

Aurat Foundation and Introduction



AURAT FOUNDATION

Mission Statement

To create, facilitate and strengthen civil society groups and networks for promoting trust and collaboration among citizens to mobilise public pressure for women's empowerment in the country.

Vision

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

Values and Culture








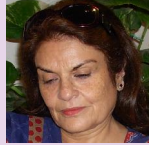

- Commitment to women's cause
- Caring and sharing
- Space for discussion
- Nurturing of colleagues
- Friendly environment
- Sense of belonging and ownership
- Mutual trust and respect
- Participatory decision-making, and
- Encouragement of initiatives

Main Goals

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

As the experience of Aurat Foundation grew by time, it continued to contribute in creating and developing social capital in the shape of local advocacy groups comprising both women and men and young volunteers from lower socio-economic classes and excluded groups in the country, both literate and illiterate. In reaching out to local communities at the grassroots level and decision-makers at the macro level, Aurat Foundation has implemented several major and hundreds of small and medium-sized advocacy and action, capacity-building, information and research-based programmes over the years. These included Information Network Centers, Advocacy and Action, Legislative Watch and Raising Her Voice. Currently, it is implementing Gender Equity Program, Social Mobilization-National Cash Transfer, AAWAZ Voice and Accountability, GBV Policy Advocacy and Capacity-building Programme, LISTEN and AART among other small projects. It has also undertaken major local and national campaigns to mobilize local groups for women's empowerment and democratic governance.

Board of Governors

<p>Dr. Masuma Hasan President</p> <p>Development Practitioner, former Cabinet Secretary & Ambassador and Researcher</p> 	<p>Nigar Ahmad Executive Director</p> <p>Economist, Human Rights Activist, and Development Practitioner</p> 	<p>Mohammed Tahseen Treasurer</p> <p>Development Expert, and Human Rights Activist</p> 
<p>Shoaib Sultan Khan Member</p> <p>Chairperson, Rural Support Programmes Network, Pakistan, and Development Practitioner</p> 	<p>Arif Hasan Member</p> <p>Architect & Planner, Social Researcher, Writer, and Development Practitioner</p> 	<p>Anis Haroon Member</p> <p>Human Rights and Women's Rights Activist, and former Chairperson NCSW</p> 
<p>Tasneem Siddiqui Member</p> <p>Chairman Saiban, former Director, Katchi Abadis, KDA, and Development Practitioner</p> 	<p>Samina Rahman Member</p> <p>Educationist, and Women's Rights Activist</p> 	<p>Anjum Riyazul Haque Member</p> <p>Development Professional, former UNESCO head in various countries</p> 

Executive Council of Aurat Foundation	Affiliation with AF
Nigar Ahmad Executive Director	27 Years
Naeem Ahmed Mirza Chief Operating Officer	16 Years
M. Younas Khalid Chief Strategy & Policy Officer	18 Years
Nasreen Zehra Resident Director, Lahore	17 Years
Shabina Ayaz Resident Director, Peshawar	17 Years
Haroon Dawood Resident Director, Quetta	16 Years
Mahnaz Rahman Resident Director, Karachi	9 Years

Main Strategies

- **Information** for women to build their capacity for decision-making and action, and information about women's issues and concerns to decision makers;
- **Capacity building** of citizens' groups, public authorities and public representatives to support women's participation in decision-making and their activism, as well as to enhance their access to opportunities and facilities at all levels;
- **Advocacy** for developing an enabling environment for women's empowerment, social justice, peace and democratic governance in Pakistan; and
- **Grant-making** to NGOs, CBOs, policy think tanks, academic research and training institutions, professional associations and gender entities to facilitate behavioral change in society by enabling women to access information, resources and institutions.

