

# NEWSLETTER

**February 2023**

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# NATIONAL CONVENTION OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

(FEBRUARY 13, 2023)



The Women's Parliamentary Caucus hosted the National Convention of Women Parliamentarians on February 13th, 2023 at Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) in Islamabad. The theme of the convention was "Empowering Women in Leadership" and focused on the participation and inclusion of women in the political process. The event included Keynote Speaker Honorable Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Mr. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, as well as a main panel discussion session titled "What is the Political Landscape of Pakistan with or without women?".



The event provided a unique opportunity for female parliamentarians to collaborate on ways to promote the empowerment of women in leadership positions and share their experiences, struggles, and insights with journalists and members of the media. WPC, under the leadership of Dr. Rehmani, is dedicated to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in all aspects of life. National Convention of Women Parliamentarians is one of the initiatives the Caucus has undertaken to support this goal.





# WPC UP IN ARMS OVER RISE IN RAPE CASES



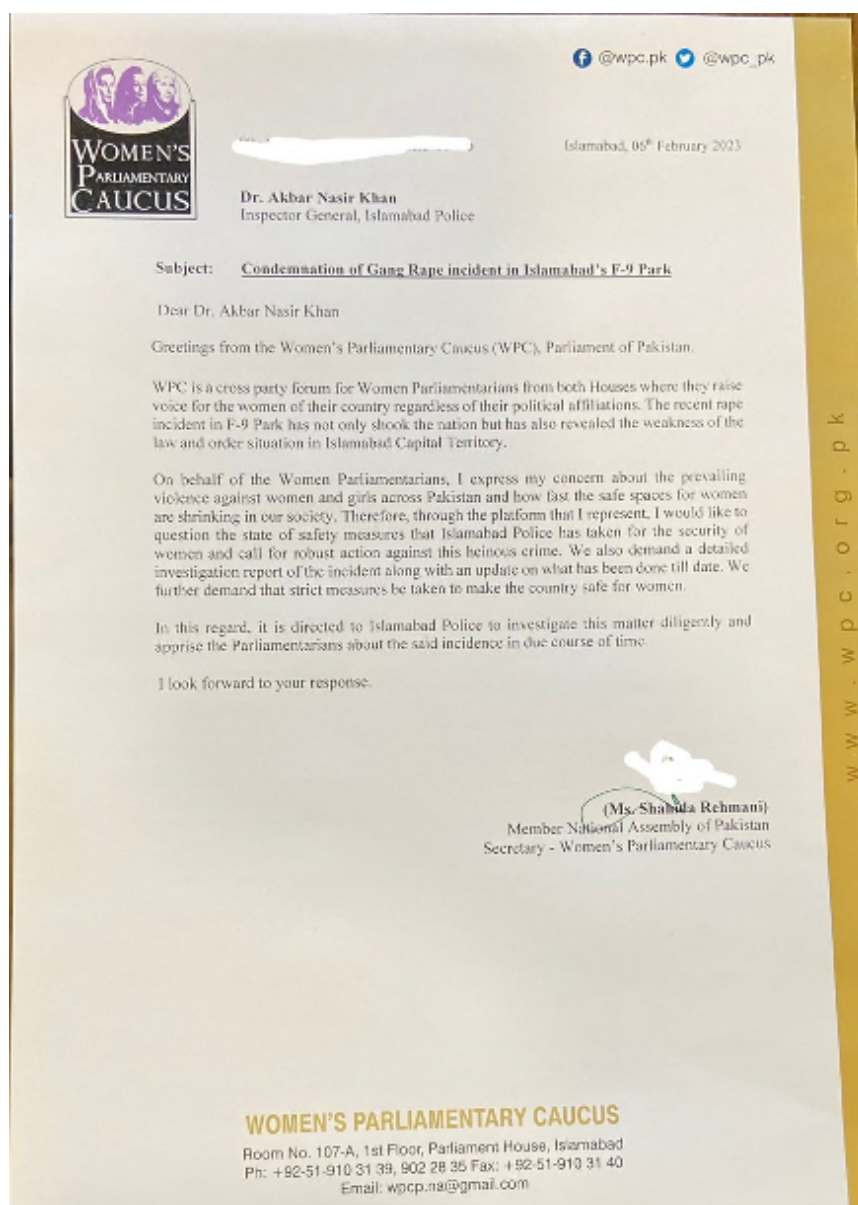
WPC strongly condemned the incident of rape of bus hostess in moving bus proceeding to Vehari and F-9 Park Islamabad and called for robust action against perpetrators.

