensitization programme on peace and tolerance should be needed to initiate at community level.

Chapter Four

Social Mobilisation and Citizen Engagement

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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 Democracy Collective Wisdom of Nation

Aurat Foundation celebrated International Democracy Day with the theme of “Inclusive Democracy: Challenges and opportunities in 2022” in collaboration with Women’s Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) Islamabad. The event was attended by the Honorable Speaker National Assembly, Raja Parvaiz



Ashraf, Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus, Dr. Shahida Rehmani, Senator Sana Jamali, Senator Krishna Kumari, Member National Assembly, Farrukh Khan and large number of media, academia and civil society representative including representatives of PWDs and transgender communities. On the eve, Ms. Kishoo Bai, Senator of PPPP, Ms. Sana Jamali, Senator from Balochistan,

Naeem Mirza, Executive Director AF, Ms. Abia Akram, ED STEP and founder of National Forum of Women with Disabilities, Ms. Maya Zaman, a transgender activist, Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Raja Parvaiz Ashraf said that before 1970, the population of Pakistan was 10 crores and out of those, only 40,000 people in East Pakistan and 40,000 people in West Pakistan were allowed to vote on behalf of their communities. Hence, only 80,000 people voted to bring in the representatives of 10 crore people. He said that democracy in Pakistan is young and needs time to mature like its western counterparts. Mr. Naeem Mirza, executive director Aurat Foundation (AF), said that from 2008-2013 women legislators were very active in the parliament and this showed through their work since most of the legislation regarding women’s rights was done during this period. He said that democracy has become a value in the modern

age and further stated that out of the all 190+ countries put together, only Bangladesh and Pakistan have a clause inserted into their constitution which says that breaking the constitution itself is a criminal offence and carries the death penalty.

Ms. Abia Akram, founder of the national forum of women with disabilities in Pakistan, spoke candidly at the seminar. She said almost all of us were brought to the venue on a wheelchair, which she explained in this manner that the cars we sit in and travel in, has a wheel and a chair, just like the wheelchair of a disabled person. She further said we need to finish systematic barriers in Pakistan which stop the disabled people from excelling in any field. Ms. Maya Zaman, a transgender activist, said that presently there is a debate ongoing about who is a real transgender? She said that the protection act of the transgender has been challenged in court by a right-wing political party who says that all transgenders are fake.

Ms. Kishoo Bai, senator of PPPP, said that the majority should not be afraid of a tiny minority and allow them to live freely in Pakistan. She said that we need to stand up for minority rights as it benefits the society at large. She also thanked her party co-chairman Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari due to who's support she is in the senate of Pakistan. Ms. Sana Jamali, Senator from Balochistan told a harrowing tale of the damage that the recent floods have wreaked in her native province. She said that rainfall was ongoing for a consecutive 18 days and that Balochistan usually received only 10 mm of rain. However, during the recent floods, it received a huge 240 mm of rain which has destroyed the infrastructure of Pakistan's largest Balochistan. She said that around 60,000 women are pregnant and are due to give birth in the next few months and they are not getting any sort of medical care which their situation requires.



4.2 Gender Justice Committees play pivotal role to increase the access of GBV survivors to justice institutions

Aurat Foundation organized the community engagement meetings of Gender Justice Committees (GJCs) with district and provincial government line departments to highlight the

GBV and access to justice issues. The objective of the meetings was to strengthen the coordination of GJCs with state run access to justice, social protection and legal aid institutions whom are responsible to provide free legal awareness, legal counselling, legal representation, to women, PWDs, women from religious and ethnic communities, refugees, trans-persons and marginalized groups of the society.

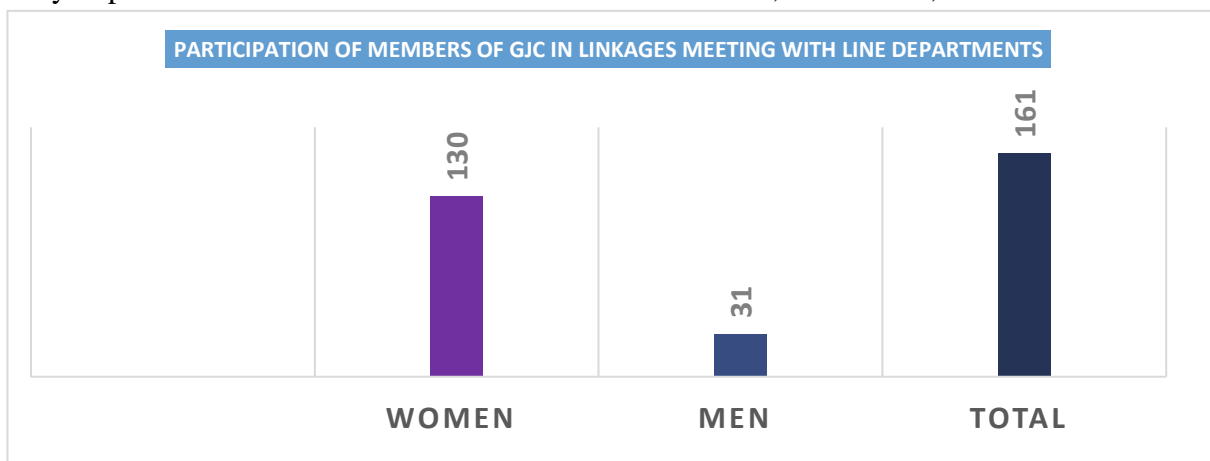
The focal persons and members of GJCs of Quetta and Pishin ensured their active participation in the meetings and continue their engagement between Gender Justice Committees (GJCs) and Government line departments. AF strengthened the linkages of these Gender Justice Committees (GJCs) with almost 12 departments / Institutions. The list of the departments are following:

1. Women Development Department, Quetta,
2. NADRA offices in Quetta and Pishin
3. Social Welfare Department, Quetta
4. BISP office, Quetta and Pishin
5. Police Department, Quetta
6. Social Welfare Department, Pishin and Quetta
7. Dar-ul-Aman, Quetta
8. Benazir Bhutto Women and Human Rights Crisis Center, Quetta
9. Office of Ombudsperson on Sexual Harassment at Workplace, Quetta
10. Provincial Commissioner of National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR),
11. Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW)
12. Local Government Department, Pishin

AF WAJIB project team has linked the members of GJCs in both districts Quetta and Pishin with the Government line departments through the Linkages building meetings. WAJIB team conducted linkages building meeting with line departments. More than **161 peoples (130 women and 31 men)** were linked with the line departments in targeted districts for resolving of issues of community. The objective of these linkages is to ensure the access to justice in Balochistan and also disseminate the information and to mobilize the members of GJCs for action. WAJIB team were frequently doing follow-up and the members are requested for more information about more relevant departments of Balochistan.

4.3 Key Population and Women PLHIV faced discrimination, harassment, and violence

Key populations in Pakistan, have faced a range of legal problems and human rights challenges. Key Population and PLHIV have often faced discrimination, harassment, and violence in various



aspects of their lives, including education, employment, healthcare, and housing. This discrimination can be both systemic and societal in nature. KPs and PLHIV have been disproportionately targeted for violence and hate crimes. Physical and sexual violence against them has been a serious concern, often leading to serious physical and psychological harm.

Ms Shumaila Tanvir, National Manager Programmes shared that the vast majority of cases referred to Legal Aid Desk Officers deal with issues like discrimination or other rights violations in health services, employment and housing opportunities, custody rights, unethical or abusive police behavior, prosecutions for sex workers and drug users, assaulting women and transgender people, issues with housing, disagreements over property, and family. A Visitor Database at Legal Aid Desks serves several important purposes in providing efficient and effective legal assistance.

