



Annual Report 2014

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADR	Alternate Dispute Resolution
AF	Aurat Foundation
AJK	Azad Jammu Kashmir
ASF	Acid Survivor Foundation
CII	Council of Islamic Ideology
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women
CrPC	Code of Criminal Procedure
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DV	Domestic Violence
GB	Gilgit Baltistan
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GEP	Gender Equity Programme
GCC	Gender Crime Cell
HRCP	Human Rights Commission of Pakistan
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
IPMG	Inter-Provincial Ministers Group
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
L & J	Law and Justice
LFS	Labour Force Survey
M/o LJHR	Ministry of Law Justice and Human Rights
MFLO	Muslim Family Laws ordinance
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWD	Ministry of Women Development
NA	National Assembly
NCSW	National Commission on The Status of Women
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPB	National Police Bureau
PBS	Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
PCSW	Provincial Commission on the Status of Women
PEMRA	Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority
PPA	Political Parties Act
ROPA	Representation of the People Act, 1976
RH	Reproductive Health
SAARC	South Asian Alliance for Regional Cooperation
TDP	Temporarily Displaced Persons
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Committee for Asia and Pacific
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
VAW	Violence Against Women
WAF	Women's Action Forum
WDD	Women Development Department
WPC	Women Parliamentary Caucus



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Our work is challenging at any given time especially to institutionalize, track progress, monitor and implement pro women laws and policies to ensure the protection and promotion of women's rights. But 2014 was important for us from a key perspective - there was encouraging movement in women-friendly legislation across the country. In Punjab, Sindh and Baluchistan, women's rights gained a stronger foothold with the legislation on early marriages and domestic violence. Similarly the anti-rape bill tabled in the Senate was a milestone towards ensuring that women do not face additional hardship in the processes of law. The Vision 2025, was launched the same year and indicates the government's commitment towards women's empowerment and development.

At the same time, NCSW's work in the provinces has been taken forward by the establishment of the Status of Women Commission in Punjab. Similarly the Provincial Commission in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa has been active and has set up District level commissions. Both Commissions in a short period of time have created space for themselves working with women's development and law and actively coordinating with NCSW. More positive developments are unfolding as Sindh and Baluchistan governments have taken initiatives towards establishing women's machineries in these provinces also.

As my tenure at the National Commission enters its third year, I feel that the tasks this Commission set for itself are moving in the right direction. The Commission adopted a systems- based programmatic approach, and builds upon the work of the earlier Commissions to ensure continuity in taking forward the mission of the Commission. It defined its three priority thematic areas (violence against women, women's participation and voice in decision making, women's economic empowerment), defined strategies and aligned them with the functions as set in NCSW Act 2012, developed NCSW structure; drew the plan for staffing and got both approved within the first year; developed its Rules of Business under the new Act and had them notified; and drafted the Recruitment Rules. It has developed systems for tracking and monitoring progress and identifying gaps in the implementation of laws.

The Commission has strengthened its linkages with a cross section of stakeholders: women's caucuses in Assemblies, civil society organisations, academia, lawyers and women development ministries with whom it regularly interacts through the Inter Provincial Women Ministers Group.


The support NCSW has received is overwhelming, especially as the full complement of staff is still not in place. Without this support from members of assemblies, civil society, individual experts and donors keeping the pace of NCSW's work, so vital to empower and protect women in Pakistan,

would not be possible. Therefore, on behalf of the National Commission, I would like to thank all of our colleagues in the Ministry of Law Justice and Human Rights, the National Police Bureau, other Ministries and line departments of the Government of Pakistan for their support on key women's issues and acknowledge their excellent co-operation. Also vital to our work are the institutional relationships and partnerships we hold with a number of civil society organizations and activists which have helped the National Commission develop a stronger voice for advocacy at the policy level. Overall, I feel that despite the negative perceptions, we have some good policies, laws and resolutions in place in Pakistan and need to focus on implementation which needs to be strengthened and improved and here the Commission's responsibilities as a watchdog will become even more critical in the next few years.

Finally, I would also like to thank the members of NCSW, Executive Committee of the Commission who give their time and expertise to support the Commission and provide valuable input; members of its sub- Committees on Law, and Policy, and Research for their invaluable work. Finally, our staff, who has overstretched itself beyond working hours and our volunteers to whom I am very grateful for their hard work and commitment.

As you review some of the work, initiatives and activities of the NCSW over the last year, I hope that we are able to inspire you to continue to support the Commission's work in strengthening institutions, implementing policies and laws, making new laws and monitoring them in order to protect and promote women's interests and ensure women's empowerment in Pakistan.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Khawar Mumtaz'.

Khawar Mumtaz

NCSW MEMBERS



Ms. Khawar Mumtaz – Chairperson

Brings almost 30 years experience of activism and working on women rights & development. She has over 60 publications to her name & was recipient for the Prime Minister award for the co-authored book “*Women of Pakistan: Two Steps Forward One Step Back?* 1989”



Saira Afzal Tarar – Member Punjab

Minister of State for Health & Drug Regulation in the present Government



Tanveer Jahan – Member Punjab

Executive of Democratic Commission for Human Development Since 2003



Uzma Noorani – Member Sindh

Human/women’s rights activist & has been working in this field for two decades



Muhammad Jan Odhano

Member Sindh

Project Coordinator in Community development Foundation Jacobabad



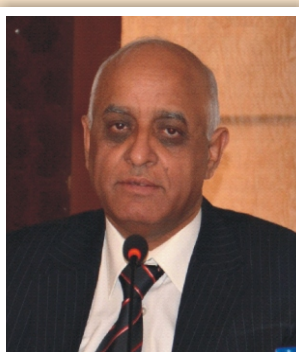
Zubaida Noor – Member KPK

Member Board of Trustees of Noor Education Trust Since 2002



Sadia Qasim Shah – Member KPK

Pashto Speaking Journalist, working in Peshawar since early 2002. Working as an International Broadcaster with DEEWA Radio at Washington D.C. since 2009.



Justice(r) Mehta Kailash Nath Kohli

Member Balochistan

Chairman
Public Service Commission Balochistan



Shereen Gul - Member Balochistan

Educationist



Nusrat Shaheen

Member Azad Jammu Kashmir

Assistant Director Planning at Social Welfare & Women Development Department Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir since 2007



Sadia Danish – Member Gilgit Baltistan

Ex Minister of Tourism, Sports & Current and Youth Affairs Gilgit Baltistan also Director “Roshan Welfare Trust” Gilgit.



Zainab Azmat

Member Federally Administered Tribal Areas

Lecturer Communication & English Courses and also Co-ordinator US, access Micro Scholarship Program, IM Sciences.



Kishwar Naheed – Member Federal.

A prolific feminist poet of National and International repute and retired as Senior Official of the Ministry of Information. Recipient of numerous prestigious awards including Government's Civil Award, Sitara-e-Imtiaz in 2000.



Najmi Saleem – Member Minorities

Member Central Executive Committee and Women Coordinator All Pakistan Minorities Alliance (APMA) Punjab and Joint Secretary Pakistan people's party (PPP) Punjab Women Wing.

ABOUT US

Vision

A democratic, just, peaceful and tolerant society where all citizens are equal irrespective of sex, race, religious beliefs, geography and ethnicity, where diversity is celebrated; women are equal participants in decision making from the home to national and international levels and lead a life free from violence and exploitation.

Mission

To promote gender equality and women's empowerment and protect women's rights; monitor legal, social and economic rights of women; facilitate and advocate for necessary legal, administrative and institutional measures for ensuring women's rights; ensure full compliance of international agreements and conventions, in particular CEDAW and its general observations.

The NCSW is a statutory body dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women in Pakistan. Constituted as a permanent Commission in 2000, its primary objective is to protect and promote women's rights in accordance with women's development needs in Pakistan, Pakistan's constitutional provisions and international commitments.

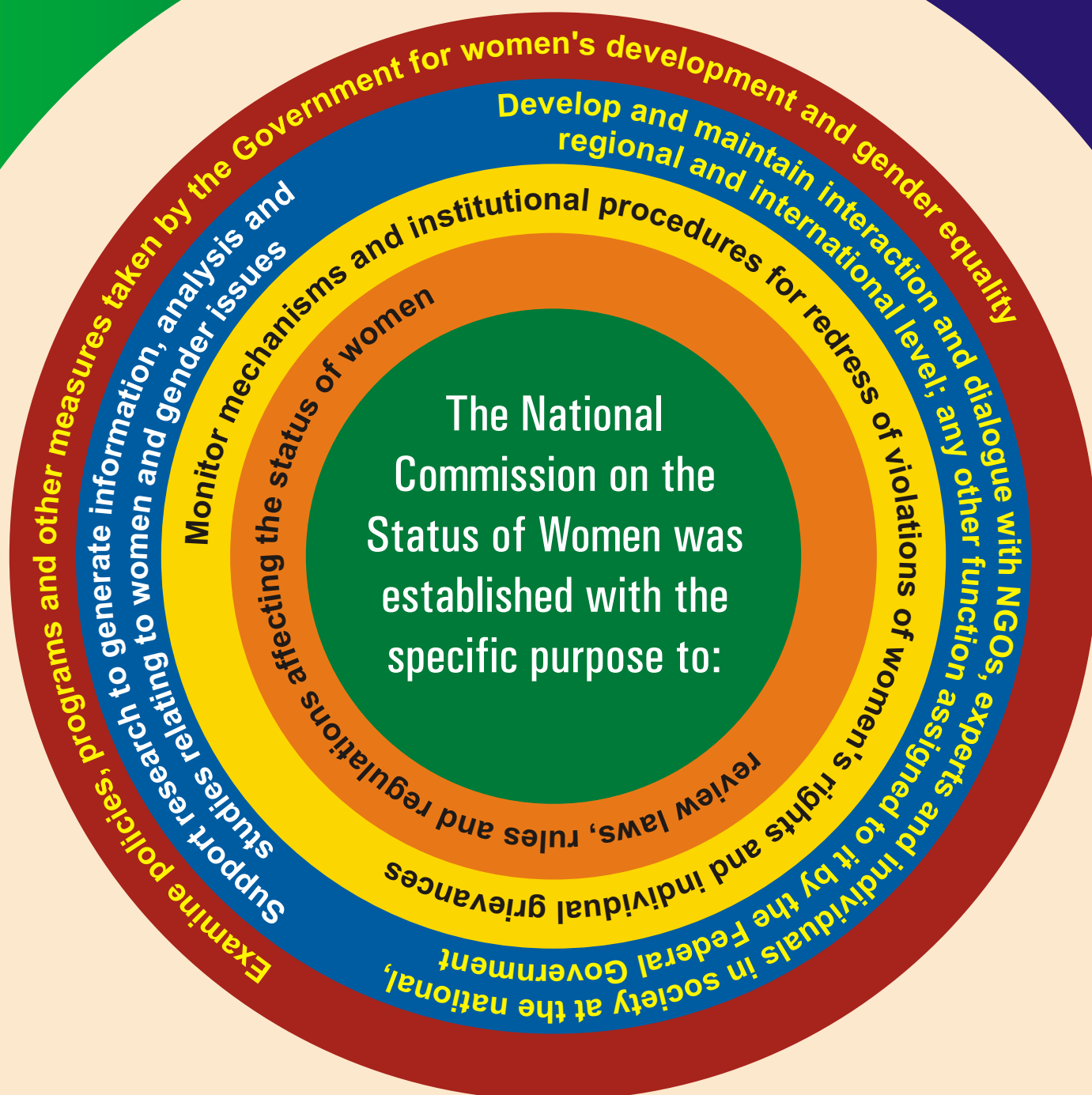
With the Ministry of Women's Development being devolved to the provinces under the 18th Amendment to Pakistan's Constitution, the NCSW is the apex national women's machinery, working closely with Federal and Provincial Ministries, the Parliament and the civil society.

NCSW works with the Government of Pakistan and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and advises the government to develop services needed to ensure women's protection and empowerment in Pakistan. It affirms support for women's empowerment in all

aspects- social, economic and political and focuses on three priority areas: ending violence against women and enhancing women's economic empowerment and increasing women's political participation; making pro women approaches and gender sensitive planning central to national development.

Working for justice for women and social change, over the course of almost 14 years, it has been led by eminent Pakistani women -activists, academicians and legal experts- who hold experience and expertise on women's rights issues, enabling the NCSW to promote women's rights and policies and work with other Commissions and agencies mandated to protecting women's rights.

WHAT WE DO: NCSW FUNCTIONS



Introduction

2014 was the second year of the current National Commission on the Status of Women's three year term. In this year the Commission focused on taking work on its priority themes forward and its institutionalisation. Following the 18th Constitutional Amendment and devolution of social sectors to provinces implementation responsibility has largely shifted to the provincial level, thus making coordination with provincial governments and institutions a critical element in endeavours for women's empowerment and development. NCSW's activities in the year were concentrated on building its autonomous identity, consolidating coordination channels, developing monitoring mechanisms and strengthening its institutional base. In addition, NCSW continuously responded to issues that cropped up, attended National Assembly and Senate Standing Committee hearings and session, gave written replies to questions from these committees, and organised consultations to review laws. It also conducted the broad based consultative 20 year review of the Beijing Platform for Action and submitted the draft report in the UN prescribed deadline.

The year was a busy one where NCSW's major effort was to complete its staff recruitment and establish its full-fledged and independent secretariat. Due to procedural delays this objective could not be achieved. Commission members, volunteers, civil society organisations and interns provided essential support in taking the Commission's agenda forward.

National Context

The context overall was the same as the previous year with new assemblies and governments in place. The protest and the sit-in (dharna) in Islamabad disrupted NCSW's activities with staff unable to attend office and consultations and meetings rescheduled and relocated. Opportunities for interaction with Parliament, over those months also became limited.

Macro level demographic and socio economic situation has also remained largely unchanged as the previous year i.e. rapid urbanization, economic and social polarization, economic disparities, deepened vulnerability, natural disasters and conflict/insurgency continue to impact on the lives of Pakistanis with special implications for women and children. Social indicators for women are poor. There is a gender disparity in school enrolment at primary and secondary levels (though narrowing at the primary level) and Pakistan continues to be near the bottom of the global Gender Inequality Index.

Pakistan has one of the world's largest youth bulge, with 48 per cent population aged 15-49 and 56 per cent (age 15-64) in the productive age group, 50% of which is female. At the moment, Pakistan has the second highest out of school children in the world with the situation of Pakistani girls and women far worse off than their male counterparts: half of the adult population in Pakistan is illiterate, including two out of three women. With low age at marriage and 8% of adolescent women aged 15-19 becoming mothers or pregnant with their first child, fertility rates are also high at 2 %. At the same time, women's wellbeing is made more precarious and vulnerable due to gender based violence, both in the private and the public sphere. This is highlighted in the Pakistan Demographic

1. UNESCO. Teaching and Learning Global Equality for All. EFA Global Monitoring Report. 2013/4. Accessed at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002256/225660e.pdf>

and Health Survey (PDHS) 2012/13 which found that over 40% of women and adolescent girls surveyed had suffered VAW at some stage in their life, 30% of women underwent physical violence, 79% of the cases the perpetrator was a husband, and 52% women have never sought help for this and felt that a husband is justified in beating his wife under some circumstances. In a scenario where law and order has been deteriorating and low police to population ratios exist, crimes in the name of honour, abductions, murders, suicides, rape, sexual assault, acid attacks, burnings, beatings and torture, trafficking of women continue to be an area of serious concern for women in Pakistan.

Economic and social stressors also are a cause for concern especially the low rate of women's labour force participation. Only 22% of women are engaged in a wage and salaried job. and approximately, 72% of female labour force participation is in the non-agricultural informal sector. Female home-based workers' numbers have grown exponentially -unofficial estimates count 12.5 million home based workers. Low economic growth has implications for girls and women in the future as well. These issues need to be tackled in order to ensure overall development of the country as well as progress, protection and empowerment of women in Pakistan.

On the positive side, it is important to note that women's issues and their seriousness are widely acknowledged at the official level as well as by parliamentarians, many legal and policy initiatives have been taken, institutional mechanisms are being put in place. Needed now is the acceleration of the pace of implementation of these measures to ensure progress on gender equality and women's empowerment.

At this point and time NCSW sees one of its primary roles, as one of advocacy and accountability. It has to press for institutions to effectively perform their functions of protecting and promoting women's rights and meaningful participation in development and political processes. The strategies that NCSW has adopted for doing this are the development of monitoring mechanisms, generation of evidence, addressing gaps in the law, raising awareness and inter-sectoral and inter-provincial coordination.

2. National Institute of Pakistan Studies. Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2013/14. Accessed at http://nips.org.pk/abstract_files/PDHS%20Key%20Findings%20FINAL%201.24.14.pdf
3. Labour Force Survey 2012-13, Salient Features, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.
4. Labour Force Survey Report 2012-13 Table 17 page 28.

NCSW Priorities

For NCSW, the focus has been to work in the thematic areas defined as priorities in the beginning of the current term of the Commission, in 2013 (Voice, Violence against Women, Economic Empowerment - See Box below). In 2014, the second year of the term, within the same situational context, the NCSW pursued these priorities. For the current term of the Commission, the NCSW's strategic priorities, identified after consultation with government and other stakeholders will therefore continue the focus in these three key directions.

In order to pursue the thematic priorities NCSW has given equal attention to building a strong Institutional base with integrated governance and administrative structure in line with its mandate and responsibilities.

NCSW's Priority Areas

- **Voice**, i.e. women's full political participation in the electoral process, inside assemblies, in public offices; reservation of women's seats in all tiers of local government; representation in political and other decision making bodies/forums;
- **Violence Against Women (VAW)**, this includes addressing violence and fear of violence against women including in conflict areas, through documentation, legal actions, enhanced support systems (shelters, crisis centres, legal aid, etc.), responsive policing, effective implementation of women protection laws; and new legislation.
- **Economic Empowerment**, with special focus on home based/informal sector workers and their inclusion in the labour force, affirmative action for reservations and quotas in government including for minority communities, and legislation where necessary.

NCSW Strategies

In the second year of its operation NCSW firmed up its strategies to for implementing NCSW mandate:

- **Institutional Strengthening:** Strengthening the institutions that protect and support women including NCSW
- **Networking:** Improved coordination between NCSW and provinces for promotion and protection of women
- **Monitoring & Tracking:** Design and Develop actions/measures for monitoring and tracking progress on women's issues (evidence generation, research)
- **Awareness Raising:** Run awareness raising campaigns for both men and women on all priority areas particularly Violence Against Women

NCSW Strategic Actions

- **Building a strong Institutional base:** Strong and integrated governance and administrative structure of NCSW in line with its mandate and responsibilities.
- **Promoting/facilitating legislation and policies:** reviewing laws and policies and making legislative and policy recommendations; developing mechanisms for monitoring implementation of women protection laws; establishment of complaints and response mechanisms for violence and threats.
- **Monitoring** to ensure implementation of national and international commitments in collaboration and coordination with the Ministry of Law Justice and Human Rights, Women's Parliamentary Caucus and provincial women's caucuses, Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women, provincial Women Development Departments, Social Welfare Departments and other relevant institutions dealing with women's rights.
- **Advocacy** to promote women's rights, enact new legislation, make amendments in existing legislation, develop/propose policies, etc.
- **Networking and coordination** with similar human rights bodies, civil society alliances, organisations, experts, individuals and donors to promote and protect women's rights.
- **Undertaking and encouraging research** for generating evidence.
- **Developing regional forums/platforms** with similar Commissions and institutions for collaboration and action to address similar issues and problems.

NCSW ACTIVITIES-2014

Promoting/facilitating legislation and Policies⁵

One of NCSW's functions is to recommend/review Federal laws, rules and regulations affecting status and rights of women.

