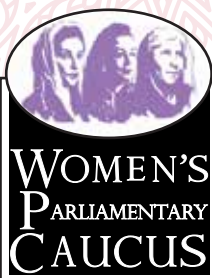


CONVENTION REPORT

Reflecting on the Legislative, Representative, and Oversight Role of Women Parliamentarians

28 March, 2018, Islamabad, Pakistan

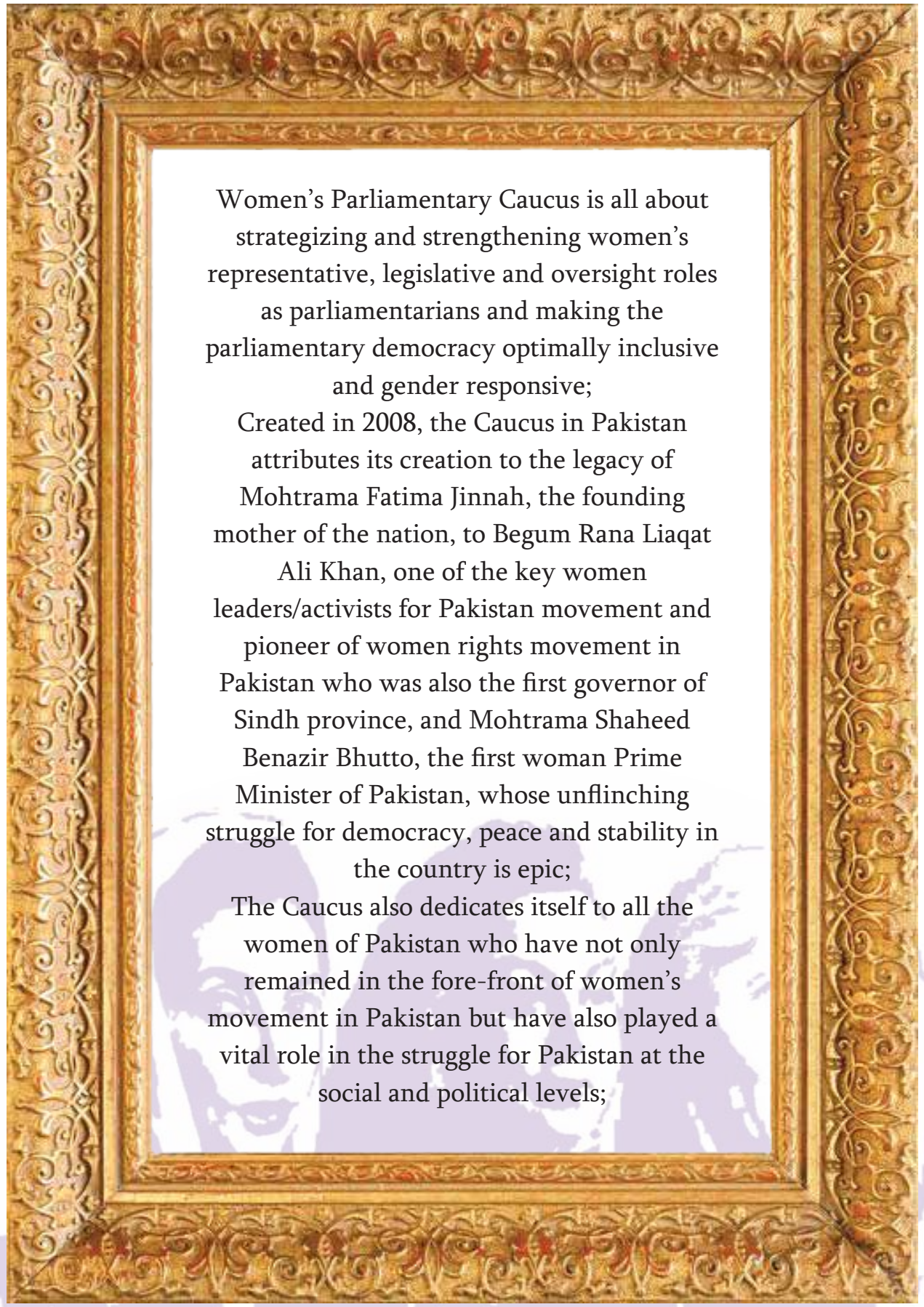





WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS

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Women's Parliamentary Caucus is all about strategizing and strengthening women's representative, legislative and oversight roles as parliamentarians and making the parliamentary democracy optimally inclusive and gender responsive;

Created in 2008, the Caucus in Pakistan attributes its creation to the legacy of Mohtrama Fatima Jinnah, the founding mother of the nation, to Begum Rana Liaquat Ali Khan, one of the key women leaders/activists for Pakistan movement and pioneer of women rights movement in Pakistan who was also the first governor of Sindh province, and Mohtrama Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, the first woman Prime Minister of Pakistan, whose unflinching struggle for democracy, peace and stability in the country is epic;

The Caucus also dedicates itself to all the women of Pakistan who have not only remained in the fore-front of women's movement in Pakistan but have also played a vital role in the struggle for Pakistan at the social and political levels;



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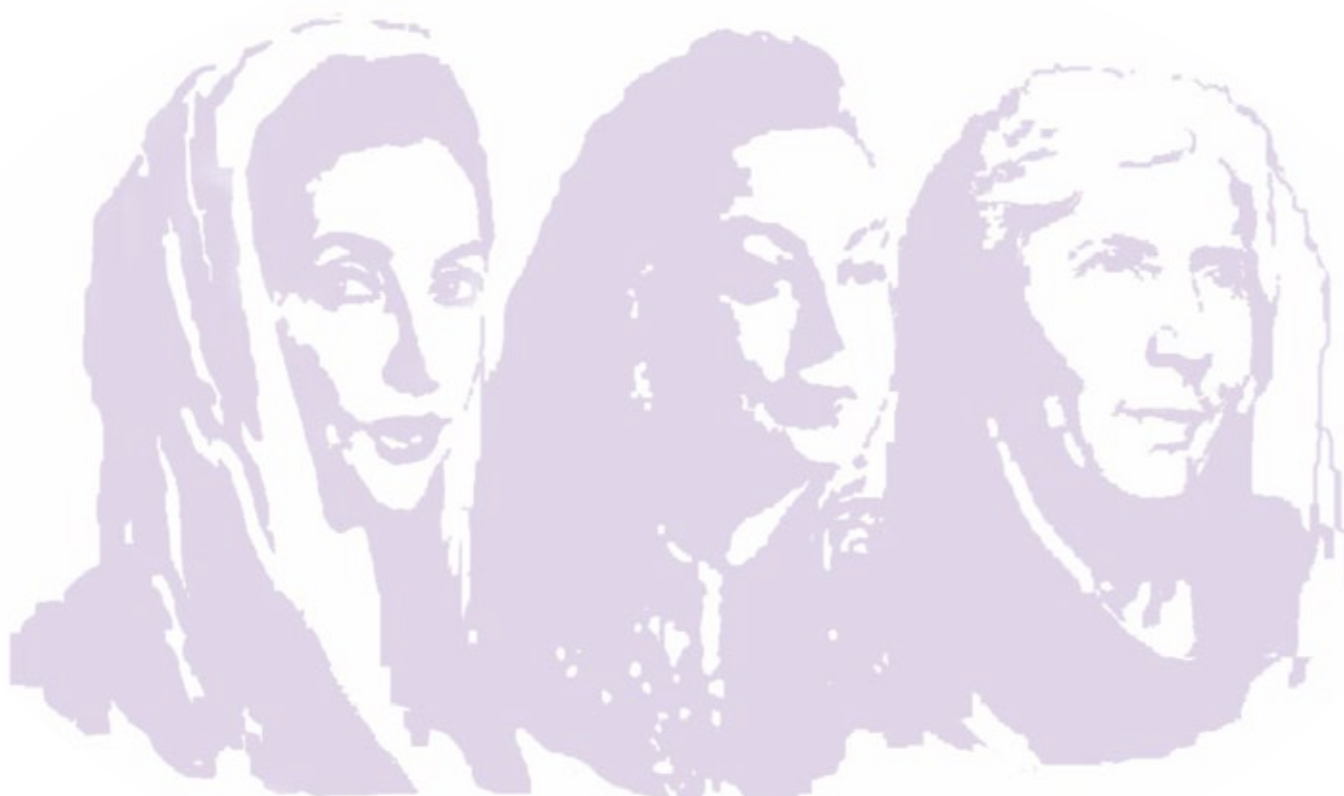
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PREFACE

The present report presents an overview of the proceedings of the National Convention to reflect on the Legislative, Representative and Oversight Role of Women Parliamentarians. The Convention was organized in Islamabad on the 28th of March 2018, by the National Women's Parliamentarian Caucus (WPC). The rationale behind the Convention was to celebrate the role of Women Parliamentarians in taking legislative measures, their involvement in sensitization and advocacy schemes, and their active participation in knowledge sharing activities since the inception of the Caucus a decade ago. The Convention was also a time to appreciate the resilience and determination of the WPC members in addressing some of the most pressing matters, as well as the opportunities that led to the accomplishments of the WPC within the legislative, oversight and representative roles of the women parliamentarians.

The Convention, therefore, invited participation and speakers from both Houses of the Parliament, executive body members of provincial WPCs from four provincial assemblies, as well as from Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) and the Gilgit Baltistan (GB) Legislative Councils. Additionally, representatives of the federal and provincial ministries of Human Rights, provincial Women Development Departments (WDDs), academia and relevant civil society organizations was also invited to engage in a meaningful dialogue regarding Women Parliamentarians' substantive involvement within their parliamentary role and to reflect on the lessons learnt while performing their duties.

To enable discussants to reflect upon their experiences, the Convention was divided into three Panel discussions. Panel I initiated a discussion on the opportunities and challenges faced by the National and Provincial Women's Parliamentary Caucuses in the last ten years. The discussion was led by seasoned women parliamentarians from National and Provincial WPCs who were either sitting or previous executive body members of their respective caucuses and were representatives of each parliamentary party. Panel II discussed the difficulties and challenges faced by Women parliamentarians and other government machineries like the National Commissions on Women, and partnering civil organizations in exercising the legislative, representative and supportive role in the area of child abuse, human trafficking, and gender based violence. Deliberations were based on case studies in the sphere of child abuse, human trafficking, and gender based violence; generally focusing on recent cases of violation; Victims of GBV, Harassment at Workplace, Acid throwing and Child abuse were invited to share their problems. To view the issues from a broader perspective, relevant representatives of national and provincial bureaucracy i.e. Secretaries of National and Provincial Women & Human Rights Machineries, and law enforcement agencies were also invited to participate. Besides, representatives of relevant civil society were also invited to contribute in the discussions.

Finally, Panel III was designed to discuss and deliberate upon building of alliances and developing institutionalized mechanisms to strengthen future work of the WPCs. It basically aimed at strengthening the work of WPCs through strategic alliances.

The Convention culminated in the formulation of a set of recommendations to serve as Strategic Directions for future WPCs. This report, therefore, not only highlights the proceedings of the day but also presents the recommendations drafted by the National WPC in light of the discussions.

