

The 2013 national elections present a unique opportunity for Pakistan to continue its reform momentum and advance its democratic transition. The elections are poised to be the first since 1977 to see a democratically elected government complete a full term. They also could mark the first time in the nation's history that an elected civilian government transferred power through a democratic process.

Blue Veins has released the "Women's Manifesto 2013" today (March 28.) to put women's issues in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa & FATA on the political agenda before Pakistan General Elections in 2013. This document is an outcome of consultations & focus group discussion with women groups in KP & FATA. Women's movement in Pakistan has achieved important milestones still there is a long way to go and moving further will be more easy if there is enhanced political will.

1. Govt. of Pakistan must facilitate and help all women to obtain National Identity Card (NIC) and register as a voter so that maximum women above age of 18 can take part in the electoral process.
2. Govt. should ensure that women are not barred from voting in any condition. Results of voting of those polling stations where women are stopped from voting should be cancelled and those who stop women from voting before or during the election should be punished. This should also include political parties agents and candidates who agrees to put bar on women voting.
3. Old aged women and women with disabilities should be provided assistance at all polling stations.
4. 33 % percent quota for women should be ensured in the parliament and senate and efforts should be made to raise it up to 50 %.
5. Constitutional amendments should be made so that women of Pakistan can also have the opportunity to become the President of Pakistan.
6. All political parties of Pakistan should provide 33% and more tickets to women for general seat elections.
7. Govt. should make efforts to prevent and respond to election based violence specially against women. Women candidates should also be protected from political and gender based violence.
8. Political parties of Pakistan should make a clear commitment in their manifestos to makes pro women laws and take measures to implement the existing laws to protect women of Pakistan from Sexual & Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and against cultural exploitation of ethnic and minority women, pornography and media distortions on the image of women.
9. Govt. should uphold the international humanitarian laws, especially for women and children in situations of armed conflict.
10. The age of adulthood of women should be clearly defined according to the conventions signed and ratified by Pakistan and difference in the definition of age in different laws should be standardized.
11. Govt. should build shelter homes crisis centers , rape crisis centers which can offer legal aid, medical assistance, counseling and psychosocial support.
12. Discriminatory laws and all other laws which negatively impacts the life of women should be amended and repealed.

13. Constitution of Pakistan guarantees equal citizenship men and women equal citizens of Pakistan therefore Women should be given equal citizenship rights as that of man with regards to citizenship for foreign husbands for Pakistani women.
14. Govt. should explore new forms and strategies towards building a just and lasting peace in the country.
15. Govt. should enact laws and take policy measures to end religious extremism that target women, girls and other citizens. Those involved in the promoting hate against women should be punished by law.
16. Private FM stations running hate speech against women should be banned and penalized.
17. Moral policing at all levels by all actors should be discouraged and considered as a crime against women.
18. The right to education under article (25-A) must be ensured for girls and proper funds should be allocated for its realization.
19. Woman human rights defenders working to protect, promote and sustain the rights of women should be given state protection.
20. Gender reform in curriculum should be introduced.
21. Rural women should be provided with education and skill development in order to reduce poverty for them by starting adult literacy, agricultural trainings and skills trainings in rural areas.
22. Women working in agriculture should be considered as "farmers" and should be provided subsidies. Rural women should also be included in all agriculture development projects and policy making.
23. Landless women farmers should be provided with govt lands for free.
24. The Govt. should eliminate all obstacles to full and equal rights of women to land ownership as tillers. Agrarian reform should also include the valuation of the work of family members on the land and in all forms of agriculture production.
25. Govt. should provide support services for women as well as men in terms of education, credit and marketing, and specially through the development of appropriate technology for women.
26. Pakistani agriculture land should not be sold to foreign companies or other Governments.
27. Each district should allocate specific budgets annually for rural women development.
28. Govt. should provide affordable housing and sufficient social services as a priority in urban development.
29. Women should be included in district Aman (peace) committees and given leadership role so that they can play a role in the peace building and conflict resolution and mitigation process.
30. Govt. of Pakistan should enact women protection policy for FATA and FATA should be included in the national circle so that women of FATA can also benefit from women protection laws.
31. Women in disaster situations should be included in the decision making process at all levels.