- **Reviewed and re-drafted Christian Marriage and Divorce Amendment Bill 2014:** The Commission drafted a revised key legislation affecting minority communities in Pakistan in collaboration with the Ministry of Law. As per NCSW recommendations the Ministry of LJHR organised a consultation on the Christian Marriage and Divorce Bill, which now is ready for further action.
- **The Hindu Marriage and Divorce, Bill:** Initially drafted by NCSW Law and Policy Committee and further worked upon by Ministry of Law Justice and Human Rights is now in the National Assembly.
- **MFLO amendments:** The Marriage contract, the nikah nama, governed under the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance (MFLO) is the legal civil contract between a husband and wife where conditions can be stipulated by either signatory. In a majority of the cases the different clauses for the nikah nama are struck off or are not filled out at the time of marriage. Cognizant of the various legal protections which many women forgo due to this, the NCSW Chairperson, as a member of the Law and Justice Commission of was requested by the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan to develop a manual for training Nikah Registrars to ensure comprehensive filling of the nikah nama (Nikah Registration Form). The training manual and module were developed and submitted to the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (Under publication).
- **Protection against Harassment of Women at Work Place Act 2010:** The National Commission on the Status of Women on the request of the Ministry of Law Justice and Human Rights organized three consultations in Islamabad to review Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2010 in the light of Amendments proposed in it by Senator Farhatullah Babar and MNA Aasiya Nasir. The first Consultation, chaired by Ms. Khawar Mumtaz had Secretary Ministry of Law Justice and Human Rights and attended by over 60 representatives from civil society organizations, educational institutions, government departments, judiciary, Ombudspersons from all provinces, Senators, MNA's, members of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus and NCSW as participants.

The consultation formed a Committee, to finalize amendments in the Act in the light of the discussions. This was followed by a consultation (10 November 2014) with representatives of Islamabad/Rawalpindi based private and public sector universities and HEC staff to elicit their perspective on dealing with the issue of harassment of students by staff. A final meeting was held where the strong need for raising awareness about the Act was expressed.

At the third consultation held on 14 November 2014 at the NCSW it was shared that many Universities had internal mechanism for dealing with such complaints and that the HEC had framed Rules and Guidelines and specifically a Policy on Curbing Sexual Harassment, for

5. Clause 11 and sub-clause (b) of NCSW ACT 2012: NCSW shall review all federal laws, rules and regulations affecting the status and rights of women and suggest repeal, amendment or new legislation essential to eliminate discrimination, safeguard and promote the interest of women and achieve gender equality before law in accordance with the constitution and obligations under international covenants and commitments ;

universities. The consensus that emerged was to wait for the decision of the President in the appeal against Federal Ombudsman's recent judgment on a harassment case at a university. It was felt, that would have a bearing in shaping the amendments to the law. It was also agreed that the law may not be extended to cover domestic workers and home based workers instead consultation may be organized to examine measures for strengthening Section 509 of the PPC to make it more accessible to all particularly women subjected to harassment in public places. It was also agreed that the Harassment Act should remain women specific Senator Farhatullah Babar, who had moved the amendments in the Law, then suggested that matter be deferred until a decision from the President's office is received on the Harassment Case of a University teacher before deciding on moving further amendments to the law. In case that the President agrees with the decision then there will be no need for re-open the law.

- **Consultations to Review Qisas and Diyat Laws:** The NCSW on the request of Ministry of Law Justice and Human Rights provided a proposal to the Senate Human Rights Sub-Committee for amendments in the Qisas and Diyat Law so that its misuse and manipulation, particularly in context of killing of women in the name of honour can be curbed. The proposal was developed after conducting a series of consultations in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad with Members of Law and Policy Committee of the Commission, the Ministry of Law Justice and Human Rights, senior advocates, members of judiciary, activists and CSOs who reviewed the Law and highlighted the weaknesses which result in impunity for culprits. The proposed amendments to make the law more effective have been submitted to the Senate through the Ministry of Law Justice and Human Rights.
- **Reviewed and re-drafted ICT Domestic Violence Bill, 2014:** The lack of protection and sensitivity in dealing with personal/ private domain particularly in the case of domestic violence reduces options for women, with many becoming more trapped in abusive relationships. For many, leaving such relationships does not always mean an end to the abuse, this results in living in fear of poverty and at risk of becoming homeless. Legislation on this issue therefore means that the subject is not only given priority but an understanding of the issue from a women's perspective is fostered

The NCSW has been proactively lobbying for legislation and taking strong steps on the ground to tackle this issue. The Bill was passed in the Senate in 2011 but did not get to the NA and lapsed. NCSW in its present term undertook a comprehensive in-house review of the Bill and after a National Stakeholder Consultation organized by Ministry of LJHR redrafted the Bill and submitted for processing and further action.

- **Electoral Reforms:** NCSW sent recommendations for electoral reforms to the Parliamentary Election Reforms Committee to ensure full participation of women in elections as contestants and voters and strong action for denial of their voting right. Recommendations were also sent on ECP Strategic Plan – 2014.
- **Anti-Rape (Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill of 2014:** NCSW supported the Anti- Rape Bill passed by the Senate's Standing Committee on Law and Justice and currently pending before the National Assembly and gave some technical input when discussed in the Senate Standing Committee. The Anti Rape (Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill of 2014 amends the Pakistan Penal Code (1860), Code of Criminal Procedure (1898) and the Qanoon-i-Shahadat (1984) to improve upon rape prosecution. The amendments include added protection for the victim and proposes:

- Resolution of rape cases within six months; provision for in-camera trials; punishment for lack of diligence; mandatory life imprisonment or the death penalty for custodial rape; ;
- Protection of the identity of rape victims; penalties for disclosures of personal information of rape victims through the media or otherwise without her consent.
- Mandatory medical test and extraction of DNA within twenty-four of hours of receipt of information of such an offence.

Policy⁶

- **National Policy Framework:** For Empowerment of Women approved by provincial Women Development Departments' Ministers through IPMG.
- **Women Home-based Workers Policy:** The NCSW organised a meeting of the national Working Group on Home-based Workers on 14 April 2014 to review the draft policy in the light of comments received at the consultation held in February by the Ministry of Law. Justice Kohli, Chair of NCSW Law and Policy committee gave his written comments on the draft under discussion. The policy was then submitted to the Ministry for further action.
- **CEDAW Optional Protocol and Pakistan's Reservation:** NCSW was asked by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Human Rights to give its views on the CEDAW Committee's recommendation regarding signing the CEDAW Optional Protocol and taking back of its reservation. After a detailed examination of the Optional Protocol, NCSW recommended withdrawal of the Reservation and signing and ratification of the Protocol.

Monitoring⁷

One of NCSW's functions is to monitor progress, implementation and promotion of laws and support systems⁷. For this two kinds of initiatives have been taken by the Commission:

- (i) of developing indicators for reporting by government departments/agencies and
- (ii) of entering into MOUs with civil society organizations working on NCSW thematic areas.

- **NCSW with support of Aurat Foundation's (AF) USAID - Gender Equity Program:** Launched the project, Countering GBV through research, data strengthening and standardization on 17th December 2014. The purpose of the project is:
 - To Standardize GBV indicators to facilitate cross-institutional analysis at national and international levels.



Chairperson NCSW Ms. Khawar Mumtaz is briefing about the project

6. Clause 11 and sub- clause (a) of NCSW ACT 2012: shall examine the policy, programs and other measures taken by the Federal Government for gender equality, women's empowerment, political participation, representation, assess implementation and make suitable recommendations to the concerned authorities;

7. Clause 11 and sub- clause (m) of NCSW ACT 2012: shall monitor the mechanism and institutional procedure for redressal of violation of women's rights;

- Up-gradation of central repository of resource material and information on gender to provide state of the art facility for researchers and a resource for educating policy planners and parliamentarians.
- This project ensures to Support the Gender Crime Cell of National Police Bureau in GBV data analysis and tracking through focus trainings to capacitate women police.
- To undertake evidence based research on GBV for policy advocacy.
- **Standardized Indicators:** The National Commission initiated the process of examining data on violence against women to develop standardized indicators to facilitate cross- institutional analysis at the national and international level. The Commission developed a paper with recommendations for the review of the existing researches and the issues on data collection and the type of indicators which should be explored in view of the local contexts.

A number of brainstorming/consultative meetings and discussions were organized by the NCSW in 2014 to generate input from key civil society and government bodies and develop a roadmap and take the process forward. In an (Indicators) Advisory Group meeting on 12 May 2014, UN VAW Indicators as well as those included in the SAARC Info Database were reviewed and some elements specific to Pakistan were added.

- **CEDAW Monitoring:** The National Commission initiated the groundwork to finalize and standardize the CEDAW reporting formats and reporting mechanisms as well as develop consensus on National Policy Guidelines framework. Government officials from various provinces and ICT as well as representatives from UN Women and the Gender Crime Cell of the National Police Bureau met in May 2014 at the Office of NCSW. Indicators for reporting were developed by PCSW - Punjab for the two CEDAW Committee concluding observations that Pakistan had to report progress on in 2015 (Observations 22 and 28). These were subsequently sent to Min of LJHR for the Treaty Implementation Unit.



Ms. Khawar Mumtaz is convening meeting to finalize CEDAW standardized indicators

analysis of the implementation of Beijing commitments over the past 20 years. A rigorous and inclusive national process that was endorsed through IPMG by Women Development Ministers was followed. NCSW organised series of provincial consultation and a national meeting on Beijing +20 to involving relevant government agencies, parliamentarians, NGO and other stakeholders.

Provincial consultations were held from in

- **National Review of Beijing +20:** NCSW led the process for the stakeholder review and



Minister of State for Health & Drug Regulations
Ms. Saira Afzal is speaking at
National Consultation on Beijing+20

February-March 2014. A National Consultation was held in Islamabad end of March, 2014 to draft the Report. Over 400 people from Govt departments, experts, UN agencies and CSOs participated. The Stakeholder Analysis Report major achievements and challenges/future priorities and useful basis for women development strategies/action plans.

- **TDP Camps:** NCSW members from KP visited TDP camps in Bannu to identify problems faced by women and reported on measures to address faced by them. (See Full Report at Annex-A)
- **Dispute Resolution Committees:** KP member Ms. Sadia Qasim Shah did a study of the pilot project in KP of dispute resolution system through police stations. (Report at Annex-B)
- **Acid Survivors Foundation:** In January 2014 NCSW signed an MOU with Acid Survivor Foundation to receive information from ASF's monitoring system to track incidents of acid crimes, number of cases registered using the amended law and use the evidence to advocate for a comprehensive law.
- **Media Complaint Cell:** NCSW and the Uks Research Centre jointly piloted the Pakistan Women's Media Complaint Cell (PWMCC) in Feb 2014 to promote and ensure gender responsiveness within media houses and the journalistic endeavors with the coordination of UKs Research Centre. The aim of the joint effort was to increase gender responsiveness in media houses and journalistic endeavors. The complaint cell was a platform for the public to raise their concerns and complaints against any gender insensitive content in print and electronic news media. Initially operating on a pilot run of 3 months, the complaint cell gathered numerous complaints from the public and university students on gender insensitive content in print and electronic media. These complaints were sent through email regarding violations of the Uks Code of Ethics, objectification in advertisements, and sexism in news and reporting. The pilot has been used to develop the feasibility for a permanent unit in NCSW. (Annex-c)



Advocacy

NCSW undertakes advocacy roles in various areas important to women. MOU's are signed with different actors; legislators and officials are lobbied.⁸

- **Electoral Reforms:** NCSW was very concerned at the prevention of women in some areas from exercising their vote. It sent its recommendations to the Election Commission of Pakistan and commented on its Strategic Plan.
- **Pro-women laws:** NCSW entered into an MOU with the White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) to launch a nationwide campaign to create awareness about pro-women laws through Seminars, TV, Radio, Social Media, and Print Media. It jointly organized a launching ceremony on the occasion of Sixteen Days of Activism for Elimination of Violence against Women on 25th November 2014 in Islamabad participated in by Government officials, social activists, legislators, diplomats and representatives of media and civil society participated. The launch was followed by a 2 week campaign on the laws and a regular campaign and a plan was drawn out carry the campaign over the year with TV & radio spots and posters.

“Violence against women cannot be addressed as long as there is impunity for the culprits and there are no legal consequences for the perpetrators. Mind-sets and attitudes may take time to change but the law sets standards and puts in place accountability mechanisms.”

Khawar Mumtaz, Chairperson, National Commission on the Status of Women



Glimpses from NCSW & WRC campaign launch

- **Provincial Commissions:** NCSW advocated for the establishment of Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women in Sindh and Baluchistan.
- **Meeting President of Pakistan:** Chairperson NCSW with members of NCSW Executive Committee and Law Committee called upon President Mamnoon Hussain in June 2014. The delegation included members of NCSW Executive Committee and Law Committee. Chairperson briefed the president about activities of the Commission. Honourable President assured NCSW of every possible support in its efforts towards creating enabling environment for the women and their empowerment.



Ms. Khawar Mumtaz, Mr. Omar Aftab & Ms. Yasmin Zaidi at PTV World Talk Show

8. Clause 11 and sub- clause (k) of NCSW ACT 2012: may act for advocacy, lobbying , coalition building, networking and as a catalyst for promotion of cause of women to facilitate their participation in all spheres of life including legal, economic, social and political empowerment;

Seminars/Workshops/Conferences

Seminars and workshops are venues of sharing information, introducing NCSW and advocacy. These are also opportunities of networking. NCSW interacts with NGOs, government institutions, experts, individuals regularly. A central focus of its initiatives is to work towards putting in place laws and mechanisms to reduce Violence against Women (VAW) for the Commission. In addition to preventing VAW, responding to VAW, ensuring that effective measures are in place to eliminate impunity for the perpetrators of violence, empowering women and for tackling VAW and proactively linking the work being done nationally and internationally to ensure that the commitments made, complement existing initiatives.

Over the course of time, the Commission has built up a huge body of experience and expertise on the issue, enabling it to best support the government in developing and amending legislation on various issues related to VAW and share that this knowledge and expertise is shared with other government agencies to better respond to women experiencing VAW.

“The Commission has emerged as an institution that engaged in active collaborations with women's organizations, activists, and academics. In its collaborations and consultative processes, it has demonstrated that the gap between the state and civil society may not be insurmountable, as imagined.”

Justice Kohli, Member National Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission worked at different levels and ensured that regular reviews of the implementation of key legislation took place or advocated putting legislation in place where this was missing. This was done with the inclusion of key political decision-makers and stakeholders in the process while co-operating closely with allies, and academicians. At the same time, recognizing that effective response and prevention to VAW and the protection of women is possible with the help of reliable data, the Commission designed and developed an intervention on developing standardized indicators for the collection and collation of data by the government.

“In engaging with the Commission, we have assumed multiple roles, switching between academic and activist identities”.

Kishwar Naheed, Member Executive Committee, National Commission on the Status of Women

Rural Women: NCSW joined Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA) in its two days Annual Rural Women Conference in 2014. The Conference was attended by over 1500 rural women and NGOs/CBOs is held in Islamabad and provides the opportunity to meet rural women. Chairperson NCSW was one of the inaugural session speakers and chaired a session with parliamentary panelists.

- **National Women Day (12th February 2014):** A reflective roundtable, Women Combating Extremism to commemorate the National Women's Day was held in Lahore. The event was jointly organized by National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and Democratic Commission for Human Development (DCHD). The conference was addressed by Chairperson NCSW. The objective was to reflect on the challenges that extremism poses to women in Pakistan and strategize on how to deal with it. The Roundtable was designed as an interactive session with a keynote speaker setting the overall context; a panel to show provincial manifestations of extremism and discussants to suggest strategic directions followed by open discussion.

- **Roundtable Conference on Reproductive Health and Rights in Pakistan:** A Roundtable on Reproductive Health and Rights in Pakistan-an Agenda for the Future organized by NCSW and the Netherlands Embassy with parliamentarians, Government representatives, organisations working on population and reproductive health issues and civil society in May 2014. The occasion was the visit of Netherlands Minister of Development Aid and Trade to identify areas of future support.

The roundtable was addressed by Ms. Nafisa Shah, an MNA from Sindh, Dr. Zeba Sathar (Country Manager of the Population Council Pakistan) and Minister Ploumen. Subsequently, the floor was open to discussion among the parliamentarians, government and civil society on the future agenda for reproductive health and rights in Pakistan. Panelists highlighted their concerns on the lack of child mortality statistics in Pakistan, the difficulties faced by policy makers to respond to the challenges due to the cultural perspective on contraception. Pakistan's fertility is higher than other countries in the region. It has half the contraceptive prevalence rates compared to the other countries in the region; 55% women in Pakistan have ever used contraception and 20% of the population has discontinued the use of contraceptives. This indicates the desire to plan families but satisfactory services are not available. Due to the large income inequalities, women relying on the public sector face disconnect between demand and supply of family planning services.

It was also highlighted that while there are 890,000 abortions in 2012, the issue of unsafe abortion is yet to get due attention in policy and law. On the whole, it was also noted that there was a high demand for service delivery and an unmet need of 7.7 million related to women and children particularly in rural areas, where there is a lack of service infrastructure and medical staff.,. Women often end up losing their lives while being transported to hospitals.

Minister Ploumen highlighted that in the post- 2015 targets being currently debated there is a need to find ways to work together at national and global levels. One of the strategies being used in the Netherlands to cover ground for women's issues is reaching out to organizations and religious leaders who do not have the same interpretations of human rights for women, such as, the Vatican and its officials. There is a need to form a strategy on how to include these issues in our agenda without watering them down as well as the imperative of not cutting down the RH budget.

The Minister identified four key areas that have convergence with issues in Pakistan:

- Comprehensive sex education for young people (boys and girls) to prevent unwanted pregnancies.
- Access to contraception and medicine;
- Inclusion of sexual and reproductive health in basic health care;
- Respect of SRHR aspects of vulnerable groups such as VAW, early age marriages, etc.

The Minister suggested that there is a need to bring together groups who find common ground with these issues, both from Pakistan and the Netherlands and build coalitions.

The recommendations emerging at the end of the roundtable were:

- Ensure that the issue of SRHR of women is given due importance by all the provinces

- A focus on sensitization of and advocacy for Parliamentarians
- Launch awareness campaigns for the media as well as broadcasting of sponsored shows
- Engender greater ownership of the Government of reproductive health rights
- Gender sensitization of women with regard to preference of male children
- Life skill education for boys and girls through age appropriate text books
- Facilities and access of SRHR facilities for persons with disabilities who form 15% of the population
- **National Seminar, Combating Violence, and Ending Impunity:** NCSW organized a National Seminar on 16th December 2014 in Islamabad. The focus of this seminar was to analyse the shortcomings of existing administrative and legal system and to examine why laws do not work. The objective was to find effective ways to remove impunity. Successful civil society initiatives and new initiatives by government departments were shared. Media persons, human rights activists, politicians, lawyers and civil society participated. (I. A. Rehman, Barrister Zafrullah Khan, Minister of State Ms. Saira Afzal Tarrar, Ms. Anushy Rehman, Ms. Bushra Gohar, Ms. Naseem Zehra, Dr Faqir Hussain, IG police etc.)

It was generally felt by the participants that the criminal justice system needed revision, a proper accountability mechanism was needed for the religious actors speaking against women, appropriate punishment, not compromise and compensation is required. The Forum noted the rise in technology driven crime. Minister Anushey Rehman invited comments on the proposed Cyber Crime Bill.





Different panels of the seminar

Overall, the Forum recommended that

- There is a strong need to redefine the honor killing as murder and amend the relevant law. The power of the courts under Tazir should be strengthened and amendments are required in Section 311 of the Pakistan Penal Code.
- Speedy and swift action is required in the case of honour killings- when cases are delayed the accused usually tries to prolong the trial to pressurize the plaintiffs.
- The power to punish, not facilitate compromise and compensation, lies with the courts, even if all the heirs forgive the crime. The courts need to assert

themselves.

- Compoundability should only be allowed at a given stage of the process.
- The law should clearly state that a woman can be the Wali.
- The law on Qisas and Diyat includes many clauses in Arabic such as 'Qatl-i-Amd' and it needs to translate these clauses into English and Urdu to make them more easily understood.
- From a legal perspective, murder must not be subdivided into sub-sections and categories where for some categories; the victim's heirs can settle the issue through compromise and compensation.