ACRONYMS

AJ&K	Azad Jammu and Kashmir
ANP	Awami National Party
BISP	Benazir Income Support Programme
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CPA	Commonwealth Parliamentary Assembly
CRC	Convention on the Rights of Child
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
GB	Gilgit-Baltistan
HDI	Human Development Index
JI	Jamaat e Islami
JUI-F	Jamiat e Ulama e Islam (Fazal-ur-Rehman)
KPK	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MNA	Member of National Assembly
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoHR	Ministry of Human Rights
MQM	Muttahida Qaumi Movement
NADRA	National Database Registration Authority
NCSW	National Commission on Status of Women
NCSW	National Commission on the Status of Women
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PCSW	Punjab Commission On The Status Of Women
PCSW	Provincial Commission on the Status of Women
PEMRA	Pakistan Electronic Media Regularity Authority
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
PIPS	Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services
PML-N	Muslim League Nawaz
PPPP	Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians
PTF	Parliamentary Task Force
PTI	Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaaf
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals UN United Nations
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
WoT	War on Terror
WPC	Women Parliamentary Caucus
YPSE	Young Parliamentary Subject Expert

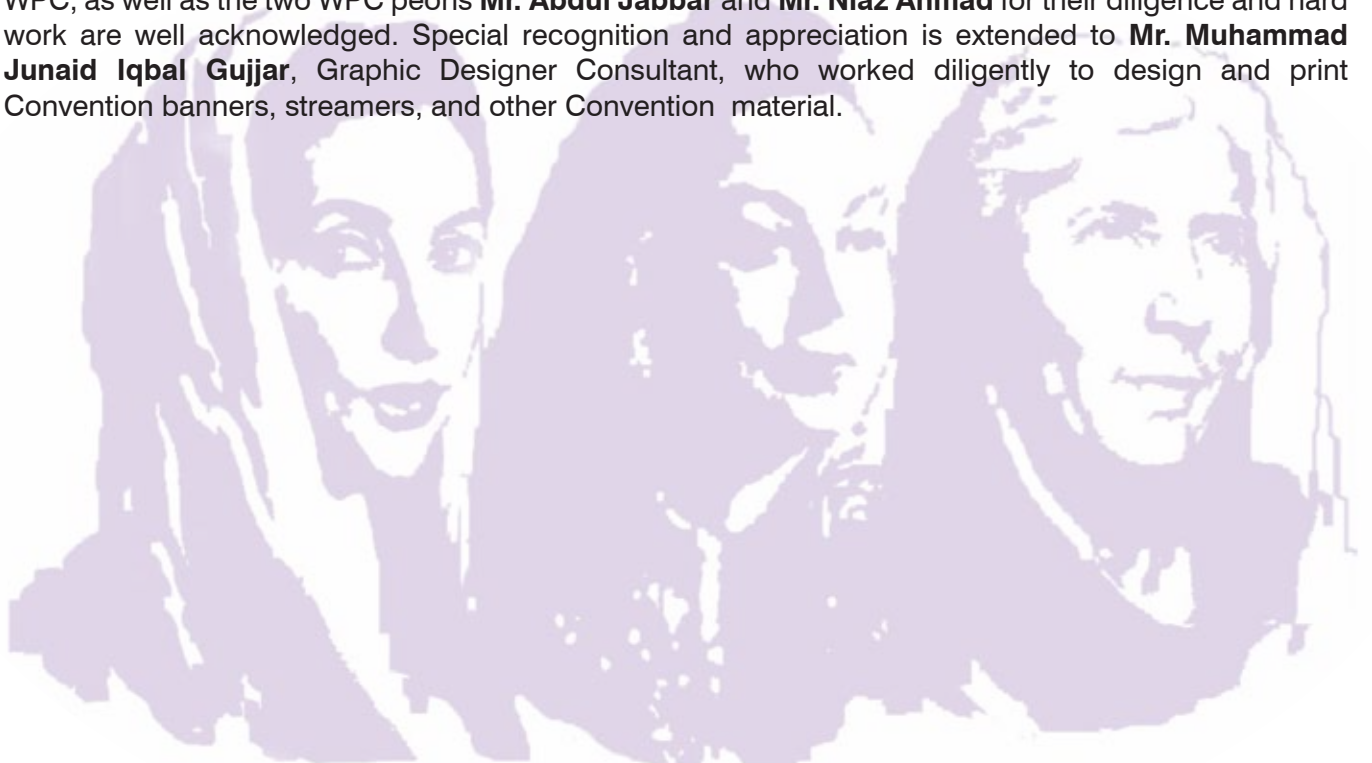
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Convention was an important step in celebrating and acknowledging the efforts of the WPCs in representing and working for the benefit of the Women Parliamentarians. The Convention was very well received and the participants and guests felt the Convention was an opportunity to record major milestones in the history of the National WPC since its inception. The successful event would not have been possible without the support of friends of the WPC.

First and foremost we would like to thank WPC's Working Council members as well as some members of its General Assembly for taking interest and providing valuable feedback for the organisation of this Convention. In this regard, special reference is made to the vision and guidance of **MNA Dr. Fehmida Mirza**, Patron WPC/former Speaker National Assembly, **MNA Ms. Shaista Pervaiz Malik**, Secretary WPC, and the support of **MNA Ms. Shagufta Jumani**, Treasurer WPC, **MNA Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb**, **MNA Ms. Shahida Akhtar Ali**, **MNA Ms. Suraiya Asghar**, **MNA Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam**, **MNA Ms. Amra Khan**, **Senator Mrs. Nuzhat Sadiq** and **Senator Ms. Rubina Rauf Khalid**.

The event could not have been possible without the generous financial and technical assistance provided by Trócaire Pakistan - the time tested friends and partners of WPC. Sincere gratitude is also extended to the Government of Australia for its continued support to the Government of Pakistan in strengthening rule of law and governance in the country which includes supporting women rights issues and the women parliamentarians. In this regard, WPC deeply acknowledges the support of **H.E. Margaret Adamson** (High Commissioner of Australia), **Mr. John O'Brien**, (Country Representative of Trócaire), and **Ms. Ishrat Jabeen** Program Director Trócaire.

Last but not the least, the WPC highly commends the technical support of **Ms. Huma Chughtai**, Technical Advisor to the WPC, who assisted the WPC in conceptualizing this Convention and drafting its agenda. Support of Convention Coordinator **Ms. Raiha Aftab** and the WPC secretariat support under the able guidance and relentless involvement of **Syed Wasim Kazmi**, Superintendent WPC are highly commendable. Besides, the WPC team including **Mr. Adnan**, **Mr. Wahid**, and **Ms. Bakhtawar** interns WPC, as well as the two WPC peons **Mr. Abdul Jabbar** and **Mr. Niaz Ahmad** for their diligence and hard work are well acknowledged. Special recognition and appreciation is extended to **Mr. Muhammad Junaid Iqbal Gujjar**, Graphic Designer Consultant, who worked diligently to design and print Convention banners, streamers, and other Convention material.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) in the Parliament of Pakistan is about to complete its second tenure, which means that it is successfully completing its 10 years of existence. As the general elections of 2018 are drawing closer in Pakistan, the WPC is in the process of wrapping up its operations by documenting the lessons learnt and best practices for the members of the next Women's Parliamentary Caucus. For the purpose, a one day National Convention was organised on 28th March at the Marriott Hotel Islamabad by the WPC to reflect on the opportunities provided by the WPC in the fulfillment of legislative, representative and oversight roles of women parliamentarians. The Convention was organised in collaboration with Trócaire Pakistan and the Government of Australia.

Hon. Mr. Mumtaz Ahmad Tarar, Federal Minister for Human Rights, was invited as the chief guest for the Inaugural Session, and MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah, founding member and former Secretary WPC, was invited to deliver the Key Note Address. Over one hundred participants attended the Convention including women parliamentarians from across Pakistan as well as Gilgit Baltistan and AJK Legislative Assemblies, representatives of provincial women commissions, women development departments, civil society and academia.

The Inaugural Session commenced with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, followed by a welcome address by Secretary WPC MNA Shaista Pervaiz Malik, who welcomed the distinguished participants to the Convention and spelt out the aims and objectives of the Convention. Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus, MNA Shaista Pervaiz Malik, addressing the august audience stated that the Convention is the most pertinent and timely opportunity to deliberate on the lessons learnt in the last ten years. She said that the Caucus is working to recognize women's struggle for creating political spaces in democratic institutions on one hand, and on the other, to call upon the women to stay firm and assume grave responsibilities towards ensuring and strengthening inclusive democracy in the country. She informed the audience that over the last decade, the WPC has succeeded in addressing some of the most pressing issues faced by women in Pakistan through legislative measures, sensitization & advocacy, and knowledge sharing through conferences and seminars.

The Honourable Chief Guest of the Convention, Mr. Mumtaz Ahmad Tarar, Federal Minister for Human Rights, in his address underscored the importance of human rights in good governance and stated that his government was mindful of its significance, and therefore, the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) has been working significantly towards the effective protection of the rights of the weak and the undermined. In this regard, a number of Bills and Acts have been introduced and passed, besides taking other measures to facilitate people's access to justice.

MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah, founding member/former Secretary WPC, traced the inception process of WPC along with the genesis and need for forums like Women Caucuses in particular. In her Keynote address, she also shared the early challenges and achievements of the WPC. She said that the WPC in the past not only tackled basic issues like health and education that women continue to be beset with but also strived for ending harmful practices against women, issues of women prisoners, issues of women police, meeting MDGs' targets, and evolving strategies for law and policy making through building consensus. The WPC was able to connect beyond borders as we reached out to our sisters in the UK, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, & Bangladesh, and also influenced the foundation of a women parliamentarians forum at the SAARC level. She appreciated the efforts of MNA Shaista Parvaiz Malik for keeping the light burning despite the challenges. She was happy that the Caucus has evolved as a strong voice for women parliamentarians.

The Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, H.E. Margaret Adamson said that “I am pleased Australia continues to support the Women’s Parliamentary Caucus, which does wonderful work for rallying women legislators around legislative and policy making that protect women’s rights and advances the cause of gender equity. Since its formation, the Caucus has played a vital role in the passage of legislation on domestic violence, workplace harassment, acid crimes, honour killings, and in many other areas.”

John O'Brien, Trócaire's Country Director in Pakistan, commended the work of WPC and stated that it was evident that women parliamentarians are increasingly influencing women’s political participation across Pakistan. Trócaire felicitates the Women’s Parliamentary Caucus for its substantive role in advancing gender equality and driving inclusive and sustainable development.

Major outcome of the Convention was the development of a strategic road map on how to make the legislative business optimally gender responsive and to transform our parliamentary democracy into an institutionalized and inclusive system. A consensus was built to form strategic alliances to advance the aims and objectives of the WPC. It is intended that the Convention Report will serve as a strategic direction for the future members of the Women’s Parliamentary Caucuses across Pakistan.

