



WPC NEWSLETTER

JULY - SEPT 2017



The role of female MPAs is critical for the success of parliamentary business in the assembly.

Speaker KP Assembly



Engaging with religious and political groups to convey the importance of engaging women in development would be the key priority for Women Caucus

Executive Committee

Executive Committee Members of WPC

→ Ms. Meraj Hamayun Khan	Chairperson WPC
→ Ms. Bibi Fozia	Vice Chairperson
→ Ms. Amna Sardar	Vice Chairperson
→ Ms. Uzma Khan	General Secretary
→ Ms. Romana Jalil	Joint Secretary
→ Ms. Ayesha Naeem	Finance Secretary
→ Ms. Zareen Zia	Information Secretary

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UPCOMING EVENTS



**INTER PROVINCIAL
MINISTERIAL GROUP MEETING**
24th -25th October 2017

16 Days of Activism

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Editorial



Meraj Hamayun Khan

Chairperson: Women Parliamentary Caucus, KP

Women empowerment and gender mainstreaming in the development cycle is a dream the fulfillment of which requires many instruments and systems. Though difficult it is also very interesting and creative because it tests one's mind and understanding of the issue in itself as well as its linkages with other current issues. As one grapples with one aspect another dimension invites immediate attention to itself. So it goes on in an endless cycle of thinking, planning, implementing, redirecting, stepping back and then pushing forward. There are times when the whole exercise seems fruitless but then there are other moments of deep satisfaction and very rewarding. It's a continuous process requiring a sustained struggle.

The Women Parliamentary Caucus experienced different moods in response to successes or impediments during the quarter under report. Several initiatives started in the previous quarter were successfully completed and appreciated by all stakeholders while some plans had either to be dropped, modified or deferred to next quarter due to time or financial constraint. Among the big successes were the gender audits of three departments critical to the advancement of women, Social Welfare and Women Development Department, Agriculture Department and Home Department. Not surprisingly the facts common to the three departments are lack of gender policy, absence/discouragement to post women at decision making position, absence of facilities for women, and low priority in the department's annual development programme.

Members' participation in Assembly business shows a rising graph of success. The number of resolutions on varied subjects, call attention notices on pressing needs, adjournment motions were plentiful. A feather in the cap of the Caucus is the drafting of a bill for the protection of Home Based Workers, a tough job as the department was not ready to accept something for a group of people whose number cannot be assessed easily and who operate in a wide geographical area without having a consistent and constant relationship with their employers. The issues were resolved after many consultations with the relevant departments, legislators, lawyers and civil society organizations. Work was also begun on several other bills the need for which had been identified during workshops and consultations.

A very enriching experience of the quarter was a study tour of the members of the Executive Council of the Caucus. This tour was undertaken on the invitation from Swiss Development Cooperation and Swiss Government. The delegation spent time in the capital city, Bern, visiting the parliaments of different levels, and Geneva, the head quarter of several UN organizations. There was a lot to learn and think about. Swiss people have so cleverly immunized themselves against all aggression by mastering the art of compromise and consensus building. The serenity of the scenic environment reflected in the peace that prevails in the country makes this country a paradise for tourists. Pakistan can learn a lot from Switzerland and visits like ours need to be encouraged.

PROGRESS UPDATE

Women Parliamentary Caucus to Host 13th Inter-Provincial Ministerial Group Meeting (October 24th-25th)



Women Caucus started preparation for a very important and high profile event which is included in work plan for the next quarter. A committee was formed which included member of Provincial Commission on Status of Women, member each from Social Welfare Directorate and UNWomen. Committee members actively met up to finalize the initial preparation for this very important meeting. The event is a meeting of the ministers and Chairpersons of Commissions on the Status of Women of all provinces and regions including Gilgit Baltistan, Kashmir and Islamabad Capital Territory. The objective is to update and compare the progress made by the provinces/regions on gender mainstreaming and women empowerment. The secretariat of the IPMG is based in National Commission on the Status of Women which is also mandated to organize these meetings on annual basis. This year for the first time the KP Assembly through the Women Parliamentary Caucus is collaborating with NCSW to hold the meeting in Peshawar.

The event will take place in October 2017.

Women Empowerment Policy 2017 Acknowledged and the Process of Endorsement begun by Planning & Development Department

A meeting was held with the Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development in which representatives from Government including Additional Chief Secretary, Finance secretary and members from Women Parliamentary Caucus and UNWomen participated.