Institutional Strengthening:

NCSW makes efforts to contribute towards institutional strengthening

- **Rules of Business:** As an institution which has only recently become fully autonomous, strong efforts are being made for setting a strong institutional base of the Commission. In September 2014, the Rules of Business for the NCSW were approved by the government. Continuing with the process initiated in 2013, in 2014 NCSW's Rules of



NCSW members meeting with honourable Law Minister Mr. Pervaiz Rasheed

Business were notified. Its Recruitment and Service Rules are under process.

- **Inter Provincial Minister Group:** The Inter Provincial Ministerial Group (IPMG) established in 2009 serves as the only interprovincial coordination forum and includes Ministers and Secretaries of the Women Development Departments from the provinces, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan as well as representatives of the National and Provincial Commissions on Women.

NCSW is the secretariat for Inter Provincial Women Ministers Group for coordination. Following the 18th Amendment and devolution of women development to the provinces IPMG is an important coordination mechanism for sharing and planning initiatives, laws and policies for women empowerment and advocacy on the basis of each province's best practice. The Group meets regularly (3 times a year). The 8th IPMG, 9th IPMG and 10th IPMG meetings were held in 2014.

The 8th IPMG was held on 30th January 2014 in Karachi. NCSW shared the work plan for State Report Beijing +20 with provincial representatives. The provincial secretaries nominated focal points for coordinating in the Beijing +20 Report. (signed resolution is attached at Annex-D).

The 9th Inter Provincial Ministerial Group (IPMG) meeting on Women's Empowerment was held on 17th June at in Islamabad. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Khawar Mumtaz, Chairperson NCSW, and attended by representatives from various provinces, Government and civil society. The purpose of this meeting was to follow up on discussion points from the 8th IPMG meeting:

1. Developing a national framework for women development and empowerment
2. Monitoring CEDAW reporting. Every province has CEDAW reporting committees in place now.



The representatives of each province discussed their problems and achievements regard to Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in their respective provinces. At the end of the session the joint resolution signed by the members for the empowerment of women. The assembled delegates were also provided a briefing on the Beijing+20 report by the Chairperson. (signed resolution is attached at Annex-E).

The main purpose of the 10th Inter Provincial Ministerial Group meeting, was held on the 12th November, was to establish and strengthen provincial/state/regional commission of women (P/SCSWS), support FATA and GB to plan special initiatives, programs and projects to address women's issues specifically. The issues of women representation in legislation and the implementation of legislation for prevention of violence against women was also highlighted at the meeting. It was also

recommended that the anti-harassment laws and quotas allocated for employment of women in public sector should be strictly implemented. There was also discussion on developing standardized reporting formats of all provinces/regions/states for all human right conventions ratified by the government of Pakistan. At the end of the session a joint resolution signed by the members for the empowerment of women.

NCSW's engagement with the Women's Caucus resulting in meetings and coordination with British Parliamentarians where the Caucus presented its work and directions March 2014. The Chairperson also later gave lectures at seminars organized by UNWomen and the Women Parliamentary Caucus on Women's participation in parliamentary politics and Women's reserved seats.

The NCSW working with the UN Women then invited Caucus representatives to discuss the two motions moved in the NA by Nafisa Shah and others proposing changes in the Representation of the People Act (ROPA), 1976 and Political Parties Act (PPA). Prominent lawyer and human rights activist Hina Jilani was invited to give her expert opinion. The amendment in ROPA is such that it allows declaring void of elections where women have been prevented from casting votes. In the PPA the motion tabled requires 10% quota for women by political parties when awarding tickets for elections. (signed resolution is attached at Annex-F).

- **Upgrading NCSW Resource Centre:** During 2014 digitizing and upgrading of the Commission's resource centre has been initiated through support from USAID- aurat Foundation Gender Empowerment Fund. A website and portal is being set up to connect NCSW with Gender Studies departments of all public sector universities.
- **Systems Upgrading and Training:** Facilitated with UNESCAP support for institutional strengthening of First Women Bank.



- **Darul Aman Sukkur:** NCSW's facilitated in Darul Aman Sukkur upgrading in Sindh through public-private-partnership modality. It involved upgrading and maintenance of infrastructure, documentation of inmates, institutional oversight mechanism (District Advisory Committees) and training of staff, and skill development for rehabilitation of inmates. A Provincial Advisory Committee has also been approved as a mechanism for sustained oversight management of all shelters in Sindh.
- **Karakoram International University:** Chairperson NCSW was appointed Chair of the KIU Senate by the President of Pakistan in 2014

Networking

Networking is an ongoing and continuous activity of NCSW. This is done through participation in activities organized by the Commission itself and other official, civil society and donor organisations/agencies. The Commission rotates its Members/Board meetings between provinces and uses the opportunity to interact, network, advocate and highlight NCSW activities with stakeholders in provinces. To sum the Commission:

- Networks with Women' Parliamentary Caucus (NA and PAs): orientation, facilitation of discussions, and participation in activities.
- Undertakes joint activities with Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women (Punjab and KP)
- Networks with Civil society networks/organisations, Govt institutions (e.g. NIPS.PBS), leading NGOs, and multi and bilateral donors (UN Women, EU, Netherlands, Population Council, UNFPA, etc.) for promoting women's rights



Meeting with the Honourable EU Ambassador

Setting Research Priorities

The Research and Technical Support Committee of the Commission held its meetings regularly in 2014 in NCSW and later presented its recommendations to the Executive Committee of the Commission under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Khawar Mumtaz. Some key areas identified by the Research and Technical Support Committee including:

- The Jirga system
- Violence against Women and the judicial process of law
- Internal trafficking in the provinces
- The impact of conflict on women with a special focus on the 'war of terror'

The Research and Technical Support Committee also suggested that more training needed to be provided to the police who needed to be made more aware about laws which should be translated into Urdu and put up in all police stations. It was also proposed that the NCSW should coordinate on this matter with the judicial academies to make this training a part of their curriculum.

Research and Publications

- **Research study on litigation related to women under Nizam-e-Adl:** A comprehensive study conducted by NCSW in 2010 on the Nizam-e-Adl, in Malakand Division, was followed up by Provincial Commission on the Status of Women KP and provides comparative analyses of litigation by women plaintiffs in the pre and post Nizam-e-Adl promulgation in the Malakand Division. NCSW published the study in 2014.
- **Mainstreaming Adolescents Access to Reproductive Health Information and Rights: Identifying Challenges and Solutions.**
- **Combating Violence, Ending Impunity**

Legal Actions

- **Jirga Petition:** NCSW's petition to the Supreme Court against the role of Jirgas in awarding punishments to women against alleged violations of family honour. Case is ongoing.
- **Kohistan Case:** NCSW filed a habeas corpus petition in the much reported Kohistan case to take it to its logical judicial conclusion. Its petition was admitted and court ordered to produce the victims. Families have challenged District Court order in Abbotabad High Court. The petition was dismissed.
- **Election in Lower Dir:** NCSW sent a formal complaint to the Election Commission of Pakistan about women's exclusion from voting in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's PK-95 (Lower Dir) by-elections. Subsequently, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) declared the result null and void. NCSW has become a party to the case when ECP decision was challenged in Peshawar High Court.

International⁹

- **Representation at UN:** Chairperson NCSW was the member of Official delegation to UN CSW (2014), to UN General Assembly Special Session to review ICPD +20 (2014).
- **UN-ESCAP Review of B +20, Bangkok:** The United Nation Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in collaboration with UN Women convened a review of B +20 in Asia and Pacific in Bangkok from 17-20 November 2014. PAKISTAN delegation was led by Chairperson NCSW Khawar Mumtaz. She was elected official Rapporteur of the meeting. A large number of ministers, high level government officials and civil society representatives attended the Conference from across Asian and Pacific countries. (Press Release at Annex-G)

“The NCSW acts for justice and social change by engaging in policy, representation and campaigns activity at a national level. Our work is driven mainly by the sense of responsibility – as women and as representatives of a state machinery”.

Khawar Mumtaz, Chairperson, National Commission on the Status of Women



Ms Uamz Noorani, Member NCSW is speaking with the forum at China



Ms Khawar Mumtaz with Pakistan's Ambassador to Thailand Suhail Naqvi and delegation members from Pakistan

- **China:** NCSW member Ms. Uzma Noorani represented NCSW in the Longnan International Forum on Girl Child and Women Development held in Beijing China in August 2014 (Report in Annex-H).
- **Nepal:** NCSW member Ms. Zubaida Noor participated on behalf of the Commission in the Regional Convening on Using Law to Promote Accountability to End Child Marriage on November 6-7, 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- **SAARC/ Regional Exchanges:** Resolution by Women Parliamentarians to Improve Leadership and Political Opportunities for Women.

A two-day South Asian Regional Exchange meeting of parliamentarians, representatives of women's caucuses, Women's Ministries, Women's Commissions, and Election Commissions, as well as UN agencies and international development partners was held in Kathmandu. The South

9. Clause 11 and sub- clause (d) of NCSW ACT 2012: shall develop and maintain interaction and dialogue with non-governmental organizations, experts and individuals in society and an active association with similar Commissions and institutions in other countries for collaboration and Action to achieve gender equality at the national, regional and international level;

Asian Regional Exchange Meeting was jointly hosted by Pakistan Women's Parliamentary Caucus, the Pakistan National Commission on the Status of Women and the Nepal National Women's Commission, with support from UN Women and UNDP.

The meeting comprised technical sessions addressing mechanisms to enhance women's political participation, challenges and opportunities for national women's commissions; and possible legal and institutional provisions to end violence against women and girls.

Strongly advocating the setting up of mechanisms and institutions at a regional level, the Parliamentarians were cognizant of the fact that violence against women and girls was the most potent barrier to women's development, equality and opportunities. Speaking at the forum, the Chairperson of the Commission, also highlighted the need to bring these recommendations to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

The meeting concluded with a Declaration and key recommendations for enhancing women's representation and leadership in public decision-making, national parliaments and local councils, media and civil society.

“Three key issues must be in focus- representation of women at all levels, their economic empowerment and barriers to women's issue of which violence against women is the biggest barrier.

Khawar Mumtaz, Chairperson, National Commission on the Status of Women



Ms Shaista Pervaiz Malik,
Secretary WPC Pakistan,



Some picture glimpses from the South Asia
Regional Exchange meeting

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE DURING 2014 (1st Jan. to 31st Dec. 2014)

Broad breakup details of expenditure incurred by NCSW for its Program Activities and the Administrative cost are as follows. The details of overall allocation for the covered period are also tabulated.

Budget Allocated for Financial Year 2013-14	Budget Allocated for Financial Year 2014-15	Total Allocation (Half of 13 - 14 and Half from 14 -15)	Budget Utilized from 1st Jan. 2014 to 30th June 2014	Budget Utilized from 1st July. 2014 to 31st Dec. 2014	Total Utilization for Year 2014 (1st Jan-31st Dec. 2014)
17.5 milliom	11.15 million	64.5 million	8.7 million	2.7 million	11.5 million

Breakup of Utilization from Government Funds

Total Utilization in Year 2014 (1 st Jan. to 31 st Dec. 2014)	Program Cost (Consultations, Meetings, Conferences)	Other Costs
11.5 million	5.5 million	5.96 million

It is pertinent to mention that the above expenses incurred from GOP Allocated funds do not cover cost for all activities performed. NCSW managed to execute several activities with the financial collaboration of its partners like Civil Society Organizations, Federal/Provincial Governments, UN Agencies, International Donors, etc. The costs for all these activities were borne by these organizations, which was approximately **Rs. 5.0 million**.

ANNEXES

ANNEX-A

TDPs OF NORTH WAZIRISTAN ZUBEIDA KHATOON AND ZUBEIDA NOOR DATE: 12.12.14

Introduction

A large number of persons were displaced from North Waziristan as a result of the Zarb-e-Azb operation which was launched in April 2014 and is still continuing.

Rumours of a military operation had been in the air for some time, but when it was launched it was sudden and in the aftermath of an attack by the Taliban on the Karachi airport. Consequently, the population of Miramshah and Mirali, where the operation commenced first had very little time for an organised migration in terms of travel arrangements and items to take. There was a scramble for transport. Those who could afford it, rented vehicles at very high rates to go to Bannu or other safe places. Many had to walk long distances due to lack of transport and/or insufficient financial resources to travel. This took a toll on the women, children, the old and the infirm. Not only were the physical tribulations severe but there were psychological effects that were invisible at the time and overlooked by all but are becoming evident now.

The preparation on the part of the government involved the setting up of a camp at Dattakhel, F.R. Bannu and some registration points that were resourced by the army. The Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) had and still has the assigned role of relief and rehabilitation of the displaced persons.

Numbers Displaced

- Expected number of displaced persons was estimated at 400,000 to 500,000.
- Government and others taken aback at the much larger numbers showing up for registration. At one point in time, the registered numbers had crossed one million.
- Final numbers were much reduced after verification by NADRA and removal of duplications that had occurred in the process of manual registration.
- Nearly 4000 families were reported to have crossed into Afghanistan at the start of the operation. Some have either returned or in the process of returning. Many have not been able to get registered.

The official number of families according to latest official report by PDMA is 52,986 families. To date, many families remain unregistered for one reason or another, primarily for lack of CNIC, especially women without male members.

Ordeals of the TDPs

Most of TDPs converged on the city of Bannu and its environs. Only a few families, around 40, went to the camp on account of the strict observance of “purdah” of the female population, i.e. the seclusion of women from males not related. The open living and lack of privacy of a camp was against the cultural norms of the TDPs. Those who had the resources rented houses, apparently at

much higher than prevailing market rates. Others stayed with relatives/friends and/or host communities, while a large number crammed together in government schools. Some went to Peshawar, Karachi and elsewhere.

The initial months involved tremendous physical and psychological trauma and suffering for the TDPs. These were:

- The displacement itself, i.e. Psychological trauma of uprooting from home and getting thrown into an unfamiliar environment, loosening of social and familial structures and breakdown of cultural identity. All these leading in time to behavioral changes including aggression and violence, drug abuse, petty crime and overt/ covert mental illness.
- The ordeals of the travel: the exploitation by the transporters of the TDPs in arranging for vehicles to carry them to safer places. Vehicles were limited in relation to the demand and many families had to walk long distances to reach their preferred destination. Many women and children fell ill in the process.
- Insecurity about the future.
- The climatic conditions i.e. change from a cooler and more moderate climate to a hotter one aggravated by congested shelters and lack of privacy.
- Hardships during the month of Ramazan which followed soon after the Operation
- Interruption of schooling of children.
- Increased poverty levels due to loss of employment and economic activities, loss of livestock and property.

The focus by the authorities, as in all such situations, was on immediate relief, i.e. an announced cash sum of Rs. 25,000/- and food rations, water, medicine and tents.

Visit of 25th & 26th November: Places Visited & Persons Met:

- i. Tented community of IDPs on the outskirts of Bannu city and on private land.
- ii. A house in Bannu city, area of Sokari, where female TDPs living with host families had been gathered for our interaction with them.
- iii. Office of the Area Coordinator and Monitoring Officer of the FDMA and discussions with the two officers.
- iv. Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Bannu and Chairperson of the GNI (Gender Networking Initiative). GNI being a forum set up with membership of CSOs assisting the government in the relief work, FDMA and other relevant govt officials.
- v. Distribution points in Bannu.
- vi. Khalifa Gulnawaz Hospital allied with the Bannu Medical College. Both built and established during the MMA government and their Chief Minister, Akram Khan Durrani.

N.B: Visit to Bakka Khel camp could not take place as a curfew was announced on 26th November, the day of the planned visit. Thus an assessment of the female TDPs in the different contexts could not be acquired first hand.

Observations

Seven/eight months on, the situation with regards to the TDPs has undergone some changes:

- The chaos, confusion and rush of TDPs in leaving North Waziristan and the process of

registration is over even though some more are trickling in from areas that are being cleared now by the army. The government and institutions responsible for dealing with relief and rehabilitation of the TDPS are better organized and becoming more responsive towards unresolved issues.

- Registration of the bulk of the TDPS has been achieved although there are still some that are struggling to get registered for one reason or another. Facilitation desks have been set up at distribution points to provide guidance to such persons with regards to essential documents required.
- The registered TDPS have also to an extent adapted to their situation:
- TDPS who had taken shelter in schools had to vacate schools after the summer vacations. These have settled on private lands on the outskirts of Bannu city. They received the stipulated one tent per family and are getting their monthly rations. An NGO, CRDO funded by OXFAM, has provided them latrines. Water source is from private tube wells or sources arranged by the NGO. Tents from Imran Khan Foundation (IKF), which were distinctive in their design, were visible. However, the general complaint was that one tent is not sufficient for one family, and family numbers are many.
- Some tented communities have been set up by Al Khidmat which was one of the first ones to receive NOC from the Army. These communities had a cloth fence around them providing for privacy to the residents and gave the impression of being well provided.
- The number of families that are now at the Bakka Khel camp has increased to 3263. The initial hesitancy to go to the camp seems to be dissipating as the families are better provided for in the camp, schools for children, women friendly spaces and general medical care. Some women living with host families would like to shift to the camp but registration there has been stopped. According to the TDPS; for accommodation of TDPS from areas other than Miramshah and Mirali are being cleared by the army. However, official response was that this was not the case. The more adequate provision of relief does not make up for the loss of free movement of the population of the camp.
- Most of the cases of non registration, non-receipt of cash and food items are within the TDPS living with host families or on their own. Some 6000 to 8000 families are living with host families. FDMA informed that they are undertaking an assessment of 10 villages through an NGO to have a better perspective on the issues faced.
- The registered number of families of minority groups has gone up to 154.
- Women/Children TDPS as the Most Marginalised: Certain categories of women TDPS are the most marginalized. These include:
 - Women whose husbands are working abroad. They cannot get registered as the thumb impression of the husband is needed.
 - Widows: having no CNIC and Nikah Nama they get overlooked in registration.
 - Women whose husbands have married again and live and support the second wife and her family.
 - Women who have lost their token and are unaware as to the procedure of obtaining a new one to be able to get assistance from the government.
 - Difficulty of women in finding and accessing service points, i.e. distribution centres, facilitation points, hospitals etc. Transport fares are high and places a great burden on their meager resources.
 - Children were found neglected and suffering from various health problems and furthermore they were deprived of schooling.

- Others facing problems in registration
- Those with dual addresses.
- Those with lost or stolen CNICs. Allegations were that even with the payment of emergency fee of Rs 1500/- and the officially stipulated time of delivery of the ID card within a week, this does not happen. A matter for NADRA to take note of, Reasons seem to be an overload on NADRA, bureaucratic attitude of taking their own time to process, and/or the lack of understanding on the part of the TDPs as to the actual issues arising in their applications.
- Those who crossed over to Afghanistan at the onset of the military operation and have returned.
- Those who want to separate from the family tree as married couples with families of their own. The issues arising are obtaining a CNIC and a Nikah Nama as proof of the marriage. Culturally, a Nikah Nama is not the norm and getting it now requires attestation of the Political Agent and/or the elder of the community. Many are finding access to these personalities the problem. Some claim that money is being demanded which they cannot afford. Now even if the documents are made, the problem is the cessation of registration by the government. The last was not confirmed by government officials.
- Problems with cash assistance
- For cash assistance, the government awarded the contract to the telecom company ZONG.
- Complaints of blocked SIMs.
- Information by cash providers that amount has already been withdrawn. How? And by Whom? Concerned TDPs not able to understand?
- Women receive only half of the entitled amount.
- Some TDPs are not accustomed to the use of mobile phones and subsequently get deprived of cash assistance. Reliant on others makes them vulnerable as well as open to fraud and exploitation.
- Efforts by the government to ease the difficulties of the TDPs
- Meetings at SAFRON regarding dual addresses, requirement of thumb impressions, and waiver of emergency fee for applicants of CNIC. Decisions taken and notification expected soon
- ESAAR assisting in reporting discrepancies in registration. 30,000 cases reported as resolved and 25,000 cases in process.
- Convergence in one place of different services and personnel involved in the processes of registration, CNIC issuance and other related matters reference assistance to the TDPs. TDPs do not have to go through the hassle of going to one place and then be referred to another. Work in this respect is under process.
- Joint civil & military setup by the name of TDP Support & Management Secretariat for the health sector response.
- **Medical Care:**
- There are three tertiary level hospitals in Bannu that have been declared field hospitals by the army. About 40 to 45 basic health units (out of 22-23000) have been reactivated, equipped and made functional to provide health care. The selected health infra-structure for TDPs is supervised and managed by a joint civil and military team under the coordination of TDP Support and Management Secretariat headed by a military command at the rank of a Brigadier in Peshawar. The Secretariat role is to raise and manage funds and supply medical assistance

to the relevant sources of health care delivery. Medical teams are sent from Rawalpindi from time to time and medicines also provide.

