

NEWSLETTER

JULY - AUGUST 2022



KEY EVENTS

- Secretary WPC in a Panel Talk on “Climate Finance Accelerator Pakistan Launch Event”
- WPC Working Council Meeting
- Meeting with Aurat Foundation Representatives
- Diamond Jubilee Convention for Women Parliamentarians
- Meeting with FES Pakistan (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung)
- Third Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Post-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS) with Anthro Insights
- Afghan Refugee Students Visit to WPC
- Meeting with Team of Tadveen project
- Meeting with Anthro Insights and Omer Asghar Foundation
- Afghan Refugee Students Visit to WPC

WPC ACTIVITIES



SECRETARY WPC IN A PANEL TALK ON “CLIMATE FINANCE ACCELERATOR PAKISTAN LAUNCH EVENT”

JULY 29, 2022

Secretary WPC Ms. Shahida Rehmani participated in a panel talk at the launch event of Climate Finance Action (CFA). She highlighted the issues of gender inequality and climate change and the nexus between the two.

Furthermore, she talked about how climate change has more adverse effects on women than men. Climate Change marginalizes women in developing countries like Pakistan twice more.



WPC WORKING COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 3, 2022

Secretary WPC, Dr. Shahida Rehmani chaired a meeting of Working Council WPC at WPC Secretariat. Following points were discussed in the said meeting:

Three new sub-committees were constituted on:

1. Child and mother health
2. Issues faced by women in digital spaces
3. Electoral reforms

Following bills were also approved by WPC to be submitted in the house:

- Quota of Women in FPSC
- Quota of Women in Sports Board

WPC will organize a National Conference on 75th Independence Day of Pakistan on August 12, 2022. The struggle of women parliamentarians in Pakistan movement from 1947 till today will be recognized.



MEETINGS

MEETING WITH AURAT FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 3, 2022

WPC Secretary Dr, Shahida Rehmani held a meeting with representatives from Aurat Foundation. Concerned parties discussed different ways to empower women in elections. It was discussed that providing women with equal suffrage rights is the first step towards empowering them in reality. Issues related to electoral reforms from gendered perspective were also discussed in the meeting.



AFGHAN REFUGEE STUDENTS VISIT TO WPC

AUGUST 18, 2022

Afghan Refugee students from across Pakistan visited WPC and had a heart-to-heart discussion with Treasurer WPC Ms. Wajiha Qamar. She listened to their grievances and issues. She assured them of full support from the platform of WPC

MEETING WITH TEAM OF TADVEEN PROJECT

AUGUST 23, 2022

A meeting was held between WPC members and Tadveen team (a project of Mantaq) at WPC Office. Following points were discussed in the meeting:

- a. Areas of mutual interest
- b. Avenues to comply in future



DIAMOND JUBILEE CONVENTION FOR WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

AUGUST 12, 2022



Diamond Jubilee Convention for Women Parliamentarians by WPC was held in Parliament House. Speaker NA Raja Pervaiz Ashraf shared his delight in acknowledging the struggles and sacrifices of women leaders during the independence movement. Speaker National Assembly also congratulated Secretary WPC Shahida Rehmani for providing women parliamentarians a platform that both strengthens and empowers women

Sec. WPC Shahida Rehmani recognized the contributions of our exceptional women leaders who were deeply committed to the cause

of promoting women's rights and political participation especially Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. She assured her full support to all provincial women caucuses on the occasion of Diamond Jubilee Convention, to make assemblies more accessible to females across Pakistan



DIAMOND JUBILEE CONVENTION FOR WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

AUGUST 12, 2022

Representative from PWD community Ms. Abia Akram expressed her concerns regarding 80% disabled women based in rural areas, who are subjected to harassment, lack of education, and poverty which needs to be addressed on priority basis.



Tanzeela Malik raised her voice against the harassment faced by female leaders in the political sphere and requested Speaker NA to take this issue into consideration



Senator Sana Jamali brought the attention towards Balochistan issues and highlighted women's political participation as a fundamental prerequisite for gender equality and genuine democracy



MNA Shaista Parvaiz stressed the importance of working together with civil societies while taking women side by side for the progress of our country



Senator Rukhsana Zuberi brought the spotlight over the issue of recent urban flooding in Karachi and requested to better equip the cities so that our people can flourish



DIAMOND JUBILEE CONVENTION FOR WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

AUGUST 12, 2022

A resolution was unanimously passed to provide all the fundamental rights of women enshrined in Pakistan's Constitution by Speaker NA Hon. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf.

Resolution adopted by women Parliamentary convention held in connection with Diamond Jubilee celebrations of 1st constituent Assembly at Parliament House Islamabad.

