

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS (WPC)

June 2022



WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS

Dr. Shahida Rehmani **Secretary WPC**

Dr. Shahida Rehmani commenced her political career by contesting Sindh Local Government Elections in 2001 as candidate of Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Her services and devotion to serve the humanity is distinguishable by her work at provincial as well as national level. She addressed the needs of local communities in rural Sindh by repairing a water scheme that resolved water supply problem of nearly thirty-six villages.

As an elected member of National Assembly, she has always actively participated in the legislative business of the House. During her current tenure, she was amongst the members with the highest attendance in the House (reported by the Fair Elections, Open Parliament and Good Governance).



She is a staunch believer of women equality and an advocate of effective legislation for women specific issues. Dr. Shahida Rehmani has always taken keen interest in finding ways for the improvement of lives of people of her country. She has actively been engaged in social work for the welfare of people generally and women particularly. She never hesitates from raising her voice for women empowerment at all levels; she firmly believes that strong women raise strong nations.

General Assembly Meeting of WPC with Speaker National Assembly

WPC conducted the meeting of General Assembly of Women's Parliamentary Caucus on 7th June 2022 under the Chairpersonship of the Honorable Speaker of National Assembly Mr. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and the newly appointed Secretary WPC, Dr. Shahida Rehmani to highlight the working of the Caucus and its goal to build consensus.



Under the unanimous decision of the council, Ms. Wajiha Qamar was nominated as the new Treasurer of WPC. The Assembly highlighted its ongoing efforts in passing the Domestic Violence Bill. Women empowerment in the legislative business, and decision-making process and their fair political representation were also underlined.

Working Council Meeting

Under the Chairpersonship of the Honorable Secretary WPC, Dr. Shahida Rehmani, meeting of Working Council of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus was also held on June 9, 2022 to discuss the new working plan of WPC.



Caucus decided to work immediately on Electoral Reforms and Gender budgeting. Unanimous decision to make two committees on Gender Budgeting and Post Legislative Scrutiny was taken. Dr. Nafisa Shah was nominated as chairperson of the committee on Gender Budgeting and Ms. Wajiha Akram was nominated as chairperson of the committee on Post legislative Scrutiny.



Another meeting of Working Council of WPC was conducted on June 16, 2022, with Honorable Secretary Ms. Shahida Rehmani to deliberate the proceedings of WPC.

Working Council WPC



Dr. Shahida Rehmani
Secretary WPC



Wajiha Qamar
Treasurer WPC



Kishwar Zehra
Member



Tahira Aurungzeb
Member



Shagufta Jumani
Member



Rubina Irfan
Member



Farukh Khan
Member



Shahida Akhtar Ali
Member



Saira bano
Member



Shahnaz Baloch
Member



Nuzhat Pathan
Member

Meeting with Anthro Insights



Secretary WPC Ms. Shahida Rehmani along with Treasure WPC Ms. Wajiha Qamar-Treasure WPC held a meeting with Anthro Insights team on June 10, 2022, at WPC Secretariat. Both organizations agreed on working collaboration through:

1. Support for Post Legislative Scrutiny (PLS) of women specific laws
2. Technical assistance for budget analysis
3. Strengthening legislative role of Women Parliamentarians

Visit to National Incubation Centre

Secretary WPC, Dr. Shahida Rehmani along with working council visited National Incubation Centre in Islamabad on June 14, 2022 where she emphasized nurturing and growing new talent and reiterated on bridging the gap between women entrepreneurs and investors.

Working Council members also highlighted the need for financial independence of women for true women empowerment in political, social, and economic spheres



Meeting with Women Ex-MNAs



Secretary WPC Ms. Shahida Rehmani also met with ex-women MNAs on June 16, 2022 to engage them in the common agenda of WPC affairs.

Meeting with FAFEN

Secretary WPC Ms. Shahida Rehmani and Treasurer WPC Ms. Wajiha Qamar along with WPC team held a meeting with Free and Fair Election network (FAFEN) to discuss legislative gaps in labour laws.



Visit to the Day Care Centre in National Assembly

Secretary WPC Ms. Shahida Rehmani along with WPC members made a surprise visit to the Daycare Center in the National Assembly on 15th June 2022 where she showed her displeasure on the absent staff and record of the office and asked the concerned authorities to take notice of it.



Further Action Regarding Day Care Centre in National Assembly



A week after the visit, the staff of National Assembly was invited to WPC on June 20, 2022. A meeting was held between Secretary WPC Ms. Shahida Rehmani and Treasurer Ms. Wajiha Qamar with the female staff where they shared their grievances and gave recommendations to improve their work conditions.