Dr. Rehmani also strongly registered her protest on the Floor of the House regarding such incidences and that the country is becoming increasingly unsafe for women. She pointed out towards extremist mindsets which perpetrate rape and its apologists. She even raised the matter in the Human Rights Committee.



Secretary WPC, Dr. Shahida Rehmani later wrote a letter to Inspector General (IG) Islamabad and expressed her concern about the state of security for women. She directed the IG to provide a detailed investigation report of the incident.





## WPC AND PODA TO FIND AVENUES TO EMPOWER RURAL WOMENT

(FEBRUARY 1, 2023)

Representatives of Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA) visited Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Secretariat. Secretary WPC, Dr. Shahida Rehmani held a meeting with PODA representatives to discuss avenues of meaningful collaboration in order to empower rural women at grassroot level. As PODA works for the promotion of human rights and economic empowerment in rural areas of Pakistan, hence WPC and PODA agreed upon future joint venture to empower rural women.





## MEETING WITH TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO EXTEND HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES FOR VICTIM OF EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY

(FEBRUARY 9, 2023)



Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Dr. Shahida Rehmani along with Women Parliamentarians had a meeting with Turkish Ambassador His Excellency, Mr. Mehmet Paçacı at Turkish embassy in Pakistan. Dr. Rehmani, during the meeting, conveyed heartfelt sympathies for the victims of earthquake in Türkiye. She signed a visitor's book where she express her view about brotherly ties between Turkey and Pakistan.



# MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN SENATE OF PAKISTAN

(FEBRUARY 9, 2023)

Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), Dr. Shahida Rehmani and Senator Sana Jamali held a meeting with Chairman Senate of Pakistan Honorable Mr. Sadiq Sanjrani to dwell upon women specific issues prevalent in the country, and the role of caucus in women empowerment. Dr. Rehmani shed light on the challenges women face in Pakistan that impede their political, social and economic integration and mainstreaming.

Dr. Rehmani express gratitude to Honorable Chairman, Mr. Sanjrani of his unwavering support to the platform of WPC to promote meaningful participation of Women Parliamentarians in ventures pertaining to women empowerment.





# GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS

(FEBRUARY 9, 2023)

Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), Dr. Shahida Rehmani chaired the General Assembly meeting of WPC at Caucus Secretariat. Women Parliamentarians/ members WPC were briefed about the performance and achievements of Caucus by the WPC team. Dr. Rehmani encouraged WPC Members to proactively highlight women centric issues on various platforms. In this regard, she pledged to provide them required support and directional guidance from WPC platform.



## VIRTUAL MEETING OF PAK-UZBEK PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP

(FEBRUARY 9, 2023)

Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Dr. Shahida Rehmani, Convener Pak-Uzbek PFG, along with Women Parliamentarians participated in the virtual meeting between Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG) of Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Both sides agreed to prioritize the strengthening of bilateral institutional collaboration. This includes increasing the frequency of delegations exchanged between them, fostering higher level contacts, and exploring potential avenues for cooperation.

During the virtual Pak-Uzbek PFG meeting, Dr. Rehmani emphasized the crucial role that PFGs can play in promoting inter-parliamentary relations and facilitating people-to-people contacts between the two fraternal nations. She stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation in all areas of mutual interest for the benefit of both countries.