We the members of Women's Parliamentary Caucus and representatives of political parties, participating in the Diamond Jubilee Convention of Women Parliamentarians organized by the Women's Parliamentary Caucus held in the premises of Parliament of Pakistan, resolve on this day of August 12, 2022:

Women's illustrious contributions in the creation of Pakistan and its freedom struggle.

Recall that the Constitution of Pakistan which recognizes Quran and Sunnah as the basic source of governance, provides women full rights, rejects all forms of discrimination, and promotes their full participation in public life under Articles 25, 34, 35 and 37 of the Constitution.

Note that the National and International commitments of Government of Pakistan including the National Policy for the Development and Empowerment of Women (NPDEW) 2002, underscore attainment for women in the public and political spheres.

Paying tribute to:

All the women leaders of Pakistan particularly Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah, Begum Ra'na Liaquat Ali and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto whose courage and exemplary contributions in public and political life have greatly inspired, built a sense of confidence and empowered the Pakistani women.

Recognizing that:

Pakistan ranks 145 out of 146 countries at recent Global Gender Gap Report covering the four critical areas: health and survival, education attainment, economic participation and opportunity, and political empowerment.

Acknowledging that:

Inclusiveness and representation of women and men in health, education, economy, and politics validates the foundations of democracy and renders legitimacy to it; We, Women Parliamentarians and political parties' representatives in this Diamond Jubilee Convention, today therefore also resolve the following:

- Commit to protecting and upholding women's rights as enshrined in the Constitution and ensure that our respective party manifestos provide a central focus to women in party policy so as to ensure social political and economic empowerment of women;
- Commit to practicing gender-sensitive budgeting and uplifting institutions working on women specific issues;
- Commit to eradicate all forms of social, economic and political discrimination against women. For it we, as legislators, pledge to utilise our legislative authority;
- Commit to ensuring opportunities for education of girls.



MEETINGS



MEETING WITH FES PAKISTAN (FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG)

AUGUST 16, 2022

Secretary WPC Dr. Shahida Rehmani chaired a meeting with FES Pakistan. FES Pakistan works on following areas in the country:

- Parliamentary democracy
- Protection of human rights
- Free press
- Separation of powers
- Soundly-based rule of law



FES, therefore, promotes programmes and activities aimed at establishing and strengthening civil society and reinforcing democratic government institutions.

In the meeting held at WPC Secretariat, potential areas of mutual cooperation were discussed.



THIRD MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON POST-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY (PLS) WITH ANTHRO INSIGHTS

AUGUST 16, 2022

Third meeting of the Sub-Committee on Post-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS) with Anthro Insights was held at WPC Office. PLS expert Mr. Mujtaba Zaidi from Anthro Insights briefed the subcommittee about the prominent legal frameworks on inheritance currently prevalent in Pakistan that are intended to facilitate inheritance mutation for its stakeholders. Moreover, the sub-committee discussed and reviewed legal penalties, Married Women Act and intent of the law with regards to women's inheritance

MEETINGS



MEETING WITH ANTHRO INSIGHTS AND OMER ASGHAR FOUNDATION

AUGUST 26, 2022

Secretary WPC Dr. Shahida Rehmani chaired a meeting with representatives from Anthro Insights and Omer Asghar Foundation.

The need for Gender-responsive Budgeting (GRB) was discussed. Secretary WPC was briefed on the cruciality of GRB and social protection for women.

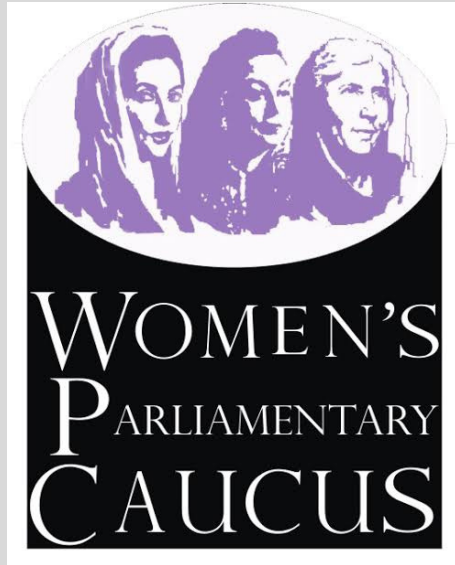
Future areas of collaboration were discussed for awareness programs with female legislators of national and provincial assemblies

AFGHAN REFUGEE STUDENTS VISIT TO WPC

AUGUST 26, 2022

Another group of Afghan Refugee students from Universities of Pakistan visited WPC Secretariat. They were briefed on WPC Platform and the work that is done from this platform for inclusivity of women in the country. Secretary WPC, Dr. Shahida Rehmani and Treasure WPC, Ms. Wajiha Qamar briefed the students, listened to their issues and took them on a visit to National Assembly Hall.





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