They were assured that sufficient action would be taken to address their problems and complaints.

Sweet Home Cadet College Visit

Secretary WPC Ms. Shahida Rehmani invited girls from Sweet Home Cadet College to the WPC where they were briefed about the workings of WPC and the legislative business in the Parliament.



Training on Gender Budgeting

Prof. Dr. Wasim Shahid Malik, State Bank Chair from Peshawar University visit Women's parliamentary Caucus and briefed the women parliamentarians on gender budgeting.



Legislative Business

180

Cut & motions in financial budget 2022-22

5

Speeches for members

5

Briefs on PSDP

Symposium on Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto



A symposium on Benazir Bhutto was arranged on June 21, 2022 under the leadership of WPC for her 69th birthday at National Assembly of Pakistan.

Liaison with Chairman NADRA

Secretary WPC Dr. Shahida Rehmani and WPC Treasure Ms. Wajiha Qamar paid a visit to Chairman NADRA Office on 22nd June 2022 where they met Chairman NADRA Mr. Tariq Malik to discuss women's CNIC registration issues. They discussed ways to create ease for women in terms of increasing women's CNIC registrations. Ms. Rehmani raised the point that registration of women is not just crucial for registration as voters during elections, rather it is crucial for the betterment of a country's women.



PLS Briefing Session at WPC

Anthro Insights conducted two introductory sessions for the members of WPC on Post Legislative Scrutiny (PLS) at the WPC Secretariat. First introductory session was held on 22nd June 2022 where Secretary WPC Dr. Shahida Rehmani discussed the importance of PLS for women legislators in addressing women specific issues through effective legislation.



This is for the first time in WPC's history that a step to institutionalize PLS has been taken. Ms. Rehmani reiterated that PLS of women-specific laws will be helpful in evaluating the impact of those laws across the country.

The second introductory session for the remaining Women Parliamentarians was held in WPC Secretariat on 23rd June 2022.

During both sessions, PLS Expert Mr. Ali Mujtaba Zaidi from Anthro Insights briefed the members on the seven main stages of PLS 'from defining a clear intent of the law to making a check on its post-impact and implementation status.'

Meeting with DG ECP

WPC Secretary WPC Dr. Shahida Rehmani held a meeting with DG Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Ms. Nighat Siddique on 23rd June 2022 and ECP Representative Ms. Sadaf Zehra.

Points discussed in the meeting

- Lack of registered female voters.
- Need for gender-sensitive electoral reforms in Pakistan
- It was proposed that ECP would go door to door to get women registered without them having to step out of home
- Increase the number of voters turnout in every province of the country in next General Election by registering more women ahead of the elections.
- ECP to work on areas with more than 10% voter gap.
- Currently 72 districts have campaigns geared towards getting people registered. ECP to start such campaigns in other districts as well

Meeting with Group of Transgenders

WPC Secretary hosted a group of transgender people on 28th June, 2022, that represented their community. Matters pertaining to physical, mental & emotional abuse were discussed & relevant legislative amendments were discussed.



Meeting with Women Journalists

Secretary WPC Dr. Shahida Rehmani held a meeting on 28th June 2022 with women journalists at WPC Secretariat. Women journalists raised the concerns that they face in the field of journalism.

Journalists assured Secretary WPC of highlighting WPC's efforts on their respective print and electronic media.



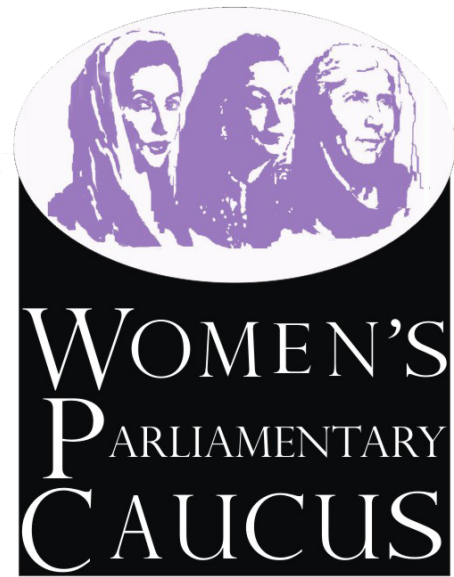
Women Parliamentarians' Visit to ECP Office

Secretary WPC Dr. Shahida Rehmani along with Women Parliamentarians visited the Election Commission of Pakistan on 29th June 2022 where they were briefed by Chief Election Commissioner Mr. Sikandar Sultan raja. The main objectives of this meeting were:

Issues of registration of women voters

Need for electoral reforms in Pakistan from gender perspective





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