Regional and global partners

Aurat Foundation has linkages with the following major regional and global networks

- **HomeNet South Asia**, a Mauritius-based network which has chapters in all South Asian and Asia-Pacific countries, working on issues and rights of home-based women workers;
- **South Asian Network of Gender Activists and Trainers (SANGAT)**, a Nepal-based network with partners in all South Asian countries, working on issues of gender and feminism;
- **International Women's Rights Action Watch - Asia Pacific (IWRAP-Asia-Pacific)**, a Malaysia-based organisation with partners across the world, working on CEDAW follow-up mechanisms and capacity-building;
- **Women's Learning Partnership (WLP)**, a Washington-based organisation with partners in 18 countries, mostly Muslim-majority societies, working on gender equality, human rights and political participation of women;
- **South Asian Network for Widows' Empowerment in Development (SANWED)**, a Nepal-based network, working on the empowerment and rights of widows.

Women's Economic Empowerment

Aurat Foundation's critical role is to strengthen and facilitate civil society organisations working with informal sector women workers to enable them to increase their productivity and incomes, get recognition under labour laws and become eligible for social protection. The emphasis is on providing grants, undertaking advocacy for women's economic empowerment through gender-responsive budgetary allocations, and incorporation of women's concerns into the macro-economic policy framework and social protection programmes.



Women's Political Empowerment

This remains a key area of interventions and includes specific inputs in political education and activism to ensure women's involvement in defining their political and social environment. Interventions include seminars, public meetings and dissemination of information. Specific inputs highlight the role and performance of women legislators, leaders and councillors and the measures taken for strengthening their role in political and decision-making institutions.

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

Ending violence against women and girls is critical for creating an enabling environment for women. Aurat Foundation advocates and undertakes measures such as policy reform and positive legislation for elimination of violence against women and



Relief, Rehabilitation and Disaster Management

Aurat Foundation contributes massively in relief and rehabilitation work during natural and man-made disasters. It responded to Pakistan's worst ever floods in 2010 by immediately launching the 'Motherland Flood Relief Campaign'. Its grassroots-level networks in all districts of Pakistan enabled it to respond rapidly to the catastrophe through its nation-wide flood relief campaign. The 'Motherland' website launched by Aurat Foundation became a hub of local, regional and international relief activity with the support of its regional and international partners. During the IDPs crisis in 2008-2009, and to date, it has been involved in major local initiatives to protect vulnerable children and women in Swabi, Mardan and Swat. During earthquake 2005, it was a leading national organisation to support earthquake victims.

implementation of procedures to support female victims and survivors of violence. Another key area of AF is to work for total repeal or reform of discriminatory laws against women and minorities, such as the Hudood Ordinances, Law of Evidence, Qisas and Diyat Provisions in Pakistan Penal Code and the Citizenship Act.



Democratic Governance & Accountability

Aurat Foundation works for building and strengthening the foundations of a sustainable democracy; national consensus on strengthening participatory, transparent and accountable governance; impartial, free and fair elections to restore the electorate's rapidly declining faith in the electoral process. Issues like disenfranchisement of women, intra-party women's quotas on general seats, access to disaggregated data are also highlighted. Engagement with democratic institutions through planning and development of legislative agendas is AF's core strength. Promotion of culture of accountability through thematic studies and advocacy campaigns is also undertaken.



Social Mobilization of Communities

Social mobilization of local communities to form their groups and networks is a major focus area of Aurat Foundation's work under a rights-based framework. AF perceives social mobilization as a strategy as well as an objective to create, develop and preserve social capital in Pakistan. AF has enormous capacity to mobilise local groups, networks and communities for sustainable actions through local and national level campaigns, particularly around broader concerns of women, such as participation in national social protection programmes, CNICs, voter education, census and livelihood campaigns.

