

# “Jamhoriyat Hum Se” Competition



in collaboration with



**WESTMINSTER  
FOUNDATION FOR  
DEMOCRACY**

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## Acknowledgement

I would like to extend my profound gratitude to the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Mr. Asad Qaiser and Honourable Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Mr. Asad Umar for his invaluable support.

I express my gratitude towards all honourable members of WPC for their cooperation. A very special thanks to all our distinguished guests and Panellists whose presence and participation made the celebration an inspiring experience.

I appreciate the partnership support extended by Westminster Foundation of Democracy (WFD) to materialize this activity. Tireless work and constructive contributions of WPC team deserves applauds.



Ms. Munaza Hassan

Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus

## Acronyms

BAP	Balochistan Awami Party
GDA	Grand Democratic Alliance
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
JUI-F	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl-ur-Rehman)
MNA	Member National Assembly
MPA	Member Provincial Assembly
PIPS	Parliamentary Institute for Parliamentary Services
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz
PPPP	Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf
PTV	Pakistan Television News
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNWomen	United Nation Women
WFD	Westminster Foundation for Democracy
WPC	Women's Parliamentary Caucus

## 1. Background of Democracy

Democracy means power of the people in Greek. Democracy originated in Athens during the 5th century BC. Democracy in Athens was very different from more modern forms. There were two main factors that were considered essential to the success of ancient democracy: the size of the community must not be too large, because this would not allow all members to participate in debates and meetings, and citizens should have enough free time to actively engage in politics. In Athens, this meant that slaves were used to perform the majority of work. True democracy is a two-way street, built on a constant dialogue between civil society and the political class. This dialogue must have real influence on political decisions. This is why political participation, civic space and social dialogue make up the very foundations of good governance.

In September 1997 the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), (an international form of which Pakistan is also a member) adopted a Universal Declaration on Democracy.<sup>1</sup> That Declaration affirms the principles of democracy, the elements and exercise of democratic government, and the international scope of democracy. In 2013, IPU promoted the International Day of Democracy through its Member Parliaments in 162 countries. In 2007 the United Nations General Assembly resolved to observe 15 September as the International Day of Democracy—with the purpose of promoting and upholding the principles of democracy—and invited all member states and organizations to commemorate the day in an appropriate manner that contributes to raising public awareness.

The International Day of Democracy offers an opportunity to look for ways to strengthen democracy and seek approaches for the systemic citizen engagement. This includes reaching out to masses to understand the role parliament plays and can potentially play in tackling economic and political inequalities and making democracies more inclusive by bringing the young and marginalized into the political system.

Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) is a cross party forum which provides women legislators a platform for the development, empowerment and emancipation of women beyond party politics. WPC in collaboration with Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)<sup>2</sup> planned to engage with Pakistani youth to showcase their talents and simultaneously develop their understanding of the parliamentary system in Pakistan.

## 2. Introduction to ‘Jamhuriat Hum Se’

WPC brought together youth from seventy-two universities from all across Pakistan to interact with Parliamentarians through a month long online competition and prize distributing event known as ‘Jamhuriat Hum Se’. The theme of the competition was based around the importance of democracy and women participation; it consisted of an online quiz, blog writing, poster designing and video messages.

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<sup>1</sup> IPU is a global inter-parliamentary institution established in 1889 by Frédéric Passy (France) and William Randal Cremer (United Kingdom). It was the first permanent forum for political multilateral negotiations. The national parliaments of 178 countries are members.

<sup>2</sup> Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) is the UK public body dedicated to supporting democracy around the world. WFD partners with UK political parties, parliaments, electoral and financial audit institutions to help over 30 developing countries make their governments fairer, more effective and accountable. Since 2012, WFD supported the federal and provincial legislatures in Pakistan. Working with local partners to make WFD’s initiatives sustainable has been at the centre of its approach. From the beginning, it has worked closely with the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS), which is the institution mandated by parliament to support in matters of research, legislation and capacity building across all legislatures of the federation.

This competition was officially launched by National Assembly Speaker Mr. Asad Qaiser on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 to commemorate 'International Democracy Day' at Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS). This event was attended by National Assembly and Senate Parliamentarians, civil society organisations (Tabeer, UNDP, UN-Women, UNICEF, Oxfoam), university students and their respective faculties. The follow-up closing ceremony was held on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 at PIPS. Chief Guest, Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Mr. Asad Umer gave the keynote speech and distributed awards to winning participants.