# MEETING WITH OMAR ASGHAR KHAN FOUNDATION

(FEBRUARY 14, 2023)

Secretary WPC Dr. Shahida Rehmani chaired a meeting with representatives of Omar Asghar Khan Foundation at WPC Secretariat. Collaboration on Gender Responsive Budgeting, training of Women Parliamentarians, and area of mutual collaboration in future came under discussion during the meeting. In her remarks, the chair stressed the significance of gender related issues and responsible role of media in sensitizing these issues.



# MEETING WITH FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG (FES) PAKISTAN

(FEBRUARY 14, 2023)

A meeting was held between Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) and Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC). It was chaired by Secretary WPC Dr. Shahida Rehmani. Representatives of FES Pakistan and team WPC mutually agreed upon to work in close collaboration on WPC's Strategic Paper on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in Pakistan. In this regard, a directional work plan was agreed upon.





# MEETING OF THE WPC WORKING COUNCIL

(FEBRUARY 23, 2023)

Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), Dr. Shahida Rehmani chaired a meeting of Working Council of WPC. Agenda items like the International Women's Day 2023 celebrations were deliberated upon as a primary agenda of the meeting. Performance of WPC was shared and proposed strategic measures to strengthen it in future also came under serious discussion.



## WPC AND FAFEN TO ENHANCE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN

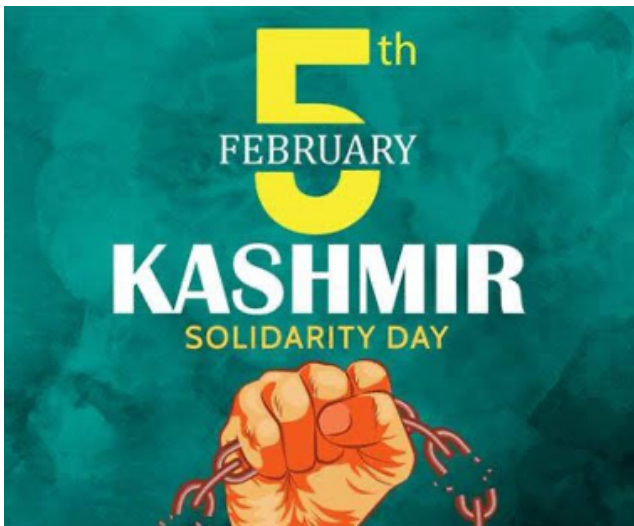
(FEBRUARY 26, 2023)

A meeting was held between Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) and Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) to discuss electoral reforms and possible ways to enhance women's political participation.



## NEWS BOARD

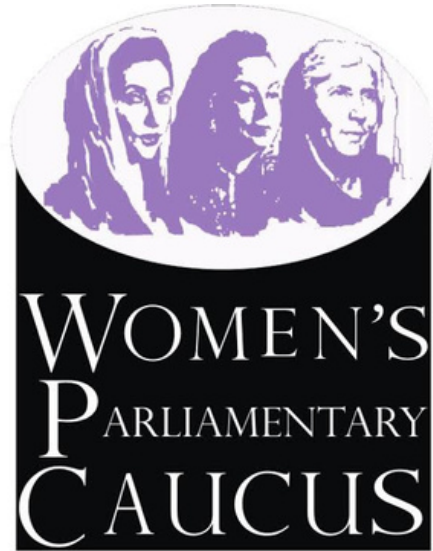
WPC congratulates the first-ever female Secretary of Lahore High Court Bar Association, Lahore. Sabahat Rizvi has become the first female General Secretary in the 130 years' history of Lahore High Court Bar Association.



On Kashmir Solidarity Day, WPC paid homage to Kashmiri martyrs who fought bravely for freedom till their last breath and pledged to raise our voice against Indian atrocities and sheer violation of human rights in Kashmir.

WPC congratulated the Government of Sindh on launching its first ever women-only pink bus service in Karachi. This initiative will pave the way for increased women inclusion in workforce. Such measures contribute to making Pakistan an inclusive country for all regardless of their gender.





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