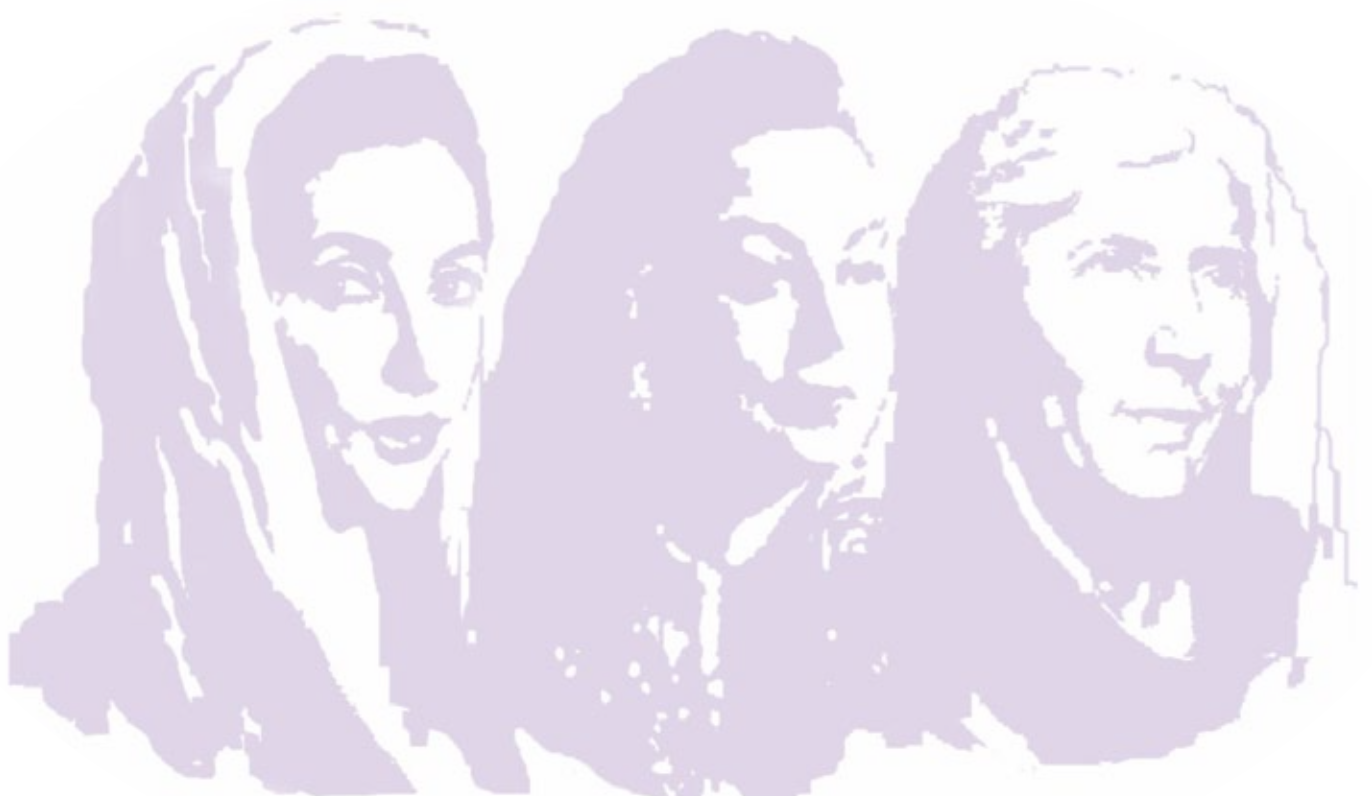


BACKGROUND

As the general elections of 2018 are drawing closer in Pakistan, the WPC is preparing to reflect on and mark the successful conclusion of its second term in the Parliament. Since its inception in November of 2008, the Caucus has continued to provide an across parties forum to the women parliamentarians from both Houses of the Parliament to freely raise, discuss, and address issues effecting the lives of the citizenry of the country, especially the women. The WPC has addressed some of the most pressing issues faced by women in Pakistan through legislative measures, sensitization, advocacy, and knowledge sharing through organizing conferences, seminars and study circles on topical issues.

Initially, the WPC focused on gender responsive legislation and influenced policies, besides subtly gender sensitizing the two Houses of the Parliament. In its second term, the Caucus has been focusing on the effectiveness and impact of these laws on our societal mindsets and their impact/benefits on the lives of our people, especially the women. During its second term, it reviewed the issues and challenges in the implementation of pro-women laws, and proposed amendments to remove any structural gaps, lacunas or factors that may be impeding their implementation. For the purpose, WPC has increasingly been organizing series of thematic study circles, consultations and round table conferences in its scheme of work. The intent has been to technically understand the issues that women in Pakistan remain beset with in the enjoyment of their socio-economic, public and political lives, despite relevant legislations being in place.

The National Convention, thus, provided an opportunity to reflect on WPC's past endeavors including constraints and challenges faced by it from time to time, draw the lessons learnt, and bring forward the recommendations for setting out future strategic directions for the next WPC. Special efforts were made to include case studies of legislative business in the Convention vis-a-vis societal issues like growing cases of child abuse, GBV etc. to provide hands-on information on issues that need to be resolved.





Message by MNA Shaista Parvaiz Malik Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus

As we draw closer to the successful completion of the second tenure of Women's Parliamentary Caucus in Pakistan, this is likely to be the last consultation of current WPC's term. Since its inception in November of 2008, the Caucus has continued to provide an across parties forum to the Women Parliamentarians from both Houses of the Parliament to talk about issues effecting the lives of the citizenry of the country, especially the women.

The Parliamentary Women's Caucus has addressed pressing issues that affect the lives of women in Pakistan; it has taken action through legislative measures, sensitization and advocacy, and knowledge sharing through conferences and seminars. The WPC, during the 13th National Assembly, primarily focused on gender responsive law making and influencing policies besides subtly gender sensitizing the two Houses of the Parliament. 14th National Assembly, on the other hand, has focused on the effectiveness and impact of those laws on our societal mindsets and their impact on the lives of our people, especially the women. It reviewed the issues and challenges in the implementation of these pro-women laws, and proposed amendments to remove any structural gaps, lacunas or factors that may be impeding their implementation. For the purpose, WPC has increasingly been organizing thematic study circles, consultations and conferences in its scheme of work. The intent has been to technically understand the issues that women in Pakistan remain beset with in the enjoyment of their socio-economic, public and political lives, despite the legislations in place. The purpose of the Convention is, thus, to develop a strategic direction for the future women parliamentarians and members of the next WPC to work more tactically, effectively and substantively keeping in mind the lessons learned by their predecessor. This is important for an inclusive, democratic, sensitized and informed parliament.

Since, it will be ten years since the inception of the WPCs, I felt that this was the right time that we organized a thought provoking gathering to focus on the lessons learnt; The WPC has survived two governments and countless other challenges in the last ten years to reach its current status. Today, it won't be wrong to say that that the caucus has achieved monumental feats which should continue into the future. Therefore we need to reflect on the opportunities that the WPC has provided us over the years under its mandate, and to also raise and discuss issues and challenges confronting us during this time. I would like to urge all the women in politics and the aspiring women leaders to stay focused, strong, and upright in their struggle to create bench marks from this forum; I urge them to recognize women's struggle for creating political spaces in democratic institutions on one hand and on the other to call upon the women to stay firm and assume grave responsibilities towards ensuring and strengthening inclusive democracy in the country. It is indeed a tight rope walk, but I believe that slow and steady we will win the race. We just have to make use of our "woman power" by being tactful and creative in our approach. I would like to specifically thank friends of WPC that is Trócaire and the Government of Australia, for their

constant support for the last two and a half years in the organization of our key activities. I expect that this Convention will give all participants an opportunity to share and exchange experiences and best practices to guide strengthening of 'representative' role of women parliamentarians across the board; build a common vision for the empowerment of women for the promotion of gender equality in social, political and economic fields; and to work for the mainstreaming of women into the body politic of the parliamentary system to meet the challenges of emerging modern world.

I assure you that the Report of the Convention will serve as a strategic direction for the future members of the Women's Parliamentary Caucuses across Pakistan.

Thank You,
Pakistan Zindabad!



CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS

Inaugural Session



The Convention commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran. **The Federal Minister for Human Rights, Hon. Mr. Mumtaz Ahmad Tarar**, inaugurated the Convention proceedings. The inaugural session was attended by a number of distinguished guests. The participants included distinguished Senators, Members of the National and Provincial Assemblies, as well as MLAs belonging to GB and AJK Legislative Assemblies. Besides, representatives of Provincial Women Commissions, Academia, experts, Federal and Provincial Secretaries of key line Ministries and Departments, representatives of International Donor Agencies, and members of Civil Society of Pakistan attended the Session.

Welcome Address by MNA Shaista Pervaiz Malik

Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus

The welcome address for the Convention was delivered by **MNA Shaista Pervaiz Malik, Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Pakistan**. She recounted that the WPC was established to provide an across parties forum to the women parliamentarians from both Houses of the Parliament. The need was felt to have a Caucus like forum for a long time which would allow free discussions on topical issues across party lines to address issues affecting the lives of the people, especially the women. She stated that it was a matter of immense pride for her to see that over the years, the Caucus has become a viable platform for women parliamentarians to raise and discuss issues and build consensus on addressing various issues and challenges of varied nature being faced by our people.



She stated that during the 13th National Assembly, the WPC primarily focused on law making and creating awareness about gender issues. The WPC was, thus, able to influence policies besides subtly gender sensitizing the two Houses of the Parliament. In the 14th National Assembly, the WPC was instrumental in improving the effectiveness and impact of those laws on societal mindsets and their impact on the lives of our people, especially the women. This, she stated, was possible through undertaking impact analysis of the pieces of legislations and bringing out recommendations for the effective implementation of those laws and policies.

During the last ten years, the Caucus reviewed the issues and challenges in the implementation of those pro-women laws, and proposed amendments to remove any structural gaps, lacunas or factors that may be impeding their implementation. For the purpose, WPC has increasingly been organizing a series of thematic study circles, consultations and round table conferences in its scheme of work. The intent has been to technically understand the issues that women in Pakistan remain beset with in the enjoyment of their socio-economic, public and political lives, despite having legislations in place.

MNA Shaista Pervaiz Malik stated that with the WPC hitting its ten year mark since its inception, it was high time that the achievements and the challenges faced by it are put on the table and discussed to strengthen its work. It is timely that we reflect upon the opportunities that the WPC has provided us over the years under its mandate, and to also raise and discuss issues and challenges confronting us during this time, she stated. The purpose for this exercise is to leave behind a strong legacy by 'developing strategic directions' for the future women parliamentarians and members of the next WPC so that they could work more tactically, effectively and substantively keeping the lessons learnt in mind. This is important for an inclusive, democratic, sensitized and informed parliament' she emphasized.

Shaista Malik further stated that the expected outcome of this Convention was necessary to strengthen the 'representative' role of women parliamentarians across the board and to build a common vision for the empowerment of women for the promotion of gender equality in social, political and economic fields. Mainstreaming women into the body politic of the parliamentary system to meet the challenges of emerging modern world was imperative for setting out an inclusive democratic system of any country, she added.

While concluding her address, Secretary WPC, MNA Shaista Malik urged all the women in politics and the aspiring women leaders to stay focused, strong, and upright in their struggle to create bench marks from this forum. She pressed upon them the need to recognize women's struggle for creating political spaces in democratic institutions, and on the other, to call upon the women to stay firm and assume grave responsibilities towards ensuring and strengthening inclusive democracy in the country. Passionately, she stated that such actions are 'a tight rope walk,' but even if slow and steady _ the race can be won with determination and resilience. Women just have to make use of their "woman power" by being tactful and creative in their approach, she reiterated.

In the end she thanked friends of WPC, the Trócaire Pakistan and the Government of Australia for their constant support to WPC in organizing its key activities.