- Enabled Legal Aid Desks to provide better assistance to their clients, improve their services over time, and contribute to a more just and equitable legal system.
- Supported AF and legal aid desk officer to identify patterns and trends in the types of cases that are most common or urgent. This information helps them allocate resources more effectively and adapt their services to meet the changing needs of their clients.

Facilitated the Legal Aid Desk to schedule appointments and provide updates on case progress. This ensures that clients receive comprehensive assistance throughout the legal process. Aurat Foundation organized the 16 legal awareness sessions with **329** participants in ten districts of Punjab and Sindh during January to June 2023.



Meetings of Focal persons of GJCs of Districts Quetta with Government Line Departments (BISP, SWD, NADRA, Ombudsperson office, NCHR, NCSW, WDD etc)



Enhancing Skills of Gender Justice Committees: Refresher Training

4.4 Needs to enhance community engagement for the promotion of peace

Ms. Mahnaz Rahman, Resident Director AF Sindh, and member of mediator group formed by civil society to dialogue with political parties conducted a study circle of WPAs of Sindh on 9th

March 2023 at Lincoln Corner of Pakistan American Culture Center, Karachi. In circle, participants identify the key issues of gender, politics and peace in their communities and province with the potentiality for violent conflict. They said that there are many issues related to gender including; discriminatory education system and curriculum, harassment at public and workplaces, lack of implementation of pro-women laws, lack of women's participation in decision-making at home, in public places, and politics, increased in the ratio of VAWG, Restriction on women's and girls' mobility regarding safety and protection and there is weak rehabilitation and protection mechanism.

WPAs devise a number of recommendations to improve the inclusion of women in peacebuilding processes at provincial and national decision-makers. There is need to ensure the participation of WPA's in interfaith harmony meetings. There is need to arrange a sensitization session for justice provider institutions for free and fair justice for all

She said that there is need to ensure the inclusion of women in the peace committees by ensuring the representation of all ethnic and religious groups. Government should create economic empowerment initiatives for the rehabilitation of terrorist attack survivors.

4.5 Stop Social-Cultural Humiliated Practices Against Women and Girls

Mr. Sher Ali, Khalti, reporter of "The News" group of Pakistan moderated the session by asking the questions "what are the TVE issues at home, community, provincial level and what are causes. The event was organized on 22nd March 2023 at Lincoln Corner, Arfa Karim Tower, Lahore.



He said that there is need to implementation on laws especially implementation on national plan of action. There is need to break the glass ceiling and increase the percentage of women for senior roles or positions at workplaces. By engaging men and boys constructively within the communities as advocates for gender equality. Ms. Mumtaz Mughal Said that social-cultural humiliated practices against women are existed in our society. There is need to promote policies that support the rights of girls, women and other marginalized groups.

WPAs of Punjab gave the recommendation including; a fully functional women’s protection system should be present in all major districts of South Punjab alongside a well-functioning oversight mechanism. Special attention needs to be paid to the situation of women from non-Muslim communities, since they become victims of double discrimination. Use gender-synchronized approaches that engage men and women in transforming norms, balancing norms and balancing the power within families.

4.6 Increase the citizen trust in the decision-making process

Aurat Foundation organized the meeting with the women peace architects and community women leaders on 10th June 2023 at office of provincial National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) at Quetta. The session was conducted by Professor Farkhanda Aurangzaib, Provincial NCHR. The circle provided a trusting atmosphere where the participants can feel comfortable to speak about challenges faced by women in advocating for gender and Women Peace Architects (WPA) issues in politics or in target districts, reflect on feedback, and navigate problem-solving towards the women's inclusion in the TVE agenda in Pakistan.

The community women peace architects gave a valuable recommendations to ensure women’s inclusion in decision making. They said that there is need to increase the citizen trust, sense of ownership to control their resources by ensuring the local community participation and as well as in the decision-making process. There is a need to take affirmative actions to engage women in leadership and decision-making positions. Women also emphasized that there is required a pro-people governance reform in Balochistan. There is a need to revisit all planning and developments of Performa’s i.e. PC 1, through a gender lens. Need to set up and empower local government system (politically, administratively and financially) with maximum participation of all segments of society.



Professor Farkhanda Aurangzaib, Provincial NCHR said that women can play an important role in changing perceptions, breaking stereotypes and contribute towards nation-building. Ensure the women’s engagement in peacebuilding process and dialogues. The training curriculum should be updated and added all provincial laws passed in the provincial assembly and also needs to promote civic education.

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 Shafiq has given ta 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 omen 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

4.7 Youth Inclusion for Women Access to Justice: Empowering Advocates of Future

As a pivotal aspect of the "Women's Access to Justice in Balochistan" project, the inclusion of youth played a transformative role in promoting gender justice and women's rights. The project recognized the immense potential of young minds to be advocates for positive change in their communities.

To engage and empower the youth, the project organized comprehensive orientation sessions. During these sessions, 100 young boys were enlightened about the pressing issues faced by women, the legal framework related to women's rights, and the available support systems. The sessions aimed to sensitize the youth to the challenges experienced by women in Balochistan and foster empathy and understanding.

After inclusion of youth to support women access to justice and supporting ending violence against women and girls would bring very positive behavioral, psychosocial cultural and social changes with overall society and among youth so that they can be encouraged to be the real Positive Role Models proposed training program of these proposed activities. Their knowledge and skill development creating violence and crimes free society for women and girls with self-efficacy and improved standard awareness on pro-women laws and other access to justice facilities in the districts and at the provincial level.

More than 100 youth with age 17 to 35 (boys) orientated by orientation sessions to help them to utilize social media to end all forms of violence against women and easy access to justice in Balochistan. WAJIB staff conducted University level debate competition to highlight women human rights and GBVs and painting competition on (chart) to highlight GBV and also organized theater performance on GBV and access to justice opportunities in Balochistan really have long term impacts on youth of Balochistan for their mass behavioral changes against GBV.

The proposed activities such as arranged poster competition on ending GBV and access to justice opportunities in Balochistan and organized Chess competition (for boys) in University of Balochistan Quetta for unity with GBV victims along with formation of youth clubs for access to justice and against GBV in Quetta and also acknowledgment of youth for their best performances in ending violence against women and girls and support women access to justices shall support UNDP-AF-WAJIB in all aspects for archiving their goals and objectives through youth engagement.

Moreover, the project established Youth Clubs that served as platforms for knowledge-sharing, open discussions, and collective action. These clubs became spaces where young boys could actively participate in addressing gender disparities and advocating for women's empowerment. Through interactive sessions and activities, the youth gained insights into the importance of gender equality and the significance of women's active participation in society.

The project encouraged Youth Club members to be proactive in their communities. They were encouraged to spread awareness about women's rights, challenge harmful gender norms, and support women in accessing justice and resources. By involving young boys in these initiatives, the project aimed to instill a sense of responsibility and ownership in advocating for gender justice and women's well-being.

The impact of youth inclusion was profound, as it sparked a ripple effect of positive change. The engaged young advocates actively worked to break down societal barriers and promote women's rights. Their passion, dedication, and involvement showcased the project's enduring impact in nurturing a generation of advocates for gender equality.

Through youth inclusion, the project not only empowered communities in the present but also laid a strong foundation for a more equitable and inclusive future. By equipping the youth with knowledge, empathy, and a sense of responsibility, the project set the stage for sustained efforts towards women's access to justice and gender justice in Balochistan.



Chapter Five

Advocacy, Awareness-Raising and Lobbying

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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: Inclusive Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in post-Covid recovery in Pakistan

A virtual side event during High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development organized by Aurat Foundation and Club de Madrid with collaboration of Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiative for SDG Unit, Islamabad on 12 July 2022. Pakistan is among the first counties to adopt SDGs as their national development agenda, which manifests high-level political will to implement it. The country has conducted a VNR in 2019 to measure the progress of Agenda 2030 implementation and is going to present second VNR at HLPF in 2022. The political will of the Government of Pakistan to make inclusive reporting processes is particularly resonant with a Shared Societies perspective and offers an opportunity for collaborative support and learning to achieve the SDGs in Pakistan.