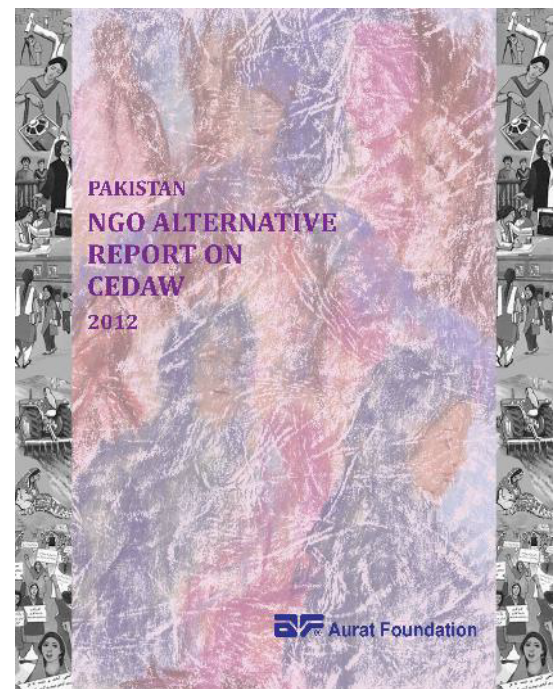


Access to Justice and Legal Rights

Aurat Foundation sees great significance in approaching formal systems and structures of law and justice to ensure equality of rights and status for women. Special focus is given to marginalised and disadvantaged segments in society due to the difficulties associated with being able to approach and use these structures to attain justice. This would include not just removing legal and financial barriers, but also social barriers such as language, lack of knowledge of legal rights and intimidation by the law and legal institutions. AF strives to provide knowledge as people must have information and knowledge about their rights and how to access them, and this extends to service providers as they are also required to have appropriate knowledge and expertise for the provision of effective and quality services.

Compliance of Human Rights Conventions

Ensuring compliance of Pakistan's international commitments remains an important area of AF interventions with Pakistan having signed and ratified a majority of important International Human Rights Conventions. AF is engaged in the follow-up, monitoring and reporting processes of these treaties, particularly in the preparation of 'shadow reports' on CEDAW and CAT through research, advocacy and capacity-development. Equal emphasis is given to discussions and resolutions of UN Commission on the Status of Women and Beijing follow-up process through efforts to incorporate them into Pakistan Law.



We believe in:

Working for women's empowerment & democratic governance

Developing social capital for sustainable change

Organization and mobilization of local communities

Networking & alliance-building with human rights groups

Promoting women leadership at all levels

Building capacities of grassroots organizations

Promoting volunteerism, transparency and accountability

Strengthening local advocacy and actions



We have reached out to and mobilized:

● **605,540**

Ultra-poor families who are ranked below poverty line.

● **249,000**

Poorest of the poor women in 12,450 village-based women committees in 430 union councils.

● **105,671**

Out-of-school children (44,225 boys and 61,446 girls of age 5-12) in contact for their enrollment at school.

● **75,000**

Community women networks through 1,500 women leaders in 30 district-based groups.

● **3,251,420**

Women & men through 134 CSOs under of GEP Pakistan Gender Coalition. Also with:

- 9 public sector universities for promotion of gender equality and behavioral change;
- 12 government and private shelter homes; and
- 6 help lines in major cities of Pakistan for survivors of violence against women and girls.

● **39,000**

Marginalized women and men in 1,300 AAWAZ Village Forums. Also with:

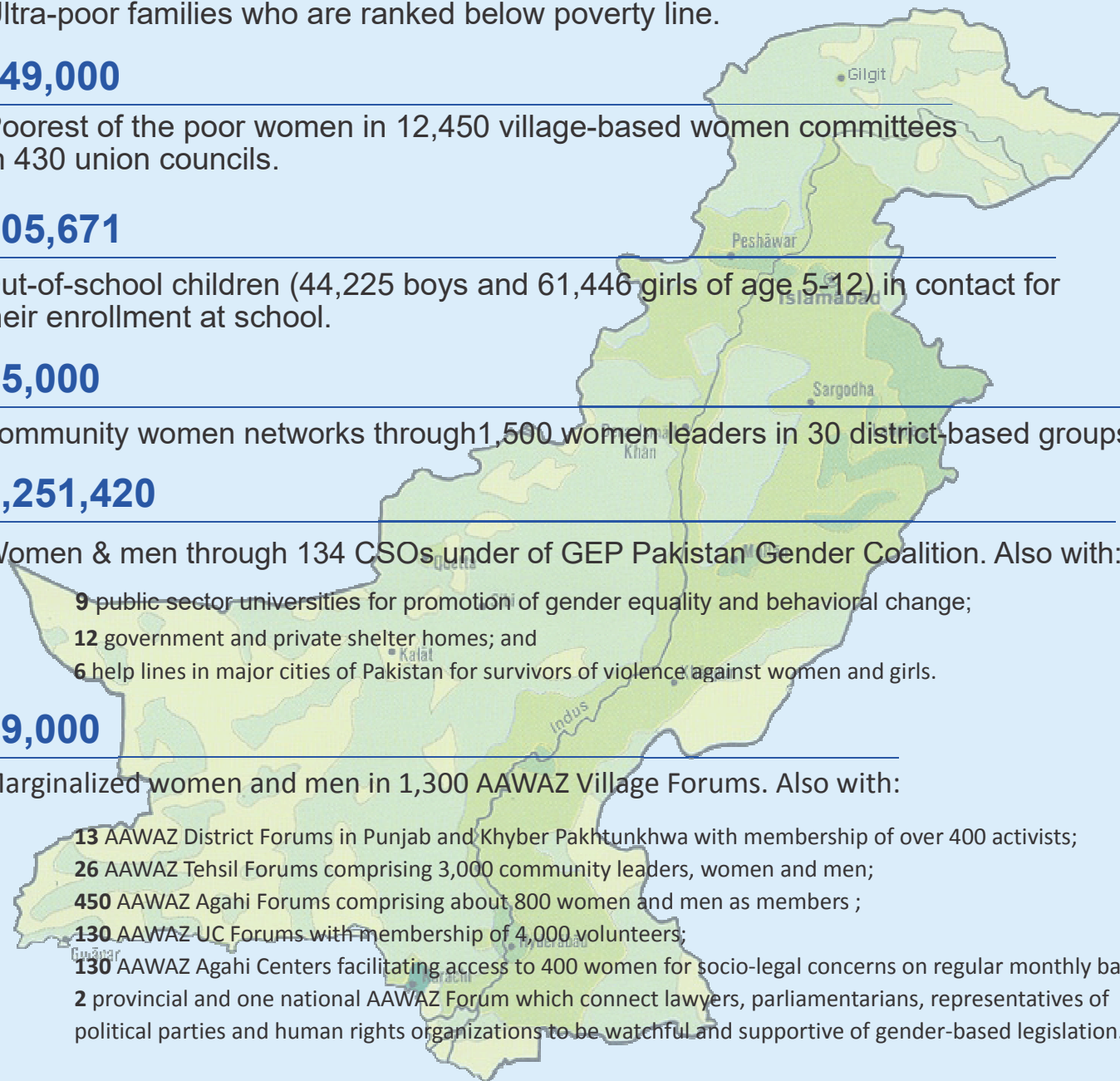
- 13 AAWAZ District Forums in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with membership of over 400 activists;
- 26 AAWAZ Tehsil Forums comprising 3,000 community leaders, women and men;
- 450 AAWAZ Agahi Forums comprising about 800 women and men as members ;
- 130 AAWAZ-UC Forums with membership of 4,000 volunteers;
- 130 AAWAZ Agahi Centers facilitating access to 400 women for socio-legal concerns on regular monthly basis;
- 2 provincial and one national AAWAZ Forum which connect lawyers, parliamentarians, representatives of political parties and human rights organizations to be watchful and supportive of gender-based legislation.

● **31,250**

Social and political workers, lawyers, media personnel and human rights defenders in Citizens' Action Committees (CACs) in 73 districts of Pakistan with diverse membership of about 1,250 community-based organizations.

● **65,000**

Women, men and youth in 2,600 Information Network Centers (INCs) for dissemination of knowledge and information across Pakistan.



