

# NEWSLETTER

**MARCH 2023**

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# WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (MARCH 8, 2023)

A tribute to women of Pakistan was given by the Parliamentary Women Caucus in order to mark the International Women's Day on 8th March, 2023. Women parliamentarians actively participated in the event. Honorable Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Federal Minister for Climate Change Ms. Sherry Rehman graced the occasion. During his welcome address, he said "I am proud that my political upbringing is done by Pakistan's first Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto". Secretary WPC, Dr. Shahida Rehmani spoke about the contributions of women despite all odds on national and international level.





During the first panel, “Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future”, issues of women were highlighted in pursuit of equality and road ahead. Notable panelists were: Mrs. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi, Ms. Simi Raheel, Mr. Haroon Sharif, Mr. Harris Khalique, Ms. Munizae Jahangir, Ms. Hajra Khan, Ms. Nida Ali and Ms. Sabra Sultana (From Smile Again Foundation).

During the second panel, women representing women in power corridors sit together to discuss what it means by true representation. The panel was shared by former and serving Member Parliaments namely Ms. Kishwar Zahra, Ms. Shahida Akhtar Ali, Ms. Ayesha Syed, Senator Sana Jamali, Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi, Ms. Asiya Nasir and Ms. Kashmala Tariq. It was moderated by Mrs. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi.

International kathak performer, Ms. Farah Yasmeen Sheikh entertained the audience with her scintillating performance. Educationist/ intellectual Dr. Arfa Zahra gave closing remarks with her powerful words. The event was attended by dignitaries, civil society representatives and people from all walks of life.





# THE QUEST FOR TRUE EQUALITY IN PARLIAMENT: MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER

(29TH MARCH 2023)

In a bid to empower women MPs on reserved seats, Secretary WPC, Dr. Shahida Rehmani has always been on forefront to eliminate all forms of discrimination. Recently, she met with the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to follow up on her previous meeting with the Prime Minister regarding allocation of development funds to women MPs on reserved seats.



## MEETING WITH WOMEN JOURNALISTS TO DISCUSS ONLINE HARASSMENT

(MARCH 9, 2023)

Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus, Dr. Shahida Rehmani met with a delegation of women journalists led by Ms. Tanzeela Mazhar from Women in Media Alliance (WIMA) Pakistan, where they shared their experiences of online harassment of women. They discussed the need to address the issue with all stake holders for true reforms. Secretary WPC expressed the solidarity with journalists and strongly condemned online harassment of women and resolved to stand by them in making online spaces safe for women.



# SECRETARY WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS AS GUEST OF HONOR ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

(MARCH 10, 2023)

Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Dr. Shahida Rehmani spoke to young graduates on the International Women Day as a Guest of Honor at Karachi University. In her speech, she highlighted the significance of this day in a women's life as this day women specific issues are highlighted like no other day. She also stressed on the importance of education for empowering women.



# SECRETARY WPC'S PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL CONVENTION OF WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

(MARCH 22, 2023)

Secretary WPC participated as a Guest Speaker in the National Convention of women in Local Governance (WLGS) under the theme of "Women Voices For Electoral Reforms, Inclusive Governance And Climate Mitigation" where she highlighted various issues women face today. Former Secretary WPC, Ms. Shaista Pervez also shared the panel.

The event was attended by women from all walks of life including transgenders, people with disabilities, people from minorities and political party workers. The event was organised by GAC funded JAZBA Program, Aurat Foundation at Hotel Falettis in Lahore.