- Additionally, there are a few NGOs/CSOs, who have been given NOC by the government as cleared by the army that are arranging medical camps and covering the TDPs living in private camps and with host families. Ex: KK
- The deterrence for the women TDPs in accessing the services at the hospitals are the high transport fares which have gone up even more with their influx into the city of Bannu. Disease and ill health is rampant and the expectations of the TDPs are for government to take care of all their medical problems, even the very specialized treatment for such diseases as cancer and kidney problems. The needs are many and the available resources very limited in comparison.
- The psychological effects of the situation on the TDPs are either becoming more evident now and with the more settled situation becoming a focus and priority in the work of the CSOs. KK is collaborating with ROZAN and IMC to provide training to their activists in counseling and distress alleviation. One of the field hospitals (KGN) has a separate psychiatric ward with 3 doctors catering to the needs of TDPs. Research elsewhere has proved that in case of displacement; adversity and suffering are compounded and that women and children are more likely to develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Men, women and children with PTSD may develop additional psychiatric disorders. The trauma North Waziri people have faced has been compounded with exposure to an ongoing violent militancy in their area for years which ultimately became the cause of their displacement. The women met were reluctant to talk about their pre-displacement life and traumatic experiences. They were highly vociferous in their demands and expected greater assistance as their right. Some women complained of their husbands becoming violent and abusive. Unstable mental condition of the men folk especially young boys were mentioned by several women.

Conclusion & Recommendations:

The conclusion of the observers is that the displacement that has occurred is of a massive scale. The government has geared itself for dealing with the situation as best as possible but gaps still remain. Institutions lack the capacity and have come under great pressure to demands placed on them by the large number of displaced persons, i.e. weak institutions in an underdeveloped district of a relatively underdeveloped province of the country. The Khalifa Gul Nawaz (KGN) Hospital has a huge building with additional blocks under construction, but not enough doctors and nurses, i.e. vacancies at 125 and 150.

The assistance of the CSOs may be limited but valuable and they have been pivotal in highlighting the issues of women especially successfully serving as a bridge between the TDPs and the government institutions. As to relief assistance, their contribution at best amounts to a drop in an ocean but this has gone to the neediest.

Ideally, children of TDPs should be given admission in any school. But the ground reality is that schools are not encouraging admission of these children on the basis or pretext that they are already overcrowded and lack space for additional students. This is another example of the added pressure on existing weak institutions. The other side of the coin, which needs a deeper and more insightful research into the situation, could be the overt/covert bias in the school towards the displaced children given the different background they come from. This may be cause for maladjustment of the TDP children in the schools or lagging behind in their academic endeavours. In sum, most analyses is being done by activists and visitors on the basis of statements made. The dynamics in such situations are complicated and call for a deep and insightful research by professional. The findings would be useful in planning the rehabilitation of the TDPs. In the given situation as a short term measure, non-formal or community schools setups are the best options to prevent wastage of school age children's time and keeping up with their education through crash

courses such as developed by the NCS system and others practiced successfully in the settled districts. Unemployed teachers from the Agency and educated youth can be employed for the purpose. At the same time, a special quota for high school and college going youth should also be considered with some kind of stipends if possible.

It is apparent that the information desk and Grievance desks instituted with support from UNHCR, particularly grievance desk has played a constructive role in sorting out women's problems. It would be worthwhile to increase these desks for over all general TDPs with additional outreach to more vulnerable community groups, women and elderly for prompt delivery of services.

Another acute shortage was felt for intensive care unit for infants and children. A shared perspective with regard to infants ICU was that it would eventually help in catering to the need of the whole southern region as there was none available at the moment.

Health situation of the TDPs needs additional focus at the onset of extreme cold weather. Funds for medical support previously came from military sources combined with international and national NGOs support. At present, only one source is tapped and greater funding may be required. GOC 45th division of the military is tasked with syphoning funds, medicines and partially equipment supplies from the military sources. The government and philanthropists need to contribute more towards the health sector to fulfill the increasing demand. It would be worthwhile to point out here that a quick study needs to be made to find the existing channels of support in different sectors and gaps within these channels in order to campaign for a well-organized and sustained level of fund raising to strengthen the existing effort instead of random and scattered inputs. The study should also help the public in contributing towards their desired sectors and make provisions for informed choices. This would enhance the credibility of the ongoing efforts and provide greater satisfaction to public for their input.

Similarly all TDP support programs are essentially linked to formal records and data. The more improved are the records and data, the better is the service provision and increased efficiency in resource distributions. Therefore it is important to convey this information to the general public and especially the TDPs. Its significance in the long-term perspective is doubled if tribal areas are to be brought under main stream governance structure and future development initiatives.

All services needs to look into short and long term perspectives where in an immediate support is extended in a way that leads to long term gain. It must be bore in mind that in problematic situations, there is an element of opportunity as well. Therefore, commending the efforts of NADRA, it is a great opportunity to install an easy to use system of birth and marriage registration process and promote its benefits through public campaigns.

The activists of the CSOs need to have greater cohesion amongst them and contribute more to the actual solution of the issues faced by the marginalized women TDPs in terms of their registration and securing of CNIC. The documentation of such cases by them would be of great utility to those willing to contribute to their efforts. While general statistics contributes towards policy formulation and planning by the government, the CSOs need to bring to light and document cases that need the assistance of philanthropists to provide the financial resources for the special care needed by them.

In an overall conclusion, the major problem in bridging the gaps between the TDPs and the facilitation groups is the inadequate communication systems. With time, however, some definite improvement measures have been taken with support from various partners but much is to be desired yet. Probably the development of a more proactive communication strategy needs to be considered now between the relevant partners in light of the experienced gained. Once the strategy is developed, the implementing partners can be trained to disseminate information through designated protocols.

ANNEX-B

VISIT REPORT TO DISPUTE RESOLUTION COUNCIL, GULBAHAR POLICE STATION, PESHAWAR MS. SADIA QASIM SHAH, MEMBER NCSW

The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) has conducted several studies to review different kinds of formal and parallel legal or judicial systems prevalent in Pakistan with a gender-perspective. Access to justice is a major issue in Pakistan especially for women due to slow and expensive judicial procedures, people often look towards the illegal/informal or parallel judicial systems. A study of such system was conducted nationwide by the NCSW in 2010 and after examining different informal or parallel judicial systems keeping in view the gender perspective looked into not only the problems but also the advantages that existed in these systems.

The study after analyzing these formal, parallel and even quasi-legal systems from a gender perspective also pointed out that women could not access courts or formal judicial system due to high costs of litigation, the courts' environment, biased attitudes of courts personnel, huge delays, and also the financial dependency of women on men of the family.

The study in its recommendations among others stressed need of women inclusion in all decision making forums at all levels. One recommendation was to strengthen the qausai-judicial forums in terms of their capacity buildings such as Musalihati Anjuman constituted under the Local Government 2001, and Arbitration Councils constituted under the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance 1961.

Dispute Resolution Councils (DRCs)

Khyber Pakhunkhwa Police department has set up Dispute Resolution Councils in Peshawar to provide free of cost, speedy and amicable resolution of petty disputes (mostly of civil nature) to people. NCSW examined and observed the working of the DRC established at Gulbahar City Police Station to know:-

- 1) How are these councils functioning?
- 2) Who are the members hearing the disputes?
- 3) What is the nature of disputes/cases it has taken up so far?
- 4) Are these DRCs favourable to women when it hears their complaints?
- 5) What kind of solutions the DRCs provide especially related to women disputes?
- 6) Are the issues resolved and both parties are happy?

A couple of visits to the Gulbahar Police Station where a room was turned into a jury-room to hear disputes on daily basis, the kind of disputes or complaints it dealt with and the manner in which it held its proceedings became somewhat clear why these DRCs were formed in the first place by police department. Here are the details/answers of questions above.

Function

An Alternate dispute resolution mechanism launched on January 15th 2014 to facilitate the common man in getting his/her petty issues resolved amicably through an alternate process of restorative justice involving members of the civil society.

Anyone through a simple written complaint or application to the Police department (Capital City Police Office, nearest Police Station, Inspector General of Police office) can file a request to the

DRC to resolve the matter. All applications are forwarded by the Police department to the DRC. The DRC's decisions will be within the ambit of the law and constitution. Police staff deputed to facilitate and guide the jury ensures it when they hear disputes. However, police doesn't become part of the decision the DRC jury takes.

The DRC not only decides but also executes its decisions through Police when needed. The DRCs also holds fact finding inquiries incase one of the parties, despite being found at fault, does not opt for amicable resolution. The DRC will send its fact-finding report to the concerned SHO for taking further necessary legal action.

A three-member panel hears disputes on its weekly specified day in the presence of liaison officer of the police. The DRC at the most takes 15 days to decide a case. If a party despite being called three times doesn't appear before the DRC, the police registers a case against the party under the relevant laws.

If one of the disputing parties is not happy with the decision of the DRC, a five-member panel (committee) reviews the DRC's decision. The decision of the review committee is considered final.

Members

The District Police Chief in consultation with the civil society requests prominent and well-reputed personalities of the community to join the Council. A member offers his/her services voluntarily. Each police station has to have one DRC with 21 members from different professional background.

The Gulbahar Police Station DRC has retired judges, lawyers, ex-army-men, businessmen, educationists as its members. Two women lawyers are also part of the jury. The members are divided into a panel of three to hear cases on different days of a week. So which panel will hear which case is not fixed and it also in a way ensures transparency/impartiality.

A liaison officer from Police department guides the jury members on legal aspects of the issue. He is also responsible for summoning both the parties and ensuring their attendance before the DRC, recording their statements and documenting the proceedings.

Nature of Disputes/Cases Before the DRC

Disputes mostly of civil nature are referred to DRC for speedy and amicable solution. The jury members told NCSW that monetary disputes, land disputes, inheritance disputes and family disputes were referred to the DRC.

Zulfiqar Khalil, a senior lawyer of the Peshawar High Court, who is one of the jury members said that mostly monetary/fraud disputes were coming to the DRC. There were court cases going for 15 years and 13 years in PHC which were resolved in just 18 days by the DRC.

SP City Mustafa Tanveer, who is the focal person between the DRC and the Police, informed that DRC at Gulbahar Police Station was a pilot project in Peshawar city, Other DRCs in rest of the 25 districts would be established gradually. He informed that since January, 2014, some 350 disputes/complaints were registered at the DRC Gulbahar Police station only out of which 250 were resolved whereas some were not pursued by both the parties for reasons unknown. He also mentioned that 30 to .50 per cent of burden of FIRs was reduced on the concerned police station.

Women and DRCs

There were two women lawyers Robina Naz and Samina Naz who were amogn the 21-members of the DRC at Gulbahar Police Station. Despite the fact that women were coming with complaints/disputes to the DRC, it was not necessarily the panel having female inclusive jury which decided their disputes.

Women of different age group had approached the DRC to resolve their family disputes, inheritance issues, watta-satta and even patch-up of estranged daughter-in-laws with their in-

laws.

SP City Mustafa Tanveer told NCSW that more women, who could relate to women issues better, were needed to volunteer as jury members. He said inhibition of going to a police station was main hurdle women were reluctant to volunteer as jury member.

It was surprising that a young married girl, aged 17, had come on her own to seek help from DRC in resolving her dispute with the in-laws.

There were four sisters from Peshawar City who had also come to seek help from DRC in taking their inherited property share. They told NCSW that they had been waiting for their share in the inherited property for the last 19 years. They had no money to spend on a court case anymore so they wanted DRC to help them out. They had been fighting a legal battle in court for almost 17 years.

Resolution of disputes relating to women

Noor Mohammad, a DRC jury-member, said that when they come across any dispute related to women, they are very sensitive to women's situation. Almost every third or fourth day we have a dispute referred by a woman usually relating to domestic disputes. We try to patch-them up within two or three hearings.

When DRC panel decides case of domestic nature involving a woman, it tries to make sure to give enough opportunity to listen to her complaints. Usually when a woman brings in a dispute with her in-laws, the in-laws are summoned by the police. They are made to sit and listen to complaint of the woman and made to explain the reason that have caused it.

Police officials and the DRC members cited cases where DRC was successful in patch-up of two couples married under the Watta-Satta custom. It saved marriage from breaking up and the brother ended up giving share to his sister. In one case of divorced woman, the police helped get her furniture and other items from her in-laws house.

Response of both parties to DRC decision

The DRC members told NCSW that since the purpose of the DRC is to resolve disputes. Once both the parties give DRC the “waak” or powers to decide their case, the DRC resolves it in a manner that decision should end the dispute amicably. Sometimes a procedure of solution is adopted which is proposed or agreed upon by both the parties. In the end the solution is acceptable to both. Sometimes if on party despite the DRC decision is not cooperating, then the DRC through police also executes its decision. For example if after resolving the inherited property dispute the brother is still not ready to give his sister the share the police would use its power to get the decision implemented and register a case against those who think themselves above the law, the police official and the DRC member informed.

Conclusion:

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police has not only reduced the burden of FIRs on its police station in Gulbahar, it also saved people from getting involved in lengthy legal procedures in civil courts. The Police official concerned said the DRCs has also enhanced interaction between the police and the community.

SP City Mustafa Tanveer, focal person for DRC, also clarified that DRC, the alternate dispute resolution mechanism, is nothing like Musalihat Anjuman which were formed and even functioned under the influence of the local politicians. The police has made DRC impartial, the Police claim, by involving civil society voluntarily. Police is not involved in the decision-making process but helps DRC to work within the ambit of law. There is also space for review of the decision of the DRC and it works within law and Constitution of Pakistan so it is also not like a jirga. The police official claims that DRC has in fact minimized the role of such influential people who were part of the traditional jirgas.

ANNEX-C

Pakistan Women's Media Complaint Cell (PWMCC) By Uks Research Resource and Publication Centre in Collaboration with National Commission on the Status of Women

Executive Summary

Uks Research Centre and the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) have jointly launched the Pakistan Women's Media Complaint Cell (PWMCC) with the aim of increasing gender responsiveness in media houses and journalistic endeavours. The complaint cell is a platform for the public to raise their concerns and complaints against any gender insensitive content in print and electronic news media. Initially operating on a pilot run of 3 months, the complaint cell has gathered numerous complaints from the public and university students on gender insensitive content in print and electronic media. These complaints have been sent through email regarding violations of the Uks Code of Ethics, objectification in advertisements, and sexism in news and reporting. Considering the success of the cell during this duration, Uks now proposes to expand the scope of the project by launching it in various cities of the country and publicizing the initiative through advertisements and various lobbying and publicity initiatives.

Complaints to PWMCC:

In the duration in which it has been functioning (March 1st – May 28th), the cell has received around 38 complaints. These complaints have mostly been sent in through email at Uks's email address. They have been sent by members of the public as well as students of universities that Uks took on board.

The complaints have addressed the problems of moral policing on TV shows, invasion of citizens' privacy, and stereotypical depiction of women, use of gender insensitive language, sensationalism and sexist portrayal of women in advertisements.

While the complete list of complains, date and channel through which they were received and the kind of media against which the complaint was made has been attached in the annex, the gist of these complains has been provided as follows.

Complainants have written in to PWMCC strongly condemning the stereotypical portrayal and harassment of the transgender on media. One of the complainants expressed her disapproval at such portrayal saying the "...instead of the news being about...the need to include transgender into national development, the package presented members of the community in a farcical manner. The package clearly mocked the community and perpetuated stereotypes..."

Other complainants objected to an "investigative" show that is currently being aired saying that the show was a clear violation of media ethics. In addition, newspaper advertisements using derogatory and sexist terminology for women were also condemned in the complaints received.

A large number of complaints were received against a cellular company's recent commercial which according to a complainant is "sexist, insulting and humiliating to all women".

In addition, the public also sent in complaints regarding violations of the "Right to Privacy" clause of the code of ethics. Many complaints have been received that condemn the disclosing of names,

addresses, pictures, and other identifying marks of a victim of rape. Complainants have also objected to the use of derogatory terminology to refer to victims, which suggests victim blaming. The public has also written in to register their protest against the showing the mutilated faces of children who were victims of cannibals.

Complaints have also come in regarding the stereotypical portrayal of women during a nurses' protest in Lahore, condemning the use of pejorative and sexist language that portray women only as fashion objects dismissing their serious professional ambitions. Another complainant has objected to the use of offensive terminology like "Two dancing girls raped" in a news item. Other complains that have been sent have been regarding cartoons and headlines that objectified women. A misogynist column in an Urdu daily publication has also been complained against by the public saying that the author is unprofessional and insensitive in his approach to women.

In addition, complainants have also written against the use of insensitive language like "titliyaan", "bhanwaray", "fahashi kay aday", and "dawat-e-gunah" etc. Ads of a cellular company as well as for a pickle company that promoted stereotypes and objectified women were also complained against.

These complaints have been sent in by members of the public as well as students and university representatives. The complaints that have been sent in to the PWMCC are presently being reviewed by the panel. The panel is looking at the validity of the complaints in light of Uks's gender sensitive code of ethics. After coming to a decision about whether or not the complaints are valid, they will be sent to the editors/bureau chiefs at their respective media houses, seeking an explanation or an apology for the insensitive content.

Constraints and Challenges

The constraints and challenges encountered by the PWMCC during its operation period included:

- Managing everything on our own as funds have still not been released.
- Lack of participation of universities due to monetary constraints.
- Insufficient response from the partnered universities despite constant reminders to submit complaints.
- Insufficient response from most of the members of the panel except for two.
- Inability to advertise and publicize the PWMCC due to monetary constraints.

ANNEX-D

Joint Resolution Inter Provincial Ministerial Group for Development and Empowerment of Women

Recalling the spirit of Constitution of Pakistan, 1973 Articles 25, 27, 34, 35 and 37 guaranteeing equal rights to all its citizens without any discrimination on the basis of cast, color, sex, or race;

Reaffirming and Recalling the international commitments of Pakistan, such as the ratification of the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which demonstrate its commitment on women's empowerment and women's rights as well as to ensure full participation of women in all spheres of life free of violence and discrimination;

Recognizing the implementation role of Women Development Departments and the overview and guiding role of the National/Provincial Commission on Status of Women and the Ministry of Human Rights as the national machineries for the advancement of women within the Government of Pakistan and institutional catalytic agents for gender equality.

Recognizing the strategic and focused support and collaboration with United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and its enhanced focus on implementation at provincial/regional

Committing further to the provisions in the Constitution of Pakistan and the CEDAW focusing on ensuring women's voice, visibility and agency in development activities by supporting innovative and experimental activities in line with national and regional priorities;

Considering, the monitoring and reporting responsibilities under national and international commitments of the Government of Pakistan and the need for the provincial Women Development Departments to coordinate with the Federal Machinery for Women's empowerment in that regard;

We the Ministers/Advisors/Representatives of WD for the Governments of Balochistan, KP, Punjab and Sindh along with the representatives of the WDD for the Government of AJK as well as Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights, National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), Provincial Commission on the Status of Women KP (PCSW), and State Commission on the Status of Women AJK (SCSW) on this 30th Day of January 2014 hereby agree to mutually cooperate to:

- Finalize provincial/regional gender equality policy frameworks for women's empowerment including clear strategies, targets and timelines along with indicators and monitoring mechanism to ensure implementation.
- Advocate and commit to prepare a National Policy Guideline on Gender Equality based on a review of the National Plan of Action 1998 (NPA) and the National Policy for Development and Empowerment of Women (NPDEW) 2002 with Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights and NCSW, all provincial governments and state entities in consultation with parliamentarians, civil society organizations and all relevant stakeholders.
- Advocate that Women Development Departments are delineated and separated from other departments with clear role and positioning within the government, adequate funding and capacity to fulfill their mandate as catalysts for gender equality.
- Establish and strengthen autonomous Provincial/State/Regional Commissions on Status of Women (P/SCSWs) in line with the processes, lessons learnt and experiences of the NCSW,

PCSW KP and SCSWAJ K.

