









International Women's 03 Day Celebration

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Director's Message Dear Friends,

Very warms greeting from all of us at WAR!

As we initiate new projects to address systemic anomalies and transform the way survivors of sexual violence are provided care, we bring to our readers local perspectives on sexual violence (SV) in Pakistan. We are continually moved by the courageous women and children who despite unresponsive State machinery and sexist society, choose to raise their voices and demand that justice be done.

As the year 2010 marks two important anniversaries, the 30th of CEDAW and the 15th of the Beijing Platform for Action, we ought to reflect on how far we have come in creating a better world for women. In this edition of Hurmat, you will find information on some exciting developments at WAR, which include fulfilling a dream held since WAR's inception: a one-stop support facility for survivors of sexual violence, analogous to rape crisis centers in other countries, and a protocol for comprehensive medico-legal care.

In the past six months, WAR has continually revisited its tactics to develop a results-based approach towards its programs. Among these are alliance-building measures with different government departments to promote dialogue on constraints and viable solutions. We continue to be concerned about underreporting of SV cases, the quality and accessibility of services and the absence of State support which obstructs rather than facilitates the course of justice.

We thank you for your support over the last 20 years of WAR's existence and with your continued support, hope that we can collectively create a better society for women and children, and carry on the fight for human dignity!

Sarah Zaman | Director

About us

War Against Rape (WAR) was founded in Karachi in 1989 and became a registered organization in 1992. WAR is committed to creating a rape free society. It endeavors to work on all social, legal, medical and administrative issues that could help either in the reduction of such acts of violence or support, facilitate and improve human rights and conditions for survivors.

It offers services to survivors of sexual violence including free legal aid, psychotherapeutic counseling, medical assistance and crisis intervention, and has an aggressive advocacy component through which various activities are undertaken for awareness raising and capacity-building purposes.

Editor's Note

As I ran an inter-departmental marathon along the course of Hurmat's final edit, the significance of scrutinizing the source of every component of every document dawned upon me. Hurmat's voice is not mine. It is that of K, N, T, and all those other courageous survivors not willing to give up without a fight- come what may. In all our work at War Against Rape, anything short of complete accuracy in every story that is presented is indisputably unacceptable.

Harrowing tales of one wronged woman or child after another, deep-rooted gender bias and utter insensitivity towards survivors in the police force, and most importantly, legislative reforms that are still needed present little cause for celebration, even with the few and far in between cases of success. In the one year period between July '09 and June '10, WAR took on a record breaking caseload of 26 cases- our highest number till date; virtually nothing in comparison to the percentage of rape cases (97%) that don't even make it to the records.

Adlai Stevenson, a renowned American politician and diplomat, once said that, "patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime". In that sense, civil society has much to accomplish. Varying limitations allow non-profit organizations only so much room to make a difference. It is only when each and every individual resolves to speak out against sexual violence, against distorted systems that do not protect the rights of the citizenry, against absence of legislation on marital rape and object rape, and everything else in between that justice can be complete. After all, a discourse can take place anywhere and costs nothing. In keeping these issues a consistent part of discourses at home, in the workplace, and at social gatherings, we are in fact keeping the pressure on. And that, my dear readers, is the need of the hour!

Sahar Zainab | Outreach Officer

Credits

Sajida Ali, Rukhsana Bibi Danish Ali, Samana Zehra

WAR Celebrates Legal Victory in 3 Cases (February '10)

To celebrate legal victory in three rape cases won between December 2009 and January 2010, WAR held a press briefing at the Sindh High Court Cafeteria Hall on February 9th, 2010. Advisor to the Chief Minister Sindh, Ms. Sharmila Farooqi, rape survivor Naseema Lubano, families of two other survivors, and prosecution lawyers addressed the press.

This briefing was held to commemorate the families' brave struggle for justice, highlight gaps in the judicial system, and call for state-sponsored rehabilitative support for rape survivors.

