

# Report on Capacity Building Workshop for Civil Societies and Community Members on Gender Based Violence against Women by Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights (PCSW&HR)

Gender-based violence, or violence against women (VAW), is a major public health and human rights problem throughout the world including Pakistan. Violence against women VAW has profound implications for health but is often ignored. Who's World Report on Violence and Health notes that "one of the most common forms of violence against women is that performed by a husband or male partner? This type of violence is frequently invisible since it happens behind closed doors, and effectively, when legal systems and cultural norms do not treat as a crime, but rather as a "private" family matter, or a normal part of life.

While keeping in view this important issue *a one day capacity building workshop for Civil Societies & Community members* on awareness raising to jointly combat extreme forms of gender-based violence was organized by **Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights (PCSW&HR)** with the collaboration of other UN organizations at Sialkot on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2009. The purpose of that capacity building workshop was to build the capacity of civil societies, community members, lawyers, educationists etc to create knowledge regarding domestic violence in general and existence & implementation mechanism of sec: 174-A, Cr. P.C., to take correct and timely action in burn cases which will lead to discouraging/reducing instances of extreme forms of domestic violence as well as protection of human rights at grass root level. Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a multi-dimensional issue and requires strong grassroots level efforts and holistic approach to bring positive change in society. 50 participants from different Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), community members, lawyers, educationist, religious leaders, and local bodies elected members, media representatives etc participated in the workshop.



Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori Chairman PCSW&HR conducting the workshop

Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori Chairman Pakistan Council for Social Welfare and Human Rights conducted this media forum as resource person. While briefing the participants of workshop Mr. Noori said that in 2002, a new section 174A was added to the Criminal Procedure Code of Pakistan. This provides for "effective" measures in case of domestic violence against women, more particularly in burn cases. It is not unusual to read in newspapers some accidents relating to bursting of a stove resulting in the death or serious injury to women. In India, such cases are usually connected to the issue of dowry. But here such a connection does not appear to have been established. The causes may vary, but usually they relate to the freedom of choice to marry against the family's wish. Burning a woman to death or burning a woman after killing her is simply a method of getting away with murder without leaving any trace of evidence. In this regard, society and the police are willing partners to the crime. The Human Rights Association of Pakistan and other NGOs have taken up cudgels against death by burning and succeeded in having the amendment to the Cr.P.C made. The amended provisions of section 174A are:

1. A police station is bound to register a case of hurt, murder or attempt to murder immediately on receipt of information of such an occurrence.
2. The police officer is bound to send copies of FIR to the nearest Magistrate District and Sessions Judge, and the District police officer.
3. The doctor who treats the victims is bound to record her statement, which could in case of death serve as dying declaration.

As a result of comprehensive discussions on this theme, participants also identified many issues other than burning cases in which teenage pregnancies, sex selective abortion, gender discrimination, physical and mental torture, sexual abuse and exploitation, forced sex, intimate partner violence, malnutrition, reproductive health complications in delivery, and availability of services regarding reproductive health.



**Mr. Mansoor Ahmad General Secretary PCSW&HR, Mr. Arshad Mehmood Executive Secretary PCSW&HR and Mr. Muhammad Ramzan Director PCSW&HR delivering lecture on Human Rights and its protection at grass root level during the workshop**



The participants also identified and explained the co-relation between GBV and traditional practices such as early marriages, honour killing, infanticide or neglect in care, denial of education and basic human rights, traditional patriarch family structure, feudalism, lack of literacy rate and gender disparity.



### **A view of participation of female members of Civil Societies Organizations during the workshop**

Reflecting on the stereotype and traditional Gender Based Violence types, Mr. Noori shared findings from a newspaper analysis indicating a high number of reported cases of gender-based crime since January 2009 in District Sialkot. He stressed the importance of reporting cases of gender-based violence, as the tendency and trend of actual offences was much higher. Mr. Noori appreciated the role of different civil society organizations at district level and suggested for strong linkage development at district level. He also appreciated the role of electronic and print media, to increase awareness regarding rights of people, particularly of women and young girls, and in gradually changing the traditional values, culture and mindset of people.



### **A view of participation of local bodies elected members and media representatives**

Recommending the solutions for addressing and preventing these issues, participants strongly suggested that change in the behavior of males, their active engagement in addressing gender issues, mass level awareness-raising activities in which awareness walks, seminar, workshops, talk shows, etc at grass root level with the involvement of local Civil Societies Organizations (CSOs) and also improvement in service delivery by state and non-state actors will help in addressing the issue at

different levels. Mr. Noori also gave comprehensive press briefing to electronic media regarding amended provisions of section 174A.



**Mr. Muhammad Ishtiaq Butt Advocate, Mr. Muhammad Usman Religious Leader, and Mrs. Bushra Razzaq Alvee Female Counselor expressing their views & suggestions during the workshop**







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جلد 5، سیکل 4، محرم الحرام 1431ھ، 22 دسمبر 2009ء، 9 پو، 2066 ب، صفحات 12، قیمت 9 روپے، شمارہ 350

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خواتین کے حقوق پر تشدد اور ان کے حقوق دبانے کا قابل مذمت ہے: اعجاز نوری

اسلامی ضابطہ حیات میں عورتوں کو مساوی حقوق کی ضمانت دی گئی ہے اور کثاب سے خطاب

سیالکوٹ (بیورو رپورٹ) اسلام احرام آدمیت اور شخصیت آزادیوں کا دائمی مذہب ہے اور اسلامی ضابطہ حیات میں عورتوں کو مساوی حقوق کی ضمانت دی گئی ہے لہذا ایک اسلامی معاشرے میں خواتین کے حقوق کو دبانے اور ان پر تشدد کرنا اسلام اور اخلاقی اقدار کے منافی ہے۔ ان ضیالت کا اظہار پاکستان نول فار سوشل وٹھیر اینڈ ہوٹن رائس کے چیئر مین محمد اعجاز نوری نے گزشتہ روز مقامی ہوٹل میں اقوام متحدہ کے ذیلی اداروں کے زیر اہتمام خواتین کے حقوق اور ان پر تشدد کے حوالے سے منعقدہ ایک تقریبی ورکشاپ سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اسلام اور آئین پاکستان نے خواتین کے حق کی ضمانت دی گئی ہے اور معاشرے کے دیگر کثرو طبقات کے حقوق پر دباؤ ڈالا اور کثی جمہوریت اور کثی آمریت کے نام پر ہمیشہ کثرو طبقات کا استحصال کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ معاشرے میں احرام آدمیت کو فروغ دینے کے لیے ہمیں خواتین کے حقوق کا تحفظ ممکن ہے بلکہ معاشرے میں کثی ہوئی اناری کا خاتمہ بھی ممکن ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ انسانی حقوق کے تحفظ اور ملک میں قیام امن کیلئے مضبوط اور حقیقی جمہوریت بنیادی شرط ہے۔

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روزنامہ اسلام آباد ٹائمز

چیف ایڈیٹر مسعود ملک

ساجد بھٹی

سجائی تک رسائی

اسلام آباد راولپنڈی اور لاہور سے بیک وقت شائع ہونے والا قومی اخبار

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