- Support national and sub-national institutions in generating, reporting and analyzing gender disaggregated data/statistics.
- Support FATA and GB to undertake special initiatives, programs and projects to address women's issues specifically.
- Support to take special initiatives and programs to address issues of Complex Emergency affectees and Internally Dislocated People particularly women and children.
- Protect the rights of minorities, widows, special people and other marginalized communities with focus on women and girl child.
- Commit to give meaningful representation to women in political parties at all levels of policy and decision making forums.
- Further commit to enhance, strengthen and position women's representation in legislatures by working within our respective political parties and examining how the systems of elections to the reserved seats particularly in local bodies could be made more transparent and democratic; So that women are represented and positioned at all levels of decision-making in political forums.
- Support institutionalization of mechanisms for enforcing compulsory education and integration of girls' education in wider strategies at national and sub national level including advocacy campaigns for changing patriarchal mindsets regarding girl child.
- Support effective implementation of legislation, policies and plans pertaining to education including allocation of resources and quotas for girls in educational institutions and for women in education work force.
- Support drafting and implementation of legislation for prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and supporting women's rights.
- Ensure the mainstreaming of women's concerns in health with a particular focus on Breast cancer and reproductive rights.
- Support initiatives, programs and projects for youth with a particular focus on women.
- Take special measures to enhance women's economic participation including initiatives to facilitate working women; providing day care centers, working women's hostels and other key institutions
- Ensure strict implementation of Anti Harassment laws.
- Ensure implementation of quotas allocated for employment of women in public and private sector.
- Take measures to support drafting and implementation of policy for home based workers and women working in informal sector in order to ensure social and economic empowerment of women.
- Establish linkages between IPMG and CPCs to ensure effective reporting and coordination mechanisms of CEDAW Provincial Committees for women related international and national commitments.
- Develop standardized reporting formats of all provinces for all international Human Rights Conventions ratified by the Government of Pakistan particularly CEDAW, ICCPR and CRC.

ANNEX-E

Joint Resolution Inter Provincial Ministerial Group of Women Development for Empowerment of Women

Recalling the spirit of Constitution of Pakistan, 1973 Articles 25, 27, 34, 35 and 37 guaranteeing equal rights to all its citizens without any discrimination on the basis of cast, color, sex, or race;

Reaffirming and Recalling the international commitments of Pakistan, such as the ratification of the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which demonstrate its commitment on women's empowerment and women's rights as well as to ensure full participation of women in all spheres of life free of violence and discrimination;

Recognizing the implementation role of Women Development Departments and the overview and guiding role of the National/Provincial Commission on Status of Women and the Ministry of Human Rights as the national machineries for the advancement of women within the Government of Pakistan and institutional catalytic agents for gender equality.

Recognizing the strategic and focused support and collaboration with United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and its enhanced focus on implementation at provincial/regional

Committing further to the provisions in the Constitution of Pakistan and the CEDAW focusing on ensuring women's voice, visibility and agency in development activities by supporting innovative and experimental activities in line with national and regional priorities;

Considering, the monitoring and reporting responsibilities under national and international commitments of the Government of Pakistan and the need for the provincial Women Development Departments to coordinate with the Federal Machinery for Women's empowerment in that regard;

We the Ministers/ Representatives of WD and Provincial Commissions on Status of Women, for the Governments of KP, Punjab and AJK along with the representative of Social Sector Department of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and National Commission on Status of Women (NCSW), on this 17th Day of June 2014 hereby agree to mutually cooperate to:

- Finalize provincial/regional/state women empowerment policy frameworks as well as clear strategies, targets and timelines along with indicators and monitoring mechanism to ensure implementation.
- Advocate and commit to drafting a National Policy Guideline on Empowerment of Women based on a review of the National Plan of Action 1998 (NPA) and the National Policy for Development and Empowerment of Women (NPDEW) 2002 formulated by the erstwhile Ministry of Women Development with Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights and NCSW, all provincial governments and state entities in consultation with parliamentarians, civil society organizations and all relevant stakeholders.
- Advocate that Women Development Departments are delineated and separated from other departments with clear role and positioning within the government, adequate funding and capacity to fulfill their mandate as catalysts for gender equality.
- Establish and strengthen Provincial/State/Regional Commissions on Status of Women (P/SCSWs) in line with the processes, lessons learnt and experiences of the NCSW and PCSW KP, Punjab and AJK.
- Support national and sub-national institutions in generating, reporting and analyzing of

gender disaggregated data/statistics.

- Support FATA and GB to undertake special initiatives, programs and projects to address women's issues specifically.
- Support to take special initiatives and programs to address issues of Complex Emergency affectees and Internally Dislocated People particularly women and children with specific focus on FATA, KP and Balochistan.
- Protect the rights of minorities, widows, special people and other marginalized communities with focus on women and girl child.
- Commit to give meaningful representation to women in political parties at all levels of policy and decision making forums especially in the executive and manifesto committees.
- Further commit to enhance, strengthen and position women's representation in legislatures by working with political parties and examining how the systems of elections to the reserved seats particularly in local bodies could be made more transparent, representative and democratic, so that women are represented and positioned at all levels of decision-making in political forums.
- Support institutionalization of mechanisms for enforcing compulsory education and integration of girls' education in wider strategies at national and sub national level including advocacy campaigns for changing patriarchal mindsets regarding women and girls.
- Support effective implementation of legislation, policies and plans pertaining to education including allocation of resources and quotas for girls in educational institutions and for women in education work force.
- Support enactment and implementation of legislation for prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and supporting women's rights.
- Ensure the mainstreaming of women's concerns in health with a particular focus on reproductive rights.
- Expressing solidarity with world population day campaign and to create awareness on the issues of VAWG and girl child rights.
- Support initiatives, programs and projects for youth with a particular focus on women.
- Take special measures to enhance women's economic participation including initiatives to facilitate working women; providing day care centers, working women's hostels and other key institutions
- Ensure strict implementation of Anti Harassment laws and quotas allocated for employment of women in public sector.
- Take measures to support adoption and implementation of policy for home based workers and women working in informal sector in order to ensure social, political and economic empowerment of women.
- Establishing linkages between IPMG and CPCs to ensure effective reporting and coordination mechanisms of CEDAW Provincial Committees (CPC).
- Develop standardized reporting formats of all provinces/regions/state for all international Human Rights Conventions ratified by the Government of Pakistan particularly CEDAW, ICCPR and CRC.
- Coordinate and advocate for provincial/state plan of actions for effective implementation of Beijing commitments.

ANNEX-F

Joint Resolution Inter Provincial Ministerial Group of Women Development for Empowerment of Women

Recalling the spirit of Constitution of Pakistan, 1973 Articles 25, 27, 34, 35 and 37 guaranteeing equal rights to all its citizens without any discrimination on the basis of cast, color, sex, or race;

Reaffirming and Recalling the international commitments of Pakistan, such as the ratification of the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which demonstrate its commitment on women's empowerment and women's rights as well as to ensure full participation of women in all spheres of life free of violence and discrimination;

Recognizing the implementation role of Women Development Departments and the overview and guiding role of the National/Provincial Commission on Status of Women and the Ministry of Human Rights as the national machineries for the advancement of women within the Government of Pakistan and institutional catalytic agents for gender equality.

Recognizing the strategic and focused support and collaboration with United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and its enhanced focus on implementation at provincial/regional

Committing further to the provisions in the Constitution of Pakistan and the CEDAW focusing on ensuring women's voice, visibility and agency in development activities by supporting innovative and experimental activities in line with national and regional priorities;

Considering, the monitoring and reporting responsibilities under national and international commitments of the Government of Pakistan and the need for the provincial Women Development Departments to coordinate with the Federal Machinery for Women's empowerment in that regard;

We the Ministers/ Representatives of WD and Provincial Commissions on Status of Women, for the Governments of AJK, Balochistan, KP, and Sindh with the representative of Social Sector Department of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and National Commission on Status of Women (NCSW), on this 12th Day of November 2014 hereby agree to mutually cooperate to:

- Finalize provincial/regional/state women empowerment policy frameworks as well as clear strategies, targets and timelines along with indicators and monitoring mechanism to ensure implementation.
- Advocate and commit to drafting a National Policy Guideline on Empowerment of Women based on a review of the National Plan of Action 1998 (NPA) and the National Policy for Development and Empowerment of Women (NPDEW) 2002 formulated by the erstwhile Ministry of Women Development with Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights and NCSW, all provincial governments and state entities in consultation with parliamentarians, civil society organizations and all relevant stakeholders.
- Advocate that Women Development Departments are delineated and separated from other departments with clear role and positioning within the government, adequate funding and capacity to fulfill their mandate as catalysts for gender equality.
- Establish and strengthen Provincial/State/Regional Commissions on Status of Women (P/SCSWs) in line with the processes, lessons learnt and experiences of the NCSW and PCSW KP, Punjab and AJK.
- Support national and sub-national institutions in generating, reporting and analyzing of

gender disaggregated data/statistics.

- Support to take special initiatives and programs to address issues of Complex Emergency affectees and Internally Dislocated People particularly women and children with specific focus on FATA, KP and Balochistan.
- Protect the rights of minorities, widows, special people and other marginalized communities with focus on women and girl child.
- Commit to give meaningful representation to women in political parties at all levels of policy and decision making forums especially in the executive and manifesto committees.
- Further commit to enhance, strengthen and position women's representation in legislatures by working with political parties and examining how the systems of elections to the reserved seats particularly in local bodies could be made more transparent, representative and democratic, so that women are represented and positioned at all levels of decision-making in political forums.
- Support institutionalization of mechanisms for enforcing compulsory education and integration of girls' education in wider strategies at national and sub national level including advocacy campaigns for changing patriarchal mindsets regarding women and girls.
- Support effective implementation of legislation, policies and plans pertaining to education including allocation of resources and quotas for girls in educational institutions and for women in education work force.
- Support enactment and implementation of legislation for prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and supporting women's rights.
- Ensure the mainstreaming of women's concerns in health with a particular focus on reproductive rights.
- Expressing solidarity with world population day campaign and to create awareness on the issues of VAWG and girl child rights.
- Support initiatives, programs and projects for youth with a particular focus on women.
- Take special measures to enhance women's economic participation including initiatives to facilitate working women; providing day care centers, working women's hostels and other key institutions
- Ensure strict implementation of Anti Harassment laws and quotas allocated for employment of women in public sector.
- Take measures to support adoption and implementation of policy for home based workers and women working in informal sector in order to ensure social, political and economic empowerment of women.
- Coordinate and advocate for provincial/state plan of actions for effective implementation of Beijing commitments.
- Ensure efficient sharing of information, the idea was presented to set up a web portal by Women Parliamentary Caucus.
- Regional level forum of the Caucuses and Women Commissions, meetings with the support of UNDP and UN Women should be further strengthened.
- IPMG Forum should include the representation of National and Provincial Women Parliamentary Caucuses. Prior to the quarterly IPMG meetings, each province can have provincial meetings to set the agenda for the IPMG.

ANNEX-G

PRESS RELEASE

1. The United Nation Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in collaboration with UN Women convened an Asian and Pacific Conference on gender equality and empowerment of women in Bangkok from 17-20 November 2014. A large number of ministers, high level government officials and civil society representatives attended the Conference from across Asian and Pacific countries. Pakistan delegation was led by Ms. Khawar Mumtaz, Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women. She was elected as the Rapporteur of the Conference. The participants reviewed progress, remaining challenges and priorities in advancing gender equality in the region over the span of past twenty years. The Conference highlighted particularly, the work in areas of women economic empowerment, political participation and leadership, violence against women, disabilities and, women and the environment.
2. Ms. Khawar Mumtaz, in her statement to the conference noted progress made in gender equality and advancement of women in Pakistan over the past twenty years and highlighted the active role played by Pakistani women in all spheres of life. She said that the participation of women in the development process was a priority of the present Government through mainstreaming gender issues into policies, development plans and programmes as a key planning strategy. The Government had initiated the Benazir Income Support Programme delivered through women in poor households, Youth Loan scheme with 50% allocation for girls, taken various affirmative actions as well as Micro credit schemes. Women protection Center and Shelter Homes were established to provide immediate relief and effective legislation had been made to curb harassment of women and harmful customary practices. Nevertheless challenges remained in women education and health especially reproductive health and rights sectors, violence against women, sex disaggregated data among others.
3. The Conference delegates applauded gains in advancing the status of women and girls in Asia and the Pacific, from progress in education and employment, to gains in health, political representation and rights. Yet, as Asia-Pacific countries heard today as the high-level discussions concluded in Bangkok, challenges remain, with accelerated action needed for all women and girls to be able to fully and freely exercise their rights and taking advantage of opportunities without any discrimination.
4. A Ministerial Declaration, committing to accelerate action on achieving gender equality and women's empowerment as well as eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women across the region was also adopted at the end of the Conferences. The Asia-Pacific Conference was held in advance of the historic and global commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which will take place next year during the 59th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.
5. A large number of civil society representatives, especially women with disabilities, from Pakistan attended and substantially contributed to the Conference.

ANNEX-H

REPORT OF QIQIAO GIRLS FESTIVAL, CHINA

UZMA NOORANI, MEMBER NCSW

The Longnan International Forum on Girl Child and Women Development was held in Beijing from July 31st to August 2nd 2014. This was to mark the Qiqiao Girls Festival a time honored custom dating back to the Qin Dynasty. Qiqiao means pleading for 'skills and intelligence'. It is a seven day festival starting on the 7th month of the Chinese lunar calendar ending on the night of the seventh day. Since it is one of the oldest folk festival the government has revived and celebrated the event since 2008. It is the first cultural Folklore event to be given state level protection by the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2008.

This year was the sixth event. This was significant as it was the first international level event. Some of the people that took part were Minister Gender Equality and Child development Mauritius, President of the Congress of Women of the Kyrgyz Republic, Board Member of Belarus Union of Women, Special secretary of Belarus Union of Women, Former Speaker of the Parliament of Quebec, President of Women Association and Deputy Chairperson of Montreal Chamber of commerce.

Right from the time of arrival and all through the event the organizers were most hospitable and took personalized care of each of their guest. The venue was China Peoples Palace. The place was buzzing with volunteers and interpreters to attend to all needs of the guests. The rooms allocated to the guests had fruits and bottles of Spring water brought all the way from Gansu Province. Dinner was elaborate of traditional Chinese food and a traditional style noodle maker was also arranged from Gansu as the province is known for it beef noodles.

The main event on the 1st August started with leaders, scholars and experts who were shown a documentary on Qiqiao culture of Gansu Province. The documentary showed the making of jute paper craft. Artist were present and exhibited their crafts like the famous paper cut out etc. A two dimensional photo exhibit showed the development of modern governance and marketing of products through blogs, web chat. On display were scenic pictures of Gansu to promote tourism. This was followed by a singing and dancing performance on Qiqiao culture.

1. The opening ceremony started with speeches by
2. Secretary of Municipal party Committee of Longnan.
3. Department Director of Intangible Cultural Heritage Ministry of Culture.
4. Member National Commission on Status of Women Pakistan
5. Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of Nationals Peoples Congress of China.

This was followed by keynote speeches by experts on Folklore and women's development. Two representatives from International women's organizations, one from Kyrgyz Republic and Mauritius.

A panel discussion of Folklore experts and international women's organizations and domestic experts on research of women's development was also held. The discussions focussed on the Qiqiao festival, tracing its history and how it can be adapted to modern day. By bringing everyone together on one table it gave an opportunity to discuss how we can jointly overcome the existing obstacles to achieve gender equality. The Forum was significant as it draws attention to the diverse role women play and the importance of protecting and preserving artistic skills that are

ANNEX-I

Glimpses from the Media



passed from generation to generation.

At the end prominent representatives including Pakistan were presented with an award and certificate of Letter of appointment as Longnan China Global spokesperson for Qiqiao culture.

Several ambassadors including the ambassador of Pakistan attended the Forum also the following Chinese Officials:

- Gu Xiulian, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress of China, Director of China National Committee for the Well Being of the Youth
- Wang Zhizhen, Vice Chairman of the 11th CPPCC , Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Yu Hongqiu, Vice Chairman of All-China Women's Federation
- Chang Keren, Former Deputy Minister of Culture; Member of the CPC Party Committee of the Ministry of Culture; Vice President of China International Cultural Association
- Cui Weiyan, Director of Women's Development of All-China Women's Federation
- Mou Hong, Director of International Liaison of All-China Women's Federation
- Shen Xuekui, General Shen Xuekui, Former Deputy Secretary of Inspection Commission of General Office of CPC Central Committee, Deputy Director of Security Bureau of Central Committee of CPC and Director of Political Department, and the counselor of Cultural Exchange Organization of Presenting China to the World
- Zhang Bing, Deputy Director of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Ministry of Culture
- Zhang Zhixue, Member of CPC Group of China Folk Literature and Art Society, Deputy Secretary General
- Xu Wenhai, Deputy Director of Water Resource of Ministry of Water Resources
- His Excellency Li Qingyu, former Director-General of the Department of Asia and Africa of Foreign Ministry, Chinese ambassador to Algeria and Syria
- Zhu Ping, Deputy Secretary of China National Committee for the Well Being of the Youth
- Xu Xiujian, Office Director of China Folk Literature and Art Society
- Long Jiangwen, Vice President of National Association of Women Business Owners
- Song Ronghua, Counselor of Information Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Secretary General of China Public Diplomacy Association
- Liu Qinglang, Deputy Director of Culture and Art Center of Ministry of Culture
- Zhang Xiaoli, Management Office Director of Intangible Cultural Heritage Department of Ministry of Culture



خواتین کے پراسن احتجاج کو کچلنے کے لئے پولیس کی جانب سے کئے جانے والے وحشیانہ لاٹھی چارج کے منظر۔

12 فروری 1983 پاکستانی خواتین کے حقوق کی جدوجہد کا دن

خاور ممتاز نے بتایا کہ 12 فروری 1983 کا دن آج بھی مجھے اچھی طرح یاد ہے جب قانون شہادت بننے لگا تو "ویمن لائز ایسوسی ایشن" نے فیصلہ کیا کہ وہ ایک "پینشن" لاہور ہائی کورٹ کے جسٹس کے سامنے پیش کریں گی۔ چنانچہ سب خواتین لاہور کے مال روڈ پر جمع ہو جائیں۔ میں بھی اپنی دس سال کی بیٹی کو لے کر آئی۔ مال روڈ کا منظر دیکھ کر ہم خواتین حیران رہ گئیں کہ وہاں ہماری تعداد میں پولیس کی فوری تعینات تھی جس میں خواتین پولیس الکار بھی شامل تھیں۔ ہمارا جلوس پراسن تھا اور ہم دفعہ 144 کی خلاف ورزی نہیں کر رہے تھے۔۔۔ معروف شاعر حبیب جالب بھی خواتین سے اظہارِ تکثیفی کے لیے وہاں پہنچ گئے۔ کچھ ہی دیر بعد پولیس نے لاٹھی چارج اور آنسو گیس کا استعمال شروع کر دیا اور پھر جلوس مشتعل ہو گیا اور ہم نے رکاوٹیں توڑ کر ہائی کورٹ کی طرف بڑھنے کا فیصلہ کر لیا۔ اسی دوران پولیس نے ہم پچاس خواتین کو گرفتار کر لیا، ان میں مہنا ز رفیع شہناز و زریلی فریدہ شہید اور بشری اعجاز وغیرہ شامل تھیں۔ چار پانچ گھنٹے کے بعد ہمیں رہا کر دیا گیا لیکن "خواتین محاذ" نے اعلان کیا کہ آئندہ 12 فروری کو پاکستانی خواتین ایک جگہ اکٹھے ہو کر یہ دن منایا کریں گی۔ کئی سال تک یہ روایت برقرار رہی اور پھر 2010 میں سابق وزیر اعظم پاکستان یوسف رضا گیلانی نے 12 فروری کو پاکستانی عورت کا دن قرار دے دیا، یہ دن پاکستانی خواتین کے لئے ایک تاریخ ساز دن ہے۔