This in-person side-event -if possible- aims to explore how the UN and the multilateral system can more effectively reinforce global and national social development frameworks with specific emphasis on achieving SDG5, SDG 4, SDG 14 & 15. Also, to encourage the Member States to share assessments on actions to combat climate change, and mobilize political will towards a multi stakeholders’ new global consensus and cooperation on social development, building back better after COVID-19. The panelists were; Danilo Türk, President of Club de Madrid, President of Slovenia (2007-2012) Helen Clark, Member of Club de Madrid, Prime Minister of New Zealand (1999-2008) (video-message), Romina Khursheed Alam, Special Assistant to the



Prime Minister of Pakistan/ Convener Parliamentary, Ali Kemal, Chief SDGs Unit, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ali Imran, Club de Madrid Senior Expert in Pakistan and Mumtaz Mughal, Director Programmes, Aurat Foundation CDM Members contributed their experience to raise awareness of including marginalized groups and minorities in crafting and implementing development policies. Representatives from the government and civil society of Pakistan also contributed to the overall national perspective of SDGs integration into national policy priorities and frameworks.

5.2 Advocacy Meeting with political parties on Electoral Reform

An advocacy meeting on Electoral Reforms with Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Convener, Mutahida Qoumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) on 25 October 2023 at MQM Office, Karachi.

AF team also hold meeting with President PTI Sindh. A meeting was also conducted with officials of provincial Election Commission of Pakistan. Ms. Mahnaz Rehman, Resident Director AF Karachi presented the key recommendations on Electoral Reforms while Malka Khan, Senior Programme Officer AF, Nosheen Khurram, National Manager AF JAZBA programme and other MQM representatives were also there.

The objective of these recommendations is to ensure meaningful participation and mainstreaming of women, religious and ethnic minorities, Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and transgender people into political and public life, as well as, to ensure transparent, free and fair elections in Pakistan.

Ms Mahnaz Rehman said that a “Policy of Reservation and Representation for Marginalized People” should be made part of the constitution to ensure certain uniform principles for all “Provincial Local Government Acts” to at ensure the following:

- 33% proportion of representation for women, inclusive of PWD and transgender people;
- 5% proportion of representation for “Peasants” and 5% for “Labourers”
- Elections through direct modality on all tiers of local governments;
- Determination of basic tiers with Neighbourhood and Village Council as the primary unit;
- Timely elections as per the law after expiry of term.

The emphasis was on increase of seats of women in national and provincial assemblies. They shared that current 17% proportion of reservation of seats for women will be increased to 33% proportion of reservation for women across all federal and provincial legislatures Within this quota, 33% reservation will be fixed for ethnic minorities, PWD and transgender people and the Islamabad Capital Territory (through a Constitutional Amendment in Article 106 or a possibility is probed whether this could be done through amendment in Election Act 2017).

Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Convener, Mutahida Qoumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) appreciated AF role for women’s political empowerment and ensured that he will try his best to take up the Electoral Reform package and put the suggestions with national assembly committee of electoral reform. The President of PTI Sindh also ensured his full support to move forward the agenda of electoral reform with his political party leadership.

The provincial election commissioner shared that ECP has special campaigns through electronic media, concerned agencies, NGOs/CBOs etc. to ensure that all eligible women have CNIC cards

and are registered on the electoral rolls. with a focus on women with disabilities. He shared that in upcoming elections separate polling stations will be set up for women and special security arrangement as well as facilities like waiting rooms, bathrooms should be ensured at the stations.

5.3 Constitutional and electoral reforms are needed for strengthening accountability, governance and inclusion

A consultation on "Constitutional and Electoral Reforms for Strengthening Accountability, Governance and Inclusion" was organized in Karachi on 27 Oct 2022. Women and Human Rights Activist Anis Haroon, Farooq Sattar, MQM-Pakistan Firdous Shamim Naqvi, PTI, Kalsoom Chandio PPP, Shoaib Ahmed Advocate, Deputy Director, Sindh Election Commission, Mahnaz Rehman, Resident Director AF Sindh, Nosheen Khurram, Malka Khan and other civil society organization participated.

Women and Human Rights Activist, Ms. Anis Haroon chaired the session. In her concluding remarks, she suggested that political parties take a more democratic approach. ECP must take strict notice of, and action against, any informal agreements between political parties to prevent women from voting; including debarring/denotification of offending candidates. She said that all positions in women's wings are filled through elections on the basis of lists of female members; and its office-bearers have sufficient representation in all party structures, particularly the decision-making bodies, e.g. central and provincial executive committees, parliamentary boards and parliamentary party forums etc.

Mahnaz Rehman, Resident Director AF Sindh shared the highlights of Electoral Reforms developed by Aurat Foundation in consultation of civil society organizations. She said that to ensure the constitutional safeguards, social inclusion and rights of marginalized people, there is need to amend the Constitutional Articles no 7, 25 and 27. She said that women should also be inducted in the ECP staff, at all levels, including district ECP offices.

Farooq Sattar, MQM-Pakistan said that there is need to establish a local government system and devolve political, administrative and financial responsibility and authority must be to the elected representatives. He fully supported the electoral reforms developed by AF and civil society organizations.



Firdous Shamim Naqvi, PTI, said that we are broad-based movement for change whose mission is to create a free society based on justice.

Kalsoom Chandio PPP, said that that the obstacle to women’s political participation stems from the larger context of socio-cultural, economic, politics and the institutions and the discursive frameworks operating within these structures. ECP should regular updating of electoral rolls; female personnel should be employed for female voter registration, with at least one female enumerator in each team across the country.



Shoaib Ahmed Advocate, Deputy Director, Sindh Election Commission, shared the ECP initiatives. According to him, a mass campaign on the right of women to vote, the importance of women’s vote and voting according to their own choice, is on air through mass media.

The participants emphasized that federal government and political parties must hold thorough consultations to reach a consensus decision on reforming Constitution and Election Reforms to ensure meaningful participation of women in political era.

5.4 Needs to introduce the intersectional approach to gender mainstreaming

There is a need to reserve the 33 % seats for women in all categories of seats including union council chairperson and vice chairpersons in the Local Government. Modality of election on reserved seats for women should be direct, constituency based and filled through joint electorate. 33% representation of women should be extended through legislation in all monitoring committees and community-based structures in the Local Government Changes in the law to ensure the presence of women members in a quorum established for any council meeting. Gender budgeting and gender auditing of local government should be made mandatory through legal framework. Minimum of 33% budget should be allocated for women specific development projects and programs.

Listing of discriminatory practices and social attitudes of LG functionaries against women such as non-availability of office space, separate toilets, not informing women councilors about

meetings, not including women in budget making and development planning process, not allowing women to speak in sessions and not allocating development fund or giving them development grants less than their male colleagues and sanctions should be prescribed in the LGO for such gender discriminatory practices and behavior. Sanction should be imposed on district governments for the non-compliance of LGO.

Ms. Fauzia Shaheen, Chairperson of Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women, said that effective implementation of electoral law. The election result of those constituencies where women are stopped to participate in LG election as voters and candidates should be declared null and void.

Ms. Farkhanda Aurangzeb Member National Commission for Human Rights from Balochistan, Equitable representation of women in the political structure is not only important because it is simply a human rights issue. She further added that lack of capacity of women councilors was another key challenge. They were unable to aggregate and articulate women's interests in an effective manner and did not succeed to make a radical shift in policy and development priorities in the local government. There is a need to build of gender capacity of members of councils at two levels; political and technical & institution and personals.

