



Press Release

War Against Rape Karachi

Dated December 11, 2014

Icon for Women's Rights in Pakistan Mukthara Mai was the Guest of Honor in a Seminar arranged by War Against Rape (WAR). Presided by the Minister of Culture & Tourism, Ms Sharmila Farooqi, the Seminar on "Rape & Sexual Violence : Legal Reforms" attracted a diverse segment of society, comprising of members of the Civil Society, representatives from NGOs, doctors, lawyers, teachers, human rights activists and government officials.

Observing its 25th Anniversary this year, War Against Rape with its vast experience in the field of sexual violence and rape, used the forum of this Seminar to push forth for some much needed Legal, Medical and Procedural Reforms to the Government.

The Seminar was addressed by the Guest of Honor Mukhtari Mai and the Minister of Culture & Tourism Sharmila Farooqi. WAR representative Ms Kausar S. Khan also reminisced about how the times & environment which lead to WAR being formed in the late 1980s.

The thrust of the War Against Rape Seminar were the key note addresses on Legal & Procedural Reforms. Ms Danish Zuberi, Attorney _____, appreciated the Sindh Government's initiative of passing the Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, The Domestic Violence law and the Child Marriage Restrain Act, but urged the Government to focus on the main challenge of its actual implementation.

Ms. Sarah Zaman, in her key note address spoke of the 'on field' challenges in the Medico-legal field as well as procedural obstructions hindering disbursement of fair trial and justice to Survivors. Going through her experience as a past Director in WAR, she gave some recommendations for good governance and reforms in the Medical-legal sector.

Main Reform Recommendations given by WAR :

1. Cases of Sexual Violence, rape & incest to be covered under Legal “Time Limit” of 2 years. Same as in Terrorism cases.
2. In compromised or out of court settlement cases, State should become ‘Party’ and continue with the trial of the Accused.
3. New Legislation urgently required on Cyber Crime on women (Law already drafted but not approved by National Assembly). Cyber Crime a serious emerging violence against young girls. Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2014.
4. Mandatory DNA testing should be carried out on all rape cases and DNA machine to be installed in all Districts.
5. Empower current Women Police Stations & increase to every District.
6. Medical Legal Examination for rape Survivors to become operational on the 9 hospital identified, including established private Hospitals like Aga Khan Hospital, Ziauddin Hospital.
7. Mandatory, but on merit, recruitment of more women in workforce like State Prosecutors, Judges, Police officers, Medico-legal Officers and Clerical force in judiciary, police and in hospitals 🇵🇰
8. Medico-legal being a critical field, teaching should be part of the Medical curriculum in medical colleges, so that students develop interest in this subject and more females students branch out on this specialized field.
9. 5) Medico-legal examination practice should be made mandatory for house job for all medical students.

War Against Rape urged the Sindh Government to tackled on priority the alarming state of law and order in the Province in general and in Karachi particularly, as women generally are the first victims of lawlessness. It urged the Government for immediate and strict enforcement and implementation of these all laws recently passed for Women protection and welfare, as it feels that unless this is done, violence against women will continue, unabated.

War Against Rape strongly feels that had justice been done in the Mukhtaran Mai case and an example made of the perpetrators of this heinous crimes like rape and sexual violence, would have been reduced from the society.

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War Against Rape (WAR) is an apolitical, Non-Profit and Non-Government Organization working since 1989 for providing sexually abused women and children FREE legal aid, psychotherapeutic counseling, basic medical assistance and crisis intervention for survivors of rape, incest and other forms of sexual violence.

War Against Rape (WAR) also has an aggressive advocacy component through which various activities are undertaken for awareness raising and capacity building purposes. Included as part of its advocacy programs are sensitizing and training sessions for other stake holders i.e. police officers, in particular women police officers, medico-legal doctors, lawyers & journalist etc. As part of its advocacy programs, War Against Rape (WAR) has held community based awareness sessions, as well as sessions in Universities / Colleges & Schools.

War Against Rape (WAR) publishes annual newsletters, reports, statistics & data including many Research Publications on topics of its core interest including Incest, Criminal Justice System etc.