The objective of the meeting was in regard to discuss the draft Women Empowerment Policy framework 2014, its importance and mainstreaming of the document in to existing policies of the Government departments. Chairperson Madam Meraj termed this meeting as a very important event, as for the very first time a complete document along with the implementation strategy for five years plan is ready to be pursued by the Government of KP.



For the revitalization of the Women Empowerment Policy very extensive consultative process was adopted with various government stakeholders who have been very helpful in drafting the implementation plan. No changes have been made to the original document, except for inclusion of the implementation strategy and work plan for five years. It would be very important now that each relevant department owns the policy and implements their section of the work plan in true spirit.

Additional Chief Secretary stressed that to achieve the objectives of the Policy it should run as a movement. One cell and a Steering committee members will be formed and once on board, the department will work with speed to first allocate a proper budget followed by close coordination and supervision of all the departments to ensure that the work plan is implemented on time.

Among other important decisions were that SDPF secretariat will form a steering committee which will include Parliamentarians, civil society members, Government key stakeholders, members from chamber of commerce and councilors. This will be the technical body which will provide and push the decisions for the implementation of the Women Empowerment Policy. UN Women and SDPF will jointly work for ensuring that steering committee has all relevant members included and is holding a meetings for this objective.

There was a strong focus and demand from the key stakeholders during that the current Social Welfare Directorate is over loaded with its other mandates such as Social Welfare and Special Education and women issues do not get the attention required. It is important that a separate department or Directorate be created for Women Empowerment.



It was declared that SDPF will also recommend how to reconstruct the Social Welfare directorate and its other components. It will also recommend policies especially to reserve budget for women economic activities which also include ensuring that actual quotas reserved for women should actually be occupied by women.

A formal launching Ceremony will be planned followed by a Press conference once the Policy is created by the Department.

Consultation on Home Based Workers Bill Organized with Stakeholders and Shared with Labor Department

In continuation to the efforts for the Drafting a Home Based Workers Bill, WPC had to put in efforts in further consulting with the key stakeholders for their feed back in finalizing the Bill. The feedback revealed and incorporated with the draft Bill. The Bill is now with Labor Department for further action.



Assembly Members **Develop Consensus** for Drafting **Internal Trafficking Bill**

Human trafficking is a major concern in most regions of the world and is considered to be one of the fastest growing areas of international criminal activity. Human trafficking is an unjust and awful act against mankind and so it is also an issue of human rights. Besides, there are health threats and socio-economic consequences in relation to the notion of human trafficking. About 800,000 people are trafficked each year worldwide for forced labor, domestic servitude or sexual exploitation. The largest number of victims trafficked



internationally come from Southeast Asia. Considering the seriousness of the issue, Women Parliamentary Caucus held a consultation with the members of Parliament to get their views and support in drafting Internal Trafficking Bill for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The members were strongly of the view that such bill should be presented as the issue is prevailing and practiced in many parts of Khyber Phukhtunkhwa. Women and children are trafficked in many forms and such bill would stop this criminal exploitation against Women and children. It was agreed that a consultant will formally draft a Bill and further consultation will be held with the key stake holders in coming quarter.



Gender Analysis Report of Three Departments **Launched**

- ▶ **Social Welfare**
- ▶ **Agriculture**
- ▶ **and Planning & Development**

Gender analysis of three departments (Social Welfare, Agriculture and Planning and Development) with the support of Pak Women was carried out, in which gaps and weaknesses in terms of Gender were highlighted. The report also gave recommendations and measures which need to be taken by these three departments for gender mainstreaming.

The key representatives of the three departments appreciated the efforts done by the Caucus and Pak Women and explained the current challenges faced by the departments in terms of human resource capacity, lack of planning and budgeting. Lack of vision and oversight on the gender mainstreaming was also considered one of the major hurdles in mainstreaming gender in all these three departments. On the Occasion Chairperson Madam Meraj Humayun, and Deputy Speaker Professor Dr. Meher Taj Roghani stressed that these efforts should not be limited to only these three departments but all other departments should also be scrutinized through gender lens. Other members in the launching ceremony also highlighted importance of gender mainstreaming as a development indicator for the Province. Conducive environment and provision of resources will increase women workforce and more jobs and opportunities will be availed by women.

Based on the finding Women Caucus will draft a resolution in the Provincial Assembly to allocate appropriate budgets in various schemes and projects related to women.