Ms. Shazia Riaz, Director Women Development Department Government of Balochistan hoped that the NCSW recommendations will help to pave the way for removing social, cultural and political constraints experienced by the women, particularly on the basis of their gender and to facilitate the relevant agency by making opportunity available to do the advocacy for developing an enabling environment for women's empowerment and participatory democracy in Pakistan. She said that government adopted gender mainstreaming officially as a strategy to address the issue of gender disparities at the institutional level and ensure the integration of a gender perspective in government policy planning and practice.



Allauddin Kili, Resident Director Aurat Foundation Quetta said that legislative change in Political Party Act 2017 is needed to make it mandatory to give 33% representation to women on the strategic leadership positions in the Central Committees, and decision-making position and also give 33% party ticket to women candidates. Legal cover to the Gender mainstreaming

as an official strategy in the Local governance. Intersectional approach to gender. setting up a criterion for women to contest reserved for women. It should be made mandatory for district governments to give honorarium to all councilors.

In the event, women leaders, political workers, representatives from bars association, civil society organizations, media, transgenders, women with disabilities, religious groups and others were participated in the event.

5.5 Speakers demand women-led solutions for climate justice

Senator Sherry Rehman, Minister for Climate Change said that climate action and women are not niche subjects but they are central to our system. She said that Pakistan is at the frontlines of climate change and there should be a climate emergency declared in Pakistan. The seminar was organized on 18th April 2023. included representation from all the major political parties as well as participation from the disabled and transgender community. It also included civil society organizations, women political workers, academia and media.

According to Senator Sherry Rehman, women are better consumers of nature, they have very little to work with and have very low disposable incomes and it is the women who make the wheels of our agriculture and economy turn. She added that women are responsible for running a household but yet these numbers do not show up in the official data. She made these remarks at a seminar organized in a local hotel by Aurat Foundation and SAP-PK under the JAZBA programme.

The welcome remarks at the opening of the seminar were given by Mr. Naeem Mirza, Executive Director Aurat Foundation. He welcomed all the participants to the seminar and said that climate change is actually global warming. He hinted towards the current imbroglio between the Supreme Court and the incumbent government and added that the temperature is very high everywhere, including in the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the Parliament and other places. He said that we should aim to control this temperature and focus our energies on combating climate change.

He said that major contributors towards carbon gas emissions come from two countries, 29% from China and 31% from the USA.

Dr. Aliya Hashmi Khan, retired professor of Economics and former Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University and who also serves as a member of the general body of AF, spoke next. She said that over the years Aurat Foundation's work has expanded in a number of different directions but it. Climate change is not being taken seriously in the context of gender. She added what does it mean for the women of Pakistan. She cited the labour force statistics and said that if the total employed women in Pakistan then 68% work in the agriculture sector. Agriculture is not a homogenous sector but it also includes livestock as well. Women are not recognized as agriculture workers in the labour force statistics and they do not receive their due social protection due to this. She said that it is even more important for Pakistan to recognize the women who work in the agriculture sector.

The most important message coming out from today's deliberation is collecting periodic and updated information and data, especially on women working in agriculture and related activities. Labour force classifies women as an employee but there is no chamber for agricultural self-

employed people and there is no women representation to speak about this fact. At the end of her brief talk, she said that we cannot solve the issues of injustice without looking at a holistic picture and this report is very important in this regard since it talks about inter-government partnerships, partnerships with the donor community and also of the movements women are engaged in.

Ms. Simi Kamal, researcher and environmentalist presented the key findings of the research report. Her presentation was titled 'Women at the Forefront of Climate Action'. She said that this report is more of a think piece and aims to highlight major factors. She said the booklet is divided into five sections and starts from the basic concept of climate change, current global institutional architecture for climate change, the impact of climate change in Pakistan and policy response, and the final section talks about developing the platforms for climate action led by women. She said the time has come for women to take over the task of rebuilding the earth and its resources for a safer climate, equitable living conditions and environmental justice. She further added that global economies are failing to produce economic, environmental and social



justice for people and planet Earth and said that the current mantra of 'build back better' will never deliver until we challenge the current capitalist and development paradigms of perpetual growth in a finite world. Ms. Kamal said that moving to a global economy based on zero growth and eventual de-growth seems essential to severely curtail and then end fossil fuel emissions. She said that almost 30 million people have been affected by the recent floods in Pakistan. She said that the way forward includes long-term, medium-term and short-term measures and actions. She said that demonstration of political will by federal & provincial governments should be a priority. In the medium term, we need to make the water ministry and the flood commission more effective, changing the narrative around women and climate change as well as developing an extensive training program on ecosystem-based adaptation.

In the very short term, we need to be able to know globally but act locally. One way to mitigate climate change is by putting women on key committees as well as developing programs for selected climate-vulnerable areas in different geographical zones.

Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel, Chairperson Board of Governors SDPI, praised the researcher for producing a very useful booklet on climate change and how to deal with it. He said that the short, medium and long-term measures given in the report are all achievable and he hopes that Pakistan can summon the political will and mobilize the resources in order to achieve this task. He concluded by saying that we are at a crossroads and it is for humankind to decide whether we will be able to save the planet from climate change-related disasters.

Ms. Kim Campbell, former Prime Minister of Canada, said that we need to create strong partnerships among national and international actors focused on climate change. She said that it is a part of her organization, Club de Madrid's main aims and objectives.

Luke Myers, Counsellor, Development and Head of Cooperation, Canadian High Commission, Islamabad said that today's event is important to highlight the challenges Pakistan's women face in their fight against climate change. He said that it is not a competition that which country is among the worst hit with regards to climate change since we are all facing extreme weather events.

Dr. Shahida Rehmani, MNA PPP and Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus Pakistan, said that this is a very important subject and applauded the efforts of Aurat Foundation in organizing this seminar. She praised the qualities of the minister of climate change and said that Pakistani women are not behind anyone.

Irfan Mufti, Team Lead SAP-PK, said that the visuals and optics of this issue are daunting and that we have reached an incredible level. He said that we need to fight for our right's share within the international arena and continue our battle against climate change. Ms. Nousheen Khurram, National Programme Manager JAZBA moderated the function.

Chapter Six

Support for Civil Society Organizations

Chapter Six:

Support for Civil Society Organizations

6.1 Make Widows Visible for Representing their Voices and Leadership in all Spaces

South Asian Network for Widows' Empowerment in Development (SANWED) organized webinar on "Status of Widows in South Asia" The main objective of the event was shared the issues facing the widows and also share the experiences and "best practices" for promoting and improving the status of widows and their dependents in the South Asian Region. They highlighted social injustice that widows are facing including Local customs result in the loss of widows' rights, widows suffer in silence and have no social and health support, particularly of widows of war crimes; don't have inheritance rights; In-laws' family will grab all the lands and the produce from I, widows suffer from lack of decent housing, case of widows who live with children in one room, children do not go to school, nor have access to healthcare; many widows suffer from malnutrition, 80% of widows during COVID have faced crises – lost revenues in the informal sector or condemnation; almost 20% have died leaving children as orphans with lack of support/housing; poor infrastructure – rural areas lack roads to the cities; widows cannot move closer to services; lack access to vaccination for themselves and their children, climate change has impacted fields due to flooding; problem of drought causing hunger. Widows are more victims as they are left behind and face malnutrition and hunger and etc.

Member of SANWED emphasized that we make widows visible for representing their voices and leadership in all spaces where conversations on addressing inequality are taking place and also able to create and support networks of solidarity and community support that help widows.

Status of Widows in South Asia on 19 July 2022

Widows of Conflict

- Increasing incidence of armed conflict in Pakistan has resulted in many young women being widowed and displaced.
- Armed conflicts and resulting displacement, destruction of homes, family structure and communities often leave them more vulnerable to sexual abuse and harassment.
- Moreover, the lack of ID cards is a major problem for widows and women whose husbands are present in conflict zones.