Keynote Address by MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah

Former Secretary & Founding Member of WPC



MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah, Former Secretary & Founding Member of WPC, detailed the early days of the WPC and how women parliamentarians took concrete actions in making the WPC a reality that it is today. While delivering her Keynote Address, Dr. Nafisa Shah indicated that Women in the Parliament have strived hard to have their presence accepted by their male counterparts. She stated that women are a site of scrutiny globally which has rightly placed importance on numbers and women's presence in politics, as numbers do make a difference in politics. This is important to not only ensure women's presence in Parliaments but also to steer the right policies and laws. She appreciated that from 2 members in 1947 Constituent Assembly to the present 86 out of 446 (or

roughly 17 per cent) members is a long journey of and for women's participation in public life which was possible because of the struggle by women workers and women's rights organizations. She stated that the constitutional quotas for women seats in the parliaments have provided us with a greater public space. Previously, the cultural construct was that women should not even be heard, that they should be silent. Now, due to the active role of Women MPs, women voices can be heard and that it is now difficult to bypass women in this society.

Dr. Nafisa, nevertheless, questioned how do these numbers, the presence and visibility of women, could ensure that the women MPs could make their participation meaningful and empower themselves inside the parliament and increase their contribution in changing the status of women generally working towards the universal goal of gender equality? She stated this question can be answered through the example set in the Parliament with Pakistani women's recent parliamentary experiences and strategies and particularly the case of this Women's Parliamentary Caucus, which has created a visible and prominent niche within the National Assembly and has been instrumental in giving women parliamentarians a space for their increased performance in the house. She recounted the early days of the Caucus and how a simple idea scribbled on a piece of paper matured into the WPCs of today. The first endorsement came from Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, MNA; later with the support of the Hon. Speaker, the Caucus evolved as 'an all parties group on women'.

Dr. Nafisa Shah, stated that due to her background in journalism and having had the experience of working with the Women's Action Forum (WAF), having taken on all the rights battle, to her, this was not something that she wanted to do, she felt it was something that had to be done. She found natural support in Dr. Azra Pechuho, with the caucus representing a small tribute to the memory and political legacy of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed. She pointed out the role of the premiers' leadership on the subsequent achievement of women of her party with the country's "the first PM", "the first Speaker", "the First Deputy Speaker", "the first Foreign Minister", "the first Leader of the Opposition", "the first Dalit woman in the Parliament", and ofcourse "the very first Women's Parliamentary Caucus" belonged to the same party.

The Speaker Dr. Fehmida Mirza supported the idea, and the initial team was joined by MNA Bushra Gohar of the ANP, MNA Dr. Atiya Inayatullah of PML-Q, MNA Asia Nasir of JUI, and MNA Nuzhat Sadiq of PML-N. The group discussed the Rules of Association, and so the WPC became the vanguard of all parties' group with a basic Constitution of its own. The aim was clear: Considering that there was a critical mass of women in the National Assembly and the Senate, they wanted to enhance women MPs

presence, make this presence larger and more effective through a general agreement that would work across party lines on a minimum common agenda that was women's rights and human rights.

Dr. Nafisa Shah described how an abandoned space was refurbished into the Caucus office, with funds coming from UNDP project to support the Parliament. She showed her pleasure in how the WPC has maintained the tradition of caucusing, of establishing links beyond party lines on both social and gender agendas established in the last ten years. She also pointed out that the day- to-day running of WPC has been well maintained by the party that was in the opposition then, but is in government today. She remarked that the Caucus is not just successful because it belongs to all parties, but it is successful because it is has been institutionalized and has emerged as an institution for the women parliamentarians.

Dr. Nafisa Shah appreciated the efforts MNA Shaista Pervaiz Malik in keeping the torch burning despite challenges – and for providing continuity to all the ideas, and projects that were on the agenda for the WPC. She also lauded the provincial caucuses in taking root and working towards women's empowerment in provincial assemblies.

While narrating the early achievements of the WPCs, Dr. Nafisa Shah reported that 'since we were the pioneers we were strong, and we got our way with our party, and our male colleague, we could and did achieve much for women. We sat in this office for hours, to discuss and evolve strategies for law making, for consensus building, and we encouraged law making on promotion of women's rights, on ending harmful practices against women, on protecting women in prisons, and in public places'. Some of the early achievements mentioned were:

- The WPCs pioneered a women's commission law, a human rights commission, and managed to pass the domestic violence legislation in the lower house after initiating a dialogue in the caucuses,
- The WPC held an All Parties Roundtable to agree on the moving beyond quotas where all parties agreed on a minimum of ten per cent seats by political parties to allot party tickets to women to contest in elections.



- The WPC was able to emphasize on Millennium Development Goals, which never seemed a priority for the state, is now something that is repeatedly raised. In fact it was institutionalised in a first ever Millennium Development Goal oversight committee, which has now become a Sustainable Development Goal Oversight committee.
- The WPC connected beyond borders as we reached out to our sisters in the UK, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, and also placed the foundation of a women parliamentarians forum at the SAARC level. We held the first national convention of women parliamentarians.

Dr. Nafisa Shah informed the audience that despite the fact that such a lot has been achieved, there is still much efforts needed to break the glass ceiling. Women in leading positions must aim for the time when having women in leading roles are no longer noticed as the firsts, or for that matters, seconds and thirds. We will have achieved that position when women are no more noticeable as women for our achievements just like it is with male parliamentarians. She stated that it was humbling to note that women continue to be deprived of basic services, of their rights, and subjected to cultural, economic and social forms of discrimination despite making it to prominent positions in the parliament. Women and girls are left behind in access to health, and education, and women and girls continue to be subjected to extraordinary violence at home, at work, and on the streets publically. The day-to-day lives of women in Pakistan must be the foremost concern of women MPs, she asserted. As women politicians, she considered three issues fundamental to the powerlessness of women parliamentarians:

- One, Pakistani women's continued absence in public life, and workplace, from the streets, and from the marketplaces;
- Two, Pakistani women have continued silence, their voices largely remain absent from decision making in most forums that matter; and
- Three, when they do speak, how much of their voices are heard or taken seriously in places that matter.

The Caucus, she stated, was only one strategy by women parliamentarians to promote dynamic space where ideas are shared and exchanged and where networks are strengthened, and where women reach out across borders and build bridges. Even as women parliamentarians, we want to reclaim the public space for women, and make them taken seriously, she asserted, although it seems that there was still a long way to go in the realization of this vision. 'Even within the parliament, we find that the issue of treating women as equal representatives has been undermined as women, nominated on reserved seats, are treated differently' she observed. Today, women's movement has lost its numbers and its momentum, and sadly, also even as women parliamentarians, though we have moved forward, we have not been able to significantly raise our voices more firmly on the rights agenda so as to have visible impact on women outside our parliament. Even for ourselves, we asked for a minimum of 10 per cent seats from our political parties, both in electoral constituencies and 33 per cent on party boards so as to mainstream women in politics, but we could manage to get only 5 per cent in response.

While concluding her Keynote address, MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah remarked that in 10 years of its age, the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, has two significant achievements to its credit that are: firstly, women parliamentarians' presence in the parliament is visible and meaningful; and secondly, women voices are clear and significant. Through the Caucus, the Parliament of Pakistan has created a niche for the inclusion of women's perspectives and is recognized at all international parliamentary forums. Besides, while internally, in the Parliament we derive strength from this all party group, we need to expand beyond the Parliament. We need to take this social, political agenda outside to policy making forums and even beyond to our voters, both men and women. Because after all this is the agenda that seeks equality and empowerment. This then is the work in progress. As this executive committee concludes its tenure in two months, and as the mantle will pass to our sisters who will come in the 15th Parliament, the WPC must aggressively pursue these objectives.

Remarks by H.E. Margaret Adamson

Australian High Commissioner



As the Convention was organized with funding from the Government of Australia, **H.E. Margaret Adamson, Australian High Commissioner**, was invited to give her brief remarks on the Convention. The High Commissioner lauded the endeavours of the WPC in holding such a reflective forum that reconsiders the reflections of its concluding tenure and prepares the agenda for the next Caucus. She admired how the WPC was formed and how it stood as the role model/prototype for provincial women parliamentarians to replicate in their respective legislative assemblies. She remarked that for the WPC, there must indeed be a great sense of achievement and a call to celebrate the

recognition of its existence with sheer hard work and undertaking substantive legislative business, and then to witness the successful extension of the initiative into the provincial assemblies as well. High Commissioner Adamson stated that the formulation of a Women's Parliamentary Caucus was a major milestone in the parliamentary history of Pakistan, and its major success stems from the fact that it is a nonpartisan forum rallying around common objectives and rising above political divisions as a collective voice.

Regarding the aims and objectives of the Convention, H.E. Margaret Adamson stated that it was a timely event as it provided an opportunity to the members of the Caucus to reflect on the achievements, opportunities and challenges during the ten years of its two tenures, and leaving behind a strong impressive legacy in the form of all its reports and publications. Given its outstanding performance, the Government of Australia, that has been supporting the WPC in the past, will be supporting the future members of the Caucus to assist in the continuity of its active substantive role. She particularly referred to and appreciated the landmark legislations initiated by the members of the WPC that protect women's rights in Pakistan including conceptualization and the operationalization of the National Commission on the Status of Women that assists Pakistan on its reporting mechanisms and CEDAW; the development of the four provincial WPCS, and the legislation on domestic violence prevention; the protection against the harassment of women, acid crimes, prevention of anti-women practices including honour killings and the establishment of the BISP.

The Australian High Commissioner reaffirmed the commitment of the Australian Government in assisting the national and provincial caucuses to encourage them in undertaking legislative business that protects women's rights and advances the cause of gender equity.



Remarks by the Mr. John O'Brien

Country Director of Trócaire Pakistan

John O'Brien, Trócaire's Country Director in Pakistan, in his remarks stated that it was evident that women parliamentarians are increasingly influencing political participation across Pakistan. He commented that the WPC has been playing an important role in creating gender equality in Pakistan and that it is important to reflect on experiences and opportunities availed for future planning and strategizing the work of WPC.



John O'Brien stated that Trócaire is interested in protecting the rights of women in Pakistan and has been working in the sector since 2008. He highlighted the fact that violence on women has a devastating impact on the health of women and family life and communities. This holds true for not only Pakistan but also in other parts of the world. John highlighted the role of Trócaire in protecting women and girl child's rights across the globe, and reaffirmed its commitment to keep supporting such projects and endeavors in the future. He commended the Parliamentary Women's Caucus for their role in advancing gender equality and driving inclusive and sustainable development.

Address by the Chief Guest, Mr. Mumtaz Ahmad Tarar

Federal Minister for Human Rights



Mr. Mumtaz Ahmad Tarar, Honourable Federal Minister for Human Rights was invited as the Chief Guest for the occasion. A seasoned politician and a reformist by nature, the Hon. Chief Guest stated that the Human Rights are an important issue for any government and his government is no different. He stated that the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) has been working towards the protection of the rights of the people of Pakistan, especially of the weak, vulnerable and the undermined segments of the society. In this regard, a number of Bills and Acts have been formulated and passed in addition to facilitating access to justice processes for the citizenry of Pakistan. He lauded the continued efforts of the WPC in introducing and passing women and child protection legislation.



PANEL DISCUSSION I

10 years of Women's Parliamentary Caucus: Opportunities and Challenges



The panel reported and discussed their experiences of being affiliated with the respective caucuses in the last ten years. The discussion was candid and touched upon a number of important aspects of the workings of the national and provincial WPCs and the acceptance that the work of women parliamentarians has achieved in the last ten years. The session chair for the discussion was Hon. **Syeda Shehla Raza, Deputy Speaker, Sindh Assembly**. The panelists consisted of women parliamentarians across parties and provinces.