Meeting of the Sub-committee on KP **Dowry, Bridal Gift** and **Marriage Restrictions Bill 2017**

A meeting of the Select Committee for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dowry, Bridal Gift was held to examine the Bill presented by Ms. Rashda Riffat (MPA). The subcommittee examined all clauses of the bill and amendments received from Assembly were added. A subcommittee under the chair of Meraj Hamayun Khan MPA formed, to give final shape to the Bill. Later it was mutually agreed by the committee members that the ACT may be called as the Marriage Functions (Prohibition of ostentatious displays and Wasteful Expenses) Act 2017.

Progress Review Meeting of the Project **“Capacity Enhancement** of Women Parliamentary Caucus for the **Gender Integration** in **Provincial Laws”**

Quarterly Progress review meeting was organized with the UNWomen and representative of Swiss Development Cooperation, in which progress made during the last quarter was reviewed and various other agendas such as relocation of additional funds and no cost activities were discussed. Project activities planned for each quarter were found to be satisfactorily completed on time.

Women Parliamentary Executive Committee Meetings

In the two meetings of Caucus executive committee, many important agendas were under discussion among which were the progress updates and sustainability of Zama Awaz, Inter provincial Ministerial group meeting, and study tour of Switzerland. IPMG has been marked as a very high profile event which will be hosted by the Women Caucus and all members were assigned different tasks for the said event.

Caucus executive committee also discussed the content of the resolution as an outcome of the Gender Analysis report of three departments which provided strong basis for the Caucus to advocate further for the gender disparities highlighted in the report.



Helpline: Zama Awaz

Zama Awaz committee held a meeting to review the cases and referral mechanism. To take maximum benefit of the presence of Zama Awaz various strategies for its propagation and awareness in general public was suggested. For its sustainability concept Paper will be submitted to the Assembly, so it can be included in the Assembly budget for the next year.



During the quarter under report 80 calls were received and have been referred to relevant service providers.

Women Parliamentary Caucus **Study Visit** to **Switzerland Parliament**

"On the invitation of Swiss Embassy, Women Parliamentary Caucus executive Committee members paid a study visit to Switzerland.

The tour was a tremendous success and every second was accounted for and care had been taken to combine political and parliamentary learning with awareness about Switzerland's history, tourism and culture. The environment in which the sessions were held as well as the travel to different meeting points was very cordial and congenial. Selection of a wide array of expert speakers and resource persons from both public and private sectors made it possible to learn. Visits to the SDC Head quarter, Federal Parliament building, the Canton of Berne Parliament, and the headquarters of Human Rights, Inter Parliamentary Union were particularly exciting.

The study visit gave some insight to Women Parliamentary Caucus for future key actions and plans based on which future strategies will be built for more progress and collaboration with SDC and other possible collaborative partners.



Key Recommendations at the Level of Women Parliamentary Caucus / Members

- Invest in research and develop accurate database for solid and sustainable interventions.
- Create linkages at provincial, national and international levels for new learning and sharing of experiences. Become a part of the delegations visiting different international forums.
- Provide support to the Speaker and the Government on gender mainstreaming
- Improve consultation, cooperation and collaboration not only at the provincial but national and international levels too.
- Create network of women working for gender integration in security reforms
- Sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians should be pointed out in the Assembly
- Engage with religious and political groups to convey the importance of engaging women in development
- Discover other countries where everything is different.
- Conduct gender audit of Assembly Rules of Business (ROBs)
- Conduct gender audit of the Annual Budget



RESEARCHES

Gender Profile of Tank and Abbottabad Research Study Initiated

(to measure progress against indicators on socio-economic, political development in both districts)

The consultant engaged for this activity started working on the development of gender profiles of Districts of Tank and Abbottabad which will provide a baseline of the districts that will help the Government of KP to take appropriate measures for alleviating the issues faced by women and will ensure their due participation in all spheres of life. Based on the findings a policy brief will be prepared which will help women in accessing their required resources necessary for the Socio-economic and political empowerment.



Research on Situation Analysis of Nurses in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province

Women Parliamentary Caucus with support from Pak Women has initiated a research study in 8 selected districts (Peshawar, Bannu, Nowshera, Mardan, Abbottabad, D.I.Khan, Malakand, Kohat). Since female nurses are facing not only jobs, quota and promotion related problems but also facing violence and gender based discrimination despite District Nurses Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa struggles for rights of both male and female nurses.

The research will primarily focus to assess the allocation of posts of female nurses and their promotion policy and practice during last three years. It will also try to find the ratio of violence against female nurses at the work place including abuse, harassment, sexual violence by male colleagues, patients. The research will help WPC to draft a legislation for protection of female nurses, their respect and dignity, job security, promotion policy law(s) and response mechanism.