Concerned states and relevant UN entities therefore, should make use of the talent and experience of women leaders from civil society to promote their active engagement and participation in a variety of appropriate roles to ensure the full and effective implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 (ensuring formulation of Action Plan).

This resolution made an important contribution to the normative framework for the protection of women and girls in armed conflict.

Moreover, the economic support provided by the govt. to widows will turn short in terms of **access to resources and opportunities**, as listed ahead:

- On the death of a government employee, the federal and provincial governments have made humane provisions for the widows who receive a family pension until her death.
- Widows of lower paid employees also receive a one-time grant for rehabilitation from the official Benevolent Fund.
- Pakistan's report to CEDAW identifies social security benefits specifically for women, which include a death grant to a widow as well as a number of direct benefit social security schemes like Zakat, the federal Ehsaas program, the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Bait-ul-Mal
- In the private sector, there are no universal rules governing support for widows but given the culture of philanthropy, some short-term provision is often made.

Conclusion:
While individual organizations are doing their best to meet the need of widows, civil society must come forward 'collectively'.

Our Vision

Establishment of just and poverty free society through women empowerment

FAIRWED has more than 38 years working experience in 9 districts in Bangladesh.

FAIRWED Initiatives & Impact on Women's Life:

- Economic empowerment
- Business Priority
- Business oriented financial Migration
- Business family violence
- Gender Equality
- Education Making & registration grant
- Social Recognition
- Environment

ASROY- Shelter Safe Home

Widow Assistance

Shelter Safe Home

Widow Empowerment

Health care, child care, elderly care

Nearly 38 women and their children received safe home facilities

PROSPERITY Initiatives

Accessing Family Resources

6.2 Humatrain Assistance Provided to Vulnerable Communities

After flood situation was getting worsen day by day. FF generated some fund and plan visit to Dera Ismail Khan and Tank on 3-5 August 2022. These both districts are far flung areas of KP and the assistance was not reached there. Another fact is these districts are among the poorest district in KP. It was dire need of the day to visit. Three-member team has visited these areas, met with women in affected areas. The miseries of the women of these areas were extremely painful. Their houses were damaged, completely or partially. They had lost their food, seed, livestock, their belongings, hygiene condition was worst. It was extremely hot weather and they were working in open air. They were suffering from skin and waterborne diseases. They want government to help them to reconstruct their houses, to help them for acquiring spring crops seeds. Cash disbursement was made after assessment.

Feminist Friday

Exposure Visit Dera Ismail Khan and Tank (3-5 Sep 2022)



During exposure visit to D I Khan and Tank, it was felt that women and children issues are not highlighted in media properly. The FF team taking the opportunity being in Dera Ismail Khan, team met with journalist there. FF shared assessment findings with media persons and discussed how to report women specific issues in media especially in disaster.

4 Nov 2022: AF and Feminist Fridays distributed Warm clothes including 1 king size quilt, 2 ladies shawls, 1 man shawl (patio), socks and woollen capes among 70 flood affected families in Sakhara, Matta Swat. Swat is once again under insurgency threats exclusively in Matta and though this area is highly affected by floods but very few institutions are working in this area.



Medical Camp in Nov 2022 at Quetta



In Quetta, Aurat Foundation set a medical camp

6.3 An awareness session The Sindh Domestic Violence Act 2013

An awareness session on pro women laws was organized at Panah Shelter home, Karachi on 3rd December 2022 to celebrate 16 Days of Activism by the Aurat Foundation. The session provided an opportunity to educate the survivors about the prevalence and different forms of gender-based

3rd Dec 2022: 16 Days of Activism at Panah Shelter Home, Karachi



violence, fostering a deeper understanding of the issue.

Ms Malka Khan, Provincial Manager AF JAZBA programme conducted the session. She explained the background of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. She said that it is a global campaign that takes place annually from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to December 10 (International Human Rights Day). The campaign aims to raise awareness about gender-based violence and advocate for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.

She gave an overview of provincial laws and policies especially highlighted the key features of The Sindh Domestic Violence Act 2013. The Act provides a comprehensive definition of domestic violence, which includes physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and economic abuse, as well as any other harmful or offensive conduct. The Act emphasizes the importance of counseling and rehabilitation for both the victim and the perpetrator, with the goal of preventing further incidents of domestic violence. The legislation includes provisions for granting monetary relief to victims, which may include compensation for losses suffered as a result of domestic violence. The Act allows for the issuance of emergency protection orders in urgent situations to provide immediate protection to victims.

6.4 Celebration of the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV with Youth

Celebration of the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV with youth is a fantastic way to engage and empower the younger generation in the movement to end violence and promote gender equality.

Ms Ghazala Yasmeen, women rights activists and focal person Aurat Foundation Sukkur, organized the session in Government Boys Degree College Sukkur on 3rd Dec 2023 and District Council Hall Sukkur on 9th Dec 2023. She said that engage youth in community outreach activities is the best strategy, such as distributing informational pamphlets, organizing awareness walks, or participating in local events. We need to establish peer support programs where youth can share their experiences and support each other. This could include creating a safe space for discussions or setting up mentorship programs. The role of youth in combating Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is crucial, as they represent a dynamic and influential segment of society.

The young boys demanded that there is need to Conduct workshops on digital literacy and online safety. Youth can actively challenge harmful stereotypes and gender norms that contribute to violence. Encourage open discussions about traditional expectations and promote more inclusive and equitable attitudes. The energy, creativity, and passion of young people can significantly contribute to the collective efforts to combat VAWG. By fostering a culture of respect, equality, and empathy, youth can play a transformative role in building a society free from violence.

6.5 Community integration enables persons with disabilities to fully participate in life

An awareness walk was organized in Rawalpindi to celebrate International Disability Day and 16 Days of Activism to End Gender Based Violence Against Women and Girls on 3rd December 2022. The walk was led by 50-Women's Leader Group of Rawalpindi.

Addressing from Rally, Ms Shafaq Shahid, Programme Officer Aurat Foundation said that Persons with disabilities have twice the risk of developing conditions such as depression, asthma,

diabetes, stroke, obesity or poor oral health. Persons with disabilities face many health inequities. She shared that 44% of disabled people have missed social events or family gatherings because of barriers related to their impairment. 55% of disabled people felt they are unable to engage in hobbies or pastimes as often as they would like because of barriers linked to their impairment. She added that community participation is important for people with disabilities because it helps them make connections and feel part of the community. It can also improve their physical health and mental wellbeing.

Ms Samina Shaoib, Social and Political Activist of PML (N) said that community integration enables persons with disabilities to fully participate in life at the same level as nondisabled individuals. This participation can take place in neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, congregations, community centers, and more.

Ms. Razia Sultana, educationist and President Women Alliance for Pakistan said that community integration provides countless benefits to persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities, including: Improved sense of well-being and self-esteem. Access to a full range of community activities. Social inclusion with varied friends, colleagues, and community members. She emphasized that Including people with disabilities in everyday activities and encouraging them to have roles similar to their peers who do not have a disability is disability inclusion.

6.6 Collaborative efforts are needed for prevention of GBV

Ms. Rizwana, Incharge Dar-ul-Aman Rawalpindi said that shelters are part of the referral system that provide victims and survivors with temporary refuge, lodging and other services and link victims and survivors to medical, legal, economic and psycho-social services. The community is one of the most powerful tools of the anti-violence movement, for while communities can shame, victim-blame, or prescribe harmful gender roles, they can also empower women, collaborate on



prevention and intervention, and collectively shape new norms of gender democracy. She said that we should empowering women and girls across their lifetime by keeping girls in school, empowering women economically, giving women cash support, engaging male allies, including

women in decision-making at leadership level and supporting local women-led and women's rights organizations. She was addressing during the awareness session on pro women laws for GBV survivors at Dar-ul-Aman, Rawalpindi on 3rd December 2023 organized by Aurat Foundation.

