



WAR AGAINST RAPE

NEWSLETTER

Room # 2, Second Floor, 4 - Link Farid Kot Road, Lahore.

Volume 1 / Issue 1

April 1993

This is WAR Lahore's first newsletter. We hope to bring out three issues a year to begin with. Contributions, suggestions and letters are welcome.

War Against Rape's Lahore chapter was launched in February 1992.

Office: Room no. 2, Second Floor, 4-Link Faridkot Road, Lahore

Membership: Open to all on payment of membership dues i.e. Rs 120/- payable annually. All requests for membership are proposed by one WAR member and seconded by another.

Funding: WAR's activities are funded by membership fees and by private donations.

Organisation: WAR's activities are undertaken by a 10-member working committee and several sub-committees. The general body consists of all WAR members.

Any general body member may join the sub-committees and contribute to WAR's activities. However, active membership of at least one year (attendance of at least 3 general body meetings and/or active contribution/commitment to a sub-committee) is a prerequisite to joining the working committee. Besides general body meetings (held every three to four months), members are also welcome to attend working committee meetings, held at WAR's office. Such members may fully participate in discussions, reviews, planning and monitoring. However if decision making is done by vote in case of a divided opinion, members outside the working committee shall not be allowed to vote.

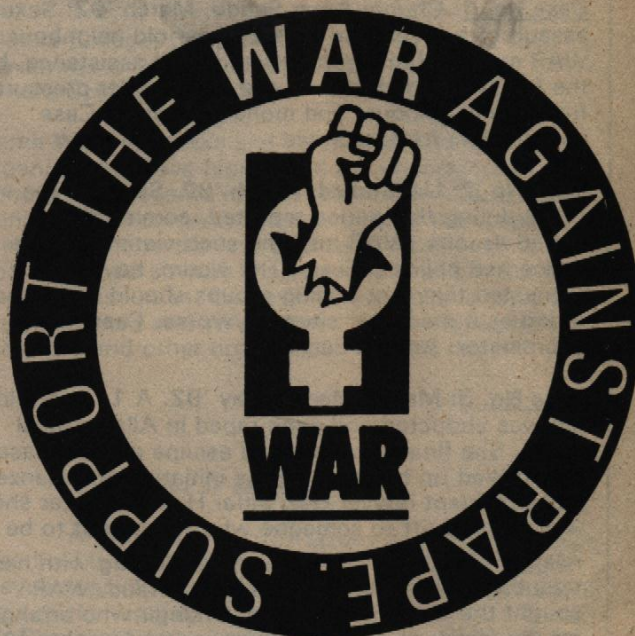
WAR is a non-hierarchical organisation. The work is done on a purely voluntary basis.

A 20-member working committee was drawn from among WAR's initial membership, to officiate from February 1992 to August 1992.

To improve the efficiency of the working committee and also because some members were no longer available, it was decided to reduce the working committee to ten persons, which would continue for at least 18 months, during which time it would try and establish WAR on an institutional level.

The working committee meetings have been regularly attended by some general body members, who have made valuable contributions and suggestions to the working and activities of WAR.

WAR (War Against Rape) is a small group of men and women dedicated to building a humane and dignified society. WAR believes in breaking the silence on sexual violence and rape, helping the rape victims morally, legally, psychologically and medically, punishing the culprits, improving the laws relating to rape and creating a rape-free society. It is a tall order, but this small non-partisan and non-hierarchical group of volunteers is determined to achieve its mission.



WAR stickers available, Rs 5/- each

"I want women to fight back. I want myself to fight back. I need their help to make that part of me stronger. I need for them to tell me that I don't need to be ashamed, that it wasn't my fault, that this is not right, it should not happen to any human being, male or female. I need for them to tell the world that rape does not exist in animals, that it is a crime invented solely by man."

- Rape survivor quoted in Newsline, July 1990

Join WAR and fight for Human Dignity.

WAR's ACTIVITIES
FEBRUARY 1992 - APRIL 1993

1. Cases

Although WAR does not currently have the means or the resources to follow up every rape case reported, a limited number of cases have been taken up. WAR's role in these cases has been to send fact-finding missions, lobby with the police for quick action against the accused and to avoid further pressure on the victims and their families (SSP Lahore Tariq M. Khosa has been particularly helpful), to create some public awareness about these cases by issuing press releases pointing out how these cases are indicative of the general trend of sexual violence. In some cases in and around Lahore, WAR has sought the support of AGHS and other sympathetic organisations and individuals in providing sanctuary and legal help to the victims.