Family Marriages Cause of Abnormalities in children and Causes of High Maternal Mortality Rate A Joint Research of Women Caucus and PakWomen

Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is the annual number of female deaths per 100,000 live births attributable to pregnancy related causes. This ratio estimates the probability that a woman will die while giving birth. According to Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey, this rate was 276 in our country in 2006-7. It hasn't been measured since.

WPC with support of Pak Women will conduct research in selected districts of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa which includes (Dir upper, Karak, Swat, Kohistan, Manshera, Charsadda, Haripur, Swabi). The research study will assess the causes of high mortality rate and ratio of abnormal children due to family marriages. Based on the findings, Women Parliamentary Caucus will draft and present legislation in the KP Assembly.

Women Parliamentary Caucus on **Policy Forums** **Oath Taking of Members of Takira Qabilee Khwenday** by Madam **Meraj Hamayun** Chairperson WPC



Chairperson Ms. Meraj Hamayun administered oath to six members of Takira Qabili Khwendy in a ceremony organized by Khwendo Kor in Press Club. Ms. Meraj Hamayun in her speech on the occasion criticized the federal government on the failure to take serious steps to mainstream the tribal region and bringing changes to the lives of the local residents. Any further delays to Fata reforms would be complete injustice with the local residents. She demanded that KP-FATA integration should happen immediately to progress in the region can be started.

She further recommended to TQW committee to formally launch a campaign for the awareness raising of the tribal women regarding their legal and political rights.



Policy Dialogue for Ensuring Women's Participation in the Electoral and Political Processes

Aware Girls organized a provincial-level policy dialogue to ensure women's participation in the electoral and political processes, in which Acting Chairperson Ms. Rashda Riffat represented Women Caucus and was chief guest on the occasion. The dialogue provided an opportunity for citizens to engage elected representatives and encourage them to play an active role in ensuring women's participation in the electoral and political processes. In particular, the dialogue focused on issues such as creating spaces for women's participation in the political party structures especially at the decision-making level, establishing anti-sexual harassment cells within political parties, providing capacity-building opportunities, increasing the number of tickets given to women during elections, and combating efforts to exclude women from participating in political.

Smart Policy Making on Eliminating Hidden Hunger

Women Caucus attended a very important interactive session organized by Mishal organization. The interactive session with the members of the provincial assembly was focused on the Nutrition challenges in Khyber Phukhtunkhwa. On the occasion Deputy Speaker / Patron in Chief Professor Dr. Meher Taj Roghani and Chairperson Ms. Meraj Hamayun appreciated the efforts of Mishal organizations for awareness around the hidden hunger agenda and the challenges in this regard. Deputy Speaker Professor Dr. Meher Taj Roghani highlighted the assembly efforts in legislations and bringing issues at the surface. She believed that this would also come on the floor of the assembly on priority basis.

Gender Sensitization Workshop

Women Parliamentary Caucus executive members and staff attended two days Gender mainstreaming Workshop organized by Pak Women for the Assembly and Parliamentarians. The workshop was a very good initiative in terms of understanding the role of both genders in the development and challenges faced by both genders. Mainstreaming gender in all spheres of development is crucial and an important agenda for the Parliamentarians to take on.

Exchange **Visit** of **Parliamentarians**, Senate and National Assembly Members:

Parliamentarians from Senate and National Assembly visited to KP assembly in an exchange program which was organized by Democracy International. During the exchange program Women Parliamentary Caucus Chairperson Madam Meraj Humayun presented the current legislations done by KP Assembly related specifically to Women Human rights. Members were also briefed on Women Parliamentary Caucus initiatives and achievements.

The meeting was also attended by Minister Information Shah Farman, who highlighted the important legislation of Government such as Right to Information, Ehtisab and Local Governemnt.





Chairperson Ms. Meraj Humayun Interview

“Views on Fata Merger”

Chairperson Ms. Meraj expressed her views on Fata Merger in one of her interview by the Khwendo Kor team. Various questions in regard to Fata merger were asked during the interview. Chairperson strongly emphasized on the need of Fata merger in to KP province where all the laws will be applicable and extended to all parts of Fata. She also showed her views for the need of Advocacy for early merger of FATA particularly, among the Pakhtun political parties and KP Government.

We have been strongly demanding that FATA should be merger with KP immediately, and in 2018, members from FATA should contest elections.

