

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023

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WPC LEADERSHIP MEETS WITH UN WOMEN REPRESENTATIVE TO DISCUSS FUTURE COLLABORATIONS FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

(APRIL 7, 2023)

Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), Dr. Shahida Rehmani and MNA Ms. Wajiha Qamar met with UN Women representative Mr. Hassan Hakeem to explore potential collaborations aimed at promoting women empowerment and gender equality. The discussions focused on potential joint initiatives and programs, likely involving educational efforts, community awareness initiatives, policy advocacy, and increasing women participation across various societal sectors.



WPC WORKING COUNCIL MEETING

(APRIL 7, 2023)



Secretary WPC, Dr. Shahida Rehmani chaired the WPC Working Council Meeting. The session focused on discussing upcoming activities aimed at advancing women's empowerment in Pakistan.

The meeting's agenda revolved around fostering gender equality and promoting women's participation in various spheres of society. The WPC Working Council Meeting was attended by esteemed Women Parliamentarians. The meeting served as a platform to deliberate on key initiatives that would help create a more inclusive and equitable society for women in Pakistan.

Secretary WPC Dr. Shahida Rehmani commenced the proceedings by emphasizing the importance of women's empowerment and their integral role in national development. She acknowledged the progress made so far and reiterated the commitment to further strengthen efforts in this crucial area.



MEETING WITH ADVISOR CHAIRMAN HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

(APRIL 10, 2023)



Secretary WPC Dr. Shahida Rehmani held a productive meeting with the Mr. Awais Ahmad, Advisor QA&GE, Higher Education Commission at the Women's Parliamentary Council (WPC) office. The meeting focused on exploring future areas for improved access to quality education in the country.

Dr. Rehmani and Mr. Awais engaged in constructive discussions, highlighting the importance of creating opportunities for all individuals, particularly women, to receive a high-quality education. This collaboration aims to identify strategies and initiatives that will enhance access to education and empower individuals to reach their full potential.

CONSULTATION SESSION ON GENDER RESPONSIVENESS OF THE BUDGET PROCESS IN PAKISTAN

(APRIL 11, 2023)

WPC, in collaboration with Fredrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Pakistan, organized a consultation session on Gender Responsive Budgeting with the media groups. Hon'ble Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Mr. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf was the Chief Guest of this consultation. Former Secretary WPC, Ms. Shaista Pervaiz also graced the event

The consultation reiterated on more budgetary allocations for women related development projects/programs. The role of WPC in highlighting issues of Gender Equality, the importance of GRB to ensure true equality and the role media can play in educating the masses in this regard was discussed.



MEETING WITH VC OF FATIMA JINNAH WOMEN UNIVERSITY TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN PARLIAMENT AND ACADEMIA

(APRIL 13, 2023)

In a significant step towards fostering collaboration between academia and the parliamentary sector, Secretary WPC Dr. Shahida Rehmani recently held a productive meeting with the Vice-Chancellor of Fatima Jinnah Women University, Ms. Saima Hamid. The meeting aimed to discuss an important initiative of connecting parliament with academia, with the anticipation of a positive impact on both realms.

Dr. Shahida Rehmani and Ms. Saima Hamid engaged in fruitful discussions on the potential benefits and strategies for this collaboration. This endeavor holds the promise of bridging the gap between theory and practice, providing lawmakers with valuable academic insights while offering students and faculty opportunities to contribute their expertise to policy-making processes. This initiative is expected to foster a dynamic exchange of knowledge and ideas, empowering both parliamentarians and academia to work together towards the progress and development of the nation.



PAKISTAN DECLAMATION CONTEST ON CONSTITUTION

(APRIL 17, 2023)

The National Assembly of Pakistan held a “Final Round of all Pakistan Declamation Contest” to commemorate the Golden jubilee of the Constitution of Pakistan (1973-2023) at PIPS Auditorium on April 17, 2023. The Honorable Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Speaker of the National Assembly, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Secretary Women’s Parliamentary Caucus Ms. Shahida Rehmani and Honorable Members of the National Assembly Ms. Asiya Azeem and as well as Honorable Senator Mr. Farhatullah Babar also graced the occasion.



The event brought together the faculty members and students from different Schools from all the four provinces, including students from Government Girls High School, Quetta; Islamabad

Model School for Girls, Islamabad; Islamia College, Peshawar; Government High School, Dinah, Haripur; Ittehad ul Madaris, Rawalpindi; Board of Islamic Education Jamia Muhammadiyah Shikarpuri Gate, Bahawalpur; Lahore School System; Lawrence College Murree; Karachi Public School; International Islamic University, Islamabad School; Peshawar Model School; The City School, E-11 and H-12 Campus Islamabad; Government Girls High School, Johal Memorial Rawalpindi; Government Girls Comprehensive Higher Secondary School; Government Boys Secondary School, Kal Board, Karachi and DHA Phase 7 Karachi.

First prize was won by Ms. Mariha Masoof from Government Girls High School, Quetta, Second prize went to Mr. Haider Ali from Lawrence College Murree, the third prize to Ms. Saleha from Islamabad Model School for Girls and two consolation prizes were given to Ms. Shahzad Noor from City School Capita; Campus Islamabad and Zainab Hussain from International Islamic university Islamabad School. In the end, Honourable Speaker National Assembly, Mr. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf along with Secretary WPC distributed the Certificates to the orator students. The event brought together over 160 participants comprising, members of Parliament, students from all federating units of Pakistan, faculty members of public sector, private sector and madrassah schools as well as parents and members of civil society.



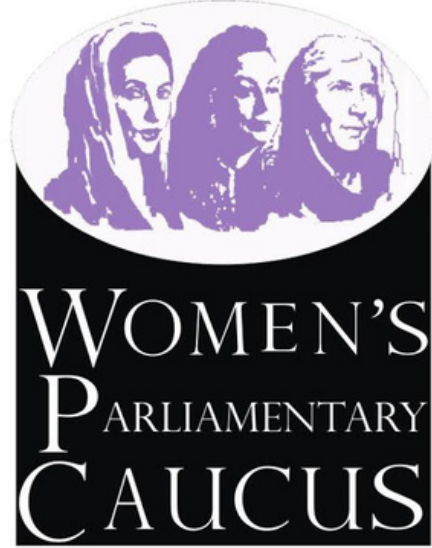
JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED

(APRIL 12, 2023)

Secretary WPC, Dr. Shahida Rehmani took up the unfortunate case of Ms. Afshan Latif who was serving as superintendent of Kashana Welfare. She was dismissed from her duties in the aftermath of pointing out the blatant violation of fundamental rights, murder, and forceful prostitution of teen aged girls of Kashana Welfare Home in 2019.

It is pertinent to mention that the issue was already highlighted by Dr. Rehmani on the Floor of the House on Point of Order during the previous tenure which led the matter to be referred to the esteemed Standing Committee on Human Rights by the then incumbent Speaker National Assembly, Mr. Asad Qaiser. With the passage of time the matter went into oblivion.

Secretary WPC wrote to the Chairperson Human Rights Committee to raise the issue on the Agenda. She also requested honorable Minister for Human Rights, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada to consider this matter on priority basis.



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