Ms. Shafaq Shahid, Programme Officer, Aurat Foundation said that we should keep ourselves, family and community healthy and protected. We should say no to any form of violence – including physical, emotional, psychological, sexual or economic violence. Nothing can be an excuse for violence against women.

Ms Samina Shoaib, political activist of PML (N) said that preventing gender-based violence (GBV) is transformational: it improves the health of women and children, improves economic productivity and educational attainment, and reduces risks of mental illness and substance abuse, among other benefits. The UNITE to End Violence against Women initiative is a multiyear effort to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls around the world. She gave the message that nothing can be an excuse for violence against women.

Syeda Begum, Executive Director Saadi Foundation said that Domestic violence is the most common type of GBV, impacting one in four women. But violence takes many forms, including: Femicide, the killing of a woman because of her gender. Domestic violence, including familiar and intimate partner violence. Several NGOs attempt to influence policy development in favor of poor and marginalized communities. She said that awareness-raising campaigns are essential to prevent gender-based violence at education institutions and community level

6.7 Social media is essential for effective communication, engagement, and highlight the political achievements

Ms Romina Khurshid Alam, Convener national parliamentary taskforce SDGs said that organizing a capacity-building session on emerging social media for MPAs and political activists is a great initiative to enhance the outreach, communication, and engagement efforts of these critical conservation areas. It provides a platform for constituents to hold politicians accountable for their actions and promises. Social media is essential for political achievements because it



provides an unparalleled platform for communication, engagement, and outreach. She was addressing in closing ceremony of 2-day capacity building training workshop of MPAs and members of women's political participation on social media trends on 13-14 December 2022 at Best Western Hotel, Islamabad.

Ms Nosheen Khurram, National Manager AF JAZBA shared the programmes objectives that the session is organized for equip MPA professionals with the knowledge and skills to effectively utilize emerging social media platforms for conservation, outreach, and community engagement. This agenda aims to cover a comprehensive range of topics, from understanding social media platforms to practical content creation and ethical considerations. Interactive elements, such as hands-on exercises and group discussions, can enhance participant engagement and encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences.



Speaker Gilgit Assembly, Syed Amjad Zaidi said that women political activists can create official social media profiles for the political figure or party on popular platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. By using a consistent brand image and messaging across all platforms to educate the public about political issues, policies, and the impact of decisions.

Dilshad Bano, MPA PTI, GB Assembly said that social media can play success in politics is about building relationships, fostering dialogue, and creating a positive online presence. It requires a consistent and thoughtful approach to effectively communicate political goals and achievements to a diverse and often critical audience. She further said that Positive engagement can enhance a politician's reputation, while effective crisis communication can mitigate negative impacts.

Raheela Hameed Durrani, Ex Speaker Balochistan Assembly said that politicians can tailor messages to specific demographics, ensuring their content reaches the most relevant audiences. Social media facilitates the creation of online communities and grassroots movements. Supporters can connect with each other, fostering a sense of belonging and shared values.

Ms. Mumtaz Mughal, Director Programmes said that social media platforms have massive user bases, allowing political figures and parties to reach a broad and diverse audience. They can increase visibility can help raise awareness of political agendas, campaigns, and achievements. Social media allows politicians to share information transparently, including policy details, achievements, and challenges.

Chapter Seven

Research and Publications

Chapter Seven:

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.

AF in collaboration with JAZBA programme produced a study on "Pakistan's Perspective on Climate Action and Role of Women". The report highlights long-term, mid-term and short-term recommendations and also provides a macro-economic framework to drastically reducing global warming and eventually shifting to renewable energy resources to save life on Earth. All this requires action by governments around the world under the forum of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its annual climate conference – the Conference of Parties or COP, the latest being COP 27 held from 6 to 18 November 2022 – to implement joint decisions, fulfill global commitments and think about human survival and welfare instead of the greed for wealth accumulation and profits. This research was undertaken under the JAZBA project, which is being implemented jointly by South Asia Partnerahip-Pakistan and funded by Gobar Affairs Canada. I am grateful to Mr. Irfan Mufti, the Team Leader of JAZBA, the author of the report Ms. Simi Kamal, the Programme Director AF, Ms. Mumtaz Mughal and National Programme Manager of JAZBA, AF, and the entire team of Aurat Foundation, who contributed in the making of this report

Information and Communication Material

پراجیکٹ کا تعارف

عورتوں اور لڑکیوں کے حقوق کی لڑائی کے دوران سے ملنے کی سچے 10 لاکھ ایڈوائس کیے ہیں تاکہ لڑکیوں کو ان کے حقوق کی لڑائی سے مدد ملے اور ان کے حقوق کی لڑائی کے دوران ان کی مدد ملے۔

● ایڈوائس دینے والے لوگوں کو ایڈوائس دینے سے پہلے ان کے حقوق کی لڑائی کے دوران ان کے حقوق کی لڑائی سے مدد ملے۔

● ایڈوائس دینے والے لوگوں کو ایڈوائس دینے سے پہلے ان کے حقوق کی لڑائی کے دوران ان کے حقوق کی لڑائی سے مدد ملے۔

● ایڈوائس دینے والے لوگوں کو ایڈوائس دینے سے پہلے ان کے حقوق کی لڑائی کے دوران ان کے حقوق کی لڑائی سے مدد ملے۔

مقاصد

عورتوں کا 10 لاکھ ایڈوائس کیے گئے

رقبہ	عورتوں کی تعداد	عورتوں کی تعداد
پنجاب	5,000,000	5,000,000
سرحد	1,500,000	1,500,000
گلگت بلتستان	1,500,000	1,500,000
بلوچستان	1,500,000	1,500,000
خیبر پختونخوا	1,500,000	1,500,000
حیدرآباد	1,500,000	1,500,000
لاہور	1,500,000	1,500,000
فیصل آباد	1,500,000	1,500,000
کراچی	1,500,000	1,500,000
سوات	1,500,000	1,500,000

قانونی خدمات:

● ایڈوائس دینے والے لوگوں کو ایڈوائس دینے سے پہلے ان کے حقوق کی لڑائی کے دوران ان کے حقوق کی لڑائی سے مدد ملے۔

- 1۔ قانونی آگہی
- 2۔ قانونی خدمت
- 3۔ قانونی چارہ
- 4۔ عدالت کی جاتی
- 5۔ عدالت کی جاتی
- 6۔ عدالت کی جاتی

- ایڈوائس دینے والے لوگوں کی مدد دینی اور معاہدات**
- 1۔ ایڈوائس دینے والے لوگوں کی مدد دینی اور معاہدات
 - 2۔ ایڈوائس دینے والے لوگوں کی مدد دینی اور معاہدات

پتہ: ایڈوائس دینے والے لوگوں کی مدد دینی اور معاہدات

● ایڈوائس دینے والے لوگوں کی مدد دینی اور معاہدات

● ایڈوائس دینے والے لوگوں کی مدد دینی اور معاہدات

پنجاب اور سندھ میں ایچ آئی وی کے خطرہ سے دوچار افراد کے لیے لیگل ایڈوائس کا قیام پس منظر