Currently in KP, we are not making our decisions under Riwaj act, why would we recommend it for FATA. Riwaj Act is an evolving phenomenon, and making it mandatory as a law will harm us more.

KP is a relatively an under developed province. We have resources, however, the global and national environment in the province has not made us utilize our resources and potentials. The management capacity, therefore, will be important to address.

Assembly Business

Legislations

Ms. Uzma Khan MPA and General Secretary Women Caucus presented a Bill to facilitate Women at public places as there are not many amenities specifically provided for women in public as well as private places and institutions. Provision of facilities for women like separate toilets, waiting rooms and prayer room in public and private institutions are a necessity. The bills strive to provide for such facilities to women in all public and private institutions in the Province.

Resolutions

Ms. Ayesha Naeem MPA /Finance Secretary Caucus and Ms.Uzma MPA and General Secretary Caucus jointly drafted a resolution for the provision of basic services to the women prisoners in the Jail.They demanded that Women prisoner should be provided legal aid as well as health, Islamic and adult literacy as well as education and space for play area for children. Resolution also stressed on the provision of extra female staff for the jail.

Call Attention Notices

Two Call Attention Notices were submitted by MPA Ms. Amna Sardar (MPA) regarding developmental funds details and the misuse of development funds specified for the education department.

Ms. Amna Sardar MPA also requested that committee which has been formulized under the Khyber Pukhtunkhwa Act 2017 should also look after change in the FIR registration, Police recruitment and Act implementation. .

Adjournment Motions

Ms. Amna Sardar MPA tabled an adjournment motion on the issue of Police Housing Colony in which space which was marked for the social services such as hospital, children park , schools are not provided and plots which were reserved for children parks are also sold out . It was notified that mismanagement of the housing scheme should be taken in to consideration by relevant department.

Honorable Assembly Members Joined Women Parliamentary Caucus

Women Parliamentary Caucus Welcomes our Honorable New Members!



MPA *Mr. Zia Ullah Bangash* (PTI) signed membership form of Women Parliamentary Caucus.



MPA *Mr. Shah Hussain* ,(JUI) signed membership form of Women Parliamentary Caucus.

Tribal women call for KP-Fata merger

PESHAWAR: Women from various agencies of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas have demanded the immediate mainstreaming of the entire tribal region and its merger with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The demand was made during an oath-taking ceremony of the Takhra Qabaili Khwendi brave tribal sisters) at the Peshawar Press Club on Tuesday.

Chairperson of Women Parliamentary Caucus, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and former provincial minister Miraj Hamayun, who was the chief guest on the occasion, administered oath to six members of the TQK newly-elected steering committee, including Maryam Bibi, Ayesha Hassan, Samina Afridi, Sana Orakzai, Rakshanda Naz, and Manzoor Afridi.

Ms Miraj Hamayun highlighted the need for Fata-KP merger and said it was essential for the mainstreaming of tribal women.

She said tribesmen had been denied all fundamental rights due to the enforcement of the Frontiers Crime Regulation.

The women parliamentary caucus' chairperson said the health and education infrastructure had been badly damaged in tribal regions to the misery of the people.

She said women were vulnerable due to the mass displacement in conflict-hit region and that no proper measures had been taken to rehabilitate the internally displaced persons from vari-

ous Fata agencies.

Ms Miraj Hamayun criticised the federal government over failure to take serious steps to mainstreaming the tribal region and bring changes to the lives of the local residents.

She said further delay to Fata reforms would be a 'compete injustice' with the local residents and therefore, KP-Fata integration should happen immediately to usher in an era of development and progress in the region.

The women parliamentary caucus' chairperson asked the TQK to launch a campaign for creating awareness among tribal women of their constitutional and legal rights.

She congratulated members of the TQK's steering committee and called for the constitution of more such bodies to raise the voice of women in an efficient manner. Ms Miraj Hamayun demanded of the federal government to form a commission on the status of tribal women.

Earlier, TQK focal person Noor Jehan said her organisation had played a pivotal role for raising voice for tribal women. She said the organisation had provided a better platform for Fata women and that it was making vigorous efforts to bring positive changes to socioeconomic conditions in tribal region.

Ms Noor Jehan called for the social and economic empowerment of tribal women to ease their miseries.

Bureau Report

INTERNATIONAL
THE NEWS

The news (26th September)

Pictures Gallery





Planet 50-50 by 2030
Step It Up for Gender Equality



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Agency for Development
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