32. Govt. should recognize the gender specific issues of working women, like maternal and child health care through extending maternity and paternity leaves and provision of child care according to ILO conventions.
33. Govt. should consider gender issues in planning and development and eliminate sexual discrimination by ensuring equal pay for equal work.
34. Govt. should ensure the enforcement of Sexual harassment prevention act a workplace and hire ombudsperson immediately to look into the cases of sexual harassment.
35. The Govt. should ensure the enforcement of national labor laws, make the existing ones in accordance to international standards and take measures for the protection from hazardous working conditions.
36. The Govt. should ensure the protection and valuation of domestic workers and informal sector workers.
37. Conditions for working women should be improved at all workplaces. Separate toilets should be provided at all Govt. offices where such facilities are not available.
38. The Govt. should arrange training for women in non-traditional trades and skills, including managerial and supervisory positions.
39. The Govt. should recognize the increasing number of female headed households and provide response to this reality in terms of economic and social measures.
40. Govt. should mainstream rights of widows and single women in public policy.
41. Keeping in view the socio-economic challenge and poverty index in Pakistan Govt. should support family living costs in terms of price controls, subsidies and provision of basic services.
42. Govt. should implement a population program that prioritize women's health and reproductive rights. The family planning policy and services should not only focus on women.
43. The education to women with disabilities should be made absolutely free in all government institutions including universities and professional colleges .
44. State of the art old age Homes for severely disabled persons should be established in major cities.
45. To promote inclusiveness in education, all educational institutions up to class 12th should be equipped with special educators.
46. A state of the art vocational training center should be established in the province to impart vocational training to the youth with disabilities so that they do not depend on the government jobs.
47. The Govt. should provide books including braille and audio books, necessary aids and appliances and uniform etc. to the students with disabilities free of charge up to the class they wish to study.
48. The Govt. should conduct a scientific survey to know the exact number of persons with disabilities in the province. At present no authentic data is available in this regard.
49. The Govt. should accept that mobility is a fundamental right and come out with a plan to make access audit of all

public buildings like schools, colleges, universities, banks, post offices, hospitals, theaters, cinema halls, Govt. offices including Deputy Commissioners' offices, secretariat etc. All public buildings should be made barrier free in a time bound manner. These building should have accessible toilets also.

50. All public transport should be made accessible to the persons with disabilities in a time bound manner.
51. The Govt. should ensure that at least 3 percent budget of all the poverty alleviation schemes/programmes is utilized for the benefit of persons with disabilities with a focus to women as their disability makes them more vulnerable.
52. The Govt. should ensure that at least 3 percent amount of sports budget is spent on sports activities of students and youth with disabilities. The Govt. should ensure that at least 3 percent reservation for persons with disabilities is made in all housing schemes with the special consideration to women headed family with disability.
53. Educated women with disabilities should be given unemployment allowance.
54. Minority women should be provided vocational training and offered decent livelihood opportunity.
55. Job quota should be announced for minority women.
56. Adequate security should be provided to the place of worship of minorities.
57. Social, legal & constitutional discrimination against minorities should be prevented which can restore their rights and equal citizenship.
58. Quota with in political parties for minority should be enhanced & minority women should be given leadership positions with in political parties.
59. Inheritance and persona laws for minorities must be enacted and updated.
60. Laws should be made to prevent forced marriages and abduction of minority women.
61. Local Govt. system should be restored and 33 % quota seats for women should be ensured with a representation of minority ,disable and other excluded groups of women.
62. Provincial commission for the status of women should be made autonomous body.
63. Women police stations must be strengthened and empowered and gender responsive policing must be ensured so that women can benefit from it.
64. Women should be recruited as judges in high courts.
65. Political parties must commit to include 33 % women in their general membership as well as membership in the central and provincial executive committees and other decision making bodies.
66. All political parties must have functionalized women wings. The women wings must be strengthened and empowered so that they have the capacity of raise women issues with in the party and can a liaison between women at grassroots level and political powers playing at policy level.



We strongly believe that these are real issues of women that should be addressed derisively by the political actions, both by the Government and by the women themselves, both in legislation and in concerted mass actions.

Women can only take the forefront in these political actions if they are able to fulfill three interrelated conditions:

- 1) If they are conscious enough of their problems
- 2) If they are organized as a strong political force
- 3) If their concerted actions are sustained enough to make a difference.

Our immediate political agenda is therefore to educate, organize and mobilize as many women and women group as we can, not only in the coming elections, but more so, before and after 2013 General elections in Pakistan to act on these issues. We are optimistic that we all will be taking steps in carrying out political agenda for women. By all means, let's debate and discuss. But let's also work on the agenda beyond the parameters of elective positions.



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If you have any query, please contact



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Women's Manifesto
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