

“Jamhoriyat Hum Se”

Competition

Closing ceremony



in collaboration with



**WESTMINSTER
FOUNDATION FOR
DEMOCRACY**

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Acknowledgements

I would like to extend my profound gratitude to the 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 academicians, media professionals and talented young people whose presence and participation made the celebration an inspiring experience.

I appreciate the partnership support extended by Westminster Foundation of Democracy to materialize this activity.

Tireless work and constructive contributions of WPC team deserves applause.



Ms. Munaza Hassan
Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus

Acronyms

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

1.1 Context

In September 1997 the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) adopted a Universal Declaration on Democracy. 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.

Democracy literally 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 of 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.

1.2 Background information about Opening Ceremony

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. In this regard, WPC in collaboration with WFD planned to reach out and engage with the citizens of the country at a broader scale and help youth to showcase their talents while building a lasting understanding about the parliamentary system in Pakistan. An opening ceremony was organized on 19 September 2019, to highlight the intent of the parliament to engage more actively with citizens especially young future leader from all walks of society.

Following were the specific objectives:

- 1- Fostering better understanding about parliament in general and role of citizens in inclusive democracies.
- 2- Inviting citizens especially young future leader and marginalized groups to interact more actively with the parliament especially WPC.
- 3- Initiating a formal liaison between WPC, youth and women at digital media outlets for continued engagement beyond the event.

1.3 Target Audiences

Primary

Youth

1. Youth Leaders
2. University Students
3. Anchors of Electronic Media (TV)

1.4 Approach

The event included four major activities on the theme of inclusive democracies :

1. Poster Competition: “Women in Democracy”.
2. “30 Second Video Message” on: “Youth Participation in Democracy its importance and dynamics”
3. Blog writing competition: “Democracy Vs Majoritarianism”
4. Online Quiz – “Know your parliament” ¹

1.5 Management

Following 4-phased approach was adopted for engagement of the citizens:

- A. Design Phase Activities:** Panel of judges were finalized and systems placed to cater to inquiries and submissions with transparency. Preparations for the International Democracy day celebrations were completed in this phase.
- B. 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.

- C. The Launch:** A series of competitions “Jumhoriyat Hum Sey” was also inaugurated by Honourable Speaker, National Assembly, Mr. Qaiser. This series of competitions invited submissions in different categories such as, Blog writing, Online Quiz etc.
- D. The Closing event:** The event invited the top three submission in each category, asking them to present their work to the leading relevant parliamentary panels. Present them with awards for

¹ Kindly see annexure 1 and 2 for details about the sequence of the programme and details about the competition

working with the Parliament. The event was attended by academia, young leaders, media groups, diplomatic corps and students who participated in the online quiz as well as parliamentarians.

1.6 Outcomes:

- A. Citizens have better understanding about the Parliament as a whole.
- B. Better awareness on avenues for inclusion and participation for common citizens.
- C. Strengthening image of the house as an inclusive representative of the citizens.
- D. Increased awareness and understanding among MPs on areas of inclusion and their importance.

The purpose of that very event was to bring together youth from universities across Islamabad and give them an opportunity to interact with Parliamentarians and encourage them to take part in political process. The event was also organized to launch a quiz competition “*Jamhoriyat Hum Se*’ for youth of Pakistan in collaboration with WFD.

BOX 1: Key Statistics related to the Event

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Total number of attendees: Total= 197, Female = 118, Male = 79B. Total number of students: Total = 180, Female = 104 , Male = 76C. Total number of guest legislators: Total = 13, Female = 11, Male = 2D. Total number of panellists: Total = 7, Female = 6, Male = 1E. Total number of Universities: 13F. Total number of media personalities/TV anchors: 4 |
|--|

1.7 Participants Rewards

- 1. Certificates of Participation for all participants.
- 2. Cash Prizes (20,000, 15,000, and 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, Secretary WPC and senior political leadership of all parties.

Panellists included

- 1. MNA Asad Umer, PTI
- 2. MNA Kishwer Zehra, MQM
- 3. MNA and Ex-secretary WPC, Shaista Pervaiz, PML-N
- 4. MNA Shahida Akhtar Ali, JUI-F
- 5. Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq, PML-N
- 6. Honourable Secretary WPC, MNA Munaza Hassan, PTI
- 7. TV Anchor Fareeha Idrees

MNA Saira Bano, GDA, MNA Naureen Farooq,PTI, MNA Sobia Kamal,PTI, MNA Zill E Huma,PTI, MNA Nusrat Wahid,PTI, MNA Sajida Zulfiqar Khan PTI, MNA Nafeesa Khattak PTI also graced the event with their presence and inspired the youth to step ahead in building national and social cohesion.

The event was moderated by Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen Senior Technical Advisor UN Women to WPC. Most of the male audience were directing their questions to the only male Parliamentarian, Honourable Asad Umer, on the panel. Male audiences question were more general and open ended. While the female



Panelists
Launching the Competition
19 Sep 2019



Speaker National Assembly
Launching the Competition
19 Sep 2019



Group photo
19 Sep 2019

audience questions were issue based and addressed to the whole panel. The event was concluded with a positive energy and resolves to actively engage all people including all women and youth from all classes in political processes to strengthen democratic values in Pakistan.

