



KPCSW NEWSLETTER

September -October 2019

Vol. 2



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. Emancipation, equalization of opportunities and socio-economic conditions amongst women and men and elimination of all sorts of discrimination of women. The basic purpose to establish the Commission was to have a regulatory monitoring body that can work with sister government organizations as well as with NGO's towards the emancipation of women, equalization of opportunities including socioeconomic condition among women and men. Also, to eliminate all forms of discrimination/violations against women. Commission has a mandate to conduct research on the issues related to the women of KPK especially those deprived women living in the remote areas of the province. These Researches will also be shared with the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and will help the legislators to concentrate on women issues including Gender Based Violence (GBV). The Researches will also help the NGO sector to understand the status of women in the light of facts provided through Research papers.

Chairperson Message:

I am entrusted with the responsibility of leading the KP Commission on the Status of Women. I have always been a dreamer, and my dream and vision for the women of KP is to see them enjoying their full potential, being able to identify their own capacities, and achieving what they want in life. I have known many young girls aspiring to do so much.



Pakistan has been rated low on the international Gender Development Index and the Gender Inequality Index. My first and foremost priority will be to support the Government in improving indicators on women especially related to maternal mortality, adolescent birth rate, secondary education of girls, and women participation in the labor market. Whether it is women dying of child birth, or a girl-child delivering a baby, or girls marrying early and unable to complete secondary education, or women being worse off economically than men; are the elements of a vicious cycle, and are driven by poverty.

I have hope. Pakistani women and men are hardworking people. They have the resilience and the power to cope. With a little bit of help they can achieve great strides. Improving the status of women so that they are not faced with discrimination and exploitation, and enjoy full equal rights guaranteed by the Constitution of Pakistan, is the ultimate goal of the Commission. My effort will be to bring the links together of communities, Government, civil society, women parliamentarians, entrepreneurs and businesses, and all those who matter to make it possible, that the status of women in KP is improved. Women and men of KP have to change their mindset; women have to believe in themselves, and want to have the desire to enjoy equality, health and education, and equal opportunity for economic prosperity. My mission is to change this mindset, if not wholly even partially.

Regards,

Dr. Riffat Sardar (Chairperson)

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

“Burn Prevention and Rehabilitation Bill, 2019”

A meeting of Legal Committee of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women Held on 11th September 2019 under the Chairpersonship of Dr. Riffat Sardar, Chairperson, KPCSW at the Commission Office for the Final Review of the "Burn Prevention and Rehabilitation Bill, 2019”

Such Collaboration will play a very vital role in the wellbeing of women.



KPCSW Celebrate October is Pink campaign supporting Breast Cancer awareness and research

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women and accounts for almost one-third of all women cancers. Pakistan alone has the highest rate of Breast Cancer than any other Asian country as approximately 90000 new cases are diagnosed every year out of which 40000 die. Dr. Riffat Sardar supported the Pink campaign to raise awareness in our society, and also, she brought the serious health care concerns of breast cancer patients. The aim of the campaign was to promote mammograms, increase breast health awareness, reach out to at risk communities and increase knowledge of support/resources available.

Meeting with Oxfam regarding the future Collaboration for Women Empowerment

Dr. Riffat Sardar, Chairperson Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women attended a meeting with Oxfam regarding the future Collaboration for Women Empowerment in the Province. She discussed that we should empower our women and girls through education, raising awareness, literacy, and training. Women's empowerment is all about equipping and allowing women to make life-determining decisions through the different problems in society.



October is Pink

"Girls Leadership Summit 2019" arranged by BlueVeins and KPCSW. Dr. Riffat Sardar, Chairperson, KPCSW addressing the forum.

Dr. Riffat Sardar Chairperson, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women (KPCSW), said the International Day of the Girl is a call to action for radical social and political change to tear down barriers of discrimination and prejudice that continue to hold girls back. She said the KP government needs to take willful actions in developing, implementing, and funding cross-sectoral policies, programs, and plans to empower girl child that engage all departments and stakeholders, including civil society, children, and youth.



KPCSW attended Annual Conference on Rural Women Day

PODA is raising voice for the rural women of Pakistan by organizing the 12th Annual Conference on Rural Women Day 15-17 October 2019. KPCSW supports the equal rights of rural women especially in education, access to credit, and decision-making. Dr Riffat sardar said rural communities, especially women and girls, are often deeply excluded from discussions that shape their own development and that of their

communities, countries and the world they live in. The overall objective of this conference was to increase the role of the civil society in advancing women's rights and to promote economic and social participation of rural women through civil society organizations.

KPCSW attended event regarding Review of standard operating procedures (SOPs) of Dar-ul-Aman along with Secretary Social Welfare and UN Women

KPCSW discussed the SOPs along with social welfare and UN Women which can improve the structure, management and rules of business set for Dar ul Aman within a framework of human rights and dignity of women survivors of violence. Also, discussed that how civil society organizations, Social Welfare Department, Darul Aman staff and other government departments can ensure relevance and effectiveness. The objective of reviewing SOPs is to provide legal aid and shelter to victim in a manner that ensures their fundamental human rights and guarantees their participation in all decision making related to them.



(Group Photo of the Participants)

Social Welfare Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women (KPCSW) Meeting:

1st technical Group Meeting on merged areas Chaired by the Dr. Riffat Sardar, Chairperson, KPCSW at the Committee room of Social Welfare Department.

KPCSW is committed for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security in the newly merged tribal districts and placing women's rights at the center of its development.



Dr. Riffat Sardar Chairperson, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women (KPCSW) attend the meeting hosted by the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) in collaboration with UN Women Pakistan. Provincial Ministers and Secretaries presented key provincial Gender Equality initiatives and strategic plans/policies in 2019 with focus on legislation and implementation mechanisms. It was an interactive discussion that put forth key priority areas for 2020 to ensure policy implementation to fulfill Pakistan's commitments specially CEDAW and SDGs.



Disclaimer: This newsletter is printed by Blue Veins with the support of The Australian Government based on the content and information provided by KPCSW. The content does not necessarily reflect the opinion and views of Blue Veins and The Australian Government.