Speaking first, **Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, PML- N**, Pakistan Senate highlighted the achievements of the WPC since its inception. She said that as a founding member of the Parliamentary Caucus she has seen the contribution of a number of prominent women parliamentarians from all parties, especially those belonging to the PPPP and PML-N in ensuring smooth working and growth of the caucus. She said that as she takes a walk through her experiences as a member of the caucus, she still remembers the active role played by the members in supporting the cause of the caucus much like the members supporting the cause of the WPC today. She said that initially the caucus was a small platform, but eventually the caucus became stronger, both constitutionally and financially, and it was able

to organize national and international conferences and today it has taken a concrete form of an institutionalised collective voice of the women parliamentarians in Pakistan. In her opinion, she stated that today, there are no forums across the world that can parallel the achievements of the WPC.

The WPCs, according to her, provide a huge opportunity of protecting the rights of women in the Parliament and the women across the country. She said that the need of the hour is a focused determined effort for women to achieve more and do more. She said that there is a lot to be desired for

women's rights in Pakistan and the women parliamentarian at this point. She urged the women parliamentarians to take lessons from the lives of political figures like Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah, Mohtarma Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, and Begum Kulsoom Nawaz and they need to work more diligently to fill empty spaces in the National and Provincial spheres of life. As part of her recommendations, Senator Nuzhat Sadiq suggested that:

- Parliamentary caucus should focus on collection and dissemination of data related to women and their status on the National and Provincial levels. Data, according to her serves as an indicator of change and signifies areas that still need efforts.
- She suggested that WPCs should work together and evolve to a point where they can take suo motto notices of cases and incidence that violate women rights and rights of the transgendered individuals.
- There should be standard mechanisms for reporting of laws. All laws and Acts should be analyzed and amended to meet the existing and emerging needs of women.
- There should be cohesive and stronger network/linkages between the national and provincial WPCs in order to maintain a unified presence, to unite and raise collective voice on women issues.

Saira Shahliani, PPP, MPA/Convener WPC Sindh speaking on the occasion thanked the WPC for inviting her and sharing her experiences. She said that she was proud to be associated with the Sindh WPC. Addressing the audience she said that there were a lot of issues to be discussed. But the most pressing need was to work across party lines to resolve outstanding issues as a collective voice. She shared that the development of the Sindh Commission on Status of Women was a challenge, but the challenge was overcome with sheer determination. Today, the Sindh CSW works in connection/partnership with the Sindh WPC. Ms. Saira Shahliani shared that the main focus of the Sindh WPC was legislation and major laws were developed and implemented under the leadership of Hon. Syeda Shehla Raza. In this regard, she reported that harassment cases were tackled in the province, child abuse was checked, and cases were dealt appropriately in Sindh. She said that a road map was developed to tackle problems at street level, and therefore, teachers and media personnel and stars were taken on board to attract greater audience. Consequently, the MPAs are also now getting involved under the same strategy to develop programs for the protection of street children from abuse. She said that without a specified Budget, the Sindh WPC has managed to stay committed and it's an achievement in itself.



MPA Mairaj Humayun Khan, PTI, Chairperson WPC KPK was very eloquent in her views on the role of WPCs. She said that after the inception of the WPC KPK, the first task was to draw attention to the existence of the WPC. They started with the support staff of the Parliament before moving onto the male counterparts. So a dialogue was initiated around the possible role of the WPC and the way that women parliamentarians should be treated. She shared that there was improvement in the way the WPC is being received but there is still a lot of room for improvement. She shared that as time passed the WPC in KPK is gaining confidence and this has resulted in the ability to approach the Bench, which was not possible earlier. She pointed out that this was important because women MPs have to work in sync with the House and their fellow male MPs.

Talking about the achievements of the WPC KPK, Ms. Mairaj Humayun Khan admitted that “the first

three years were generally wasted due to lack of orientation, resources and absence of engendered mindsets. The role of the caucus became meaningful when we researched and collected facts about the status of women in the province. There were a lot of gaps in data and information was lopsided. So we in fact researched if these gaps actually existed in our society or whether they are just a heresy. We found out that there were fewer resources for women; there was less participation and, therefore, less representation of women. We found that most decisions were, therefore, lopsided and facilitated men but did not facilitate women; thus favoring exclusion of women". She said that although the provincial WPC's achievements were many, yet if she looked back at the working of the caucus, she would like to reflect on why the caucus could not function the way it should have.

Ms. Mairaj Humayun Khan felt that the mental acceptance of women has been slow due to confusion between women development and gender issues. People ask us why we have not been able to pass a law for child protection. The issue is that we need to address the imbalance in society that is integral part of the national lives and provincial lives in Pakistan. Only when men realize that without the inclusion of women, the ongoing process of development will not be complete, only then we would be able to make a difference. Until we challenge our existing mindsets, we cannot change the status quo. Just like the Chairman of the PTI, we need to attack the foundation and improve the system.

Women need to be included in the plans and development in order to include gender perspectives and to address their needs and concerns. Until the women from the caucus themselves realize their importance and change their thinking, nothing can be achieved. We as women have challenge our beliefs, have faith in ourselves, and then change the system. There is a vast difference the presence of men and women parliamentarians in the assembly. Men MPs roar in the assembly whereas women talk in whispers in the assembly. These are small things that hurt me as a woman MP. The honorable guest told the audience that the caucus cannot achieve much if there are still questions about the legitimacy of the caucus even today. Such things need to be changed. A caucus cannot be a caucus unless such issues are felt close to the heart and unless issues pinch the mind. A caucus cannot work for the betterment of women unless the need is felt by all. Men have to realize that a healthy woman is needed for a healthy home, a healthy child, and a healthy society. Unless we realize the importance of women development, we cannot truly grow.



Kishwer Zehra, MQM, MNA/Member Working Council WPC appreciated the efforts of Secretary WPC, MNA Shaista Parvaiz Malik, for continuing the tradition of excellence in the caucus that was started ten year ago. "She has protected the ideology and the spirit of the caucus which has remained the same since the early days of the caucus" Kishwer Zehra remarked. She also appreciated MNA Dr. Fehmida Mirza, former Speaker National Assembly/Founding Patron of WPC and MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah in providing a platform to Women parliamentarians. Due to the enabling attitude of Dr. Fehmida Mirza women parliamentarians were able to gain confidence and it was due to this attitude that women parliamentarians were encouraged to

move more legislations as compared to their counterparts, she stated. MNA Kishwer Zehra also endorsed the views of Ms. Mairaj Humayun Khan, that the mindset of the parliamentarians needs to be changed. WPC has given a platform to the women MPs to counter the attitude and behaviors of the men parliamentarians. "We as women have to realize our potential; not only as women of the house but also as parliamentarians," she remarked. Without realizing our own potential we cannot take the woman caucus anywhere, she added. Women have in the past worked on the issues through the caucus, for example, a committee was constituted to address the issues of child abuse by Ms. Mariam Aurangzeb that is still working for the cause. Similarly, the caucus is diligently perusing the Bill for the rights of the persons with disabilities despite facing challenges for its adoption. I am hopeful that we will be successful in getting this Bill passed soon and we owe this confidence to the women of the caucus, she said.



Yasmin Lehri, MPA, National Party, Baluchistan Assembly, shared her experience of being a woman member parliamentarian from Baluchistan. She stated that as far as acceptance of women parliamentarians and the WPC is concerned, the situation in Baluchistan appears to be almost similar to the other provinces. MPA Yasmin Lehri informed that about fifty percent of the standing committees in the province have women parliamentarians in prominent positions. The women's caucus is being activated by the Speaker Baluchistan Assembly, Hon. Ms. Raheela Durrani, and has been physically established. A number of legislations have been passed by women parliamentarians and though this work has not been done through the WPC alone, the women parliamentarians are emerging as a burgeoning force that should make waves in the future. She stated that the Baluchistan Assembly has passed Bills related to elimination of violence against women, harassment at the workplace, setting up of child protection commission, establishing the rights of persons with disabilities, rights of the senior citizens laws etc. Ms. Lehri informed that the Provincial Commission on the Status of Women had also been approved by the Baluchistan Assembly. She further informed that at the moment there were ongoing debates on the early childhood marriage and breast feeding Legislations/Bills.

MPA Yasmin Lehri asserted that the women parliamentarians, whether they come through elected seats or special reserved seats, they need to be taken seriously by their respective party members. She pointed out that no development is possible until gender development is taken as an agenda by the assemblies and political parties across the board. She underscored the need to realize the power of women parliamentarians and the need to integrate them in the planning processes of development schemes. She further urged that the women parliamentarians need to be seen for the efforts they make in keeping afloat and motivated despite the debilitating gender attitude they face over the development of their careers. Ms. Yasmin Lehri further pointed out that women parliamentarians on special seats need to be allocated development funds to be spent to address the needs and concerns of women across the board. She felt that men MPs do not keep women MPs in the loop at the time of budgeting of development funds, as a result, appropriate resources were not allocated for women empowerment sector which was wrong and unfair.

She called upon all the women parliamentary caucuses to monitor the actual development of women parliamentarians and not focus on the laurels and empty promises of political parties. The main challenge, hence, was to make women empowerment a reality in the true sense rather than only as a formality or as a political gimmick. There needs to be merit in the political parties to counter elitist tendencies in choosing women candidates, she asserted, and urged that political and human right activists should also be given a certain quota by political parties.

Ms. Yasmin suggested that there needs to be a strong mechanism that should be established between the more established WPCs and the emerging WPCs. There should be sharing of information, procedures, lessons learnt and best practices so that the WPCs can function as a collective voice in national politics. She stated that these mechanisms should be institutionalised and be used on a regular basis.



The next speaker was **Shahida Akhtar Ali, JUI-F, MNA/ Member Working Council WPC**. MNA Shahida Akhtar Ali stated that the essence of the work of the caucus is in working together and she greeted the guests from different provinces and appreciated the presence of representatives from the minority provinces like Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. While addressing the audience, the distinguished guests endorsed the views of the speakers before her. She added that legislations are important and need to be made across party and in accordance with the injunctions of

Islam. Also, she asserted that legislations can only be effective if they are implemented. So, the challenge before the WPCs is that they make sure that women related legislations are followed through after they are passed.

She stated that development funds need to be available for women parliamentarians as lack of funds leave women parliamentarians ineffective in solving the problems of their constituencies. She called for gender responsive budgeting and insisted that this is not only an issue for women MPs but women in general miss out on development due lack of resources and attention.



MLA Rani Attiqua, Member Gilgit Baltistan Legislative Assembly was also present on the occasion and admitted that the Caucus there was not yet established. There is more to be done. While addressing the audience, Rani Attiqua stated that even though the WPC in GB was still in the process of being established, the women parliamentarians had the strengths to reach their potential in the years to come. She commented that the discussion was of immense importance for the members of GB assembly. She further stated that

the experiences of the speakers will help in strengthening the role to be played by the Women Parliamentary Caucus in the GB. She stated that those women parliamentarians are working for the rights of women in GB. She shared that though the status of women is changing in GB, the process is still slow and communities are reluctant to change.