2.1 Closing ceremony of ‘Jamhoriyat Hum Se’

The competition was designed for students on topics relating to democracy and youth. At the closing ceremony, prizes to winners of three categories, i.e. poster making, video making and blog writing, were awarded. The topics on which the participants created content were, ‘Women in Democracy’, ‘Youth Participation in Democracy – Its Importance and Dynamics’ and ‘Democracy vs. Majoritarianism’.

Students from 78 universities and institutions from across Pakistan, participated in the competition including students from ‘Deaf Talks’, an organization that works with deaf and mute individuals. Two young women winners in the video-making category were students of Deaf Talks.

Relevant statistics are as follows:

Number of Institutions from Each Province & Allied Territories

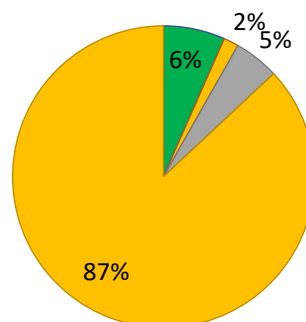
Province	Number of Institutions
Islamabad Capital Terriorty	17
Gilgit Baltistan	1
Azad & Jammu Kashmir	1
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	12
Punjab	43
Sindh	17
Baluchistan	6
Total	97

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

Total Participants in Competition

■ Poster ■ Video Message ■ Blog Writing ■ Quiz



Participation in Event:

Students:

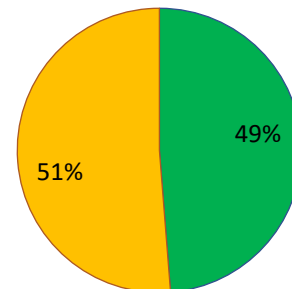
Total Number of Students: 296

Total Number of Male Students: 155

Total Number of Females Students: 141

Total Participants in closing event

Male Female



Parliamentarians:

Total Number of Parliamentarians: 10

Total Number of Female Parliamentarians: 9

Total Number of Male Parliamentarians: 1

2.2 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 (II) 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/-
Farwa Nazir	NUML	10,000/-

Names:

MNAs and MPA participated in Jahmhoriat Hum Se Event

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

Total Number of Universities participated in closing event: 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

The event opened with speeches by the Country Director of WFD, Mr. Mujataba Zaidi followed by the speech of Honourable Munaza Hasan, Secretary WFD and then speech by the Chief Guest, Honourable Asad Umar, Federal Minister of Planning and Development. (See annexes 1 and 2).

Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen, Senior Technical Specialist, UNWomen to WPC moderated the event.

2.3 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.

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.



Overall Impression and Analysis

This event was an impressive and successful one in terms of attendance, participation and quality. It was an important activity that engaged youth and academia meaningfully. Most distinctive feature was the inclusion of youth with disabilities. Women students outnumbered men. This interesting finding is not only giving hope for gender equality but also pointing out towards the fact that young educated women, in spite of odds are coming forward to achieve excellence in all fields of practical life.

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 1: Program Agenda

Democracy for All – International Democracy Day Celebration
Launching Ceremony “Jamhoriyat Hum Se”
Venue: Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services
September 19, 2019

Time	Session
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Arrival of guest/Registration
11:00 am - 11:05 am	Recitation of the Holy Quran
11:05 am - 11:10 am	National Anthem
11:10 am - 11:20 am	Welcome by Secretary WPC
11:20 am - 11:30 am	Keynote Address by Honorable Asad Qaiser, Speaker National Assembly
11:30 am - 11:40 am	Formal Launch of Competition
11:40 am - 12:30 pm	Statements by distinguished Panelists
Interactive Session	
12:30 pm - 01:00 pm	Importance of Inclusive Participation in Democracy
01:00 pm - 01:30 pm	Q&A Session
Lunch	

“Jamhoriyat Hum Se” Closing Ceremony

Venue: Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services
November 27, 2019

Time	Session
10:30 am - 11:30 am	Registration
11:30 am - 11:35 am	Recitation of verses from The Holy Quran
11:35 am – 11: 50 am	WPC Technical Team Interaction Session
11:50 am – 11:55 am	Display of Posters and Videos
12:00 pm	Arrival of Chief Guest
12:00 pm – 12:05 pm	National Anthem with sign language
12:05 pm – 12:10 pm	Address by Mr. Mujtaba Zaidi, Country Representative Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)
12:10 pm – 12:15 pm	Welcome Address by Honorable Ms. Munaza Hassan, MNA, Secretary WPC and Chairperson Standing Committee on Climate Change
12:15 pm – 12:20 pm	Address by Honourable Chief Guest Mr. Asad Umar, Minister for Planning Development and Reforms
12:20 pm – 12:30 pm	Prize Distribution among winners
12:30 pm – 12:32 pm	Souvenir to Honorable Chief Guest
12:32 pm – 12:35 pm	Group Photo
12:35 pm – 12:50 pm	Souvenir to Faculty for Support
12:50 pm – 12:55 pm	Vote of Thanks
Event will be followed by Lunch	

Annexure II: Posters



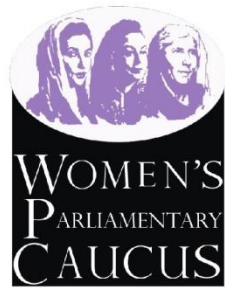
First Position



Second Position



Third Position



Room No. 107-A, 1st Floor, Parliament House, Islamabad
Ph: +92-51-910 31 39, 902 28 35 Fax: +92-51-910 31 40
Email: secywpc@gmail.com
[/wpcpakistan](#) [/wpc_pak](#) www.wpc.org.pk