Ms. Khalidah Ahmed Qadri, Socio-legal Officer at WAR, elaborated on the role of police and civil society in supporting rape survivors and called upon civil society for assistance to change not just the culture of police stations, but also their attitude towards women in general, and rape survivors in particular. She said that it was impossible for any non-governmental organization to single-handedly take on such a large caseload and provide not only services but also protection and rehabilitation. A timeframe for deciding rape cases was also demanded as besides social pressure, painfully slow investigation and legal processes discourage survivors from pursing their cases in court.





Barrister Faisal Siddiqi (Advocate, Sindh High Court) lauded WAR's efforts, the role of the media, and most importantly, the courage demonstrated by survivors and their families. Advisor to the Chief Minister, Sharmila Farooqi underlined the need for gender sensitization of police officials, ineffective legal systems, award of adequate punishments to rapists, and recommended that WAR take on the case of S, under trial at the Anti-terrorism Court (ATC), in which two police constables brutally raped and murdered the three-year old. The case was at a standstill in court for some time and prosecution had failed to push for a speedy resolution. Lawyers for Human Rights and Legal Aid (LHRLA)

Chairman, Zia Awan shared details of his involvement with the Lubano case before WAR took it over, and called for the repeal of the Hudood Ordinances, stressing on the responsibility of the government to provide support and security to families dislocated due to their cases.

In an emotionally charged address, Naseema Lubano, her family, and the families of rape survivors I, M, and T shared the hurdles they face and appreciated the WAR team's support and commitment to their plight. T's mother, whose case remains pending, pledged to keep fighting for justice as long as WAR stood by her daughter and their family just like it has in these other cases.

International Women's Days Celebrations (March '10)



o mark International Women's Day, WAR joined hands with Advisor to Sindh Chief Minister, Ms. Sharmila Farooqi to hold a musical function at the Women's Jail, Karachi, for the inmates. Folk singer Shazia Khushk put on a free show as a gesture of solidarity and enthralled the audience with her enchanting voice. The rhythms of her folk tunes got most women and all children on their feet, lifting them briefly from the drudgery of prison life. After the concert, gifts, henna cones and lunch was distributed amongst them.

If you have an innovative idea to celebrate Inter-

national Women's Day next year, WAR would be delighted to hear from you. Please write to us at waragainstrape.khi@gmail.com.

Joining Hands for Change- Civil Society Referral Network- Meeting III, Karachi (April '10)

consultative CS Referral Network Meeting with civil society organizations from Karachi took place at the Beach Luxury Hotel on April 6th, 2010. The formulation of a CS support network envisioned to serve rape survivors on different fronts, including free legal aid, rehabilitative support and advocacy for more just laws, was initiated by WAR in 2009. This meeting was held to identify and enlist network members, discuss roles and responsibilities, and decide the network's structure and its processes. In attendance were several prominent non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, media professionals, and individuals from the development sector.

Recommendations included the establishment of a rotating secretariat, a governing body, an implementation body and a general body. The network's need for visibility was emphasized at member activities, a mention in member reports and the like. In respect to resource generation and allocation, building corporate contacts to raise funding in addition to a pool of resources presently instituted among members was suggested. The importance of maintaining a collective and open approach to the network's actions was also stressed.



Steppingstones Consultation in Murree (March '09)



ICCO, one of WAR's donors based in the Netherlands, organized a consultative workshop in partnership with Raasta Development Consultants, from 9th to 13th March, 2010. The workshop titled 'Steppingstones Consultation' was held at the breathtaking Shangrila Resort Hotel, Murree. The focus of the workshop was on Democratization & Conflict Transformation as well as Fair & Sustainable Economic Development. Themes like Food Security & Water and Conflict Transformation

were the key elements, whereas gender, migration and youth were cross-cutting issues also addressed.

The expected result of this consultation was relevant input for ICCO's Country Policy for Pakistan and indirectly for the Regional Plan for South Asia. The Regional Plan itself will be one of the elements of the future Business Plan of the ICCO Alliance for the years 2011-2015. The consultation was attended by WAR's Director, Sarah Zaman.