Rani Attiqua stated that the caucus might be the platform that is needed to strengthen the role of women Parliamentarians in the future to come. She also shared that at present a physical space for the caucus is being sought and hoped that the WPC will emerge as the representative of the women parliamentarians and women in GB. She stated that GB also needs to allocate development budgets to women parliamentarians. She said that GB needed schools, hospitals, and general development. For example she shared that there is need to establish suicide support centers to cater to the increasing number of suicides in the youth of GB. She emphasised that women and children need to be incorporated in the development schemes as these populations have been ignored in the past. While concluding her speech, Rani Attiqua stated that all our men need to be gender sensitized otherwise most development activities will go waste.



MLA Naseem Amani, Member WPC Azad Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, was the invited as the following speaker in the panel discussion. The MLA appreciated the example being set by the women's representation from different WPCs. She fully endorsed that the issues and challenges shared by the speaker before her and stated that much like the issues faced by the WPC in Baluchistan, the WPC AJ&K was also challenged by the need to make its presence felt. She

informed that maximum support is being extended by the Speaker AJ&K Legislative Assembly to help in the establishment of a WPC there. She, nevertheless, felt that appropriate strategic support was required from the national and provincial WPCs to make the caucus in AJ&K a reality and eventually a success.

Session Chair, Hon. **Syeda Shehla Raza (PPPP) Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly**, concluded the session by sharing her views on the panel discussion. She congratulated the Federal WPC in hosting the event. She felt that the caucus had come a long way since its inception.

Regarding her views on the topic of the discussion, Hon. Syeda Shehla Raza stated that generally the opportunities that were available to the caucuses included support from respective CM's and Speakers

in terms of financial and logistics support. Sindh has also been blessed in the sense that the CM took a personal interest in the development of the caucus and inaugurated the caucus. Today we have an impressive office for the Caucus. She asserted that the Sindh caucus was recognized as the authority in protecting the rights of women and children and if a Bill is presented in the assembly, the Bill is first vetted by the caucus before any action can be taken by the House; this is irrespective of whether the caucus was involved in its preparation or not. Similarly, a strong Bill on domestic violence declared it to be a criminal offense in the province and family courts were barred from affecting the rulings. These are examples of opportunities that are available to the WPCs and this was achieved across party lines.



While talking about the challenges, Hon. Syeda Shehla Raza stated that challenges could be both, internal and external. External challenges will persist as differences of opinions will always be there. But internal challenges need to be eliminated. This will allow the strengthening of the caucuses. She reported that in her opinion most challenges were internal and pertained to the inability of women parliamentarians in rising up to meet the challenges. She felt that the role of WPCs is not being fully met because of the attitude of women parliamentarians themselves. She felt that members get upset by the mere fact that they did not get key positions and they weren't selected for key positions like secretaries etc. Thus, they hold back and do not actively participate in the WPC activities and meetings. She underscored the need for WPC to work on all issues and focus more on integrating an inclusive approach in solving problems.

The purpose of the caucus was to unite and channelize the power of the women MPs and to work for their empowerment as a collective voice. Secondly, the caucus was seen as an oversight body that monitored the financial, social and political development of women. The order is important and the prime responsibility rests with the government. The role of the caucus is to see if the laws and policies passed by the government were actually implemented or not. She shared that over the years the caucus has taken on more responsibilities than it was meant to take.

While concluding the session, Ms. Shehla Raza stated that development budgets should not be a matter of concern for women MPs. She stated that the first and the foremost duty of women parliamentarians was to legislate. If there is need for funds, then local partnerships can be developed for ongoing and initiating new projects. For example, when we ventured out to work for the rights of children, we developed partnerships with local artists and developed a CD without any budget.

All provinces have their respective challenges that relate to the societal values for that province. In order to meet the challenges, WPCs need to break the cycles of values and practices that are not allowing active involvement of women parliamentarians; and we should expect some resistance from those sections of society.

The honorable Chair concluded the session by saying that challenges will always be there. The survival of the WPCs however will remain in developing half opportunities into full opportunities, and looking for unique solutions. This she felt was possible only by sheer will and determination.

PANEL DISCUSSION II

Exercising the Legislative, Representative and Oversight Roles Effectively

Deliberations on case studies in the areas of child abuse, human trafficking, and gender based violence, generally focusing on recent cases of violation; Victims of GBV, Harassment at Workplace, Acid throwing & Child abuse were invited to share their issues and challenges

The second session revolved around case studies in the area of child abuse, human trafficking, and gender based violence that were reported on National and Provincial levels. The rationale behind the discussion was to invite experiences of Chairpersons of National and Provincial WPCs, Chairpersons of National and Provincial Women Commissions in hurdles faced while working for women empowerment. The participants were asked to share their experiences while representing women assisting WPCs in their representative, oversight & legislative roles. The guests list included individuals from bureaucracy, human rights machineries, and law enforcement agencies.



The first person to speak on the occasion was **Ms. Alia Ali Khan, from Punjab Commission on Status of Women**. The young representative for the PCSW presented an over view of the Status of Women in Punjab. Ms. Alia reported that the Government of Punjab has made efforts to meet the needs of women in the province and continuous efforts are being made to curb GBV.

She informed that PCSW collects data annually, and it reports on three hundred indicators that represent the status of women in the province. Focusing on specifically GBV, she stated that that in 2017, the percentage of cases of violence against women increased by 25 percent. This included incidents of murder, attempted murder, and beating. There was a 6.8 percent increase in cases of Rape and 220 cases of honor killing were reported in Punjab, while incidents of acid burning has been on the decline in the year 2017. She highlighted the fact that the most alarming issue at the moment was that despite increase in the cases of violence against women, the number of convictions was very weak. She reported that only 6900 acquittals were awarded in the year 2017.

She reported that the government of Punjab has taken certain initiatives to counter gender based violence. She reported that there was gender violence court and a child court which has been set up for juvenile victims and perpetrators. A chapter has been added in the 9th and 10 grade curriculums that deals with GBV and gives information on how to report cases on GBV.

She informed that almost all police stations in Punjab have front desks for women while there were four women only police stations and Darul Amans for women in the province.

Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson of the Sindh Commission on Status of Women stated that the Sindh CSW (SCSW) was established only seven months ago, but even in this short span of time, the Sindh CSW has been able to develop linkages with the civil society as well as with relevant government



institutions, and is, hence, already working towards making its structure conducive to the purpose of the CSWs of existence.

The Chairperson reported that the relationship between the government and Sindh CSW was still in an early phase and it was too early to comment upon the way the commission will go forward. Ms. Nuzhat Shirin was confident that, despite the challenges of fitting into the working of the provincial government, the Commission was on the right path to developing a system of recording and reporting statistics related to women. The Commission, she said, was currently in the process of developing ways to monitor, strengthen, and developing a implantation mechanism that will and should cater to both external and internal challenges. For example, we are looking at the reporting mechanisms and security in the police stations in the province. We feel confident that the mechanisms are bound to change due to the pressure being exerted by the Caucus, and the commission in partnership with the civil society.

Similarly, Ms. Nuzhat Shirin informed, that the CSW was working on the living conditions and operations of Darul Amans (shelter homes) in the province. There were a number of such homes being run in the city. She felt that the foremost task was to sensitize the staff in protecting the rights and honor of the every woman they are trying to provide shelter to. Another important aspect that the CSW needs to look into is the budgetary allocation for such projects.



Dr. Samra Mohsin Khan (PhD), HoD Architecture, was an unfortunate victim of sexual harassment at the hands of her own colleagues at her work place. She narrated her experience and stated that before experiencing harassment at her workplace she did not ever think that she can be harassed by anybody as she was educated, independent, and had a status in the society. She reported that a faculty member, junior to her was sexually harassing not only junior staff members but also students in the department. For eighteen months this issues was randomly reported to the senior management of the University but no action was Informally the management instructed Ms. Samra to talk to the identified faculty member. But unfortunately, due to non-committant attitude of female teachers the issue was not taken up seriously.

She was given the task of taking action against the member and wrote a report against the faculty member. The University acted against the identified faculty member as it became evident that he was guilty. Due to the anti-harassment in the workplace Act, and also due to the good intuitional policies regarding not only harassment but also misuse of authority, the case was adequately dealt with. However, she was attacked by the same colleague in her office and the amount violence used on her was so harsh that it broke her arm. She said that she was still suffering from the aftermath of reporting the incident to the police.

While commending the role of WPC and its Secretary MNA Shaista Pervaiz Malik, Dr. Samra stated that she was basically able to handle the stress associated with being involved in a harassment case due to the help of WPC and its Secretary. She explained that it was due to the directives of the Secretary Caucus that the Vice Chancellor of the University was summoned and questioned about the incident and was asked to take appropriate action in this regard. It was only under this pressure that the culprit faculty member was removed from the university.

Dr. Samra reported that the misuse of authority by male colleagues and undue coercion forces women to talk about the abuses being faced by them in their respective workplaces. She stated that all women

have the right to say “no” to impolite comments and being objectified as a showpiece. She added that she not only felt victimized by her colleague who attacked her, she felt that the police also did not understand the nature and significance of sexual harassment and so they made her feel insecure and victimized despite having the support of the caucus and other brave women who stood by her. She felt that male colleagues, the police, the press and people at large needed to be informed about what constitutes harassment. The audience called for better understanding and dissemination of information regarding sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women in the workplace.



Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khattak, MNA, PTI talked about human trafficking and the status of police stations in providing a safe environment to women complainants. MNA Nafeesa Khattak informed that a Bill on internal trafficking had been drafted and was under review; however, further developments in this regard will be reported at a later stage.

MNA Khattak stated that despite a number of legislations and the development of mechanisms for helping women respondents, there was still need to sensitize the police personnel in understanding the needs of women in the society. She said that when women venture out of their homes for any reason, including domestic violence, abuse and difference of opinions, their chastity and dignity need to be protected. She insisted that the civil society needs to step in and support the role of police personnel. She also reported that there were 22 police stations in Islamabad but only one police station (in Sitara Market, Islamabad) was a woman police station. With so many multi-faceted issues that women face, there was greater need to provide adequate representation for women in the law enforcement by establishing gender responsive police stations across the cities and towns.

MNA Nafeesa Khattak urged the need for developing a comprehensive referral mechanism and policy for Darul Amans that are being run by the state. This she felt was important in establishing the short term and long term placement and rehabilitation of displaced women and their children.



Ms. Maria, Superintendent Police, Punjab thanked the caucus for inviting her to the Convention and letting her represent the police force on this forum. She talked about the fact that as a Nation we are good at introducing and passing legislations but the implementation of the legislation becomes an issue as we need to have the will and appropriate resources to implement them. She felt that the WPC was the first platform that looked at the follow-up on implementation; and its success lies in being an across party platform. She informed the audience that she was the first person who joined the police as a civil servant in the bureaucracy. Before she joined the police services, there was a ban on recruiting women officers in the police. It was after

sixty years of the country where only less than one percent women were inducted into the police by the year 2008. In less than ten years the number of police women has increased to almost two percent. The number increased during the last 3 years, and it was only due to such platforms as WPC where more women are at the helm of affairs who believed in the significance of increasing the number of women within the law enforcement and trained intensively to play a substantive role with their male colleagues. She believed that having more women in the police force was the best possible solution to changing the attitudes of the police towards women complainants. The involvement of women can also help in the sensitization of their men colleagues. Women in police will allow a safe place for women whenever they step out of the house.