Major National Campaigns

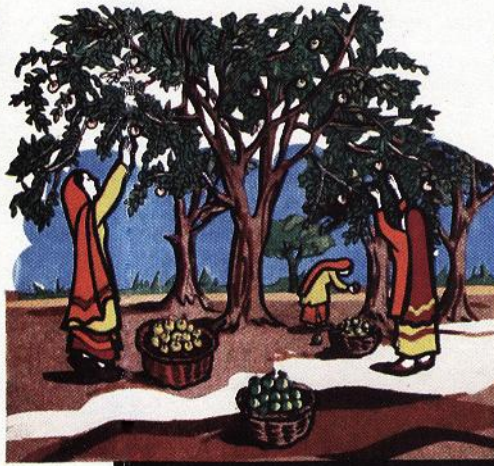
Aurat Foundation has launched several advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns at the national level over the years. Some of these include:

- National campaign for the recognition of women's work in the Fifth National Census in 1998.
- National campaigns for putting women's rights issues on the electoral agenda of the 1993, 1997, 2002 and 2008 General Elections.
- Campaigns for the repeal of discriminatory laws, e.g. the Hudood laws and 'honour' crimes and ending violence against women.
- National campaign since 1990s for 33% reservation of seats for women in legislatures.
- National campaigns for relief and rehabilitation of survivors of natural disasters during earthquake 2005, IDPs crisis in 2009 and floods in 2010.
- National campaign for the rights of indigenous people in Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights in 1998.
- National campaigns for CNICs and voter registration of women on regular basis.

عورتیں گنی جائیں تو ان کے کام بھی گنے جائیں

مردم شماری میں گھریلو کام کے علاوہ عورتوں کے کاموں کو درج کروائیے

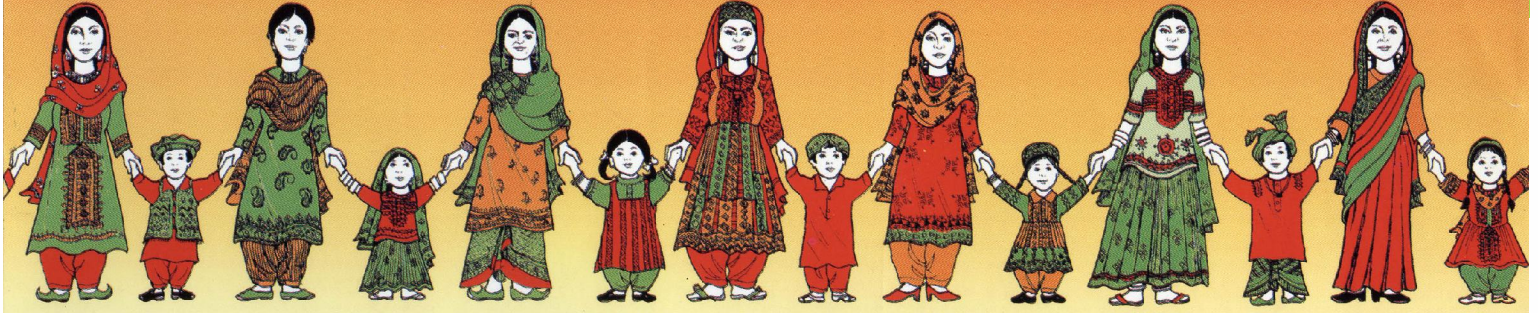
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- ایسے کام جو گھریلو کاروبار میں خاندانی
- مددگار کی حیثیت سے کر رہی ہوں



عورت فاؤنڈیشن

- Citizens' campaigns for ensuring and maximising women's representation in local government elections in 1998-99, 2000 and 2005, 2008 and 2013.
- National campaigns for a peaceful and tolerant Pakistan.