- پاکستان میں ایچ آئی وی سے دوچار افراد کی تعداد 210,000 ہے۔
 - پاکستان میں 2010 سے 2018 تک ایچ آئی وی کے کیسوں میں 57 لاکھ اضافہ ہوا ہے اور عالمی سطح پر پاکستان میں 10 لاکھ تک ہے جبکہ پاکستان میں ایچ آئی وی کے کیسوں کی تعداد 10 لاکھ سے زیادہ ہے۔
 - ایچ آئی وی کی روک تھام کے لیے ایچ آئی وی سے دوچار افراد کی مدد دینی اور معاہدات کی ضرورت ہے۔
 - ایچ آئی وی سے دوچار افراد کی مدد دینی اور معاہدات کی ضرورت ہے تاکہ ایچ آئی وی سے دوچار افراد کو ایچ آئی وی سے دوچار نہ بننے کا موقع ملے۔
 - ایچ آئی وی سے دوچار افراد کی مدد دینی اور معاہدات کی ضرورت ہے تاکہ ایچ آئی وی سے دوچار افراد کو ایچ آئی وی سے دوچار نہ بننے کا موقع ملے۔
- پاکستان کا 1973ء کے آئین میں ایچ آئی وی سے دوچار افراد کی مدد دینی اور معاہدات کی ضرورت ہے۔
- آئیگال 25A** "شرعیہ کی مزاحمتی" کو گنجی بنا دینا ہے
- 1) 25 آئیگال کے تحت ایچ آئی وی سے دوچار افراد کی مدد دینی اور معاہدات کی ضرورت ہے۔
 - 2) ایچ آئی وی سے دوچار افراد کی مدد دینی اور معاہدات کی ضرورت ہے۔
 - 3) ایچ آئی وی سے دوچار افراد کی مدد دینی اور معاہدات کی ضرورت ہے۔
- آئیگال 26(2) "ایچ آئی وی سے دوچار افراد کی مدد دینی اور معاہدات کی ضرورت ہے۔"
- ایچ آئی وی سے دوچار افراد کی مدد دینی اور معاہدات کی ضرورت ہے۔

Press Releases

5 Oct 2022, Balochistan



Democracy collective wisdom of nation: NA speaker

Says democracy in Pakistan is young and needs time to mature

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Monday said democracy was the collective wisdom of the nation and its respect lied in the democratic system as a whole.

He was speaking at a seminar held in connection with the International Democracy Day titled "Inclusive democracy: priorities and challenges in 2022" organised by Aurat Foundation in collaboration with Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC). The day is celebrated on September 15. The participants included representatives from all major political par-



NA Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf speaks at the seminar in Islamabad on Monday. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

ties, civil society organisations, women political workers, academia, media as well as special persons and the transgender community.

Speaker Ashraf said before 1970 the population of Pakistan was 100 million

out of which only 40,000 people in East Pakistan and 40,000 people in West Pakistan were allowed to vote on behalf of their communities.

"Hence, only 80,000 people voted to bring in the representatives of 100 million people. Democracy in Pakistan is young and needs time to mature like its western counterparts," he said.

PPP Senator Kishoo Bai said the majority should not be afraid of a tiny minority and allow them to live freely in Pakistan.

"We need to stand up for minority rights as it benefits the society at large. I thank my party co-chairman Bilawal Bhatto-Zardari as he supported me to reach the Senate of Pakistan," she said.

Independent Senator from Balochistan Sana Jamali told a harrowing tale of the damage that the recent floods had wreaked in her native province. She said rainfall was ongoing for a consecutive 18 days. Balochistan usually received only

10mm of rain, however, during the recent floods it received 240mm of rain which destroyed the infrastructure of Pakistan's largest province.

"Around 60,000 women are pregnant and are due to give birth in the next few months and they are not getting any sort of medical care which their situation requires," she said.

MNA Farrukh Khan of the PML-Q said that a woman had so many rights given to her in Islam. She said showing restraint and patience was a key part of democracy and people should not stray away from it.

Aurat Foundation Executive Director Naeem Mirza said from 2008-2013 women legislators were very active in parliament and this slowed through their work since most of the legislation regarding women's rights was done during this period.

He said democracy had become a value in the modern age, adding out of the over 190 countries put together, only Bangladesh and Pakistan had a clause inserted into their constitution which stated that breaking the constitution itself was a criminal offence and carried the death penalty.

Abia Akram, founder of the national forum of women with disabilities in Pakistan, said almost all the differently-abled were brought to the venue on wheelchairs, which she explained in a manner that the cars she sits and travels in has a wheel and a chair, just like the wheelchair of a person with a disability.

Maya Zaman, a transgender rights activist, said there was a debate ongoing about who was a real transgender? She said the protection Act of the transgender had been challenged in court by a right-wing political party which claimed all transgenders were fake.

THE NEWS (https://www.thenews.com.pk)

Democracy is collective wisdom of the nation: Pervaiz

Islamabad: Democracy is the collective wisdom of the nation and its respect lies in the democratic system as a whole, said Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Speaker of the National Assembly at the conclusion of a seminar organised on the theme of International Day of Democracy (IDD).

He made these remarks at a seminar organised by Aurat Foundation in collaboration with Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC). The event included representation from all the major political parties as well as participation from the disabled and transgender community. It also included civil society organisations, women political workers, academia and media.

The welcome remarks at the opening of the seminar were given by Shahida Rehmani, secretary WPC. She said that no democracy can work without the meaningful role of women. Furthermore, she said that she pays her respect to the honourable speaker national assembly for supporting the WPC and thanked the support of the transgender and disabled community.

Naeem Mirza, executive director of Aurat Foundation (AF), said that from 2008-2013 women legislators were very active in the Parliament and this slowed through their work since most of the legislation regarding women's rights was done during this period.

said that democracy has become a value in the modern age and further stated that out of the all 190+ countries put together, only Bangladesh and Pakistan have a clause inserted into their constitution which says that breaking the constitution itself is a criminal offence and carries the death penalty.

Abia Akram, founder of the national forum of women with disabilities in Pakistan, spoke candidly at the seminar. She said almost all of us were brought to the venue on a wheelchair, which she explained in this manner that the cars we sit in and travel in, has a wheel and a chair, just like the wheelchair of a disabled person. She further said we need to break systematic barriers in Pakistan which stop the disabled people from excelling in any field.

Maya Zaman, a transgender activist, said that presently there is a debate ongoing about who is a real transgender? She said that the protection act of the transgender has been challenged in court by a right-wing political party who says that all transgenders are fake. She further stated that the 2017 population census has different number of transgender persons while the national database and registration authority (NADRA) has very low numbers of her community. She said that this issue needs to be looked into on a priority basis.

Kishoo Bai, senator of PPP, said that the majority should not be afraid of a tiny minority and allow them to live freely in Pakistan. She said that we need to stand up for minority rights as it benefits the society at large. She also thanked her party co-chairman Bilawal Bhatto Zardari due to who's support she is in the senate of Pakistan.

Sana Jamali, independent senator from Balochistan told a harrowing tale of the damage that the recent floods have wreaked in her native province. She said that rainfall was ongoing for a consecutive 18 days and that Balochistan usually received only 10 mm of rain. However, during the recent floods, it received a huge 240 mm of rain which has destroyed the infrastructure of Pakistan's largest province. She said that around 60,000 women are pregnant and are due to give birth in the next few months and they are not getting any sort of medical care which their situation requires.

Farrukh Khan, member national assembly from PML-Q said that a woman has so many rights given to in our religion Islam. She said that showing restraint and patience is a key part of democracy and we should not stray away from this. Keynote speaker was the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Raja P. Ashraf. Ashraf said that before 1970, the

population of Pakistan was 100 million at that time, only 40,000 people in East Pakistan and 40,000 people in West Pakistan were allowed to vote on behalf of their communities. Hence, only 80,000 people voted to bring in the representatives of 10 crore people. He said that democracy in Pakistan is young and needs time to mature like its western counterparts. In conclusion, Shahid Rehmani thanked all the participants and said that "we need to work with a new zeal to make democracy strong in our country and we need to realise the power of our votes".