### 3. Objective

The overall object of 'Jumhuriat Hum Se' was to highlight the intent of Parliament in engaging more proactively with Pakistani citizens especially youth. This intent was divided into three specific objectives:

1. To increase the Pakistani citizen's understanding of the parliament and the citizen's specific role in inclusive democracy.
2. To engage and increase interaction of citizens (especially young future leaders and marginalized groups) with parliament especially through WPC.
3. To initiate a formal liaison between WPC, youth and women at digital media outlets for continued engagement beyond the event.

### 4. Methodology

The event followed a detailed phased approach to engage the youth.

1. **Design Phase Activities:** A panel of judges were finalised; two judges were famous bloggers to assess the blogging writing of the competition, Robina Khursheed Alam judged the poster and video competition. Systems were put in place to ensure transparency in both submissions into the competition and approach to dealing with inquiries.
2. **Promotional Phase:** WPC facilitated the parliament through its various sections reach out to segments of people working in the relevant areas with an effort to invite participation in the event.  
In this regard each section encouraged their respective audiences such as women caucus focus on engaging women and young parliamentarians mobilizing youth from universities through a planned engagement while conducting information and invitation sessions as well as social media campaigns facilitated by Social Media team.
3. **The Launch:** A series of competitions "Jamhoriat Hum Se" was also inaugurated by Honourable Speaker, National Assembly, Mr. Qaiser. This series of competitions will invite submissions in different categories such as, Blog writing, Online Quiz etc.
4. **The Closing event:** The event will invite the top three submissions in each category, asking them to present their work to the leading relevant parliamentary panels. Present them with awards for working with the Parliament. The event would be attended by academia, young leaders, media groups, diplomatic corps and students who have participated in the online quiz as well as parliamentarians.



#### 4.1. Details of Competition

The closing ceremony was mainly a prize distributing ceremony for university students that won in the '*Jamhoriyat Hum Sai*' themed competitions. The competition was broken down into the following parts:

1. Poster Competition on 'Women in Democracy'.
2. Video Competition (30 second videos) on 'Youth Participation in Democracy its importance and dynamics'.
3. Blog writing competition on 'Democracy Vs Majoritarianism'.
4. Online Quiz on 'Know your Parliament'.

There were a variety of prizes that were distributed amongst the participants including:

1. Certificates of participation for all participants.
2. Cash prizes (Rs. 20,000, Rs. 15,000, and Rs. 10,000) for top three submissions in each category.
3. Letter of appreciation from WPC Secretary.
4. Exclusive meeting and dinner with Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser, Secretary WPC Munaza Hassan and senior political leadership from other parties.

The desired outcomes of the events were:

1. Citizens have better understanding about the Parliament as a whole.
2. Better awareness on avenues for inclusion and participation for common citizens.
3. Strengthening image of the house as an inclusive representative of the citizens.
4. Increased awareness and understanding among MPs on areas of inclusion and their importance.

### 5. Highlights of Opening Ceremony (September 2019)

#### Welcome Address by WPC Secretary Ms. Munaza Hassan:

Honourable Secretary WPC, Ms. Munaza Hassan after welcoming the panellists and guests highlighted that purpose of the event was to bring the youngsters close to the parliament and to involve them within the political process. Ms. Munaza also highlighted the importance of youth in promotion of democracy and encouraged students to take ownership of their state and work for its betterment. She also concentrated on the need for Pakistani youth to take inspiration from the struggles and guidance Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah.



#### Keynote Speech by National Assembly (NA) Speaker Mr. Asad Qaiser:

Mr. Asad Qaiser spoke at length about the sheer importance of active participation of citizens in democracy and also about the need to follow democratic ideals at an intra-party level. He focused on the need for



intra-party election, giving workers respect and opportunities to lead and hold decision-making positions. He motivated the youth to strive and struggle for a better tomorrow. He also reminded the young audience of their importance within the system.

The Speech of Mr. Asad Qaisar was followed by formal inauguration of '*Jamhoriyat Hum Se*' competition. The inauguration was followed by speeches of the distinguished panellists. After the panellist speeches the floor was opened to take questions from the audience.



Panellists included

- MNA Asad Umar, PTI
- MNA Kishwer Zehra, MQM
- MNA, Shaista Pervaiz, PML-N
- MNA Shahida Akhtar Ali, JUI-F
- Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq, PML-N
- MNA Munaza Hassan, PTI
- TV Anchor Fareeha Idrees



List of other parliamentarians participated in event are attached in annexure (I)

In their speeches, the panellists discussed the importance of youth participation in the democratic process especially in a country like Pakistan which is racially and ethnically very diverse. The panel pressed on the need for youth to work hard for strengthening of democracy in Pakistan. The perils of dictatorships and autocratic governments were also focused upon with freedom of expression and human rights violation as the main elements of it.