آؤ بہنوں، الیکشن میں آؤ، اپنے بچوں کے بہتر مستقبل کے لیے



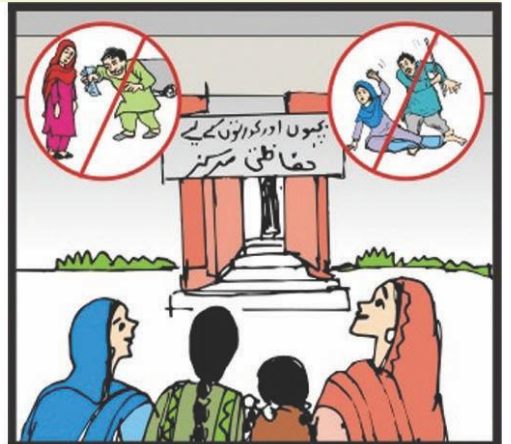
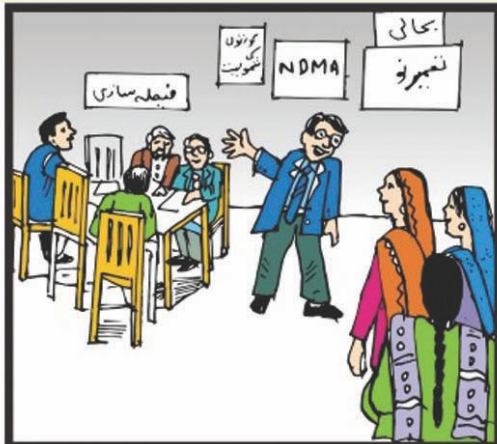
مقامی حکومت میں عورتوں کی قیادت کے لئے ملک گیر تحریک

عورت فاؤنڈیشن

Aurat Foundation's Contribution to Major Achievements

Aurat Foundation has contributed, over the years, to the following achievements and developments in the interest of women and citizens of Pakistan:

- Increased awareness & sensitisation on women's rights issues
- Wide-spread support against discriminatory laws and customary practices
- National development plans and policies for women
- Reservation of seats for women in legislatures
- Formation of citizens' groups, networks and coalitions
- Development of social capital in Pakistan
- Mainstreaming gender into laws and policies
- Relationships with political parties and legislators
- Relationships with legal and media fraternity
- Support to women public representatives & legislators
- Formation and strengthening of National Commission on the Status of Women
- Amendments in Muslim Family Laws Ordinance
- Response to disaster situations, e.g earthquake 2005, floods 2010, IDPs crisis
- Follow-up on Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women



Posters

عورتوں کی ترقی کے لئے جمہوریت ضروری ہے

وقت کی ضرورت

- عورتوں کی شرکت
- منصفانہ حکومت
- باضمیر صحافت
- آزاد عدالت
- با اصول سیاست

مضبوط جمہوریت

اروشن پاکستان

عورت فاؤنڈیشن

جبری شادی جرم ہے

جبری شادی کی صورتیں

کبریٰ شادی

سواراوانی

عورت فاؤنڈیشن

ہمارا مطالبہ: مقامی حکومتوں کی فوری بحالی اور انتخابات

مقامی حکومتوں کے بغیر جمہوریت اجڑی ہے

عورت فاؤنڈیشن

حصولِ رہائش کے لیے دیگر دستاویزات

عورت فاؤنڈیشن

A Glimpse into AF Library

A pilot study on:
'Honour Killings' in Pakistan and Compliance of Law

By Mallo Zia Lari

Aurat Foundation

Suggested Amendments

in

- The West Pakistan Family Courts Act, 1964 (XXXV of 1964)
- The West Pakistan Family Courts Rules, 1965
- The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (XIX of 1929)
- The Dissolution of 'Mushah' Marriages Act, 1930 (VIII of 1930)
- Form of Nikahnama