WAR Forges Strategic Partnership with the Women's Development Department, Sindh (February '10)

he Minister for Women's Development, Sindh, Ms. Tauqueer Fatima Bhutto, met with WAR's team at her office on February 23rd, 2010, to discuss forging an alliance for addressing problems in State response to sexual violence. Ms. Bhutto stated that while WAR's efforts were praiseworthy but currently limited only to Karachi, her department's mandate extends to all of Sindh. WAR reps emphasized that since WAR has been working with other State departments to formulate better women-specific working procedures and policies, its initiative may certainly be complimentary to the department's own advocacy projects on which the organization and the department could partner. The Minister was enthusiastic about a joint State-actors meeting, as proposed by WAR and pledged to notify the department's secretariat in initiating this endeavor with WAR.

In follow-up meetings, Secretary for Women's Development department, Nargis Ghaloo, requested WAR to prepare a formal letter for the meeting to be executed and the Deputy Director of Women's Development, Musarrat Jabeen discussed logistics. Among other details, it was agreed that the department would mobilize the target audience which would include higher officials from the Police, Health Ministry and Medico-legal sector. It was also decided that a Memorandum of Understanding would be signed between the two parties to officially consolidate the partnership.

WAR - WISE



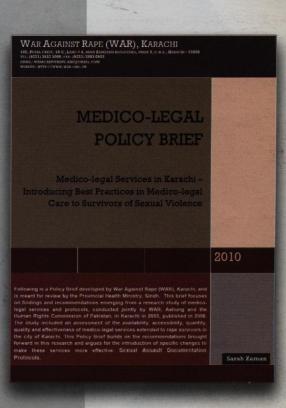
In an inspired move, WAR was approached by Women's International Shared Experience (WISE) to facilitate a two-week filmmaking workshop for women survivors of violence, organized and funded by the Hong Kongbased Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), in July '09. Survivors whom WAR had worked with were trained in different skills including storyboarding, filming, and editing

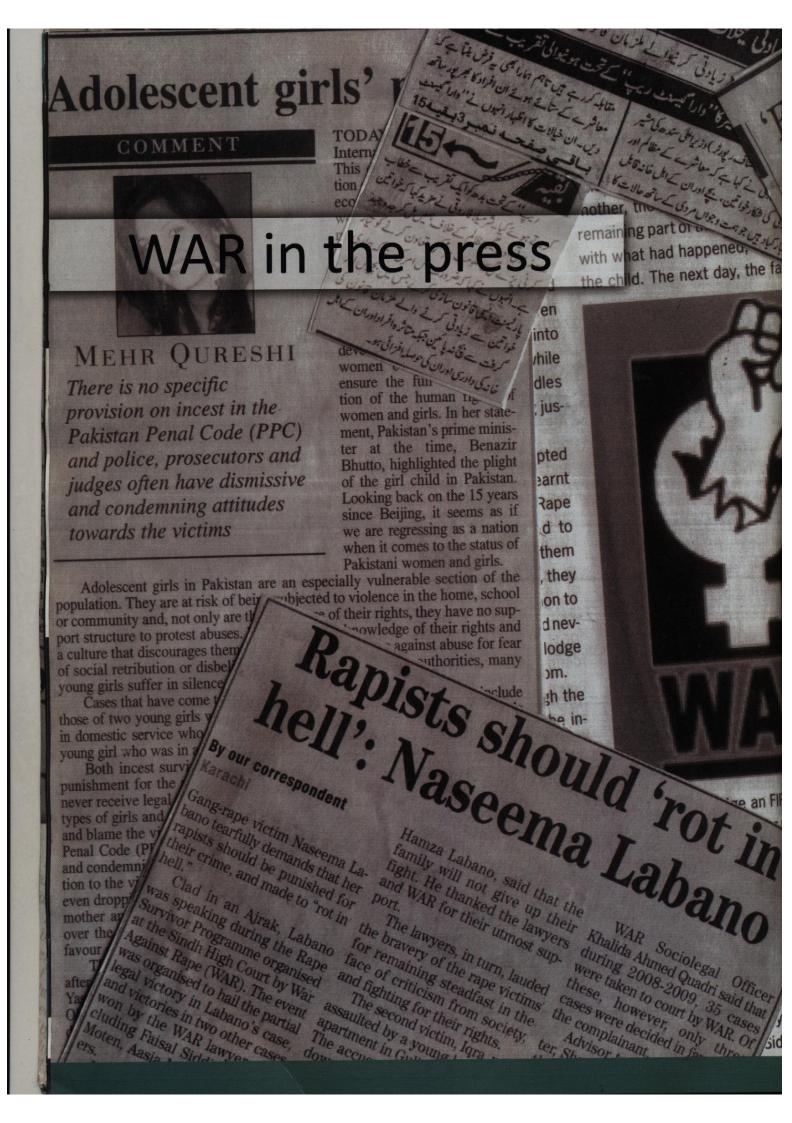
footage in order to produce a ten-minute documentary on domestic violence — a topic that they chose themselves — titled 'Half Face'. The experience enriched all parties involved and empowered these women to express themselves through this innovative program. Three cameras and computers have been donated by WISE so that training centers can be set up in Karachi, Hyderabad and Rahimyar Khan.