King Charles blamed for 'gold-plating' rather than 'living with it' (https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/593357) King Charles blamed for 'gold-plating' rather than 'living with it'



جنگل، بچوں اور خواتین کے حقوق کے تحفظ کیلئے مشترکہ کام کا اعلان
80 فیصد خواتین پر تشدد کیا جاتا ہے، روک تھام کیلئے آگاہی کی ضرورت قاضی عیاض
سات (کار) سات کی سات لڑکی مشترکہ سربراہی شروع کرے گا، ایف اے ایف اے
تعمیر کی جانب سے خواتین کے حقوق کے لئے سے 2022-23 میں 40 کروڑ روپے



روزنامہ خبریں (2) 10 نومبر 2022ء

سات کی سات تنظیموں کا خواتین حقوق کیلئے مشترکہ سرگرمیوں کا فیصلہ
80 فیصد خواتین پر تشدد کیا جاتا ہے، آگاہی کی ضرورت ہے، بشرین بیکم
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کا ایف اے ایف اے کی سرگرمیوں میں شرکت کیلئے آگاہی کی ضرورت ہے، ایف اے ایف اے
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Press Coverage Lahore

Violence against women: awareness walk held

Our correspondent LAHORE

A 16 Days of Activism campaign is held from November 25 to December 10 every year. This year the theme is "Unite! Activism to End Violence against Women (VAW) and Girls."

The success of this campaign rests on daily individual and collective actions. Aurat Foundation in collaboration with Punjab Women Protection Authority and Gender Studies Department Punjab University organised a poster competition and awareness walk to mark 16 days of activism on weekend in Punjab University.

A large number of students and civil society representatives participated in the rally. Students displayed posters with slogans that motivate to act now to end violence against women and girls.

Sara Anum, Resident Director Aurat Foundation Lahore, Dr Raana Malik Head of the Gender Studies department, Punjab University and Rafia Kamal, Chairperson Punjab Women Protection Authority appreciated students' efforts in making posters and gave certificates to them.

Sara Anum said that situation of VAW is alarming in Pakistan and "we should do more with the collaboration of government departments and public representatives to make pro women laws effective".



Many Congratulations to Naeem Sb for receiving the Women's Empowerment Award



14 Sept. 2022: Women Leader Group Quetta hold press conference on Flood Situation at Press Club



کوئٹہ، سول سوسائٹی کی مشترک خواتین بلوچستان میں سیلابی صورتحال سے متعلق پریس کانفرنس کر رہی ہیں

CITYNEWS

'Engage women in peacebuilding'

Saadia Salahuddin
LAHORE

PEACE is possible with inclusivity and access to justice. We need to engage women in peacebuilding and oversight, and build effective and inclusive institutions at all levels.

These views were voiced at a consultative working group meeting on 'Building bridges for women in peace under SHE—the peacebuilder project' held by Aurat Foundation here. The participants from various departments: women development, police, law, human rights, education and social welfare, identified challenges that

withhold women from effective participation in national life. Rights activists and media also gave their input. The participants also suggested measures to overcome the challenges. Some of the views pronounced were:

Structural changes are needed to encourage women to actively participate in society. Interconnected, safe, cheap and efficient transport system emboldens women to venture out and explore their potential. Also, an environment where the children are taken good care of while mothers are at work. In short, make the work environment more flexible and humane to

encourage educated women to step out and contribute. Also, create more opportunities for them so that we succeed in inducting 30pc women in all sectors.

The people in the consultation were Sumaira Samad, Secy Women Development Dept, Nabila Javaid, Secy PCSW, Nadeem Ashraf, Member Punjab National Commission for Human Rights, Imran Masood, former education minister, Dr Raghib Naemul, Principal Jamia Naeemia Lahore, Dr M Nizamuddin, former chairman PHEC, Sarmad Saeed Khan, former IGP Shamimur Rehman, and others.



Advocacy & Networking Meeting with Provincial Stakeholders at Karachi 9th August 2023 at Karachi Press Club

روزنامہ ریاست کارچی

www.riasatakhbar.com

www.cidda.com

www.siyasiz.com

KARACHI PRESS CLUB

خواہن محترمہ! ہمارے ان کی جانب سے اگلیوں کے قومی دن منانے کے حوالے سے کارچی پریس کلب میں قومی خیر اہمیتی اے منگل شرمہ ایم پی اے منگل شرمہ ایم پی اے قومی مہما زینا ٹیل اور دیگر کے ہمراہ پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کر رہے ہیں۔

10 Nov 2022 at SWAT UN Women



روزنامہ خبیر (2) 10 نومبر 2022

سوات کی مسات تنظیموں کا خواتین کے حقوق کیلئے مشترکہ سرگرمیوں کا فیصلہ

80 فیصد خواتین پر گروں میں تشدد کیا جاتا ہے، آگاہی کی ضرورت ہے، شرمن نسیم

سوات (پورہ پست) مسات کے سات تنظیموں سواتی کے سربراہان ایگزیکٹو، ایف ایف ایف کے کافرین کی حقوق کیلئے مشترکہ سرگرمیوں کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ شہزادہ خان نے کہا کہ سوات میں خواتین کے حقوق کیلئے مشترکہ سرگرمیوں کا فیصلہ کیا جاتا ہے۔ سوات کی مسات تنظیموں میں سواتی کے سربراہان ایگزیکٹو، ایف ایف ایف کے کافرین کی حقوق کیلئے مشترکہ سرگرمیوں کا فیصلہ کیا جاتا ہے۔

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خواتین کے حقوق کا تحفظ ناگزیر ہے، شہزادہ خان

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Advocacy & Networking Meeting with Provincial Stakeholders at Karachi 9th August 2023 at Karachi Press Club

11-August-2023

National Minority Day to be observed today

Imran Zakir

KARACHI: All Minorities in Pakistan will observe National Minorities Day on Friday across the country with the aim to highlight their religious and socio-economic rights stated by minorities' rights activists in a Press conference on Wednesday held at Karachi Press Club.

The Universal declaration is to mark as part of the Human Rights to help and secure minorities to practice their religion and other religious activities and seeking the support of Government.

Our Constitution guarantees the rights of minorities and Quaid-i-Azam had much stressed.

The purpose of observing the Day is to highlight the message of Father of the Nation Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who had pronounced equal rights to all citizens of Pakistan.

The Government of Pakistan declared 11 August as the National Minority Day in 2009. It has always been the endeavor of the government to safeguard the fundamental rights, safety, security, honors, life, liberty and prosperity of minorities in line with the historic speech of the founder of the nation Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah at the Constituent Assembly on August 11, 1947.

The National Minorities Day not only expresses gratitude for the contributions, made by these religious communities, but also professes that future development of Pakistan hinges crucially on their efforts.

On this occasion Former MPA Anis Haroon and Mangla Sharma, Nurhat Shireen, Paster Safina Javed, Nomi Bashir, Mehnaz Rehman, Malika, Tusna Patel and other minorities activists addressed from the media.

روزنامہ سند

روزنامہ خبیر

KARACHI PRESS CLUB

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کوئٹہ، سول سوسائٹی کی مشترک خواہشیں بلوچستان میں سیلابی صورتحال سے متعلق پریس کانفرنس کر رہی ہیں

Press Coverage Lahore

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کوئٹہ، پارلیمانی سیکرٹری برائے انسانی حقوق و اقلیتی امور ضلع جارج، بلوچستان کمیشن آف ووٹمن کی چیئر پرسن فوزیہ شاہین، ایسٹینٹ مغل و دیگر سیاسی عمل میں خواتین کی شمولیت کے عنوان سے تقریب سے خطاب کر رہے ہیں۔

Press Coverage of IC Workshop



Sindh

8th March 2022





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