SP Maria stated that the WPC was an excellent platform that brought together all the stakeholders for

deliberations on topical issues for greater understanding problem resolution. She asserted that it is from this forum that women within the law enforcement are drawing their strength and trying to develop a network of police officers at National and Provincial level. An effective networking is inclusive and has a broader scope. Therefore, whenever a network is activated, it is bound to draw attention and create awareness for more women to join the law enforcement, she asserted. She remarked that women need to be respected and protected, and hopefully in the future, there will be a comprehensive gender mainstreaming within the police for the protection of women at large.



Ms. Saira Omar, District Coordination Officer (DCO) Kasur District in Punjab talked about the sad incident of sexual violence against children in Kasur. She talked at length about the need to bring about a change in the way we are functioning. She felt that union councils need to be involved at community levels and educate families and school personal on how to educate children about their rights as well as the nature and extent of various forms of abuse. She emphasised on the need to establish an active networking of community for vigilance and protection of the vulnerable populations including women, children and the elderly.

She stated that the Child Protection Bureau is increasingly playing a positive role in protecting children from abuse. She said that further training is required for making procedures more child friendly and that NGOs need to be trained. She believed that a better surveillance system can help in monitoring cases of abuse in the future. She believed that there should be appropriate referral mechanisms in place with intensive psychological counseling services for the victims of abuse and family members in counteracting the harmful effects of abuse.

Ms. Saira Omar stated that as a woman DCO, she has never faced any problems in meeting the requirements of her job. The issue basically lies with most of the people who do not know about the laws and proper implementation of laws was important in seeking justice from the courts.



Senator Rubina Rauf Khalid, Executive Body Member of WPC, being the Chair of this session, while wrapping up the session stated that the discussions were rich and informative. The take home message from the discussions was that women parliamentarians need to be closely bonded on gender issues across their respective party lines. She emphasised that social issues should not be politicized; she proposed the need to make sure that all social issues are dealt objectively. She endorsed that the WPC provided a platform of sisterhood to the women parliamentarians and these bonds should be nurtured. She thanked the participants for their enriching discussions and hoped that a healthy set of recommendations by the

WPC will help in resolving issues raised during the panel discussion.

PANEL DISCUSSION III

Discussion on Building Alliances and Developing Institutionalized Mechanisms to Strengthen Work of the WPCs

The last session of the Convention discussed the strategies in developing alliances between stakeholders and bringing out possible solutions and strategies that could help the WPCs in enhancing the impact of their work.



MNA Shahida Akhtar (JUI-F), while talking about alliances said that effective implementation of the laws and acts is the major factor that needs to be strengthened. This is because implementation of laws is possible only through mutual coordination. Nobody can implement laws on their own. A unified cohesive action is required to make sure that effective implementation takes place. For example, we have discussed about the role of policing in the earlier proceedings of the Convention. So when we were working on understanding and developing strategies to enhance the work of policing we went down to the police stations and interacted with the police personnel, and saw the actual conditions that exist in the community. This is an

example of networking to get implementation on ground level. Similarly, there were issues related to health. Medico legal issues sprang up in a case that was being discussed and we worked in consultation with Shaista Parvaiz Malik. So in today's times and age we cannot ignore the role of consultancy and networking. She said that alliances have to be built in consultation with different relevant credible organizations.

Similarly, she pointed out the example of sexual abuse and harassment at the workplace and educational institutions as well as the rights of domestic workers were mentioned that need attention. There was further need to work on regularizing the laws that govern the rights of such children. She underscored the need to develop a discourse and advocacy with the help of different organizations which are already working in the area.



Hon. Ms. Raheela Durrani, Speaker Baluchistan Assembly, while addressing the audience shared that the WPC has recently been constituted in the Baluchistan Assembly. She highlighted the need for determining the Agenda and setting up of strategic directions for the WPC in order to work effectively towards women empowerment. Speaker Raheela Durrani underscored the need for establishing stronger linkages between the national and provincial WPCs for smooth information sharing mechanism. She clarified that by sharing of information, it does not mean just meeting and exchanging views on events much like the Convention but to establish institutionalised linkages for sharing best practices and experiences.

Speaker Durrani felt that the WPCs should form greater alliances with the civil society. She felt that the caucuses should not be limited to current and serving women parliamentarian only. She felt that experienced parliamentarians should be given a space in the caucus. This will help in mentoring the

ideology of the emerging parliamentarians. She felt that doctors, psychologists and lawyers should also be made part of the MPCs. All MPC should develop alliances with local NGOs and CBO'S to be effective in bringing about effective change. Similarly alliances should be formed for women development and social welfare departments.

Ms. Raheela Durrani also talked about the need to have better sharing of information and building alliances between standing committees. She said that it was vital to know laws that are framed and passed in the assemblies by the caucus. She stated that generally we do not read Laws. And also generally women parliamentarians do not know how laws are framed. So how can women MPs do their work if they lack the technical know-how? Almost 4 out of 5 members of standing committees are usually men. Therefore, women do not have any understanding the laws being passed. The procedures and policies are now changing and in the future the role of standing committees will be given prominence. But still she felt support was needed; as better structures are needed and interaction between parliamentarians should be enhanced. She said that better structures have to be developed.

In the end she said that maximum efforts have to be taken to protect women and children from being re-victimized by the media and press. She clarified that the information about the crime committed should be disseminated so that awareness is created about the crime that was committed. But under no circumstances should the identity of the victim be disclosed. This not only put the victim and his/her family at risk, it further eliminates any chance of rehabilitation for the victim and their family. She also stated that all cases and laws need to be followed up by the concerned authorities. With a proper follow-up to cases, long-lasting changes can come in the society.



Mairaj Humayun Khan, PTI, Chairperson WPC KPK, while talking on the occasion said that women parliamentarians need to read Bills which are being passed. This will not only help the Women parliamentarians in understanding their roles, it should also help them feel part of the legislative process. This was how the women parliamentarians can develop a political mindset.

While addressing the audience, Ms. Mairaj Humayun Khan stated that media needs to play an active and responsible role in protecting the cause of women. The effectiveness of the media was evidence to everybody. But with great power comes great responsibility and the media needs to be careful in disclosing the identity of the victims.

While sharing the experiences of the WPC in KPK, she said that the current achievements of the caucus are an outcome of alliances that were developed by the Caucus with the help of the parliamentary support. While narrating and sharing the experiences, she shared the that the KPK caucus developed alliances with Swiss cooperation, UNDP, UN women, Developing media linkages, USIAD, British council, Other WPCs, Commissions on women's rights etc. In the end M. Humayun Khalid suggested that

- The WPCs need to monitor and report regional and national issues.
- They need to work collectively on Bills and help each other.
- District assemblies need to be integrated.
- She shared that efforts have to be made to endure that women caucus reach the grassroots level.
- Women Provincial members should be included in foreign tours so that they may learn through action.

Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb, MNA, Member Working Council WPC, (PML-N) while addressing the audience said that she was happy to attend the auspicious occasion; she said she felt happy listening to the views



of the distinguished guests and the learned audience; the idea of the caucus to check the violation of women rights and to provide a platform where women parliamentarians could discuss pertinent issues without worrying about their party affiliations. The national caucus gained prominence very early. I remember that a delegation from Bangladesh came to Pakistan and were so impressed by the idea of the caucus that they developed a similar office in their assembly. The caucus is the protector and champion of the rights of the common women who may not be aware of her rights or even recognize when she is being misused or abused. When her rights are violated she may not have the awareness to go out of the house and get assistance from the police. The caucus was developed to protect and promote the rights of such women much like the rights of women in Islam. I urge women parliamentarians to work for the invisible women who depend upon the women MPs, she remarked.



Ms. Munaza Hassan, MNA (PTI) while giving her recommendations said that women parliamentarians have to empower themselves. No amounts of development funds, changing of mindsets and support can give the woman MPs the boost they need that their own achievements will give them. She believed that women have to empower themselves and the secret lies in recognizing their own power. She was of the view that in the parliamentary history of the country, women have performed better than their men counterparts and had served in leadership roles in the past. Nothing has changed, women are capable, and they just need to recognize their own potential. Regarding the work of the caucus, she suggested that improvement is slow but steady and

that eventually the goal of 100 percent empowerment will be eventually achieved.

She believed that budgets should be given to women parliamentarians, but only if the funds are being given to men parliamentarians. In general she believed that the real work of parliamentarians, both men and women rests in legislation. The development budgets should reside only with local members and that is how the real development will actually take place.

She suggested that women parliamentarians needed advocacy regarding developing and getting Bills passed. Women parliamentarians needed to get involved in the process of legislation. In this way they can gain valuable experience and practical knowledge instead only talking about gender empowerment and engendered policies.



CONCLUDING SESSION



Shaista Parvaiz Malik, MNA, PML-N, Secretary WPC concluded the Convention by putting forth the recommendations drawn from the Convention proceedings for the strategic directions for the work of future Caucuses.

While discussing the issue at hand, MNA Shaista Parvaiz Malik said that the wheel should not be reinvented. Caucuses should learn from the experience of others. She stated that the world had now emerged as a global village, and there were a millions of lessons to be learned. She believed that sisterhood was very important at national, provincial and district levels for the attainment of women empowerment. It was, therefore, strongly recommended that caucuses should also be formed at grassroots levels, so that the law makers are aware of the actual issues of the women and the population at large. Sharing of information and making linkages were important as it would ensure continuity of action. She also thanked and encourage the constant support of Trocaire like International Conference in March 2017, One day National Consultation in Feb 2017 and medicolegal report launch in 2016.

In the end, Shaista Parvaiz Malik thanked the audience and distinguished guests for taking time out of their busy schedules and making the Convention a success.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONVENTION

1. **SHARING of INFORMATION and PRACTICES**

- Federal caucus and provincial caucuses should develop institutionalised networking mechanism for closer cooperation to share best practices, information and data regarding issues.
- More established caucuses should help the budding caucuses.
- We should not reinvent the wheel and learn from the past lessons
- Caucuses should be formed at the grassroots levels. This will allow women and their needs and concerns to be incorporated at district and provincial levels. This would provide opportunities to the men to understand their issues and the women to get involved in basic decision and policy making levels. Thus, providing a chance to both women and men to orient themselves regarding politics and perspectives of leaderships for resolving their issues.
- Sisterhoods are very important at national, provincial and district level.
- WPCs should also be involved in collecting, storing sharing of data related to cases of violence, abuse etc.

2. **WOMEN HAVE TO EMPOWER THEMSELVES**

- All women parliamentarians are capable and need to take an active role in making their presence felt. The work that parliamentarians do will speak for itself.
- Women and the very fact that they are representing so many people is evidence enough that women can and should take responsibility for the gender mainstreaming and implementation of their manifestos.
- 5% seats need to be given to local representatives in each party. But merit has to be decided on the basis of manifesto and party membership
- Reserved seats were a way to give women a passage and bring women in the mainstream. So, slowly we are improving and eventually larger number of women will contest general elections.
- Women should not only talk about women related or gender related issues; we, parliamentarians are global representatives and we need to talk about all issues.
- Women have and are performing better and have had substantive leading roles in governments, legislations and policy making etc.