غیر منسلک خواتین کے خلاف ویمن ایکشن فورم کی خواتین، مال روڈ پر دھڑا دے چکی ہیں، عوامی شاعر حبیب جالب اپنی گلیں بنا کر داخل ہو کر رہے ہیں۔

بھی خود مختار ادارہ ہے ہماری کوشش ہے کہ اسے جلد از جلد مکمل طور پر "دفعتش" ادارہ بنایا جائے تاکہ اس کے دور رس نتائج سامنے آسکیں۔

عائلی قوانین کا فائدہ امیر اور غریب

عورتوں کو یکساں حاصل ہوا ہے

ایک عام عورت کے حق کے لیے شہر کی پڑھی لکھی عورت نے جو قدم اٹھایا، اس کے ثمرات وقت کے ساتھ ساتھ ظاہر ہو رہے ہیں۔ اس سلسلے میں فیملی لاز (Family Laws) کی مثال ہمارے سامنے ہے۔ 1955ء میں جب وزیر اعظم محمد علی بوگرہ نے عالیہ سعدی سے دوسری شادی کی تو اس وقت فیملی لاز موجود نہیں تھے خواتین کے احتجاج پر بحث شروع ہوئی اور جسٹس رشید کیشن تشکیل دیا گیا اور پھر 1961ء کے عائلی قوانین ایکشن کمیٹی کی سفارشات کے نتیجے میں ہی وجود میں آئے۔ یہ قوانین عورتوں کے لیے بالآخر ترقی ہیں اور اس کا فائدہ غریب اور امیر عورتوں کو یکساں حاصل ہوا ہے۔

خواتین محاذ عمل وجود میں آیا اور پھر ایک مہینے کے اندر اندر یہ احتجاج کراچی سے کلکتہ تک پھیل گیا اور ایک منظم تحریک کی شکل اختیار کر لی۔ اگرچہ آج کی عورت کل کی نسبت بہت طاقتور ہے لیکن آج بھی بہت سے مسائل جن کے توں ہیں مثلاً خواتین کو برابری کی بنیاد پر یکساں ترقی کے موقع ملنے چاہئیں۔ معاشرے میں ہی نہیں گھر میں بھی انہیں باعزت

خلاف آواز نہیں اٹھائی جاسکتی تھی۔ خواتین کے حقوق سلب کرنے کے خلاف خاور ممتاز اس تحریک کی اہم کارکن تھیں۔ خواتین محاذ عمل کا قیام 1981 میں عمل میں آیا اس محاذ کے ذریعے عورتیں خصوصاً 80 کی دہائی میں ملک میں جمہوریت اور شہری آزادی کی بحالی کی تحریک میں پیش پیش رہیں۔ جنرل (ر) ضیاء الحق کے دورِ آمریت میں تمام سیاسی سرگرمیوں اور

وہ پاکستانی عورت جس کو گھر میں اونچی آواز سے بولنے کی اجازت نہیں تھی آج اس کا خاندان اسے سیاسی عمل میں شامل کرنے کے لیے تیار ہے

مقام دیا جائے اور ان کے وراثتی حق کو قانونی تحفظ ملنا چاہیے۔ عورت چاہے دیہات میں ہو یا شہر میں، اسے اپنے حق کے لیے بولنا ہوگا۔ خیبر پختونخوا، اسی کی مثال ہمارے سامنے ہے وہاں کی خواتین مہبران اسمبلی کو ترقیاتی فنڈ نہیں ملا تو انہوں نے احتجاج کیا اور بالآخر فنڈز جاری ہو گئے اسی لئے ہمیں اپنی تحریک کو جاری رکھنا ہوگا۔ اب تو یہ کمیشن برائے حقوق نسواں

اظہار رائے پر مکمل پابندی تھی۔ سیاسی اور انسانی حقوق کے کارکنوں کو اکثر جبر و تشدد کا سامنا کرنا پڑتا۔ اسی دوران خواتین اور اقلیتوں کے خلاف حدود آرڈیننس جیسے انتہائی امتیازی قوانین نافذ کئے گئے۔ حدود آرڈیننس کے خلاف پہلا ٹیکس فہریدہ اور آئندہ بخش کو سو کوڑے مارنے کی سزا تھی۔۔۔ جس پر کراچی میں خواتین نے پرزور احتجاج کیا اور اسی احتجاج کے نتیجے میں

پروفیسر محمد وارث میر (مرحوم) نے اپنی کتاب ”کیا عورت آدھی ہے“ میں ضیاء جبر کے خلاف لڑتی جن بہادر اور باہمت خواتین کا تذکرہ کیا تھا، خاور ممتاز بھی انہی میں سے ایک نام ہے۔ 12 فروری 1983 کو لاہور کے مال روڈ پر نکالی گئی تاریخی ریلی میں شریک خاور ممتاز خواتین کے جائز حقوق اور آزادی کے لئے آواز بلند کرنے کی پاداش میں گرفتار بھی ہوئیں...

گزشتہ چار برسوں سے 12 فروری کو پاکستانی عورت کے دن کے طور پر منایا جاتا ہے



”عورت کو اپنے حق کے لئے خود بولنا ہوگا“

قومی کمیشن برائے حقوق نسواں پاکستان کی چیئر پرسن خاور ممتاز کے خیال میں عام عورت کے حق کے لئے شہر کی پڑھی لکھی عورت نے جو قدم اٹھایا، اس کے ثمرات ظاہر ہو رہے ہیں

آج پاکستانی عورت اپنے حق کے لئے آواز بلند کرنے کے لئے آزاد ہے قدمن ہیں ضرور لیکن ماہی کے گھپ اندھیرے چھٹ چکے ہیں۔ یہ سب کیسے ہوا؟ کس نے کیا؟ کیا قربانیاں دیں؟ ایسے کئی سوالات ہیں جو بڑی شعور فرد کے ذہن میں اترتے ہیں کہ آخر وہ خواتین کون تھیں اور ہیں؟ جنہوں نے عورتوں کو عام انسان کے طور پر تسلیم کرانے کی جدوجہد کی اور پھر اس جدوجہد میں انہیں کن مسائل کا سامنا کرنا پڑا؟ پاکستانی عورت کو قومی دھارے میں شامل کرنے کی کوششوں میں خاور ممتاز چیئر پرسن قومی کمیشن برائے حقوق نسواں کا کردار کسی تعارف کا محتاج نہیں۔ کئی دہائیوں پر مشتمل اپنی جدوجہد کے بعد آج وہ اس ادارے کی سربراہ ہیں جو خواتین کے حقوق کے حوالے سے کام کرنے کے لئے قائم کیا گیا۔ ذاتی طور پر دیکھا جائے تو خاور ممتاز نے جس خاندان میں جنم لیا وہ ہندوستان کا جانا پہچانا علمی گھرانہ تھا اور ان کی تربیت بھی انہی خطوط پر ہوئی۔ دو بھائیوں کی اکلوتی بہن کو ماں نے اقدار و روایات کے ساتھ ساتھ دور جدید کے تعلیمی زیور سے آراستہ کیا۔ ان کے نانا مرزا عظیم بیگ چغتائی علم و ادب کی دنیا کا بڑا نام ہیں۔ اسی وجہ سے جہاں انہیں علم سے لگاؤ ہوا، وہاں ماں کی تربیت اور خاندان کے ماحول نے یہ سکھایا کہ بھائی اور بہن کے حقوق میں کوئی

تفریق نہیں اور عورت کا وجود بھی مرد کی طرح اہم ہے۔ خاور ممتاز نے کراچی یونیورسٹی سے انٹرنیشنل ریلیشنز (International Relations) میں ایم اے کی ڈگری حاصل کی اور شادی کے بعد لاہور منتقل ہو گئیں۔ خاور ممتاز نے پنجاب یونیورسٹی سے بلور ملیم اپنے کیریئر کا آغاز کیا۔ اسی دوران سابق صدر جنرل ضیاء الحق کے دور حکومت میں جب خواتین کے حقوق سلب کئے گئے تو خاور ممتاز نے خواتین کے حقوق کے لیے کام کرنے والی تنظیم ”خواتین محاذ عمل“ میں شمولیت اختیار کر کے سرکاری نوکری سے استعفیٰ دے دیا کیونکہ بطور سرکاری ملازم حکومت کے

خواتین

February 2014 | 26



12 فروری 1983 پاکستانی خواتین کے حقوق کی جدوجہد کا دن

خاور ممتاز نے بتایا کہ 12 فروری 1983 کا دن آج بھی مجھے اچھی طرح یاد ہے جب قانون شہادت بننے لگا تو "وہن لائز ایسوسی ایشن" نے فیملی کیا کر وہ ایک "پیشین" لاہور ہائی کورٹ کے جسٹس کے سامنے پیش کر دی گئی۔ چنانچہ شہادتیں لاہور کے مال روڈ پر جمع ہو جائیں۔ میں بھی اپنی دس سال کی بیٹی کو لے کر آئی۔ مال روڈ کا منظر دیکھ کر ہم خواتین حیران رہ گئیں کہ وہاں ہماری تعداد میں پولیس کی فوری تعینات تھی جس میں خواتین پولیس اہلکار بھی شامل تھیں۔ ہمارا جلوس پراسن تھا اور ہم دفعہ 144 کی خلاف ورزی نہیں کر رہے تھے۔۔۔ معروف شاعر حبیب جالب بھی خواتین سے اکتھا رہ گئے تھے۔ کچھ ہی دیر بعد پولیس نے لاٹھی چارج اور آئسوگیس کا استعمال شروع کر دیا اور پھر جلوس مشتعل ہو گیا اور ہم نے رکاوٹیں تو ڈر ہائی کورٹ کی طرف بڑھنے کا فیصلہ کر لیا۔ اسی دوران پولیس نے ہم بچاؤ خواتین کو گرفتار کر لیا، ان میں مہناز فریق، شہناز وزیری، فریدہ شہید اور بشری اعجاز وغیرہ شامل تھیں۔ چار پانچ گھنٹے کے بعد ہمیں رہا کر دیا گیا لیکن "خواتین محاذ" نے اعلان کیا کہ آئندہ 12 فروری کو پاکستانی خواتین ایک جگہ اکٹھے ہو کر یہ دن منایا کریں گی۔ سکی سال تک یہ روایت برقرار رہی اور پھر 2010 میں سابق وزیراعظم پاکستان یوسف رضا گیلانی نے 12 فروری کو پاکستانی عورت کا دن قرار دے دیا، یہ دن پاکستانی خواتین کے لئے ایک تاریخ ساز دن ہے۔



فیملی لاء قوانین کے خلاف وہن لائز ایسوسی ایشن فورم کی خواتین مال روڈ پر دھڑا دے تھیں جن میں شاعر حبیب جالب اپنی فلمیں بنا کر ماحول کو گرہ مار رہے ہیں۔

بھی خود مختار ادارہ ہے ہماری کوشش ہے کہ اسے جلد از جلد مکمل طور پر "دفینیشن" ادارہ بنایا جائے تاکہ اس کے دور رس نتائج سامنے آسکیں۔

عائلی قوانین کا فائدہ امیر اور غریب

عورتوں کو یکساں حاصل ہوا ہے

ایک عام عورت کے حق کے لیے شہر کی پرچی لکھی عورت نے جو قدم اٹھایا، اس کے ثمرات وقت کے ساتھ ساتھ ظاہر ہو رہے ہیں۔ اس سلسلے میں فیملی لاء (Family Laws) کی مثال ہمارے سامنے ہے۔ 1955ء میں جب وزیراعظم محمد علی بوگرہ نے عالیہ عدالت سے دوسری شادی کی تو اس وقت فیملی لاء موجود نہیں تھے خواتین کے احتجاج پر بحث شروع ہوئی اور جسٹس رشید کی تشکیل دیا گیا اور پھر 1961ء کے عائلی قوانین ای کمیشن کی سفارشات کے نتیجے میں ہی وجود میں آئے۔ یہ قوانین عورتوں کے لیے بالآخر فلاحی ہیں اور اس کا فائدہ غریب اور امیر عورتوں کو یکساں حاصل ہوا ہے۔

خواتین محاذ مکمل وجود میں آیا اور پھر ایک مہینے کے اندر اندر یہ احتجاج کراچی سے نکل کر ملک بھر میں پھیل گیا اور ایک منظم تحریک کی شکل اختیار کر لی۔ اگرچہ آج کی عورت کھل کی نسبت بہت طاقتور ہے لیکن آج بھی بہت سے مسائل جوں کے توں ہیں مثلاً خواتین کو برابری کی بنیاد پر یکساں ترقی کے مواقع ملنے چاہئیں۔ معاشرے میں ہی نہیں گھر میں بھی انہیں باعزت

خلاف آواز نہیں اٹھائی جاسکتی تھی۔ خواتین کے حقوق سب کرنے کے خلاف خاور ممتاز اس تحریک کی اہم کارکن تھیں۔ خواتین محاذ مکمل کا قیام 1981ء میں ہی آیا اس محاذ کے ذریعے عورتیں خصوصاً 80 کی دہائی میں ملک میں جمہوریت اور شہری آزادی کی بحالی کی تحریک میں پیش پیش رہیں۔ جنرل (ر) ضیا الحق کے دور آمریت میں تمام سیاسی سرگرمیوں اور

وہ پاکستانی عورت جس کو گھر میں اونچی آواز سے بولنے کی اجازت نہیں تھی آج اس کا

خاندان اسے سیاسی عمل میں شامل کرنے کے لیے تیار ہے

مقام دیا جائے اور ان کے وراثتی حق کو قانونی تحفظ ملنا چاہیے۔ عورت چاہے دیہات میں ہو یا شہر میں، اسے اپنے حق کے لیے بولنا ہوگا۔ خیر بختونو! اسمبلی کی مثال ہمارے سامنے ہے وہاں کی خواتین ممبران اسمبلی کو ترقیاتی فنڈ نہیں ملا تو انہوں نے احتجاج کیا اور بالآخر فنڈ جاری ہو گئے اسی لئے ہمیں اپنی تحریک کو جاری رکھنا ہوگا۔ اب قومی کمیشن برائے حقوق نسواں

اظہار رائے پر مکمل پابندی تھی۔ سیاسی اور انسانی حقوق کے کارکنوں کو اکثر جبر و تشدد کا سامنا کرنا پڑتا۔ اسی دوران خواتین اور لائقیتوں کے خلاف حدود آرڈیننس جیسے انتہائی امتیازی قوانین نافذ کئے گئے۔ حدود آرڈیننس کے خلاف پہلا کیس فہمیدہ اور اللہ بخش کو سوکڑے مارنے کی سزا تھی۔۔۔ جس پر کراچی میں خواتین نے پُر زور احتجاج کیا اور اسی احتجاج کے نتیجے میں

Exclusive

قدم آگے بڑھنے کی بجائے ایک قدم پیچھے چلی جائے گی اس مقصد کے لئے سیاسی جماعتوں کی نمائندگی کے ایکٹ میں تبدیلی لانا ضروری ہے۔ عورت کے اس حق کے استعمال کے خلاف سیاسی جماعتوں کے اندر سے ہی خواتین کو مضبوط آواز بلند کرنا ہوگی۔

قومی کمیشن برائے حقوق نسواں پاکستان کا قیام

قومی کمیشن برائے حقوق نسواں پاکستان میں عورتوں کے حقوق کی نگرانی کے لئے قائم کیا گیا۔ ہر چیئر پرسن نے اپنے دور میں خواتین کے حوالے سے کام کیا اور برسے آنے والی چیئر پرسن نے

ہماری کوشش ہے کہ عورتوں پر ہونے والے اس ظلم کے خلاف موثر قانون سازی جلد از جلد مکمل ہو جائے

اس کام کو آگے بڑھایا ہے مثلاً ماجدہ رضوی صاحبہ نے حدود آؤڈینس پر کام کیا۔ عارفہ سیدہ صاحبہ نے عورت کے ورثاتی حق پر بہت کام کیا جو اس سے پہلے نہیں ہوا تھا۔ انیس بارون صاحبہ نے قانون سازی کے حوالے سے بے مثال کام کیا۔ ان کے دور میں خواتین کے حقوق کے حوالے سے متعدد قوانین بنے، مجھے چیئر پرسن بنے ایک سال ہو چکا ہے اور ابھی تک میں خواتین کے حقوق کے لئے بنائے جانے والے قوانین پر عملدرآمد کروانے کی کوشش کر رہی ہوں۔



میری ترجیحات...

میری ترجیحات میں خواتین کے حقوق کے تحفظ کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے ایسا میکانزم (Mechanism) بنانا شامل ہے کہ جس کے نفاذ کے بعد ان قوانین کا اطلاق ہو سکے جو اب تک بن چکے ہیں۔ اس کے علاوہ 18 ویں ترمیم کے بعد اختیارات صوبوں کو منتقل ہوئے ہیں تو زیادہ کام بھی صوبوں کے پاس چلا گیا ہے اب ہم خواتین پر تشدد کے حوالے سے قانون سازی پر بھی کام کر رہے ہیں۔ خواتین پر تشدد کے خلاف سندھ اسمبلی میں بل پاس ہو چکا ہے اور بلوچستان میں ڈرافٹ کے مراحل میں ہے اس کے علاوہ اقلیتوں کے میرج لا میں اور تو لیدی صحت کے بل پر بھی تیزی سے کام جاری ہے۔ عورتوں کی تحریک کا ایک اہم پیلا ایلوانوں میں نشی خواتین اور باہر جہد کرنے والی خواتین کا فعال تعلق ہے۔

تشدد ہر عورت کا مسئلہ...

پاکستانی خواتین پر تشدد ہر طبقہ اور علاقہ کا مسئلہ ہے، وہیں کمیشن اس سلسلے میں بہت تیزی سے کام کر رہا ہے۔ اور ہماری کوشش ہے کہ عورتوں پر ہونے والے اس ظلم کے خلاف موثر قانون سازی جلد از جلد مکمل ہو جائے۔ خواتین کو یکساں معاشی مواقع کے حوالے سے بھی یہی ایک بڑا چیلنج درپیش ہے۔ اکثر دیکھنے میں آیا ہے کہ خواتین اور مردوں کو ایک ہی کام کے لئے دی گئی تنخواہ مختلف ہوتی ہے یعنی خواتین کو مردوں کے مقابلے میں نصف اجرت دی جاتی ہے۔ قومی کمیشن برائے حقوق نسواں کی کوشش ہے کہ خواتین کو بھی مردوں کے مقابلے میں یکساں معاشی مواقع فراہم کئے جائیں، کیونکہ عورت کی معاشی خود مختاری عورتوں کے حقوق کی طرف مضبوط ترین قدم ہے۔

بہادر عورتیں...