A brief outline of the cases taken up by WAR:

Case No. 1: Chungi Amar Saddu, March '92: Sexual assault of a 6 year old by a 20-year old neighbour. WAR met the family and offered legal assistance, but the family decided to drop the case, under pressure from the neighbours and mohalla-wallahs. Case coordinator: Amena Saiyid.

Case No. 2: Liaqatabad, March '92. Several rape cases during this period reported, committed by armed dacoits. WAR met one such victim and the concerned police officers. The victim, however, requested that fact-finding groups should not come round as it made her situation worse. Case coordinator: Amena Saiyid.

Case No. 3: Manga Mandi, May '92. A 14-year old girl was abducted and gang raped in Allama Iqbal Town. She finally managed to escape and the case was picked up by WAR on the initiative of Jahanzeb Block resident lawyer Qazi Zafar Hussain. Later she was married off to someone who turned out to be a relative of the investigating officer dealing with her rape case. The marriage was also a fraud. WAR sought the help of Ms. Asma Jahangir who arranged for the victim to stay in Lahore and took up her case through AGHS. The girl and her father are determined to pursue the case, which is still pending in court. Case coordinator: Qazi Zafar Hussain.

Case No. 4: Manga Mandi, August '92. The 14-year old daughter of a brick kiln worker abducted and raped by a former employer. The family decided to go to court with WAR's help, but eventually reached a

compromise with the accused. They were under tremendous financial pressure, and the accused released them of the debt they owed him. Case coordinator: M. Joseph Francis.

Case No. 5: Allama Iqbal Town, Sept '92. A young girl had been married off to an older, rich man (who didn't tell her family of his previous three marriages) who brutally beat her up regularly and also threatened to kill her on a number of occasions. The role of a marriage bureau which helped arrange the marriage was highly suspect. WAR met the girl at her parents' home - she had applied for divorce - and publicised her story (with the family's permission) to raise awareness about the perils of early marriages, especially with virtual strangers. Case coordinator: Qazi Zafar Hussain.

Case No. 6: Chungi Amar Saddu, Dec '92. Several young girls who were made drug addicts and used as prostitutes by one Guddo and her gang. WAR coordinated with the police and the neighbours helping the girls. The accused have been arrested and refused bail. Case coordinator: Nadeem Fazil.

Case No. 7: Shahdara, Jan '93. A young girl was sold by her mother-in-law with the connivance of her husband, raped by the 'buyers' and dumped at her parents home. WAR arranged for a lawyer and coordinated with the victims' family in pressurising the law enforcing agencies to arrest the accused and stop harassing the victim's family. The accused are currently in judicial lock-up. Case coordinator: Nadeem Fazil

During this one year that WAR picked up seven odd cases, about 1,300 rape cases were registered in Punjab, barely half of which were reported by the press. The actual number of rapes that take place are estimated to be more than four times the registered cases. Rapes in urban areas in middle and upper classes and cases of incest are rarely, if ever, registered or reported.

2. Awareness Raising



Drawing made for WAR by Ziullah, a 20 year old chowkidar from Peshawar

A. Education sub-committee teams made presentations at:

Lahore Grammar School
Kinnaird College
Lexicon Hall, Township (Private Education Center)
Trainers of Family Planning Association of Pakistan (FPAP)
Para-legal Trainees at AGHS (Two Groups)
The American School

The objective of the Education Sub-Committee is to plan and make presentations at as many educational institutions and for as many groups as possible. Educational institutions targeted for Presentations in near future are:

Islamia College, Cooper Road
Government College Lahore, and
Lahore College for Women.

Some WAR members and other sympathetic organisations have highlighted the importance of conducting presentations in other cities and towns of Punjab. WAR certainly plans to extend the scope of presentations to the less privileged areas but it is not possible to do so with the currently available human and financial resources. However this remains a top priority on the agenda and WAR plans to seek the support of members and other organisations in this regard.

B. Education of WAR members

- i. A Workshop on *The Issues and Myths of Rape* was held in April 1992, addressed by Rubina Saigol (psychological), Hina Jillani (legal) and Neelam Hussain (role of the media). WAR published a report on the workshop. Copies of the report are available for Rs 10/- for members and Rs 15/- for non-members.
- ii. A discussion on *Perceptions on Sexual Violence* was held with Khawar Mumtaz of Shirkat Gah, at The Friday Times office, Jan 19 1993.
- iii. Presentation and Group Discussion on *Social and Religious Attitudes Affecting Perceptions on Violence Against Women*. Resource persons: Ms. Farida Shaheed supported by Ms. Neelam Hussain and Ms. Rubina Saigol. Held on April 10, 1993 at the Shirkat Gah office and attended by fifteen WAR members. Invitations were mailed to the members of WAR.

"The Hudood Ordinances are frightening to me - and I am innocent. I am the one who has been hurt, yet I am afraid to seek justice through this legal system."

Rape survivor quoted in Newline, August 1990.

C. Analytical compilation of rape cases reported in the Lahore Press

Press reports of rape cases maintained by the HRCP are made available to WAR regularly. WAR compiles and analyzes the cases and prepares reports based on these. These reports are sent to newspapers and press agencies on a regular basis.

According to WAR's surveys of the Lahore papers:

- From August to mid-Oct 1992 (8 weeks), over 30 cases of rape, abduction, degradation and murder of women were reported.

- 99 cases of violence against women were reported in December 1992, of which almost half were rape cases.

- 95 cases of rape, attempted rape or molestation were reported from January 1 to February 16, 1993.

WAR notes the increase in the trend of sexual violence against minors. Approximately one third of the victims are young girls below 18.

Also, the police failed to register cases in one fourth of the cases reported in Jan '93, while investigations were either slow or slanted in favour of the accused in another 25 % of the reported cases. Unfortunately in the 60 reported cases in January 1993, police men were allegedly involved directly or indirectly in almost twenty percent of these.

Where the (erstwhile) Prime Minister's compassion towards rape victims is appreciated, it is a matter of grave concern that the victim and her family's plight is reduced to a farce by television and print media exposure. WAR continues to question the rationale behind the Prime Minister's high profile visits including offering yellow cabs to the victim's family as a compensation. This attitude belittles the severity of the problem and shifts the focus away to peripheral issues contributing to a second violation of the victim and also indirectly encouraging people to register false cases.

D. Signature campaign against the Hudood Ordinances.

WAR continues to demand a repeal of the Hudood Ordinances which victimises the victims of rape while allowing the rapists to go scot-free. WAR believes that the rising incidence of crimes against women is a direct outcome of the degrading attitude created and perpetuated by the existing political and legal structures.

WAR initiated a signature campaign to mobilise support against the Hudood Ordinances. The signature campaign form has been published free of cost in some publications, for which WAR extends its gratitude and thanks. The publications were *Dawn*, *The Frontier Post*, *The Nation*, *The Friday Times*, *She*, *Slogan* and *Women Living Under Muslim Laws* newssheet. An Urdu translation has been completed and WAR is making efforts to seek the support of Urdu press to get it printed free of cost. WAR is optimistic that its efforts will result in positive response from the Urdu press.

WAR AGAINST RAPE

The War Against Rape (WAR) has launched a signature campaign against the Hudood Ordinances. We feel that this issue needs to be highlighted once again. Kindly have the following statement signed by as many people as you can and return to the address below.

We the undersigned believe that the Zina (Hudood) Ordinance 1979 is discriminatory and degrades women's status in society. We further believe that Hudood laws do not protect those women who are innocent, in the true spirit of a just and unprejudiced law. The very title of the Hudood laws "Zina Ordinance", reflects a derogatory attitude towards women.

We demand that all such laws be repealed and that fresh legislation be enacted which upholds the status of women.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Profession: _____

Signature: _____



Room No.2,
Second Floor,
4 Link Farid Kot Road, Lahore

Join WAR and fight for Human Dignity.



**VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN
IS GLOBAL**

Africa:

In South Africa, one out of every six is assaulted regularly by her mate. In at least 46% of these cases, the men involved also abuse the women's children.

Asia:

In Pakistan, 99% of housewives and 77% of working women are beaten by their husbands.

Europe:

In France, 95% of the victims of violence are women, 51% of them at the hands of their husbands.

Latin America:

In Costa Rica, one out of two women can expect to be the victim of violence at some point in their lives.

North America:

In Canada, one out of four women can expect to be assaulted at some point in their lives, one half of these before the age of 17,

Caribbean:

In Jamaica, where rape is not a criminal offense, 1,088 cases of rape and carnal abuse were reported in 1989.

South Pacific:

In Papua New Guinea, 60% of the persons murdered in 1981 were women - the majority of them by their spouses during or after a domestic argument

(Courtesy: 'The Tribune', June 1991, International Women's Tribune Centre, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA)

E. Introductory Material

- Leaflet 'Join War and Fight for Human Dignity'

- Stickers and posters to 1) help in awareness raising and 2) generate funds for WAR through their sales.

- Report on April 1992 Workshop 'Issues and Myths of Rape'. A limited number of copies are available for those wishing to have a greater insight into the issue, Rs 10/ for members; Rs 15/ for non-members.

Summary of ongoing activities

1. Assisting as many rape victims as limited resources allow
2. Awareness raising through presentations at educational institutions and to various groups
3. Awareness raising through compiling cases of sexual violence reported in the press, and sending analytical reports of these to newspapers
4. Awareness raising through issuing press releases
5. A quarterly news-sheet in Urdu and English to keep members and general public informed about WAR's activities

Other plans for 1993 - 1994

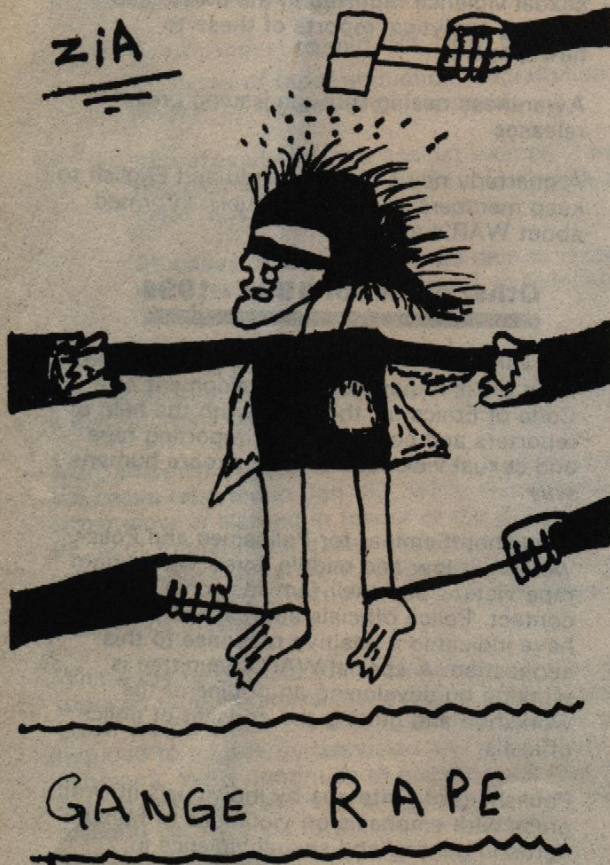
1. Workshop/Seminar for Press in general and Urdu press in particular. Development of a Code of Ethics for the press with the help of reporters and columnists for reporting rape and sexual violence cases in a more humane way
2. Workshop/Seminar for Policemen and Police-women at low and middle levels with whom rape victims and their families come in contact. Police officials approached by WAR have indicated a positive response to this suggestion. A special WAR committee is working on developing an outline of the workshop and getting the consent of police officials.
3. Publishing of write ups by individuals in Urdu press with emphasis on violations of human rights in general and sexual violence in particular. Urdu press is being approached for publishing such write ups contributed by WAR members and others.

Long Term Goals

1. To open a rape-crisis centre with a 24-hour hot-line for victims
2. To continue creating public awareness on the issue of sexual violence
3. To rehabilitate rape victims
4. To continue providing information and awareness to special groups
5. To continue striving for purging the society of sexual violence

How YOU can help

1. By being a member of WAR's general body and providing your moral support, as well as financial assistance by subscribing with a minimum of Rs. 10 per month
2. By volunteering time, money, legal, psychological or medical help, or by joining a sub-committee to do active work on a time availability basis
3. Selling WAR's stickers or posters for fund-raising and awareness-raising
4. By attending working committee meetings, participating in discussions and planning and giving your suggestions
5. Getting as many signatures as possible on WAR's signature campaign against the Hudood Ordinance and also doing the same for future campaigns
6. By telling other people, whom you regularly meet, about WAR and its objectives and by helping them to make contact with WAR if they wish to participate in its work
7. By bringing to WAR's notice, cases of sexual violations by personally contacting, calling or writing to WAR Working Committee



Drawing made by Ziullah, 20, for WAR

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Myths

Domestic violence is a private matter between husband and wife.

Men have to get their anger and anxiety out somehow. After all, they have a lot of stress in their daily lives.

Most of the time women ask for trouble anyway.