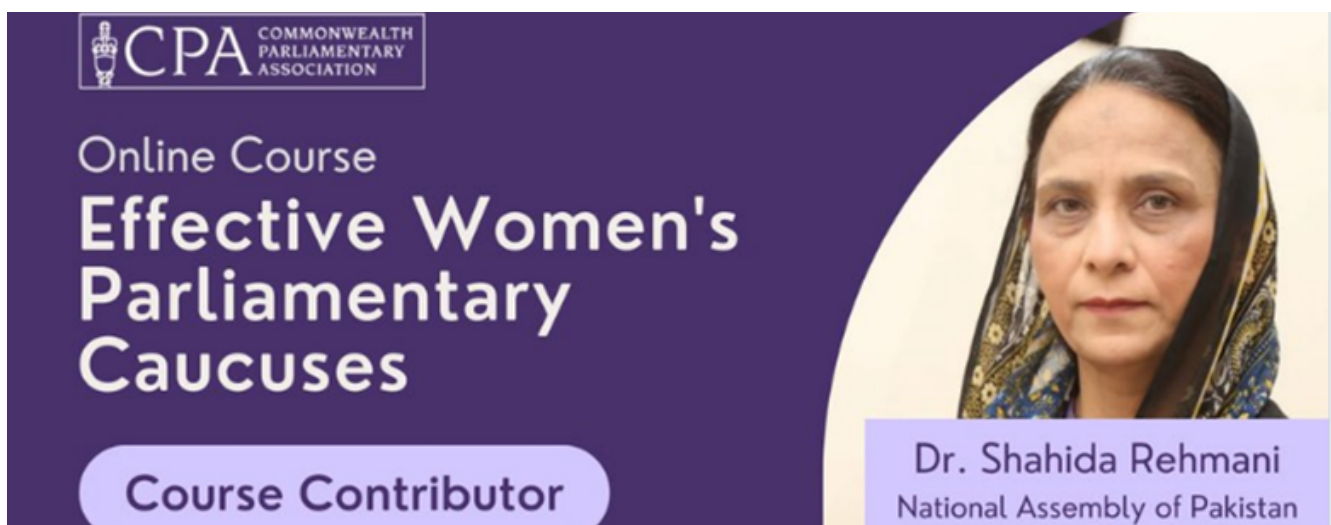
## MEETING WITH UNWOMEN REPRESENTATIVES

UN Women Country Representative Ms. Sharmeela Rassool & MNA Wajiha Qamar called on Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf on 1st March 2023. Both sides discussed ways and means to address problems of climate change and economic empowerment of women through collective efforts by involving all stakeholders. The speaker said he always strongly supported women empowerment as their inclusion & participation in decision making & economic sector was essential for sustainable development & building peaceful societies.



## CPA LAUNCHES COURSE ON WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUSES

Commonwealth Parliamentarian Association (CPA) launched a new online course on building effective women's parliamentary caucuses featuring Secretary WPC, Dr. Shahida Rehmani as special contributor. The course is live now on the CPA Parliamentary Academy, an online learning platform.



Earlier, WPC was given special mention by the CPA as a successful case study of Women Parliamentary Caucuses for others to follow.

# NEWS BOARD

Secretary WPC, Dr. Shahida Rehmani expressed solidarity with the protestors of Aurat March who were stopped by force during their peaceful protest. She resolved that WPC stands in solidarity with women's right to peaceful protest and condemns the use of force by police on Aurat March participants in Islamabad. Respect for freedom of expression and assembly is a cornerstone of any democratic society.

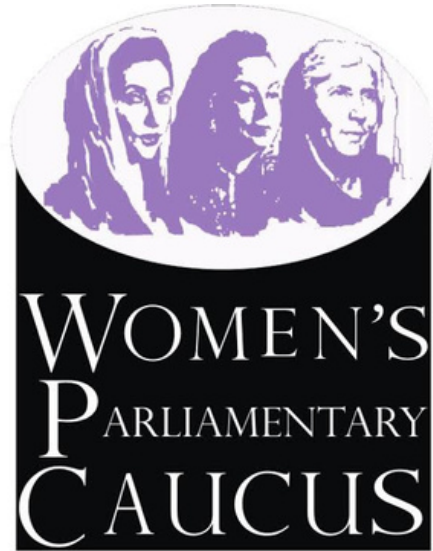


WPC congratulates Justice Musarrat Hilali on being appointed first woman Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court. Pakistani women are epitome of valour and continue to make strides in legal field with many firsts.

WPC congratulates Ayesha Siddiqa from Pakistan for being featured in Time Magazine for her dedication to climate change. Women of Pakistan are our pride and we stand behind them in solidarity.



Secretary Women Caucus took strict notice of the gruesome murder of a woman in Haiderabad, Gulistan sarmast road. She demanded transparent inquiry into the matter and that the justice be ensured for the family of the victim. The Police apprised her regarding their investigation report on the said matter.



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