جو بھی عورت اپنے حق کے لئے بولتی اور اپنے اوپر ہونے والے ظلم کے خلاف آواز بلند کرتی ہے، وہ یقیناً قابل ستائش ہے۔ ان کے متعلق یہ کہنا کہ کسی سیاسی پارٹی یا لابی کے لئے استعمال ہو رہی ہیں، غلط ہے۔ قومی کمیشن برائے حقوق نسواں ایسی قابل تقلید عورتوں کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتا ہے۔

ضوہا عمران

خواتین

خواتین کے حقوق کی تحریکوں میں تیزی کب آئی؟

12 فروری 1983 کے مزاحمتی جلوس کے بعد پاکستان میں عورتوں کے حقوق، جمہوریت کی بحالی اور انسانی حقوق کی تحریکوں میں مزید تیزی آئی۔ عورتوں کے حقوق کی جدوجہد کے لئے کئی نئی تنظیموں نے جنم لیا۔ عورتوں کے مسائل و حقوق کے حوالے سے بحث شروع ہوئی ہم لوگ مختلف سیاسی پارٹیوں سے مذاکرات کرنے لگے کہ اپنے منشور میں عورتوں کے مسائل کو بھی جگہ دیں۔ فیصلہ سازی میں عورت کو شامل کریں، اخبارات میں مذاکرے اور مباحثے ہونے لگے اور اس تبدیلی سے صرف شہری عورت ہی نہیں دیہی عورت بھی مستفید ہونے لگی۔ جلد یاتی انتخابات کا شمار اٹھا تو 40 ہزار عورتوں نے کاغذات نامزدگی جمع کروائے کہ اگر 30 فیصد بھی نااہل گردانی جائیں گی تو 70 فیصد اہل قرار پائیں گی۔ آج یہی عورتیں ترقی کر کے صوبائی اور قومی اسمبلی میں قانون سازی کر رہی ہیں۔

سیاسی پارٹیوں نے جنرل سیٹوں پر بہت کم عورتوں کو ٹکٹ دیئے مگر چار سو خواتین بطور آزاد امیدوار الیکشن لڑنے کے لیے کھڑی ہوئیں، یہی تبدیلی ہے

وہ پاکستانی عورت جس کو گھر میں اونچی آواز سے بولنے کی اجازت نہیں تھی آج اس کا خاندان اسے سیاسی عمل میں شامل کرنے کے لیے تیار ہے۔ 2013 کے حالیہ انتخابات کی مثال ہمارے سامنے ہے، سیاسی پارٹیوں نے جنرل سیٹوں پر بہت کم عورتوں کو ٹکٹ دیئے مگر چار سو خواتین بطور آزاد امیدوار الیکشن لڑنے کے لیے کھڑی ہوئیں، یہی تبدیلی ہے۔ اس تبدیلی کی بنیاد ایک چھوٹے گروپ نے رکھی تھی اور اب اقتدار کے ایوانوں میں موجود خواتین بھی اس تبدیلی کا حصہ ہیں اور پارلیمنٹ سے باہر نشی خواتین کے ساتھ ان کا ایک فعال تعلق قائم ہے۔ اب ہم باہمی مشورہ اور تحقیق کے بعد مختلف 'ایلیٹوز' پر کام کرتے ہیں اور پھر قانون سازی کا مرحلہ شروع ہوتا ہے۔

33 فی صد نمائندگی نہ ملی تو...

سابق صدر پرویز مشرف کے دور میں جلد یاتی انتخابات میں عورتوں کو 33 فیصد نمائندگی دی گئی لیکن جب اسے اپنے اس حق سے محروم کر دیا گیا تو اس کے خلاف وہیں کمیشن نے شدید احتجاج کیا، سیاسی جماعتوں سے رابطے کئے، الیکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان کو لکھا، لا مشر کے ساتھ بات کی کیونکہ اگر یہ حق عورت سے چھینا سے لیا گیا تو تحریک و

DAWN

Rehman advocates celebrating National Women's Day beyond gender discrimination

Lahore (Feb 11): Renowned human rights activist I A Rehman has urged all Pakistanis to rise above gender discrimination and celebrate National Women's Day with gusto and gaiety that has been recognized by the government after considerable sacrifice by women activists.

He was addressing as Key Note Speaker in a reflective roundtable to commemorate the National Women's Day, held in a local hotel here in Lahore. The event was jointly organized by National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and Democratic Commission for Human Development (DCHD).

The objective of this reflective Roundtable was to reflect on the challenges that extremism poses to women in Pakistan and strategize on how to deal with it. The Roundtable was designed as an interactive session with a keynote speaker setting the overall context; a panel to show provincial manifestations of extremism and discussants to suggest strategic directions to be followed by open discussion.

The conference was addressed by Chairperson NCSW Khawar Mumtaz, Tanveer Jahan Executive Director DCHD and member NCSW, renowned human rights activist I A Rehman, Ms Sadia Qasim from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Amar Sindhu from Sindh, Ayesha Siddiqi from Punjab and Huma Fouladi from Baluchistan and Samar Minallah.

Chairperson NCSW Khawar Mumtaz said National Women Day is being recognized at official level since 2010. She said NCSW has its members hailing from all regions of the country and members. "The main purpose of the commission is to achieve gender equality before law in accordance with the Constitution and obligation under various international covenants and commitments," she said adding, "The Commission is tasked with examining policies, programmers and measures besides reviewing federal laws, rules and regulations affecting status and rights of women, from time to time and suggests repeal, amendment or enactment of new legislation to end discrimination.

Keynote Speaker I A Rehman while congratulating women on National Women Day said though various milestones have been achieved but still we have to go miles before we call it a day. He lauded the efforts of women for establishment of NCSW. He said National Women Day should have been observed at national level instead of NCSW doing this job. He deplored that no progress has been made at Domestic Violence Bill and no progress is made to stop child marriage. He said the practice of adoption of Private member bill should be continued. He said literature is being printed these days that abound these days that condemns the services of Malala Yousafzai and encourages warmongering.

Sadia Qasim Shah Speaker from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa said extremism is a mindset and it ranges from verbal threats to intangible mental stress or fear in a woman's mind. She deplored that extremism has rather increased in different forms in KP and FATA. Throwing light on various facets of extremism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, she said "Wave of extremism has strengthened the anti-women traditions like Swara, Child Marriages all-enveloping veil/dress code and it also manifests itself in opposition to education, health (family planning), political rights." Shah was of the view that deprivation of right of inheritance and deprivation from adopting profession of choice are some of the economic problems for women of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Huma Fouladi from Balochistan said her provinces faces three kinds of problems, sectarian issues, Talibanization and Baloch national sentiments. She said it is the need of the hour to weed out the causes of extremism.

Ayesha Siddiqi from Punjab regretted State is surrendering her writ in every sphere of life. She said it is a myth that foreign elements are responsible for current state of affairs, people do not vote for religious parties and poverty is the root cause of extremism. "Punjabi extremism is widely prevalent in middleclass and it has nothing to do with poverty," she said, adding, "people do not pay taxes but they pay donation to religious seminaries."

Renowned poet and Member NCSW Kishwer Naheed enthralled audience with her inspiring couplet, "Hum Ghunahgar Aurtain (We sinful women.) Amar Sindhu Speaker from Sindh also addressed the audience and shed light on plight of women and the role of political parties regarding women issues in Sindh.



Pakistan Women Media Complaint Cell launched

Myra Imran

Friday, February 14, 2014 - From Print Edition

Islamabad

To promote and ensure gender responsiveness within media houses and the journalistic endeavours, National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) on Thursday launched Pakistan Women Media Complaint Cell (PWMCC).

Initially, the PWMCC will start functioning from March 1, 2014 on trial basis for three months. The project, a joint venture with Uks, might be extended afterwards.

The PWMCC will use Gender Sensitive Code of Ethics designed for this activity as the guideline. The cell will be an independent body that hears the concerns or complaints of the public against the print and electronic news media. The cell will also be responsible for the self-regulation of the news media through the Gender Sensitive Code of Ethics for Media.

"The cell will not be entitled to deal with a complaint or impose any penalty or adjudicate compensation in an issue that is sub-judice in a court of law. It will mainly be a pressure group that would try to check media for their public responsibilities," said Executive Director Uks Resesrch Centre Tasneem Ahmer.

The decisions and findings of the cell will be published/broadcast. The publisher or broadcaster found to be in breach of the Code will have an obligation to publish or broadcast the relevant decision.

The Cell will be divided into two committees namely Media Committee and Public Committee. Renowned personalities from media and civil society are part of the Cell whereas Khawar Mumtaz, Chairperson NCSW will be the overall Chairperson of the committees.

The Media Ethic Committee will review the Code of Media Ethics periodically. The Committee will take account of public and Parliamentary comment as well as reports from the Pakistan Women Media Complaints Cell itself.

The cell is established with active collaboration of various public sector universities and students who have volunteered for the Cell. The Complainant will be asked to write directly to the editor or director news and in case of unsatisfactory answer or no reply; the complainant may contact PWMCC Cell through helpline.

Speaking on this occasion, renowned poetess and member National Commission on the Status of Women Kishwer Naheed urged electronic and print media organizations to treat women with respect, dignity, and honour regardless of their profession and particular respect is required for women working in the media, NGOs, activists, entertainment industry, models, law enforcing agencies and paramedics.

Tasneem Ahmer said the PWMCC aims to respond to the 2010 Global Media Monitoring Project's (GMMP's) findings on the perpetuation of gender-biased media, gender stereotyping and women's significant under representation in the Pakistan's news media.

"The GMMP results show that there is growing concern for gender responsiveness in journalistic practices," said she adding, "Now is perhaps the best time to put forward a forceful and persuasive advocacy planning to strengthen gender-sensitive portrayal of women in content as well as gender balance in representation.

"Our aim will be to resolve any matter concerning a violation of the Code of Ethics to the satisfaction of complainant," said Tasneem Ahmer. This resolution may take the form of an explanation from the editor/director of the publication of channel concerned or by the publication/broadcast of a correction or an apology in the form of a letter to the aggrieved party and or to the complainant.

DAWN

Women media complaint cell launched

A REPORTER — PUBLISHED FEB 14, 2014 07:36AM

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan women media complaint cell has been launched to promote and ensure gender responsiveness within media houses and journalists. Established with the efforts of Uks Research Centre and the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), the cell will work to improve the status of women in the country and will try to discourage negative projection of women. The cell will start functioning from March 1 as a pilot project for three months and may be extended afterwards.

The executive director Uks Research Centre said the PWMCC aimed at responding to the 2010 Global Media Monitoring Project's findings.

"The GMMP results show that there is growing concern for gender responsiveness in journalistic practices. Now it is perhaps the best time to start working for the rights of females who suffer because of news published by media groups," she said.

The PWMCC will use Gender Sensitive Code of Ethics designed for this activity as the guideline. The cell will be an independent body that will hear the concerns or complaints of the public against the print and electronic news media. The cell will also be responsible for the self-regulation of the news media through the gender sensitive code of ethics for media, she said.

"The cell will not be entitled to deal with a complaint or impose any penalty or adjudicate compensation in an issue that is sub judice. The decisions and findings of the cell will be published and broadcasted," she said.

The cell is divided into two committees - Media committee and public committee. Kishwer Naheed,

Tahira Abdullah, Amir Mateen, Ali Imran and Quatrina Hussain are part of the cell whereas Khawar Mumtaz, chairperson NCSW, will be the overall chairperson of the committees.

She said that the cell was established in collaboration with various public sector universities (Fatima Jinnah Women University, Urdu University, Islamia University Bahawalpur) and volunteer students.



Women's issues: Media urged to show gender responsiveness

By Our Correspondent

Published: February 14, 2014

ISLAMABAD:

Renowned poet Kishwar Naheed has urged both print and electronic media to play a responsible role while highlighting women issues.

She was speaking at the launch of the Pakistan Women Media Complaint Cell (PWMCC) on Thursday.

The PWMCC is a joint effort of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and the Uks Research Centre to monitor, promote and ensure gender responsiveness within the media.

Initially, the cell will start functioning from March 1 as a trial run for three months and may be extended afterwards. The cell will be an independent body and entertain complaints from the public against print and electronic media.

"Both electronic and print media should treat women with respect, dignity and honour regardless of their profession, caste and creed," Naheed said.

She expressed displeasure at some of the media outlets which promote a negative image of a woman associated with the fashion and film industries and sensationalist newspapers that use objectionable words while reporting on women.

"The print media need to be very careful and selective while using words to highlight a woman as slight irresponsible use of a word could tarnish her image in the society," she said.

She said that NCSW is currently working with various national and international partner organisations for women empowerment in Pakistan.

Uks Research Centre Executive Director Tasneem Ahmer said that the PWMCC aims to respond to the 2010 Global Media Monitoring Project's (GMMP's) findings on the perpetuation of gender-biased media, gender stereotyping and women's significant underrepresentation in the Pakistan's news media.

"The GMMP results show that there is growing concern for gender responsiveness in journalistic practices," she said adding "Now is perhaps the best time to put forward a forceful and persuasive advocacy planning to strengthen gender-sensitive portrayal of women in content as well as gender balance in representation.

Published in The Express Tribune, February 14th, 2014



Khawar for protection of child domestic workers

Islamabad (Jan 20): Chairperson NCSW Khawar Mumtaz while condemning the barbaric incident of violence on a domestic worker in Lahore that resulted her death in a hospital last night, has stressed for the need of laws for protection of domestic workers as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan.

In a statement issued to the press Khawar said, "Plight of Child Domestic Workers (CDWs) in Pakistan is miserable as they are continuously abused, raped, tortured and killed," adding Domestic violence on innocent children is the single most contributing factor for the horrible deaths of Child Domestic Workers.

It may be recalled here a child domestic worker in Lahore's upscale residential area was severely beaten by a university professor and the girl had to be hospitalized due to her critical condition. The doctors later put the girl on ventilator due to her deteriorating condition. The professor later confessed to his crime and put behind the bars. The unlucky girl succumbed to her injuries only yesterday.

Khawar showed concerns that Child Domestic Workers are denied the rights that are enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan such as Articles 11, 25 (3), 25A and even the right to life, merely for the reason of protecting the household sanctity. Khawar urged the government to remove the paradox of family sanctity and monitoring of child workers.

Cases of violence against Child Domestic Workers are on the rise in Pakistan. Since January 2010 to December 2013, about 47 cases of CDWs are reported in the media. Culprits of this heinous crime often get bail from the courts due to non implementation of laws. The plight of child domestic workers is alarming in all the four provinces in the country and cases of torture are often noticed in upper class segment of society where child workers are often coerced to work against their wishes.

Khawar regretted the absence of legal framework under which domestic workers can ensure protection of their rights despite the fact that Pakistan has ratified the ILO Convention. "There is a 1965 law which makes it incumbent upon employers to provide healthcare to their workers and there is the Minimum Wages Act of 1961," says she adding, "Given the changing times and the advances that have been made in labour law in other developing countries, it is imperative that Pakistan make stringent laws against violence on child domestic workers."

Press Release: 22 May 2014 - NCSW held its 51st meeting in Islamabad on 21- 22 May, 2014

NCSW held its 51st meeting in Islamabad on 21-22 May, 2014 under its Chairperson, Ms. Khawar Mumtaz. The meeting marked one year of operationalization of the Commission. It took stock of NCSW activities over the year and determined its direction for the rest of the term.

Members expressed satisfaction over the performance of the Commission and its direction and welcomed the establishment of the Provincial Commission on the Status of Women, Punjab. They identified areas for future interventions and committed to maintaining strong linkages with

provincial Governments, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, AJK and FATA.

NCSW expressed grave concern over the recent rise in incidence of violence against women and girls across Pakistan and the apathy of state institutions towards victims. It condemned the rape of a college student by Qari Naseer, a seminary teacher and his associates and appreciated the swift action taken by the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It also demanded an early conviction of the perpetrators.

The Commission highlighted the negative impact on women, girls and minorities of increasing use of religion to promote political and personal interests manifested in targeting individuals and desecration of religious places. It reminded governments of the responsibility to ensure the constitutional right of girls to education and their safety. The Commission, found particularly distressing the threats to girls schools in Panjgur resulting in closure of schools, and attacks on girls schools in other parts of Pakistan.

Commission members noted that despite judicial decisions on illegality of Jirgas, there has been a resurgence in Sindh and Balochistan of Jirga decisions, to settle disputes through exchange of women/girls, some reportedly chaired by sitting members of assemblies and heads of tribes. The Commission demanded immediate measures to stop this violation of the law and to apprehend violators; furthermore to sensitize law enforcement agencies about anti women practices and related legislations.

The Commission was strongly perturbed by Council of Islamic Ideology's recent positions related to marriage. These positions are contrary to the provisions of MFLO 1961 that was drawn up after extensive deliberations, the NADRA Act and the Majority Act. It strongly disagreed with the CII recommendation of nikah of girls by parents at as early an age as 9 years.

NCSW recommended that legislation aimed at protection of women be extended to FATA and PATA. The meeting ended with a session with Minister for Law, Information and Broadcasting Mr. Pervaiz Rasheed where these concerns were shared. The Minister committed to promoting positive portrayal of women on electronic media and invited the Commission to develop appropriate media programmes for women's empowerment.



NCSW to finalise indicators for violence against women soon

May 30, 2014

ISLAMABAD: National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) Chairperson Khawar Mumtaz on Thursday said that the commission would soon complete the indicators for collecting data on violence against women (VAW). "Once the indicators are finalised, we would share it with the international community and hand it over to the Bureau of Statistics for conducting a survey on women rights violations in country", she said while talking to the media personnel. The indicators would be finalised in a week or so, after that, they would start working on the methodology and designing for conducting the survey, she informed. She said that once they get the data from grass-root level and collect actual facts, it would unveil the real situation in front of them which would help develop strategy for protecting women rights in the country. Mumtaz said that the commission would involve provinces for the implementation of women rights laws in the country. She stated that there is a need for monitoring the enforcement of sexual harassment at workplace act to ensure a safe environment for the women working. The chairperson added that there is a need to create awareness among the people regarding the women rights a law as the

responsibility of the parliament is to work on legislation, but if people do not have information, they would not be benefited through it amicably. The capacity building of relevant institutions like police, lawyers is also as much important because if they do not have the knowledge that which clause would be applied on which offence and what is the punishment for that, they would not be able to plead the case properly. The women should also know on which complaints they can file a case and what is the legal procedure for that, besides the punishment for these offences. She said that the women rights violations are increasing but still a number of incidents were not registered as women do not have complete information of legislation and their rights, especially in the rural areas. Mumtaz said that the institutions at the union council level monitor and collect data that at which level people have awareness regarding the women rights laws and which areas need to be worked more.



NCSW, White Ribbon for awareness of pro-women laws

- Staff Report
- November 27, 2014
- Be First To Comment

ISLAMABAD: The White Ribbon Campaign and the National Commission on Status of Women (NCSW) on Wednesday inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly work for advocacy and awareness of pro-women laws.

NCSW Chairperson Khawar Mumtaz signed the MoU while White Ribbon Campaign was represented by its Chief Executive Omer Aftab.

Acid Survivors Foundation Chairperson Valerie Khan, European Union (EU) Ambassador Lars Gunnar Wigemark, Australian High Commissioner Peter Heyward, MNA Shaista Pervaiz Malik among others were present on the occasion.

“NCSW strives to fulfil the promise of a life of dignity and justice to women of Pakistan. Its mandate is to address the issues that affect the lives of women adversely by reviewing and analyzing the laws and policies and consequently formulating recommendations through dialogue and research to enable them to hold a position of equity. NCSW's basic concern is to create awareness at all levels and in all section of society, therefore it has joined hands with White Ribbon to spread awareness on pro-women laws and also advocate new laws and amendments in existing laws for protection and welfare of women,” NCSW Chairperson Khawar Mumtaz.

White Ribbon Chief Executive Omer Aftab said that White Ribbon and NSCW have jointly started a campaign on legal literacy of women, adding that the government had introduced several pro-women laws but women were not aware of them.

He stressed the need to create awareness among women about their legal rights. “Together with NCSW we shall urge legislators for new pro-women laws and amendments in anti-women laws for the welfare of women,” Omer Aftab added.

White Ribbon Day for Elimination of Violence against Women is marked internationally on November 25 to show support and solidarity with women suffering from different kinds of violence in their lives. The 16-day campaign starts from November 25 and ends on December 10.

