

**MUSLIM WOMEN NGO'S MEET  
OF 1ST WORLD WOMEN SUMMIT & EXHIBITION 2016  
ON 23<sup>RD</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA**

Assalam Alaikum,

I am representing APWA, the All Pakistan Women's Association my name is Syeda Ayesha Javeri.

I first thank the Malaysian Government and the entire organization of this World Muslim Women's NGOs Conference for inviting us – and our delegate Salma Chundrigar to attend and meet like-minded Muslim Women from around the globe. I pray that this organization will be a forum that will answer queries from ladies concerning Islamic ideas, with wisdom and tolerance; that debates will follow where questions will be solved in a fair rational mood, and answers will be clear of customs and traditions that have no place in the balanced interpretation in the light of the Quran and the Sunnah. No one attitude will dominate the process but peace will shine; Islam emphasis this as its name means **Peace**.

Prof. Kamar has advised me to three phases this paper:-

1. Peace Building efforts made by Pakistan.

Well let me state that in this modern democratic time Pakistan is best example of this effort of PEACE.

Pakistan is the only country on this globe that opened its doors to the Muslim brethren of Afghanistan and accepted gracefully more than 2 million refugees fleeing from the war in their land, first by the Russian invasion and then by the Taliban.

With the genuine refugees, silently in their fold, came tribal minded, women oppressors whose concept of Islam was antithesis to Rasullah's preaching they said women can be beaten, must not work, must be completely covered in BLUE shrouds :-

They have stayed on for 30 years trying to impose their narrow minded concept by guns and suicide blasts under the guise of religion Pakistani is a vibrant society where there are enlightened women like our Founder Begum Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan. APWA was awarded the PEACE Messenger Award from UNITED NATIONS.

Today I stand here UN in the blood of the martyrs that flowed to keep our land free of intolerance. We have lost 50,000 Pakistani's we have seen 142 innocent school children slaughtered in 2 hours by 8 murderers in their Peshawar school. We are a land trying to keep this PEACE surrounded by war torn Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Syria, Kashmir; for this we pay a price. Our first Muslim Women, Prime Minister Benazir murdered. Our Sabreen Mahmood, Parveen Rehman, Philanthropist Women worker, doctors, nurses shot every day. All by people against PEACE in Pakistan and still we preserve.

How have we attempt to keep peace?

What efforts have we made to help Muslim Women?

We are Category II Consultative Status with the United Nations. Begum Liaquat saw to it that APWA holds a lifetime to the UN Affairs. We are affiliated to 11 International NGOs PESSAWA, UNICEF, CEDAW, CONGO, IAW, ICW and others.

We campaigned for the Family Law and promulgated the Family Law Ordinance, that protects the first wife.

There was a great resentment from some religious Ulema but the government held on. Also recently the law of Domestic Violence punishable by prison, has come into action and is implemented in Punjab. Again some narrow minded clergy said beating is allowed by the Quran. It is not domestic violence and is private, the state cannot enter.

But many scholars, notably Prof. Ahmed Ali, has shown that the Arabic word Daraba has different meaning depending on its placement in the sentence of Quran. It can mean “example”, and here it means win over like the camel is won over.

Please see his version of Translation from NewYork. Also the Hadith is there when we cannot get to a consensus.

For Rasullah called us “**Gods hand maidens**” and not to beat us in the last Qutbar-ul-Haj in front of 10,000 Muslims.

Then Pakistan has made the marriage law for adults only, girls 16 and men 18, can marry so there is a cognition of the event. APWA campaigned to have **honor killing** labeled murder punished by death:-

It is our Muslim women like Shameen Obaid, who won 2 awards, that has got outlawed acid-burning i.e. throwing acid on women as a crime, also her movie “Girl of the River” shows the horrendous acts of a girl thrown in the river by the father because she wanted to marry a person of her heart. The consent of a woman is so necessary. Rasullah sent a woman back, breaking his marriage, when she declared she did not want to be with him

when she had been captured, He could have insisted but did not. No marriage is forced as there is no compulsion in religion La Iqra Fideen

Then there are ladies like our APWA Presidents, and Vice President Begum Meher Kermani who fostered the 3 MDG's we took at the Beijing Conference. Health, Education and Empowerment of the girl child and woman. We have hundred of schools, craft centres and health clinics doing such work of empowerment so that peace prevails from education.

We emphasis the Hadith when Rasullah said Even go to China to get knowledge and the Quran states Rabe-Zidu-Ilma. "Oh Lord give me wisdom".

A novel venture started by our youth section was the jail project, where we sent a teacher with the material, teach the inmates craft and sell that and give the money to these poor women, who 9/10 of the time are innocent and imprisoned by husband or father illegally. We had a judge who helped the cases. But its an uphill task every day.

3<sup>rd</sup> Question was "How do you solve these issues". We believe in women education which will empower them to work, and education will empower them to seek better health. We have 33% women in our Assemblies, who are now empowered to spend Government money on projects that free women from male servitude. The Quran/Nisa 34 states that man is the **Protector of Women** not the Controller of them. Physically he will always be stronger, his strength is greater and so he can protect. It does not mean he is cleverer though he can be, but there are most women cleverer and with a greater vision of life and its problems.

Pakistani women are not fighting for their rights. **We are reinstating**, to this globe, our rights as given by Allah Mia. We have always held property rights. **Bibi Khadija** was a successful **business women** who employed Rasullah and married. We demand education. **Bibi Hafsa** was highly educated, **so women can work** Rasullah wife **Hasrat Omar** daughter and her writing down Quran words, was essential to **Hasrat Usman** compilation of the Quran. The right of choosing or refusing a spouse was there as I've just shown. Rasullah is the ideal model. Women were not isolated. Rasullah allowed his wives and other women to attend the wounded in war.

Today poverty is a crucial question to the world Forum, but if we give Zakat to the Bait-ul-Mal that would help and Qariat (Charity) to the needy is a categorical order in Quran.

Islam is a way of Life. All the major issues can be resolved by example or deduction from the Quran and if not an Ijtimaa (**consensus**) can be allowed and they will not clash with the intellectual world East or West.

Why can't women work outside the four walls of their homes? Bibi Khatija's business, wealth supported the fledging Islamic movement in Mecca. She was the strength emotional that consoled Rasullah when Hazrat Jibnaeel came and taking him to her cousin Warahah showed the message was divine.

We have **Rabia Basri** in those far off days, travelling alone, every step a namaz to Haj. A half qalandar.

In the **Shadat Law**, a Witness law, the ridiculous deduction is that if 2 women are needed as witness and one man, they are inferior, when actually the Quran states the second woman is only a helper and nowhere is it prohibited that one woman's testimony is not enough. To emphasize this the Quran states that a woman's denial against an accusation by her husband that she has committed adultery is valid, if she swears 4 times her innocence and 5<sup>th</sup> put a curse on herself if she is lying and her word is TRUE.

Today all the Conferences and meetings are replaying what was said in Mecca and Madina 1400 years ago. We have allowed it all to be overshadowed. We pray this Conference will reinstate our lost rights, for we are half this planet and involved in every phase of life. Even the U.N.

New Forest capacity conference referring to the indigenous people and the deforestation of land has to get help for the women. Find energy to work the home fires so they do not cut trees. We are the necessary catalyst to ethical behavior, to civilization, to social societies to religious ideals. Definitely **Gods hand Maidens**. We need to realize that through a PEACEFUL existence.

Thank you, Khuda Hafiz

**Syeda Ayesha Javeri**  
**Executive Vice President &**  
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