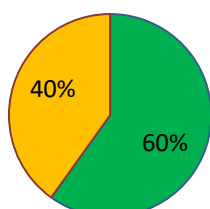
Interestingly, most of the male audience members were directing their questions to the only male parliamentarian, Mr. Asad Umar, on the panel. Male audience questions were more general and open ended. While questions from female audience members were issue based and addressed to the whole panel. A list of the questions are attached in annexure (II).



## 5.1 Analysis of the Opening Event:

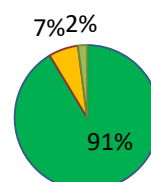
### Total No. of Attendees

Female Male



### Total Participants

Students MPs Media Persons



## 6. Salient features from the speeches of Key Speakers

Honourable Asad Umar – Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms (Chief Guest)

- Two years back UNDP was making a report related to youth in Pakistan - the most common and important point that was raised by the youth, as per the report, was that their voice are not being heard.
- Youth comprises 2/3 of the population of Pakistan; they are the biggest and most genuine stakeholders in the affairs of the country. It is very important that they are heard and included in decision-making.
- The youth of Pakistan is very dynamic and full of energy. They are optimistic and positive unlike the old politicians who rule the prime talk shows. They are negative and full of pessimism. We need to give youth more and more space so that they can take the country forward.
- This partnership of Women Parliamentary Caucus is very logical, in my opinion, considering the fact that it is always the youth and women of a country, you will find in the forefront of the movements demanding change.
- Youth are the torch bearers of change. They are fearless, and optimistic; they are ready to take risks and fight. These factors play the key role in change-making. Women being mothers are naturally more concerned about the future of their children, which leads to them having the same perspective on different matters. Hence, we see them both always partnering up for change.



### Honorable MNA Munazza Hasan - Secretary WPC

- Youth are the future of Pakistan. It is upon your shoulders to take Pakistan forward and work for its betterment. The visions and thoughts you carry today are going to reflect on the future of Pakistan.
- Youth are the hope for future of Pakistan.
- I really want that this democratic process - this connection we have established between youth and Parliament strengthens with each passing day because Parliament is made up of the elected representatives of people – and youth is going to take it forward.
- One important point that I would like to highlight is that Women Parliamentary Caucus is a non-partisan forum. It has female Parliamentarians from all political parties. The beauty of WPC is that we are all united in this forum on issues related to women indifferent of our political affiliations.
- I am thankful to all the youth who participated, my colleagues, the faculty of universities who made it possible by involving their students in this competition. I am also thankful to the judges who played role in decision making regarding the winners, I hope everyone would accept their decision.



Complete Speech is attached as annex

### Mr. Mujtaba Zaidi – Country Director WFD

- The title of this competition, 'Jamhoriyat Hum Se' is a statement that pushes us to ponder on our role in democracy.
- Democracy is the name of a shared dream; it represents the shared wishes of the people. It is a dream that every person dreams individually but comes together collectively.
- We should hold democracy as a dream in the highest regards and importance. And make a promise to ourselves that we will go to whatever length in our capacity to turn it into a reality without looking at anyone else.
- 'Jamhoriyat Hum Se' is also a statement that should push us to think what we can do and how much we should do so tomorrow we can proudly say that we are the ones that make democracy.



- When we make a promise to ourselves that we would work for turning our dream of democracy into a reality, we get tied in a relationship with the masses because we realize that democracy is the dream that we all dream and share. Though different people might have different ideology and vision regarding democracy but that shouldn't deter us from working as a team.
- The concept of 'Jamhoriyat Hum Se' is also a practical example of the fact that no matter which and what background we come from and what our skills sets are we all can go in the same direction to materialize our dream.
- I am very thankful to WPC for giving us the opportunity to collaborate/partner with them for this project. We would do whatever is in our capacity to take forward this partnership between Parliament and People.

#### Honourable MNA Romina Khurshid Alam- Treasurer WPC/ Judge 'Jamhoriyat Hum Se'

- Elaborating on the point of WPC being non-partisan, it is important to say that be it WPC, YPF or Pakistan – we are all united.
- The beauty of WPC is that the Secretary of WPC is from Treasury benches while I am in opposition but whenever WPC or YPF needs us, we put our political differences aside and unite on the same page specifically on the issues relating to youth and women.
- The point that I am trying to establish is that, no matter what your political inclination is, when it comes to the future and prosperity of our country you should all come together and work in unity.
- Acceptance and tolerance are the keys and very important qualities – our priority should always be Pakistan.