PAKISTAN OBSERVER

MOU SIGNED BETWEEN NCSW AND WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

Salim Ahmed

Thursday, November 27, 2014 - Lahore—White Ribbon Campaign Pakistan and National Commission on Status of Women (NCSW) have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly work for advocacy and awareness of pro-women laws. The agreement was signed during an event on White Ribbon Day for Elimination of Violence against Women in which social activists, legislators, diplomats and representatives of media and civil society were present. Chairperson Khawar Mumtaz signed the MoU on behalf of NCSW while White Ribbon Campaign was represented by its Chief Executive Omer Aftab.

Head Acid Survivor Foundation Valerie Khan, EU Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark, Australian High Commissioner Peter Heyward, MNA Shaista Pervaiz Malik, famous poet Kishwar Naheed were among many others present on the occasion. White Ribbon and NSCW have agreed to form a 'Strategic Alliance' to develop and execute programs and initiatives.

Chairperson NSCW stated: NCSW strives to fulfill the promise of a life of dignity and justice to women of Pakistan. She mentioned that Commissions mandate is to address the issues that affect the lives of women adversely by reviewing and analyzing the laws and policies and consequently formulating recommendations through dialogue and research to enable them to hold a position of equity.

Chief Executive White Ribbon Omer Aftab mentioned that White Ribbon and NSCW have jointly started a campaign on legal literacy of women, saying that government has introduced several good pro-women laws but women are not aware of them. White Ribbon Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women is marked internationally on November 25th to show support and solidarity with women suffering different kinds of violence in their lives.



Government of Pakistan National Commission on the Status of Women



Press Release - May 28, 2014

Subject:- Brutal Murder of A Woman In The Name of "So Called Honour"

In a statement given by Khawar Mumtaz, Chairperson of National Commission on the Status of Women and Fauzia Viqar, Chairperson Punjab Commission on the Status of Women, they expressed their shock and grief at the stoning to death of a 25-year-old woman by her family outside the Lahore High Court on Tuesday for marrying the man of her choice.

"It is appalling" they said that "an adult woman who was exercising her legal right to marry was murdered in broad daylight in the presence of a large number of bystanders, none of whom took any action to stop the perpetrators." They also felt that the apathy of the law enforcement personnel tasked with ensuring security of citizens and, of any lawyers who may have been present in the High Court is of particular concern.

This incident points at the impunity with which killings in the name of honour are occurring throughout the country. According to the report of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, 869 cases of killing on the pretext of honour were reported in 2013 alone. These figures are largely compiled from newspapers and do not reflect the actual numbers which go unreported.

The reasons for prevalent impunity are cultural practices preventing reporting, lack of prosecution and out of court settlements under the Qisas and Diyat law that permits pardon by the victim's family.

Considering the brutality in the case of Farzana Iqbal, the Commissions strongly recommend that perpetrators be tried under sections 302 and 311 of the Pakistan Penal Code and heirs not be allowed to compound the offence.

Furthermore the Commissions suggest serious reflection by law-makers and law enforcement agencies on ensuring stringent punishments for such heinous crimes. Among options is one of amending the law to make murder in the name of "so called honour", a crime against the State and removing the option of pardon or financial settlement.

These measures need to be accompanied by long term efforts for mindset change for women's fundamental human rights and their rights as equal citizens. The Commissions recommend on-going sensitization of law enforcers and society at large.

Ms. Khawar Mumtaz
Chairperson

Inspiring change

Religious discrimination biggest challenge

Khawar Mumtaz on the challenges women face in patriarchal societies

A WAQAS NAEEM
ISLAMABAD

As women in Muslim countries face a three-headed monster of religious discrimination, rising violence and lack of opportunities, the women's movement in Pakistan is also simultaneously witnessing a reduction in its allies.

"The biggest challenge is religious discrimination," Khawar Mumtaz, the Chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), said as she spoke about her personal and professional life at the Sustainable Development Policy of Institute (SDPI) on Wednesday.

She identified multiple challenges to women and a possible solution to counter them.

Dr Maleeha Aslam, head of SDPI's Gender and Human Security division, was in conversation with Mumtaz as part of SDPI's "Inspiring Change: Women of Substance" series.

Mumtaz, who has built a distinguished career over three decades with work on women's rights and environmental issues, said there were three major challenges facing women in Muslim countries.

"The biggest challenge is religious discrimination," she stated. "There is a certain interpretation of religion that controls women and does not



"Violence against women in countries including Pakistan and the fear of such violence are both equally potent

Chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women Khawar Mumtaz

see them as individuals with their own aspirations and ambitions."

"Violence against women in countries including Pakistan and the fear of such violence are both equally potent." These constitute the second major challenge for women. Third, Mumtaz said women are confronted with a lack of opportunities. She mentioned low enrolment levels of girls in Balochistan as an example of denial of opportunities.

"It is tough to tackle these challenges in Pakistan and men have to support women in bringing down patriarchy." She noted that vocal allies of women's movement — men, rights' organisations, workers' unions — are shrinking. She said the decrease might be due to a number of reasons including the imposition of other dominant ideas.

Mumtaz stated she was annoyed that in Pakistan's development narrative the word "women" continues to be mindlessly substituted by "gender," obfuscating women's perspectives and issues in the process. "Women's issues are cross-cutting, which means there is a woman's

perspective for every issue."

For Mumtaz, a dream society would be affable and its people tolerant of opposing views. The originality in her research work, she said, was not due to a conscious effort but a commitment to approach issues seriously.

Mumtaz also spoke about the Women's Action Forum, which she is a founding member of, and its response as an indigenous, apolitical movement to discriminatory laws against women at the height of Zia's martial law.

The NCSW chairperson said her great-aunt Ismat Chughtai was an influential figure for all the women in her family and that always pushed her to challenge societal norms.

Shafqat Kakakhel, chairman of SDPI's board of governors, said Mumtaz symbolises the concept of sustainable development as she advocates political and economic freedom, environmental protection, and social justice.

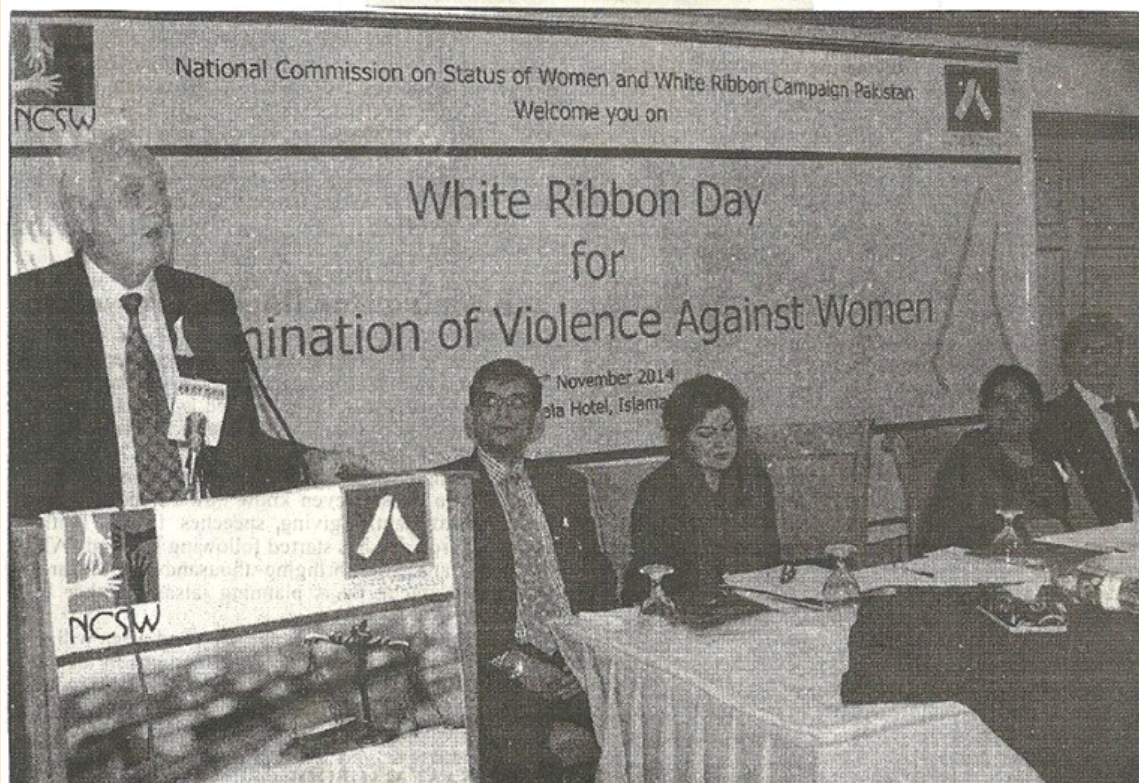
"Mumtaz has made relentless and highly significant contributions in Pakistan and South Asia in grass-roots activism."



ISLAMABAD: EU Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark and members of White Ribbon Campaign and National Commission on the Status of Women lighting candles to show solidarity with female victims of violence at International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women on Tuesday.—Staff photo by Javed Nasir

The Statesman

Wednesday, November 26, 2014



Australian high commissioner Peter Heyward speaks during the "White Ribbon Day for Elimination of Violence against Women" marked in collaboration with NCSW. - INP

White Ribbon, NCSW sign MoU

RECORDER REPORT

PESHAWAR: White Ribbon Campaign Pakistan and National Commission on Status of Women (NCSW) have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly work for advocacy and awareness of pro-women laws.

The agreement was signed during an event on White Ribbon Day for Elimination of Violence against Women in which social activists, legislators, diplomats and representatives of media and civil society were present.

Chairperson Khawar Mumtaz signed the MoU on behalf of NCSW while White Ribbon Campaign was represented by its Chief Executive Omer Aftab. Head Acid Survivor Foundation Valerie Khan, EU Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark, Australian High Commissioner Peter Heyward, MNA Shaista Pervez Malik, famous poet Kishwar Naheed were among many others present on the occasion. White Ribbon and NCSW have agreed to form a 'Strategic Alliance' to develop and execute programs and initiatives.

روزنامہ ساز کار (6) 27 نومبر 2014ء



اسلام آباد قومی ادارہ برائے وقار نسوان کی چیئر پرسن خاتون ممتاز اور چیف ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر ربین عمر آفتاب کا معاہداتی یادداشت پر دستخط کے بعد گروپ فوٹو۔

وائٹ ربن کمپین اور قومی ادارہ برائے وقار نسوان کے درمیان مفاہمت

خواتین کو ان کے قانونی حقوق سے آگاہ کرنے کے لیے خصوصی ممبر کا آغاز بھی کیا گیا
اسلام آباد (لنڈن خصوصی) وائٹ ربن کمپین اور قومی ادارہ برائے وقار نسوان (نیشنل کمیشن آن سٹیٹس آف ویمن) کے درمیان مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط آج کے لیے مل کر کام (پانی سطر 6 پیر 35)

بقیہ نمبر 35 وقار نسوان

کہا ہے۔ سماج سے برہنہ خواتین پر تشدد کے خاتمے کے حوالے سے عالمی دن کے موقع ہونے والی ایک خصوصی تقریب کے دوران کیے گئے جس میں سماجی کارکنان، قانون ساز اسمبلی کے ممبران، سفارتکار اور میڈیا کے ساتھ ساتھ مختلف شعبہ ہائے زندگی سے تعلق رکھنے والے افراد نے شرکت کی۔ راکم خرماء میں چیئر پرسن قومی ادارہ برائے وقار نسوان خاتون ممتاز، چیف ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر ربین عمر آفتاب، ایڈمنسٹریٹو سربراہ اور قاضی عظمیٰ ہجرتی خان، ممبر قومی اسمبلی شائستہ پروین ملک، آسٹریلیا میں ہائی کمشنر پیریز، یورپین یونین کے سیکرٹری جنرل مگر وکٹرک اور ایمر دلف شاوٹھریا جیہ شامل تھے۔ اس موقع پر وائٹ ربن اور قومی ادارہ نے خواتین کو ان کے قانونی حقوق سے آگاہ کرنے کے لیے ایک خصوصی ایسی کمپین کا آغاز بھی کیا گیا۔ چیئر پرسن قومی ادارہ برائے وقار نسوان خاتون ممتاز کا اس موقع پر کہنا تھا کہ قومی ادارہ خواتین کو تشدد اور حقوق والوں کے لیے کوشش ہے۔ خواتین کو حقوق کی فراہمی کے لیے قانون سازی کے بارے میں بات کرتے ہوئے خاتون ممتاز کا کہنا تھا کہ ادارہ کے کام خواتین کے حقوق کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے سوجن اور خواتین کا جائزہ لینا اور نئے قوانین کی تشکیل کے لیے سفارشات مرتب کرنا ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ خواتین میں قوانین کے بارے میں آگہی کی کمی ہے اور ایسی کمی کو پورا کرنے کے لیے ان کا ادارہ اور وائٹ ربن مل کر کام کریں گے۔ چیف ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر عمر آفتاب نے بتایا کہ قومی ادارہ برائے وقار نسوان کے ساتھ کی کر شرماء کی جانے والی کم کا مقصد خواتین میں قوانین کے بارے میں آگاہی بڑھانے کے لیے کام کر رہی ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ اگرچہ حکومت کی طرف سے خواتین کے حقوق کے لیے کئی قوانین تصویب کر دئے گئے ہیں لیکن بد قسمتی سے خواتین میں ان قوانین کے بارے میں سمجھ کا فقدان پایا جاتا ہے۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ انہوں نے کہا کہ عدالت میں بھرتی ہوا میں کی خواتین کو حقوق کی فراہمی کے لیے نئے قوانین کی تشکیل پر بھی کام کر رہی ہے۔

27 نومبر 2014 بروزنامہ پاکستان راولپنڈی



وائٹ ربن کیمنیجین اورقومی ادارہ برائے وقارنسوان کی مشترکہ یادداشت پر دستخط

وائٹ ربن کیمنیجین اورقومی ادارہ برائے وقارنسوان میں مفابہمتی یادداشت پر دستخط
مستعد حقوق نسواں کے حوالہ سے قوانین کی ترقی اور قانونی حقوق سے آگہی کے لیے مل کر کام کرنا ہے

لاہور (پ ر) وائٹ ربن کیمنیجین اورقومی ادارہ برائے وقارنسوان (نیشنل کمیشن آن سٹیتس آف ویمن) کے درمیان مفابہمتی یادداشت پر دستخط کیے گئے ہیں جس کا مقصد حقوق نسواں کے حوالہ سے قوانین کی ترقی اور خواتین کو ان کے قانونی حقوق سے آگہی کے لیے مل کر کام کرنا ہے۔ معاہدے پر دستخط خواتین پر تشدد کے خاتمے کے حوالہ سے عالمی دن کے موقع ہونے والی ایک خصوصی تقریب کے دوران کیے گئے جس میں سائی کا رکنا، قانون ساز اکیڈمی کے ممبران، سفارتکار اور میڈیا کے ساتھ ساتھ مختلف شعبہ ہائے زندگی سے تعلق رکھنے والے افراد نے شرکت کی۔ اہم شرکا میں چیئر پرسن قومی ادارہ برائے وقارنسوان خاور ممتاز، چیف ایگزیکٹو وائٹ ربن ممبر آفتاب، ایڈیٹریل سیکرٹری اور قائدہ شین ڈھیری خان، ممبر قومی اسمبلی شائستہ بیگم، نیشنل کمیشن آف ویمن کی چیئر پرسن اور وائٹ ربن کیمنیجین کی چیئر پرسن نے شرکت کی۔

Daily Times
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NCSW, White Ribbon for awareness of pro-women laws

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The White Ribbon Campaign and the National Commission on Status of Women (NCSW) on Wednesday inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly work for advocacy and awareness of pro-women laws.

NCSW Chairperson Khawar Mumtaz signed the MoU while White Ribbon Campaign was represented by its Chief Executive Omer Aftab.

Acid Survivors Foundation Chairperson Valerie Khan, European Union (EU) Ambassador Lars Gunnar Wigemark, Australian High Commissioner Peter Heyward, MNA Shaista Pervaiz Malik among others were present on the occasion.

"NCSW strives to fulfil the promise of a life of dignity and justice to women of Pakistan. Its mandate is to address the issues that affect the lives of women adversely by reviewing and analyzing the laws and policies and consequently formulating recommendations through dialogue and research to enable them to hold a position of equity. NCSW's basic

concern is to create awareness at all levels and in all section of society, therefore it has joined hands with White Ribbon to spread awareness on pro-women laws and also advocate new laws and amendments in existing laws for protection and welfare of women," NCSW Chairperson Khawar Mumtaz.

White Ribbon Chief Executive Omer Aftab said that White Ribbon and NCSW have jointly started a campaign on legal literacy of women, adding that the government had introduced several pro-women laws but women were not aware of them.

He stressed the need to create awareness among women about their legal rights. "Together with NCSW we shall urge legislators for new pro-women laws and amendments in anti-women laws for the welfare of women," Omer Aftab added.

White Ribbon Day for Elimination of Violence against Women is marked internationally on November 25 to show support and solidarity with women suffering from different kinds of violence in their lives. The 16-day campaign starts from November 25 and ends on December 10.

روزنامہ نوائے وقت راولپنڈی/اسلام آباد (10) 26 نومبر 2014ء

قومی کمیشن برائے وقار نسواں اور وائٹ ربن کے زیر اہتمام سیمینار

عورتوں پر تشدد کیخلاف سب کو ملکر کام کرنا ضرورت ہے، خاور ممتاز

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) عورتوں پر تشدد کیخلاف ہم سب آغاز کر دیا گیا ہے، ان خیالات کا اظہار قومی کمیشن برائے کو ملکر کام کرنے کی ضرورت ہے، عورتوں پر تشدد صرف پاکستان میں ہی نہیں بلکہ یہ دنیا بھر کا مسئلہ ہے، دنیا بھر میں ہر جہہ میں سے ایک خاتون کو کسی نہ کسی طرح مرد کے تشدد کا نشانہ بننا پڑتا ہے، خواتین پر تشدد کیخلاف قانون سازی ہو چکی ہے لیکن عورتوں کو ان قوانین کا پتہ ہی نہیں ہے، پاکستان انسانی حقوق سے متعلقہ سات بین الاقوامی کنونشن کی توثیق کر چکا ہے، صنفی تشدد کیخلاف سولہ روزہ کم



اسلام آباد، خواتین پر تشدد کے خاتمے کے عالمی دن کے موقع پر منعقدہ تقریب سے آسٹریلیائی سفیر خطاب کر رہے ہیں

بقیہ 19 خاور ممتاز

سمیت دیگر شریک ہوئے، اس موقع پر وائٹ ربن اور کمیشن کے درمیان سولہ روزہ ہم کے حوالے سے ایم ایو جی سائن کیا گیا۔

روزنامہ نئی بابت (8) 26 نومبر 2014ء

وائٹ ربن اور قومی ادارہ برائے وقار نسواں میں معاہدہ پر دستخط

دونوں ادارے حقوق نسواں کے قوانین کی ترویج اور خواتین کو حقوق دلانے کیلئے ملکر کام کریں گے

اسلام آباد (نئی بابت رپورٹ) وائٹ ربن کمیشن نے قومی ادارہ برائے نسواں (نیشنل کمیشن آن ویمنس آف ویمن) کے تعاون سے خواتین پر تشدد کے خاتمے کے حوالہ سے عالمی دن کے موقع پر مقامی ہوٹل میں ایک خصوصی تقریب کا اہتمام کیا جس میں خواتین کو ان کے قانونی حقوق سے آگاہ کرنے کیلئے ایک خصوصی آگہی مہم کا آغاز بھی کیا گیا۔ تقریب میں سماجی کارکنان، قانون

نئی بابت 7 معاہدہ

شاعر کشور ناہید اس موقع پر موجود تھے اس موقع پر وائٹ ربن اور قومی ادارہ برائے وقار نسواں کے درمیان مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط بھی کئے گئے جس کا مقصد حقوق نسواں کے حوالہ سے قوانین کی ترویج اور خواتین کو ان کے قانونی حقوق سے آگہی کیلئے مل کر کام کرنا ہے۔