Aurat Foundation

Suggestions on Women's Empowerment for Election Manifestos of Political Parties

Nabeed Aziz & Tahira Abdullah

Aurat Foundation

PAKISTAN
NGO ALTERNATIVE
REPORT ON
CEDAW
2012

Aurat Foundation

آنگن سے ایوان تک

مقامی حکومت میں خواتین کو سرگرم کرنے کے تجربات

جلد سوم

عورت فاؤنڈیشن

Annual Report
January-December 2009

Violence Against Women in Pakistan
A qualitative review of statistics for 2009

Aurat Foundation

The Proposed Constitutional Package 2008

A CRITICAL APPRAISAL
by Rubina Saigol

Published by:
Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation

WOMEN LEADERS
The journey of change begins here

Beyond Denial

ANNUAL REPORT
2012

Violence against women in Pakistan
A qualitative review of reported incidents

Aurat Foundation

tricare

(Draft)
National Policy on Home-based Workers

with Situation analysis by Ume-Laila Azhar

Aurat Foundation

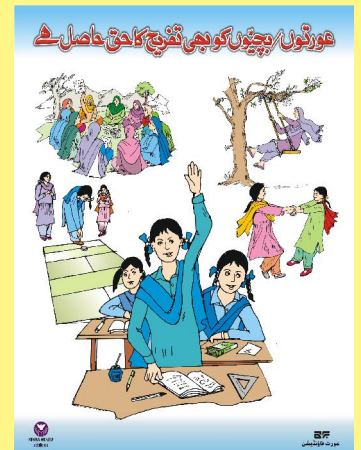
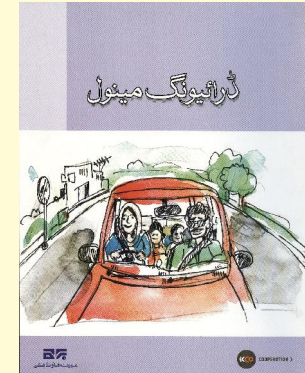
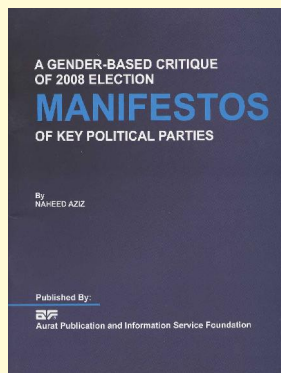
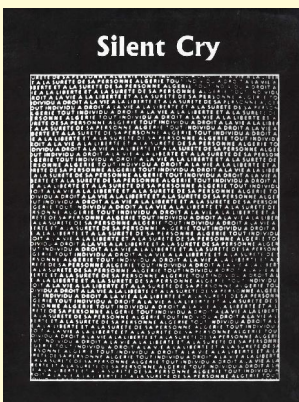
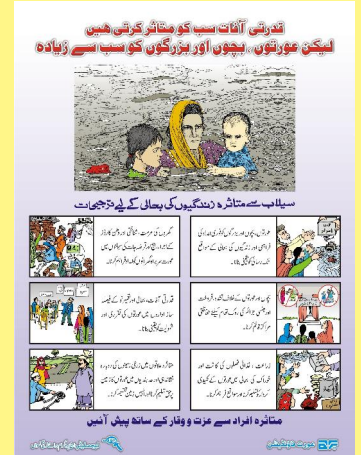
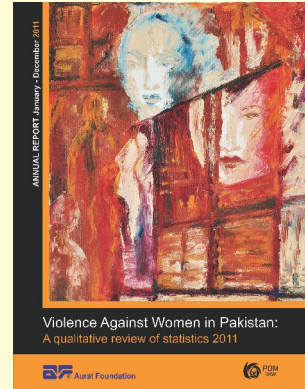
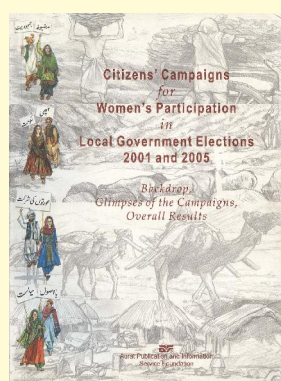
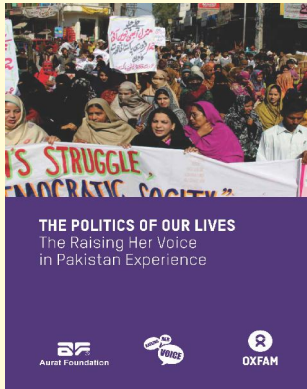
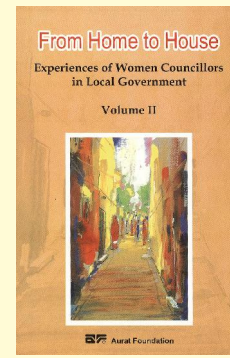
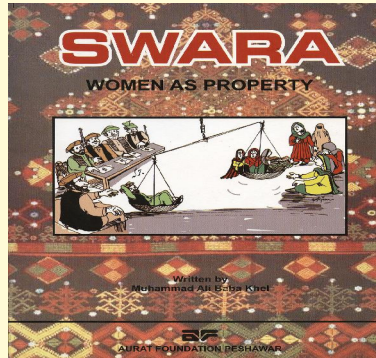
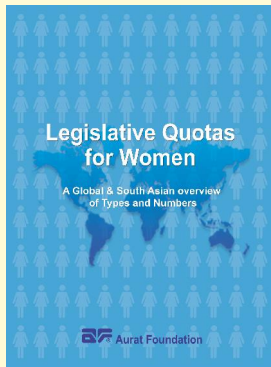
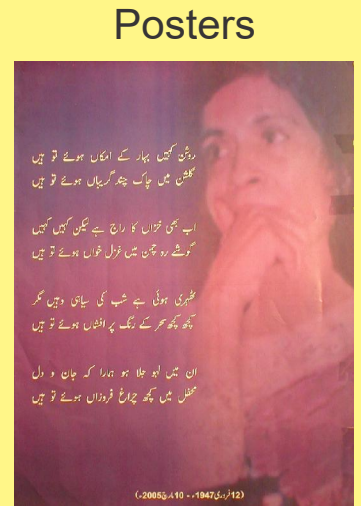
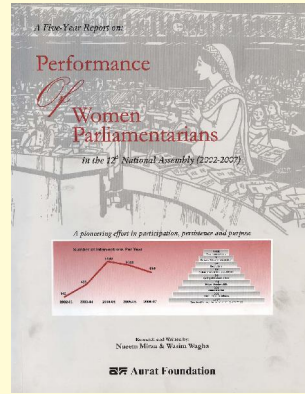
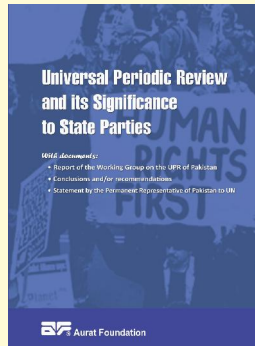
