

DAILY TIMES

Youth, Parliamentarians Call for Stronger Tobacco Control

TIMES REPORT

ISLAMABAD: An orientation session with youth mentors and parliamentarians was held in Islamabad under the theme "Youth for a Tobacco-Free Pakistan: From Awareness to Action," bringing together lawmakers, health experts, tobacco-control representatives, civil society and the Aurat Foundation to discuss measures to protect young people from tobacco and emerging nicotine products.

The session was attended by MNA and Prime Minister's Youth Programme Focal Person Syeda Amnah Batool, MNA and Parliamentary Secretary Sabheen Ghoury, MNA Jamal Ahmed Khan Raisani and MPA Tanveer Aslam Raja. Representatives of the Tobacco Control Cell, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and health experts also participated.

Participants stressed that tobacco control should remain a public-health priority and called for stronger legislation, effective enforcement and greater youth participation in

policymaking. A key demand was to increase Graphic Health

sizing that higher taxes can make these products less

mation among their peers, educational institutions and



Warnings (GHWs) on tobacco product packaging from the existing 70 percent to 85 percent. Participants said larger health warnings would improve public awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco and discourage young people from starting tobacco use.

The participants also called for stronger and regular increases in taxes on tobacco and nicotine products, empha-

affordable, particularly for young people, and help reduce consumption.

Parliamentarians highlighted the need for effective implementation and oversight of tobacco-control laws, while health experts stressed the importance of evidence-based awareness campaigns and prevention measures.

Youth mentors were recognized as important advocates who can spread accurate infor-

communities. Participants emphasized that meaningful youth engagement is essential for building a sustained movement for a tobacco-free Pakistan.

The session concluded with a collective call for 85 percent Graphic Health Warnings, higher tobacco and nicotine taxes, stronger enforcement and meaningful youth engagement to protect Pakistan's young generation.