3. **BUDGET FOR WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS**

- Generally parliamentarians should not have access to development budgets. They need to focus on nation's sustainable development, legislations and policy making only;
- But if the development funds are to be appropriated through the national and provincial level elected representatives, then these should be accessible equally to both men and women parliamentarians
- All budgetary allocations should be gender responsive

4. **INVOLVEMENT IN FINANCIAL PLANNING**


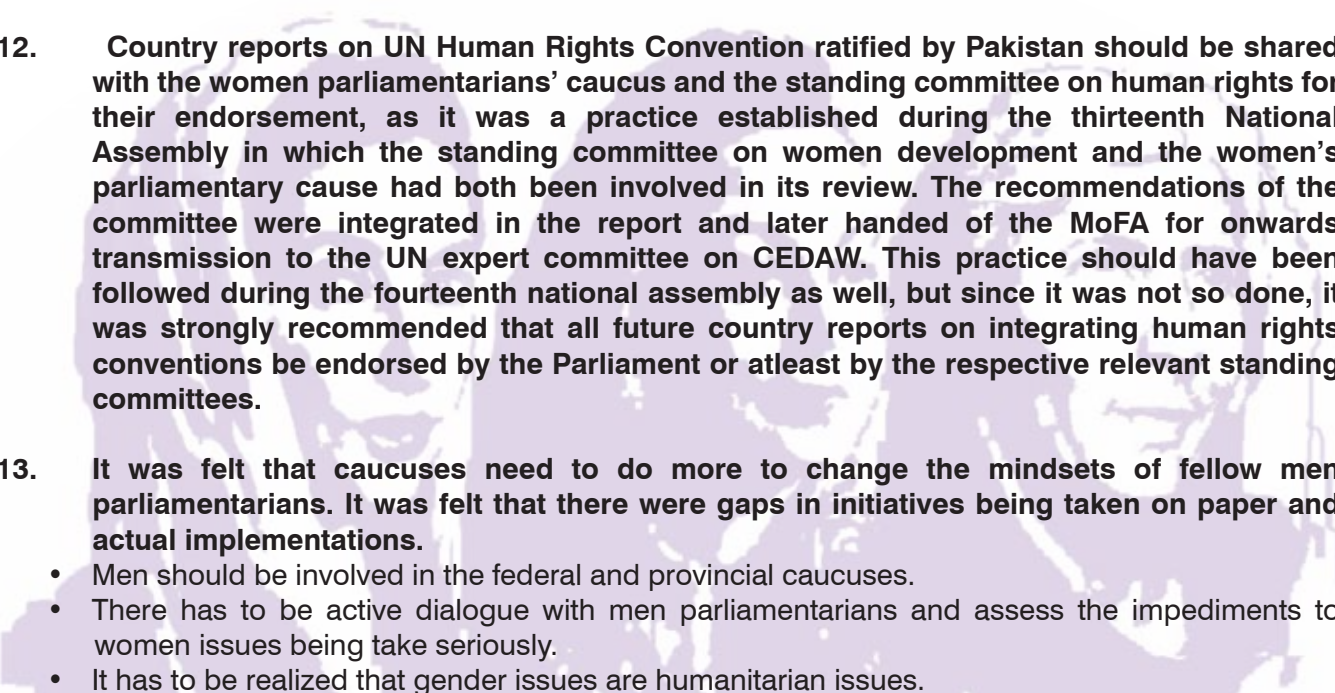
- Women parliamentarians should be involved in general financial budgeting.
- Development budgets should be gender responsive.

5. **Actual power needs to be given to local representatives. Union councils can be effective in dealing with the needs of the communities and developing inter-community inter alia.**

6. **WPCs should also monitor the implementation of legislations once they are passed.**

7. **NGO's, civil society, lawyers, doctors, and psychologists etc., to cooperate with Caucus while dealing with crime and violence cases.**

- Experienced parliamentarians should be permanent members for mentoring the younger

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- parliamentarians.
- Activities of the caucuses should be across lines and not be dependent upon party policies.
 - Gender related legislations should be developed in consultations with all caucuses.
8. **The caucus should develop and implement procedures and modus operandi for Media in dealing with cases of violence and abuse.**
- The identity of the victim should be protected and faces should not be shown in the press release.
 - Also they should be advocated not to sensationalize such incidents.
 - Reporting should be based on facts and figures.
9. **WPCs need to tackle bureaucratic hurdles that still persist despite amendments, legislations and procedures to create safe places for women.**
- These safe places should be in police stations, in Darul Amaans etc.; and procedures should be reviewed keeping the honour of the women/girls intact.
 - Cases of abuse and violence should be reported with responsibility.
 - Sectarian discriminations should also be checked.
 - A lot needs to be done to make women feel safe.
 - WPCs need to actively monitor the role of police in making women feel protected. There is lack of resources in police stations and at grassroots level, most procedures and practices need to gender sensitized.
 - The civil society needs to be involved with the police at all levels to make women feel safe.
10. **WPC needs to develop mechanism to follow up on legislations and laws that have been passed.**
11. **WPCs should work on women health issues.**
- There is need to make women health an important issue as women are more than half of the country's populations. A healthy woman can ensure a healthy nation.
 - Breast cancer and nutrition are two important factors that were highlighted by the parliamentarians.
12. **Country reports on UN Human Rights Convention ratified by Pakistan should be shared with the women parliamentarians' caucus and the standing committee on human rights for their endorsement, as it was a practice established during the thirteenth National Assembly in which the standing committee on women development and the women's parliamentary cause had both been involved in its review. The recommendations of the committee were integrated in the report and later handed of the MoFA for onwards transmission to the UN expert committee on CEDAW. This practice should have been followed during the fourteenth national assembly as well, but since it was not so done, it was strongly recommended that all future country reports on integrating human rights conventions be endorsed by the Parliament or atleast by the respective relevant standing committees.**
13. **It was felt that caucuses need to do more to change the mindsets of fellow men parliamentarians. It was felt that there were gaps in initiatives being taken on paper and actual implementations.**
- Men should be involved in the federal and provincial caucuses.
 - There has to be active dialogue with men parliamentarians and assess the impediments to women issues being take seriously.
 - It has to be realized that gender issues are humanitarian issues.
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14. Women parliamentarians should be involved in legislation.

- Women parliamentarians should not only be involved in oversight of Bills and Legislatives.
- Women should be involved in developing and advocacy of important issues.
- For Bills advocacy is needed.
- Awareness of acts, Laws and Bills is needed for the general public especially if parliamentarians have to read/prepare the Bills which get to be passed.



PROGRAM

28th March 2018

Inaugural Session [9:00 – 10:30 am]

	[Chief Guest: Mr. Mumtaz Ahmad Tarar, Federal Minister for Human Rights]
9:00 – 9:05 am	Opening with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran
9:05 – 9:10 am	Welcome address by MNA Shaista Pervaiz Malik, Secretary WPC
9:10 – 9:25 am	Key note Address by the MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah, Former Secretary & Founding Member of WPC
9:25 – 9:35 am	Remarks by H.E. Margaret Adamson, Australian High Commissioner
9:35 – 9:45	Remarks by John O'Brien, Country Head Trócaire's
9:45 – 10:00	Address by the Chief Guest
10:00 – 10:30	Tea Break

Consultation Proceedings:

10:30 – 11:45 am	Panel Discussion I: 10 years of Women's Parliamentary Caucus: Opportunities and Challenges; CHAIR: Hon. Syeda Shehla Raza, Deputy Speaker, Sindh Assembly [6 panelists from key political parties to share experiences @ 5-7 mts each, followed by Q&A/discussions]
	i. Senator Nuzhat Sadiq (PML-N)
	ii. Saira Shahliani, MPA/Convenor WPC Sindh (PPPP)
	iii. Mairaj Humanyun Khan, Chairperson WPC KPK (PTI)
	iv. Kishwer Zehra, MNA, Member Working Council WPC (MQM)
	v. Shahida Akhtar Ali, MNA, Member Working Council WPC (JUI-F)
	vi. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak, MNA, KPK (PTI)
	vii. Ayesha Syed, MNA (JI)/ Working Council WPC

11:45 – 1330 Panel Discussion II:

Exercising the Legislative, Representative and Oversight Roles Effectively:
Deliberations on case studies in the area of child abuse, human trafficking,
and gender based violence generally focusing on recent cases of
violation; (Victims of GBV, Harassment at Workplace, Acid throwing &
Child abuse would be invited to share their problems)
CHAIR: Hon. Ms. Raheela Durrani, Speaker Balochistan Assembly
[Chairpersons of National & Provincial WPCs, Chairpersons of National &
Provincial Women Commissions to lead the discussions]
Assisting WPCs in their representative, Oversight & Legislative roles:
Perspectives of Bureaucracy (Secretaries of National & Provincial Women
& Human Rights Machineries, and law enforcement representatives) @ 4
– minutes each;



13:30 – 14:15

Representatives of relevant civil society to give inputs in discussions;

14:15 – 15:00

Lunch Break

Panel Discussion III:

Discussion on Building Alliances and Developing Institutionalized Mechanisms to Strengthen Work of the WPCs;

CHAIR: Tahira Aurengzeb, MNA, Member Working Council WPC, (PML-N)
[Chairpersons of National & Provincial WPCs to lead the discussions]

15:00 – 15:30

Daft Recommendations for Strategic Directions for future WPCs; to be presented by MNA Shahida Akhtar (JUI-F) and finalized by the participants

15:30 - 16:00

Concluding Session:

WRAP up by Senator Sitara Ayaz (ANP)

Concluding Remarks by Senator Rubina Rauf Khalid (PPPP)

Vote of thanks by MNA Munaza Hassan (PTI)

Tea/ refreshments



PROFILES OF SPEAKERS

MEMBERS OF UPPER AND LOWER HOUSE

Panelists	Affiliation	Designation
Syeda Shehla Raza	PPPP	Deputy Speaker, Sindh Assembly
Senator Nuzhat Sadiq	PML- N	SENATOR, PAKISTAN SENATE
Saira Shahlani	PPPP	MPA/CONVENOR WPC SINDH
Mairaj Humanyun Khan	PTI	CHAIRPERSON WPC KPK
Kishwer Zehra	MQM	MNA/MEMBER WORKING COUNCIL WPC
Shahida Akhtar Ali	JUI-F	MNA/ MEMBER WORKING COUNCIL WPC
Naseem Amani	PML-N	WPC AJ&K
Rani Attiqua	PML-N	MEMBER GILGIT BALTISTAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Sahista Parvaiz Malik	PML-N	MNA/ SECRETARY WPC
Yasmin Lehri	MPA	NATIONAL PARTY, BALUCHISTAN
Raheela Durrani	PML-N	SPEAKER BALUCHISTAN ASSEMBLY
Tahira Aurengzeb	PML-N	MEMBER WORKING COUNCIL WPC
Senator Sitara Ayaz	ANP	MNA/MEMBER WORKING COUNCIL WPC
Senator Rubina Rauf Khalid	PPPP	MEMBER WORKING COUNCIL WPC
Munaza Hassan	PTI	MNA/MEMBER WORKING COUNCIL WPC
Sardar Farooq Ahmed Tahir	PML-N	Deputy Speaker, Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly
Nafeesa Innayatullah Khatak	PTI	MNA/MEMBER WORKING COUNCIL WPC
Ms. Nuzhat Shireen		Chairperson of the Sindh Commission on Status of Women
Ms. Maria		Superintendent Police, Punjab
Saira Omar		DCO Kasur, Punjab
Ms. Alia Ali Khan		Punjab, Commission on Status of Women
Dr. Samra Mohsin Khan		HoD, Department of Architecture COMSATS

PICTURE GALLERY