All of the speakers in their speeches elaborated on the importance of youth and their participation in democratic procedures. And encouraged the audiences to set their political difference aside and work together to give Pakistan a better future. The speakers also promised the audience that they will ensure that activities like 'Jamhoriyat Hum Se' continue in future.



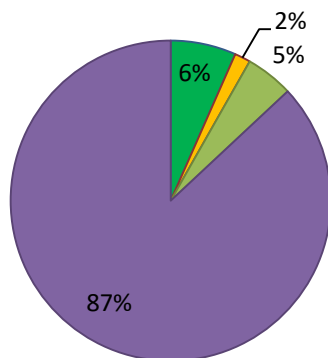


List of other parliamentarians participating in the event is attached in annexure (I)

## 6.1 Analysis of the Closing Ceremony:

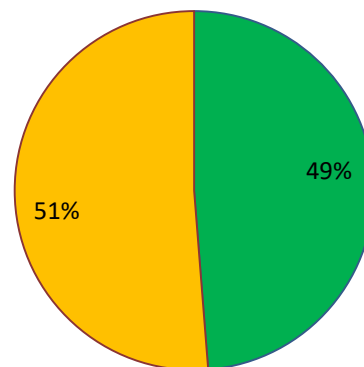
### Total Participants in Competition

■ Poster
 ■ Video Message
 ■ Blog Writing
 ■ Quiz



### Total Participants in closing event

■ Male
 ■ Female



Relevant statistics are as follows:

Number of Institutions from Each Province & Allied Territories

Province	Number of Institutions
Islamabad Capital Territory	17
Gilgit Baltistan	1
Azad & Jammu Kashmir	1
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	12
Punjab	43
Sindh	17
Baluchistan	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>

## Participation in Competition:

Total clicks on website link: 1, 75,000.

Total number of entries on website: 560

Total poster submissions: 37

Total video submissions: 9

Total Blog submissions: 27

Total quiz participants: 487

## Participation in Event:

### Students:

Total Number of Students: 296

Total Number of Male Students: 155

Total Number of Females Students: 141

### Parliamentarians:

Total Number of Parliamentarians: 10

Total Number of Female Parliamentarians: 9

Total Number of Male Parliamentarians: 1

### Universities at the event:

Total Number of Universities participated: 14

Sr.	University
1	Bacha Khan University, Charsada
2	Quaid e Azam University Islamabad
3	International Islamic University Islamabad
4	Islamia University Bahawalpur
5	IQRA University Islamabad
6	Kinnard College for Women, Lahore
7	Lahore College for Women
8	National Defence University
9	TMUC
10	Punjab University
11	The University of Karachi
12	Preston University
13	NUML
14	Federal Urdu University



## 7. **Winners of competition**

### Poster Competition

Name	University	Cash Prize
Amina masood	International Islamic University Islamabad	20,000/-
Hania	International Islamic University Islamabad	15,000/-
Sohaib Haider	Quaid i Azam University, Islamabad	10,000/-

See Annexure (III) for posters

### Video Competition

Name	University/Organization	Cash Prize
Nagina Tahir	Deaf Tawk	20,000/-
Nousheen Islam	Deaf Tawk	15,000/-
Hira Ambreen	University of Karachi	10,000/-

### Blog Writing

Name	University	Cash Prize
Abdul Wahab Azhar	SZABIST	20,000/-
Hamna Ghias Sheikh	Kinnaird College For Women University	15,000/-
Farwa Nazir	NUML	10,000/-

## 8. Way Forward

WPC aims to sustain its collaboration with academia and students through such informative and inspiring activities. This linkage will be strengthened in the next three years. Academia and youth would remain a priority strategic direction. Different impact oriented activities shall be designed with the support of strategic allies and donor partners.

# Annexes

## Annexure I

MNAs and Senators participated in “Jahmhoriat Hum Se” opening ceremony

Sr.	Name	Party
1	Ms. Saira Bano, MNA	GDA
2	Munaza Hassan , MNA	PTI
3	Ms.Nafeesa Khattak , MNA	PTI
4	Ms.Sobia Kamal, MNA	PTI
5	Ms.Farukh Khan, MNA	PML
6	Ms.Naureen Ibrahim , MNA	PTI
7	Ms.Zill e Huma , MNA	PTI
8	Ms.Nusrat Wahid , MNA	PTI
9	Ms.Sajida Begum , MNA	PTI
10	Mr.Asad Umar , Minister	PTI
11	Ms. Kishwer Zehra, MNA	MQM
12	Ms. Shaista Pervaiz, MNA	PML-N
13	Ms. Shahida Akhtar Ali, MNA	JUI-F
14	Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq, Senator	PML-N