Violence against women isn't my problem. It wouldn't happen to me or anyone I know. It only happens in poor, illiterate families.

It's only the westernised lot that get bothered about it. In our society, men are in charge, especially at home.

I don't think he could be beating her. I mean, he's such a professional man and always seems like such a nice person.

Women are just as abusive and violent towards their husbands.

I don't know why these women stay in violent relationships anyway. Why don't they just leave.

The Facts

Violence is not a 'personal' matter. Everyone in the community needs to get involved.

Assailants use 'stress' as an excuse for violence just as they use drinking as an excuse. Many people who are under extreme stress do not assault their partners. Assailants who are stressed at work do not attack their co-workers or boss.

Women do not 'ask' to be beaten. In an equal relationship, both partners should be able to speak and act freely, without fear of being abused physically.

Battering is extremely common and happens in all types of situations. The family can be rich or poor, educated or non-educated, employed or unemployed, large or small. It happens in rural areas and in urban areas, in large towns and small. Violence against women occurs everywhere and at any time of the day or night.

It is not traditional in any country for women to be violently assaulted, and even if it were, there is no reason for it to continue. Women in all countries are organising against violence in their own societies. On occasion, women gather at international, regional or national meetings to discuss and share strategies for action. This strengthens the movement against violence and builds solidarity.

Battering is not just one physical attack. It is a number of tactics - intimidation, threats, economic deprivation, psychological and sexual abuse - used repeatedly. Physical violence is just one of those tactics. Men who batter are usually not violent towards anyone but their wives and children - safe targets. They can belong to any profession.

In over 95% of domestic assaults, the man is the assailant. This fact makes many of us uncomfortable, but is no less true because of that discomfort. There are rare cases where a woman batters a man. And women have been known to kill their attacker after prolonged years of battering. But violence in the home is overwhelmingly by men against women.

Many battered women leave their abusers permanently; almost all battered women leave at least once. The batterer dramatically escalates his violence when a woman leaves (or tries to) because it is necessary for him to reassert control and ownership.

IN THE EVENT OF RAPE

Rape is an act of violence. However, unlike other acts of violence, rape makes the victim feel extreme shame, guilt, humiliation and deep emotional pain. A rape victim should not be blamed but supported, comforted and understood. She must be listened to and helped by family and friends. If she wishes to report rape, the following steps should be taken immediately:

1. Do not clean yourself or change clothing before reporting rape, since this is valuable evidence which can be used for prosecution. If there is any other evidence which you can provide to the police, do so, but make sure that you have a receipt (recovery memo) for it.
2. Register an FIR at the local thana. You can turn in written details of the incident which the police have to acknowledge by putting their stamp on it. All reported incidents are entered in the police register. Make sure you have your entry number and also a copy of your written statement.
3. If you cannot give a written statement, then you can ask a police officer to write down the event for you. To make sure that the written statements accurate, have to police officer read out what has been written. Keep a copy of the written statement for yourself.
4. If the police of the local thana refuse to register your case, then file an FIR at the Police Head Office.
5. If the Police Head Office also refuses to cooperate, then report the facts of the case by telegraph to the local administration (Governor, Chief Minister, I. G. Police, Chief Justice, etc). Besides putting pressure on the police, this also assures that your case is put on the records of the local administration.
6. Obtaining a medical record is also extremely important. Obtain permission from the Area Magistrate, and get yourself examined at the office of the police surgeon at the Police Medical Centre at Neela Gumbad, Anarkali (behind Punjab University). A female medical officer is available at the Centre. You have a right to a copy of your medical report, which is usually ready in a couple of days.

Courtesy: War Newsletter, (Volume 2/ Issue 1), Karachi September 1992

Women's Resource Centres

Documentation and research centres	Phone numbers
Shirkat Gah	372414
Aurat Foundation	6360603
Simorgh	
Legal aid	
AGHS Legal Aid Cell (Contact Shahtaj Qazalbash)	879273, 871813, 5710709
Paralegal Training, also available at AGHS	
Income generating skills, literacy & health centre	
Al Fatima Markaz, Yakki Gate	7260311
Halfway homes/ refuge centres for destitute women	
Dastak Women's Centre (c/o AGHS)	879273, 871813, 5710709
Hamara Ghar (Contact Dr Nusrat Rana)	7575189, 756628 (2-4 pm)
Lady Police Centre Icchra, Lahore,	
DSP Lady Police, Farkhanda Iqbal,	7575634