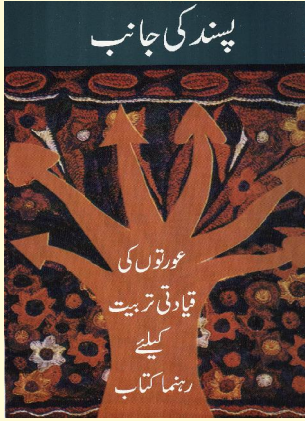
Leadership Development for Effective Women Councillors

Proposed Policy Framework on the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons

By Salma Haider

Aurat Foundation

A Glimpse into AF Library



Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation, established in 1986 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, is a national, non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to working for women's empowerment and democratic governance in Pakistan. It has its headquarters in Islamabad, five regional offices in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta and Gilgit and 25 Field Offices with over 700 employees. It is a major support organization for civil society organizations, federal, provincial and local governments and political parties, besides other public and private institutions.

Aurat Foundation acts as a catalyst to enable critical groups to influence policy, legislation and programmes for greater economic and political power for women in society. In advocacy on women's rights issues, Aurat Foundation has strategized to develop linkages with grassroots organizations and macro-level decision-makers. A mutually collaborative relationship has also been developed with various departments and organs of the Government of Pakistan.



AURAT PUBLICATION AND INFORMATION SERVICE FOUNDATION

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