



**WOMEN'S REGIONAL NETWORK**  
AFGHANISTAN • PAKISTAN • INDIA

**Report of Women's Regional Network Pakistan Report Launch**  
***Shattered Souls: Internally Displaced Women from Punjab, Pakistan***  
Hill View Hotel, F-7 Markaz, Islamabad, August 30th, 2018

**Program**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
02.pm	Registration	
2: 15- 2:30 pm.	Opening Remarks and introduction to the guest speakers by Rehana Wagha, Country Coordinator WRN, Pakistan.	
2:30 pm	Welcome remarks and Introduction to WRN by Ms. Rukhshanda Naz, Member of the Board WRN Pakistan	
03-4:00 pm	Sharing of findings and recommendations of the report by Ms. Saima Jasam  Panelists. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sardar Kalyan Singh</li><li>• Jenifer Bennet</li><li>• Rukhshanda Naz</li></ul>	Shad Begum
04-4:50 pm	Q&A	Ms. Rukhshanda Naz
4:50 – 5:00	Concluding Remarks	Ms. Rukhshanda Naz
5:30-pm	Tea	

The WRN Pakistan launched its report the “Shattered Souls: Internally Displaced Women from Punjab, Pakistan” written by eminent women’s rights activist and development professional Ms. Saima Jasam on 30th August, 2018 in Islamabad. This report is launched as a part of a larger series of launches happening across the 3 countries. This report is focused on displaced women from different parts of all four provinces of Pakistan, mostly KP who are settled in Punjab where WRN used “Community Conversations”- as a tool to reach out to conflict affected women in this case — IDP women displaced as a result of religious extremism/militancy or ethnic and sectarian conflict now residing in Punjab province.

Ms. Rehana Wagha, Country Coordinator WRN, Pakistan started with an introduction to the guest speakers as well as the purpose of the event followed by Ms. Rukhshanda Naz, WRN Pakistan Board Member. She spoke about the core purpose and values of WRN and apprised the participants about the activities of WRN and its future plans.



Ms. Rukhshanda Naz, WRN Pakistan Board Member introducing WRN, its past and future to the participants.

Ms. Saima Jasam, the author of the report “*Shattered Souls: Internally Displaced Women from Punjab, Pakistan*” shared her experiences from the field along with the findings and recommendations of the report. She also shared some of the stories of the women IDPs from minority community which brought her into tears and were quite emotionally moving for the participants casting a grim impression of the realities of people forced to leave their homes due to religious extremism and militancy. She said

that there is a dire need for the civil society and aid agencies to reach out to these IDP women and address their problems and concerns on urgent basis.



Ms. Saima Jasam presented her report findings at the launch.

Ms. Saima also said that these Community Conversations brought to light displaced women's marginality in the new/alien environment as well as their concerns and perspectives on issues of militarization, security, peace and justice. Their fears, insecurities, priorities, and most importantly their roles as peacemakers in rebuilding their families and communities, formed the basis of the discussions that took place during CCs.



Ms. Rukhshanda Naz facilitating the discussion and Q&A session.

Sardar Kalyan Singh, a minority representative from Sikh community shared the problems of Hindus and Sikh IDPs as well as host communities and suggested that the minority community's voices should reach the parliament. He also praised the inclusion of minority representatives into parliament through reserved seats, but lamented that these parliamentarians are not empowered or trained enough to raise their voices in the parliamentarian or sometimes completely unaware of the real issues minority women IDPs are faced with.



Participants of the CCs report launch.

## Recommendations

- The recommendations of the report are aimed at bringing the concerns of women to the forefront and be used as a research report for those involved in humanitarian response, civil society and other actors working with displaced persons. The report will also be used as an advocacy tool to build relationships with state actors to better address the needs of displaced women.
- Besides Saima Jasam, the writer of report, others panelists who gave recommendations on this occasion included Sardar Kalyan Singh, a minority representative, Dr. Jennifer Bennett, Executive Director Population, Environment & Development Centre, and Ms. Rukhshanda Naz, a WRN Pakistan Board Member and ED of Legal Aid and Awareness Services. They said that it was the responsibility of state to take care of the internally displaced persons. They also stressed upon the need to treat minority women as a separate category when dealing with the IDPs in Pakistan as they are faced with the problems and vulnerabilities of higher magnitude being from minority groups.
- The panelists recommended that civil society should engage with the Women's caucus, NCHR, NCSW and PCSWs in order to convince them to include the voices of these IDP women from minority community into their plans and projects so that they are not forgotten while making policies.
- Ms. Jenifer Benne pronounced it to be a state failure in addressing the issues and concerns of IDP women. She recommended that the state should devise a



comprehensive plan to address the problems of victims of inter-state and intra-state conflict because their basic rights to education and livelihoods are greatly affected.

- The participants stressed upon the need for developing projects on peace building to counter extremism on the basis of religion, sect, caste and gender. They also highlighted the need to pressurize the Pakistani state to ensure basic human rights for the minority populations by highlighting gross human rights violations against minority women IDPs.
- Strengthening SAARC for peace-building is the need of the hour, the participants recommended.

*“Collective action by all human rights, women rights, peace groups and all other stakeholders at national and regional levels to lobby and advocate for de-weaponization of the region is essential for peace building processes”.*

*“ Include women (of different faiths, religious sects and ethnicities) in peacebuilding projects program, plans at the local national and regional level”*

Saima Jasam, Report Author



WRN publications were put on display at the registration desk and were readily picked by the participants as an expression of keen interest in WRN research and activities.

## List of Participants

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29	Mashal Niazi	FAFEN	
30	Rukhshanda Naz	WRN	
31	Jenifer Bennet	PEDC	