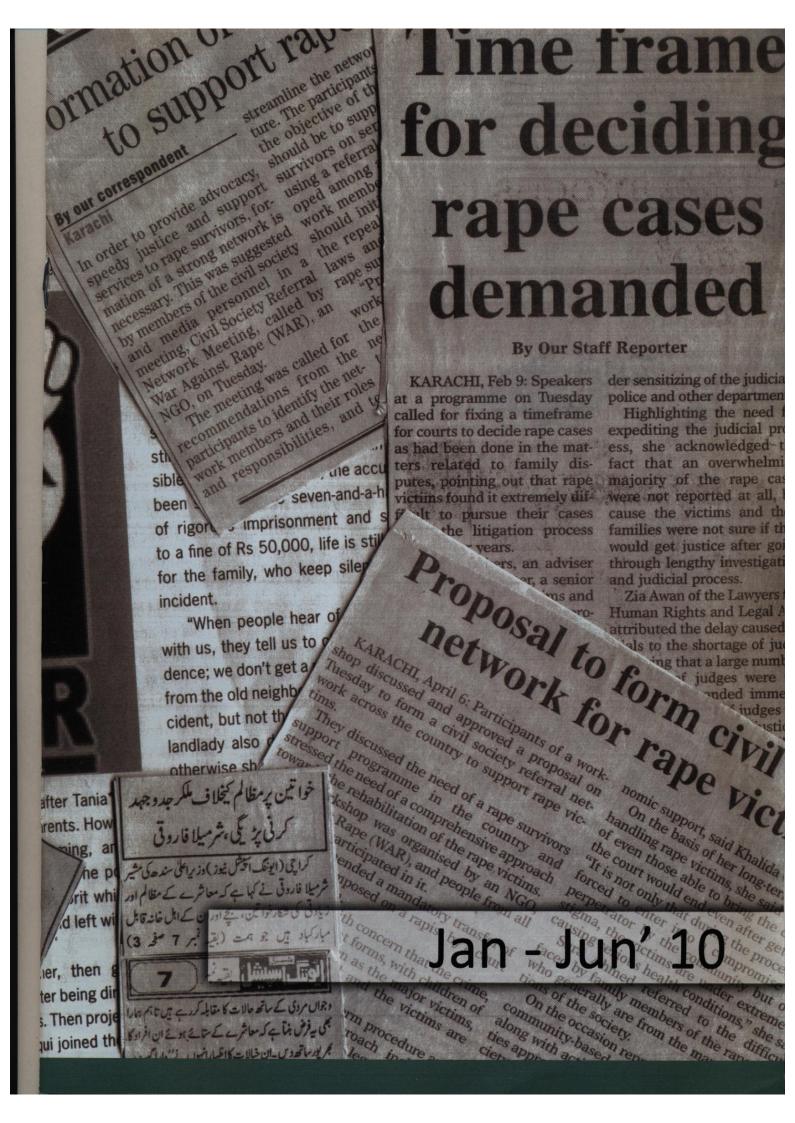
Policy Developed for Comprehensive Documentation of Rape Cases

his year WAR developed a comprehensive set of documentation and testing protocols for medico-legal examinations in Karachi. These protocols have been developed after gathering information on medico-legal practices in Karachi's government hospitals over 20 years and various in-depth discussions with medico-legal officers and Police Surgeons over the same period. As the depth of detail captured in medico-legal certificates has direct implications on the outcome of a case in court, the need to improve documentation has always been felt.