MNAs and MPA participated in “Jahmhoriat Hum Se” closing ceremony

Sr.	Name	Party
1	Ms. Shunila Ruth, MNA	PTI
2	Munaza Hassan , MNA	PTI
3	Ms.Nafeesa Khattak , MNA	PTI
4	Ms.Sidra Imran, MPA	PTI
5	Ms.Farukh Khan, MNA	PML
6	Ms.Naureen Ibrahim , MNA	PTI
7	Ms.Romina Khurshid Alam , MNA	PML-N
8	Ms.Munawara Bibi , MNA	PTI
9	Ms.Sajida Begum , MNA	PTI
10	Mr.Asad Umar , MNA	PTI

## Annexure II

### Main questions that were raised by the audience during the interactive session

#### Round I:

- i. How can Parliamentarians ensure the public that if they openly speak up, their livelihoods would not be threatened?
- ii. What is the work that has been done by National Assembly towards filing of public petition to the Standing Committees in National Assembly?
- iii. Should Pakistan have a Parliamentary form of Government or Presidential form of Government? Which one is better?
- iv. Globally there is a debate going on that debt-based economy should be replaced by resource based economy because debt base economy keeps wealth in certain hands and is not climate friendly? What system is better for Pakistan?

#### Round II:

- v. Why has KP Government imposed the rule for students to wear burqas to school and other provinces have not when harassment is the issue that women face in all provinces alike?
- vi. The elected Representatives of people from North and South Waziristan were jailed for 3-4 months on the basis of suspicion. For all this time, people of North and South Waziristan had no representation in the Parliament? What kind of democracy is this?
- vii. How is the vote of an illiterate person equal to the vote of a literate person?

#### Round III:

- viii. Why do parties accept politicians who have previously sided with dictators and were part of autocratic system of governance?
- ix. When will situation South Punjab change?
- x. If a farmer raise his voice and protests against injustice, would he be treated the same way as politicians are treated by Police in Pakistan?
- xi. Students are told to work hard and come forward, which students do but there are very little opportunities for us. The only way that we say is to go abroad. Why are not more job opportunities created for young people in Pakistan?

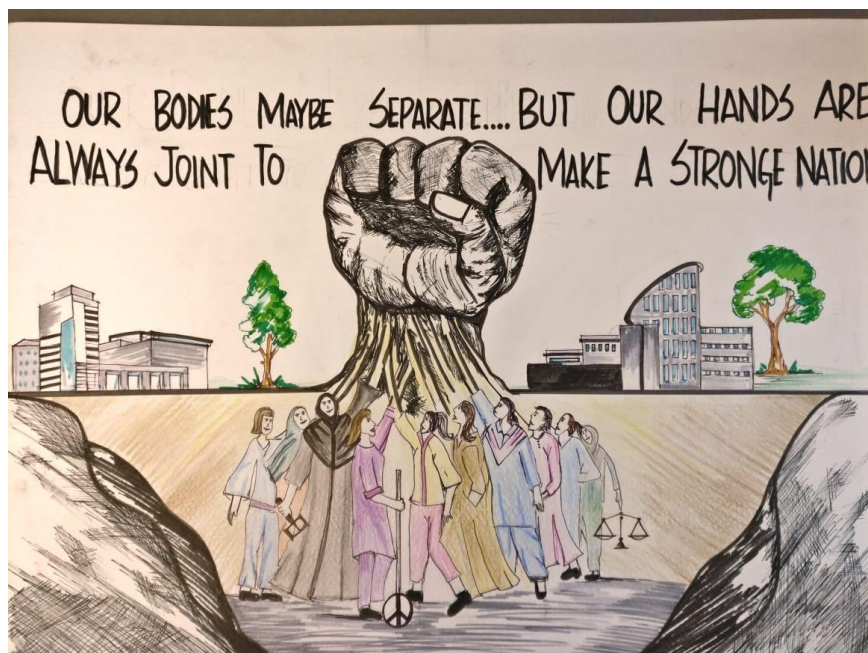
### Annexure III



First Position

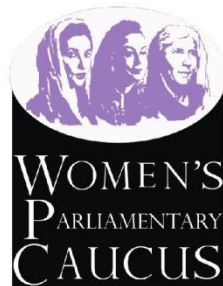


Second Position



Third Position





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