



## INTRODUCTION

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women is a statutory advisory body established under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Act XIX of 2009 which was amended by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly under the new Act XXVIII of 2016. The Commission in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the first ever Provincial Level Commission in the country, established with functions to oversee implementation of laws, policies and programs related to women and propose new measures where gaps exist. The third term of the Provincial Commission on the Status of Women was notified in January 2017.

# KPCS W NEWSLETTER

June - August 2017



Dear Readers,  
Greetings!

**W**e live in interesting times. The hard work of all the government functionaries/civil societies who are striving with us to the formation of initially a small but very effective serving government organization KPCS W. The Convention on to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is as good as its implementation and even though countries are competing with each other in a race to ratify the Convention, its implementation thus far is abysmally poor in country like Pakistan. Nothing about females without females, the bedrock of the ideology that we are following, is still the guiding force behind all our actions. Even though this philosophy is talked about so much, there's still a long way to go before everyone actually practices it. If we want true emancipation of female from every area of Pakistan, we will have to move beyond the rhetoric and the tokenism. To make this dream a reality, we will have to work hard. KPCS W will coordinate with other bodies (govt/non-govt) and will also monitor how effectively the society respond to all the issues related to females especially those living in remote areas, We as a responsible government organization will strive and motivate all the stake holders from civil society to help us in building capacities of both society and families to be active and contributing members of our DCSW's in the strategies for the betterment of women especially the girls. I believe KPCS W will also play an important role to make the society aware of Gender Equality through the research work and will ensure that we truly believe and practice cross – letting females to share the work load on equal basis to build a successful nation, carry together woman/girls from all parts of the country and work towards building strong and long lasting alliances with other human rights movements.

We have our work cut out for us. The challenges we face are many. Some from within and some external. But, we need to have the 'Courage of Conviction' to believe in the direction that we are moving in. We must question the status quo and enable the winds of change to sweep in.

As I take the responsibility that has been entrusted on my shoulders, I know I am inheriting a few difficulties but, no doubt a great legacy. I have faith in the power of the people and I have faith in the belief behind establishment of KPCS W. I rest easy on the tremendous enthusiasm and energy that I feel from those females and especially the girls who wish us to get them on the way towards the destination. The road ahead is tough but with the support of provincial government, the Non-Governmental Organizations and off course the common masses of KP, It sure looks like the journey of a lifetime.

Kind regards,

**Neelam Toru**

**Chairperson**

**Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women (KPCS W)**

**KPCSW Members Update**

On 16-01-2017 Govt of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zakat, Ushr, Social Welfare, Special Education and Women Empowerment Department issued a notification to reconstitute the Khyber Pakhtukhwa Commission on Status of Women with following members.

- 1) Ms. Neelam Toru (Chairperson)
- 2) Ms. Naseem Hayat (Member of Provincial Assembly)
- 3) Ms. Uzam Khan (Member of Provincial Assembly)
- 4) Secretary (Zakat, Ushr, Social Welfare, Special Education and Women Department)
- 5) Dr. Saba Gul Khattak (Social Sector Planning Commission Govt of Pakistan)
- 6) Dr. Roobina Naz (Advocate, Human Rights Activist)
- 7) Dr. Anoosh Khan (Chairman Department of Gender Studies)
- 8) Mr. Asif Nisar Ghayasi (Journalist)
- 9) Ms. Shamama tul Amber Arbab (Director Euro Industries (Pvt) Ltd)
- 10) Ms. Begum Nargis Samin (EX Member of Provincial Assembly)
- 11) Ms. Shagufta Malik (EX Member of Provincial Assembly)
- 12) Ms. Sameen Imtiaz (Director PEAD Foundation)
- 13) Mr. Asadullah Khan (lawyer and Social Worker)
- 14) Ms. Seema Riaz (Member Provincial Zakat Committee)
- 15) Ms. Robina Masih (Executive Director ICDI)



Mandate of KPCSW under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2016

The Commission shall,-

- (a) examine the policy, programs, projects and other measures taken by Government, for women development and gender equality, to assess implementation and make suitable recommendations to the concerned authorities, where considered necessary for effective impact;
- (b) review all provincial laws, rules and regulations affecting the status and rights of women and suggest repeal, amendments or new legislations essential to eliminate discrimination, safeguard and promote the interests of women and achieve gender equality in accordance with the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and obligations under International Covenants and commitments;
- (c) monitor the mechanism and institutional procedures for redress of violation of women's rights, individual grievances and facilities for social care, and undertake initiative for better management and efficient provision of justice and social services through the concerned forums and authorities;
- (d) examine and review policies/programs and plans of each department to ensure that they address gender concerns adequately;

(e) establish and constitute in consultation with the Government, District Committees, consisting of such number of members with female majority and to be headed by a female Chairperson on such terms and conditions and for such a period as may be prescribed through regulations to examine and review policies/programs and plans for each office in the district and to ensure that they address gender concerns adequately; provided that two female members of district council shall be added to the District Committee and meetings and quorum of the District Committee shall be such as prescribed by regulations;

(f) provide guidelines to a District Committee for implementation and receive periodic reports on the implementation status to the Commission;



KPCSW Chairperson Ms. Neelum Toru Addressing  
on National Women's Day



KPCSW Chairperson Ms. Neelum Toru meeting with  
Deputy Speaker KP Assembly Ms. Meher Taj Roghani

### **The Domestic Violence Bill, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

During the year, the Commission continued the process of refining the draft bill for Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) through focused meetings with selected MPAs and lawyers having background in Sharia law. The Bill was sent to the Social Welfare department for vetting to the Law Department. The Law Department sent the bill to Islamic Ideology Council before sending to the Cabinet. The Islamic Ideology Council rejected the DVB.

A new Bill was drafted after the notification of 3rd term of the Commission under the light of observation sent by the Islamic Ideology Council and sent again to the Department on 7th March 2017 for vetting to the law department. The Commission held a meeting with Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for pushing the legislation. Now, the bill will be tabled soon before the Provincial Assembly.



KPCSW Chairperson Ms. Neelum Toru Meeting with  
Chief Minister KP, Mr. Parvez Khattak  
on Domestic Violence Bill KP



KPCSW Chairperson Ms. Neelum Toru Lobbying Meeting  
for Domestic Violence Bill KP  
with Senior Minister Sikandar Sherpao



### **Acid and Burn Crime Comprehensive Legislation**

Like the Domestic Violence Bill, the Commission also continued working on refining the draft legislation on Acid and Burn Prevention and Rehabilitation Bill for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The proposed legislation provides a comprehensive approach for the protection of survivors of Acid and Burn related violence. The bill was already sent to the Social welfare department on 4th May 2017 for vetting of the law department. The Law department raised some observation, on which the Commission is holding consultations to address their observation it that the bill will be tabled before the Provincial Assembly without any further delay.



KPCSW Consultative Meeting with Stakeholders on  
Acid and Burn Crime Legislation



KPCSW Consultative Meeting with Stakeholders on  
Acid and Burn Crime Legislation

### **FEEDBACK CEDAW REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2016**

The Commission gives its input and feedback in the preparation of Provincial CEDAW Report for the year 2016. The Commission held a meeting with the Finance Department for collecting the data of Gender Base Violence and Violence Against Women. The data collected was complied and sent to the social welfare department for further Actions.

### **NOTIFICATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE (CSO'S)**

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women constitute a committee of INGO's, CSO's and relevant stake holders to work in a close liaison in the province for the empowerment of the women of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Purpose of the Committee is to have close liaison with the Civil Society Organization and relevant stakeholders of the province and to get feedback from the grass root level on women issues. The members includes:

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| 1) Ms. Neelam Toru (Chairperson KPCSW) | 2) All members of the KPCSW |
| 3) Member from UN Women                | 4) Member from GIZ          |
| 5) Member from Blue Veins              | 6) Member from PVDP         |
| 7) Member from Shirkat Gah             | 8) Member from Khwendo Kor  |
| 9) Member from Aurat Foundation        | 10) Member from Net         |
| 11) Member from ICDI                   | 12) Member from Da Hawa Lur |

### **Disclaimer**

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