Though the policy will be piloted for adoption by the Health Ministry for Karachi at this stage, it can easily be replicated across Pakistan. The document, called Sexual Assault Documentation Protocols (SADP), covers all aspects of rape examinations and is expected to supplant the existing Medico-legal Certificates being used in Karachi's government hospitals to document findings in sexual assault cases.

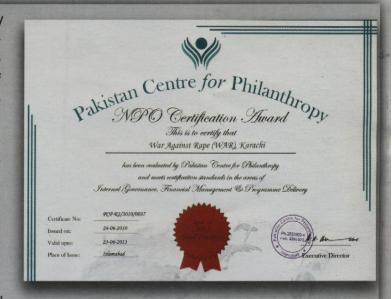






PCP Certifies WAR for the third time!

he Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP) is an independent nonprofit support organization with a mandate to promote the volume and effectiveness of philanthropy in Pakistan. PCP seeks to facilitate altruistic efforts of national and international donors by establishing effective linkages between the donors and nonprofit civil society organizations. PCP's follows its own certification model for evaluating Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on the parameters of internal governance, financial transparency and service delivery serves and an increasing number of government and international



donors have made PCP certification mandatory for civil society organizations to be able to receive donor funds.

WAR first applied for PCP certification in 2006. It was then certified as a non-profit origination till 2009, when the certification was again renewed. In 2010, in a field evaluation conducted by PCP, WAR has been certified for the third time according to the evaluation criteria till year 2013! A hearty congratulation to the WAR team and the Working Committee on receiving this certification! A very special thanks is due to Dr. Abdul Bari Awan for introducing WAR to PCP and working to get the certification. It is thanks to Dr. Awan unstinting efforts that WAR also received a permanent tax exemption from the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Pakistan on the basis of this certification.

Internship Placements

very year, WAR gets applications from individuals looking for internship placements. Many of them are under-graduate or graduate students, highly motivated to work on sexual violence. This summer, WAR took on Alizeh Valjee, an intern from the United States, pursuing her undergraduate degree in psychology and religion from Mount Holyoke College, near Boston. Alizeh sat in on several counseling sessions with our resident clinical psychologist, Rukhsana Bibi, and worked on laying some of the groundwork for a study on attitudes towards rape survivors that WAR has planned for 2011. Two interns from the Karachi Grammar School, Hafsa Usman and Rahma Nizami, produced a number of translations and other literature for WAR's training workshops, and worked closely under our Training Officer, Sajida Ali. Samar, a regular off-base intern at WAR, is currently currently working on research design for a study on incest which is also planned for next year.

The internship program at WAR offers a wonderful synergistic opportunity where research students can gather quantitative and qualitative data on sexual violence. It is also a great learning experience about the challenges that exist in addressing gender-based violence in Pakistan.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in an internship placement at WAR, please send us an

email at waragainstrape.khi@gmail.com.

Milestones (July' 09- June'10)

Due to organizational restructuring in 2009, WAR was unable to produce both Summer and Winter issues of its newsletter last year. In lieu of this, the following is a brief overview of some key milestones from the year.

Policy Reforms in the Judiciary:

Last year was witness to a major legislative reform in the form of the National Judicial Policy, 2009, that directed dispensation of criminal cases punishable with imprisonment for up to 7 years within 6 months, and those with imprisonment from 7 years and above including death penalty to be decided within one year. As a result of the Policy, litigation of new cases has sped up exponentially. Where it would take 3-4 years for a verdict to be reached in sexual assault cases, WAR is being able to secure convictions in less than 2 years. This is a heartening development and is indeed alleviating some part of the plight survivors and families face due to unnecessarily protracted trials.

Record-breaking Caseload

In the past year, July 2009 to June 2010, WAR has taken on a record-breaking number of cases — 26, the highest ever in its history. Due credit goes to Rehabilitation Officer, Rukshana Siddiqi and Survivor Support Officer, Sheraz Ahmed, the robust team of two, for their untiring efforts. Many after-office hours were put in by them to ensure that cases were registered in a timely fashion and due priority was given by law enforcement agencies.

The ratio of cases investigated and taken by WAR has also risen dramatically over the same period, with WAR taking 26 out of 125 (20.8%) cases investigated to court for prosecution. Prompt response and regular follow-ups have also contributed to this record in a big way. WAR is currently developing strategies to further increase the case uptake ratio and minimize the dropout rate.

One-window Support Center for Rape Survivors

A one-stop support center for rape survivors is a long held vision of WAR. For the fulfillment of this vision, a One-window Service Center (OWSC) proposal was developed in the beginning of 2009 and submitted to the Department of Women's Development in May '09.

According to the proposal, all required medical, legal, police case registration, forensic and rehabilitation services would be provided under one roof by the centre, with assistance from WAR for staff training and policy/procedure development.

Before this edition of *Hurmat* went to print, WAR received word that the proposal had been adopted by the government and was near approval. We hope to share the good news with our readers hopefully in the winter edition of this newsletter.

Services Through the Legal Aid Program Jul'09 to Jun'10

WAR investigated 46 cases of sexual assault between July 09 and June 10. Out of these, it moved 15 cases (32%) to court. WAR's support team paid 74 home visits to survivors and their families, offering basic counseling and imparting rights information. Traditionally, because survivors do not approach WAR for assistance and in the past 20 years only a handful of women have approached WAR directly, the organization is dedicated to find cases as and where they happen and reach out to survivors and their families by the help of the Police and Town offices.

In-house counseling sessions were held to offer psychotherapeutic support to survivors and their family members. Sixty-one sessions were held for this purpose in the first six months of this year.

For data collection on sexual violence cases, various visits were paid to different Police Stations in Karachi, including Women Police Stations. The total number of visits to Police Stations paid by the WAR team was 32, whereas 6 visits to the Capital City Police Office (CCPO) were also made. Twenty visits were paid to the three major Government hospitals, Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center, Civil Hospital and Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, where medico-legal examinations for sexual assault cases are conducted by medico-legal officers.

In addition to this support and as part of its crises intervention program, WAR also liaised with vocational training institutes, offering skills trainings to survivors and/or members of their families. Visits in the past year were made to the Memon Foundation, the Lyari Vocational Training Center, Kaka Bawany and the APWA Vocational Training Center. In the period covering this newsletter, 2 visits were made for this purpose.

In the first six months of 2010, WAR also provided support to survivor and their families through the Survivor Support and Crisis Aid Funds, disbursing nearly 60,000 PKR for the provision of food, medicines, clothing, house rent and education (survivors only).

Cases Won in 2010

STATE V ALI AHSAN & OTHERS

Overview

Survivor N, 18, was gang-rape by 11 men on January 27, '07 in her village of Habib Lubano near Gotki Ubavro, Sindh. The case which was registered from district Ubaro had been under trial since February '07. After a series of transfers, the case was eventually sent to the High Court, Karachi.

Judgment

The court awarded a life sentence to one accused in the case and a fine of Rs 50,000, while six other accused were acquitted for lack of evidence on January 23, '10.

STATE V NADEEM

Overview

Survivor M, 7, was subjected to a rape attempt on September 16, '06, by a shopkeeper near her house in Karachi. Upon finding out, the parents lodged an FIR, the medico-legal examination was conducted, and the case was taken to court.

Judgment

The court convicted the accused with 10 years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50,000. The accused then filed an appeal in the Sharia Court in January '09, but the Shariah Court dismissed the appeal and upheld the trial courts orders.

STATE V HUSSAIN AKBAR SHAH

Overview

Survivor I, 14, was raped by a neighbor at his house while her parents were away. He took her to his house on the pretext that his mother who was known to I was calling her.

Judgment

The court convicted the accused with 10 years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50, 000.

WAR programs are funded by:







