

Int'l conference on women, religion and politics held

Staff Report

LAHORE: Heinrich Boll Stiftung and Shirkat Gah -Women's Resource Centre held an international conference on "Women, Religion and Politics" at a local hotel on Thursday to mark hundred years of International Women's Day.

The two-day conference is the last in a series of events exploring the gendered dimensions of various religious and political paradigms and their impact on women in Pakistan.

Distinguished scholars including Yesim Arat from Turkey, Magdalena Mosiewicz from Poland, Dr Hema Goonatilake from Sri Lanka, Homa Hoodfar from Iran, Professor Deidre Good from US and Roshan Dhanjibhoy from Germany, were among the

participants of the two-day conference.

Pakistani speakers included former Special Assistant to Prime Minister on social sector, Shahnaz Wazir Ali, MNA Bushra Gohar, Heinrich Boll Stiftung Country Director, Britta Petersen, Shirkat Gah CEO, Khawar Mumtaz, Ayesha Tammy Haq, and several others.

At the event, Anne Jenichen from Germany presented findings of a study focusing on the functions religions assume in different national and cultural contexts, their implications on women and the role of democracy in helping women to defend their rights against conservative religious interpretations. Yasim Arat and Homa Hoodfar examined the gendered implications resulting



from the intertwining of Islam and politics in Turkey and Iran.

The first day ended with a theatre performance organised by the Ajoka Theatre at the

Lahore Arts Council. The two-day conference will end with recitation by renowned feminist poet Kishwar Naheed followed by a musical performance.

Working women protest against demolition of Kachhi Abadis

LAHORE: A number of working women staged a demonstration against the demolition of Kachhi Abadis at the Charing Cross, Mall Road, on Thursday. Women Working Help Line (WWHL) organised the protest. The protesters chanted slogans against the high-ups and police, and demanded that the ongoing demolition of houses of Kachhi Abadis must be stopped immediately. They also demanded that compensation be paid to those whose houses had been pulled down. They said that in the name of clean city, the government is 'cleaning' the poor people. They also tried to enter into the premises of the Punjab Assembly but police stopped them outside. WWHL Chairperson, Azra Shahid, said that the demolition of Kachhi Abadis in the city severely affected poor people and it should be stopped. Police is baton charging on the protesters who are protesting for their rights, she added. Azra said that the residents of Kachhi Abadis should be given alternate homes. She said human rights organisations would stage demonstrations outside government offices across the country if their demands were not accepted. Riffat Maqsood, Slammat Pardesi and Razia Ansari were among those who addressed demonstrators on the occasion. **STAFF REPORT**

'Religio-political' challenges to women highlighted

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE, March 17: Heinrich Boll Stiftung and Shirkatgah – Women's Resource Centre held an international conference on "Women, religion and politics" at a local hotel on Thursday to mark 100 years of International Women's Day.

The two-day conference is the last in a series of events exploring the gender dimensions of various religious and political paradigms and their impact on women's lives in Pakistan and across the world.

Distinguished international scholars including Yesim Arat from Turkey, Magdalena Mosiewicz from Poland, Dr. Hema Goonatilake from Sri Lanka, Ms. Homa Hoodfar from Iran, Professor Deirdre Good from USA, and Roshan Dhunjibhoy from Germany are participating in the conference to present papers on challenges faced by women in relation to religion and politics.

Speakers from Pakistan include former special assistant to the prime minister on social sector Shahnaz Wazir Ali, MNA Bushra Gohar, Heinrich Boll Stiftung Country Director Britta

Petersen, Shirkatgah CEO Khawar Mumtaz, Shirkatgah Research Director and UN independent expert in the field of cultural rights, Farida Shaheed, Sheen Farrukh, Sahar Gul, Ayesha Tammy Haq, Neelam Husain, Dr Rubina Saigol, Nabiha Meher Sheikh, Dr. Ayesha Siddiqa, Nishat Kazmi, Justice (retd) Metha Kailash Nath Koli, Dr Anita Mir and Naeem Shakir.

The conference was attended by people from all walks of life including academics, civil society representatives, students, media men and human rights activists.

Britta Petersen welcomed participants on behalf of HBS and. Khawar Mumtaz provided background of International Women's Day, highlighting its political significance.

Anne Jenichen from Germany presented findings of a United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) study, focussing on the functions religion assumed in different national and cultural contexts,

their implications for women and the role of democracy in helping women defend their rights against conservative interpretations of religion.

Farida Shaheed from Shirkat Gah delivered the key-note address exploring the challenges posed to gender equality. In her address, Shaheed explored in detail parameters of the relationship between religion and state power.

Negative impact of Catholic Church on democracy and women's rights in Poland was highlighted by Magdalena Mosiewicz. She said significant progress had been made during the last three years in undermining the church's negative influence as evident in victories of human rights groups in legislative domains.

Shahnaz Wazir Ali spoke about numerous challenges faced by Pakistani women politicians. MNA Bushra Gohar talked about women achievements in Pakistan politics and strategies for creating spaces for women in political parties and the parliament.

مذہبی تشریحات خواتین کیلئے مسائل کا باعث بنتی ہیں

بین الاقوامی کانفرنس میں ترک، پولینڈ، جرمن، ایرانی اور پاکستانی خواتین کی تقاریر

لاہور (لیڈی رپورٹر) معاشرے اور ریاست کی مذہبی تشریحات رسم و رواج کے حوالے سے پوری دنیا کی خواتین کے مسائل و مشکلات میں اضافہ کا سبب بنتی ہیں۔ ریاستی اداروں اور وسائل کو مذہبی نظریات کے ساتھ ملا کر ایسے استعمال کیا جاتا ہے جو لوگوں کے ذہنی رجحانات میں خواتین کیخلاف بگاڑ کا سبب بنتے ہیں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار خواتین نے شرکت گاہ ویمنز رسورس سنٹر اور ہیڈس ہال شفٹنگ کے اشتراک سے خواتین کے عالمی دن کی 100 سالہ تقریبات کے موقع پر 2 روزہ بین الاقوامی کانفرنس،

عورت، مذہب اور سیاست میں خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ کانفرنس میں ترک مس یازم ارت، پولینڈ کی مس مجد الینا موزیویک، جرمنی کی مس این جینی چن، ایران کی ڈاکٹر ہیما گویتلیک اور ہالیورفر، امریکہ کی پروفیسر داداے گڈ، جرمنی کی روشن دھن جی بھوئے کے علاوہ پاکستانی خواتین شہناز وزیر علی، بشری گوہر، خاور ممتاز، فریدہ شہید، نیلم حسین، ڈاکٹر وینہ سہگل، شین فرخ، سمر گل، نسیم مہر شیخ، عائشہ صدیقہ، نشاط کاظمی، مہتہ کیلاش، ناتھ کوہلی، ڈاکٹر انیتا میر اور نعیم شا کرنے اپنے مقالے پیش کئے۔

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مذہبی تشریحات خواتین کیلئے مسائل کا باعث بنتی ہیں

بین الاقوامی کانفرنس میں ترک، پولینڈ، جرمن، ایرانی اور پاکستانی خواتین کی تقاریر

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 ■ CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, RELIGION AND POLITICS

HBS and Shirkat Gah mark 100 years of women's activism

LAHORE

STAFF REPORT

HEINRICH Boll Stiftung (HBS) and Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre held an International conference titled "Women, Religion and Politics" at a local hotel to mark 100 years of International Women's Day on Thursday.

The two day conference is the last of the series of events exploring engendered dimensions of various religious and political paradigms and their impact on women's lives at local as well as international level.

Distinguished international scholars including Yesim Arat from Turkey, Magdalena Mosiewicz from Poland, Dr Hema Goonatilake from Sri Lanka, Homa Hoodfar from Iran, Professor Deirdre Good from USA and Roshan Dhunjibhoy from Germany will present conference papers on the

challenges faced by women in relation to religion and politics.

Former special assistant to the prime minister Shahnaz Wazir Ali, MNA Bushra Gohar, Heinrich Boll Stiftung Country Director Britta Petersen, Shirkat Gah CEO Khawar Mumtaz, Shirkat Gah Research Director and United Nation's independent expert in cultural rights Farida Shaheed, Sheen Farrukh, Sahar Gul, Ayesha Tammy Haq, Neelam Hussain, Dr Rubina Saigol, Nabaha Meher Sheikh, Dr Ayesha Siddiq, Nishat Kazmi, Justice (r) Metha Kailash Nath Koli, Dr Anita Mir and Naeem Shakir also presented at the conference.

Academics, current and former government representatives, national and provincial parliamentarians, civil society representatives, students, media personnel and human rights activists attended the first day of the conference.

Britta Petersen welcomed participants on behalf of HBS and Khawar Mumtaz

spoke on the background and political significance of the International Women's Day.

Anne Jenichen from Germany presented findings of a United Nations Research Institute of Social Development study, focusing on the functions religion assumes in different national and cultural contexts, their implications for women and the role of democracy in helping women defend their rights against conservative interpretations of religion.

Farida Shaheed from Shirkat Gah delivered the key note address exploring the challenges posed to gender equality by certain religious institutions and various state-influenced religious notions across the world. She said the use of state's institutions and resources in combination with religious ideology promotes an insidious change of mindsets towards more conservative gender notions concerning motherhood and the domestic sphere.

Yasim Arat and Homa Hoodfar exam-

ined the gendered implications of the intertwining of Islam and politics in Turkey and Iran. Dr Hema Goonatilake examined the contemporary inequality of women in South East Asian Buddhist countries. Magdalena Mosiewicz discussed the negative impact of the Catholic Church on democracy and women's rights in Poland. Shahnaz Wazir Ali spoke on the challenges faced by Pakistani women politicians. MNA Bushra Gohar talked about women's achievements in Pakistani politics and strategies for creating spaces for women political parties and the parliament.

In a session on Women and Media, Sahar Gul analysed the portrayal of women by media by reviewing religion-oriented television programs in Pakistan.

The two day conference will end today with a poetry recitation session by renowned feminist poetess Kishwar Naeed and a musical performance by Zeb and Haniya.



'Religious ideology can change gender biasness'

OUR STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE - Heinrich Boll Stiftung (HBS) and Shirkat Gah - Women's Resource Centre held an International conference titled "Women, Religion and Politics" in connection with 100 years celebrations of Women's Day at a local hotel here on Thursday.

The two-day conference is the last in a series of events exploring the gendered dimensions of various religious and political paradigms and their impacts on women's lives in Pakistan

and across the world.

On first day, a number of international scholars including Yesim Arat from Turkey, Magdalena Mosiewicz from Poland, Dr Hema Goonatilake from Sri Lanka, Homa Hoodfar from Iran, Professor Deirdre Good from USA and Roshan Dhunjibhoy from Germany participated in the conference and presented their papers on the challenges facing by the women in relation to religion and politics.

Speakers from Pakistan include former special assistant to

the prime minister on social sector Shahnaz Wazir Ali, MNA Bushra Gohar, Heinrich Boll Stiftung Country Director, Britta Petersen, Shirkat Gah CEO Khawar Mumtaz, Shirkat Gah Research Director Farida Shaheed, Sheen Farrukh, Sahar Gul, Ayesha Tammy Haq, Nee-lam Hussain, Dr Rubina Saigol, Nabiha Meher Sheikh, Dr Ayesha Siddiqi, Nishat Kazmi, Justice (Retd) Metha Kailash Nath Koli, Dr Anita Mir and Naeem Shakir.

Britta Petersen welcomed the participants on behalf of HBS

and Khawar Mumtaz provided the background of International Women's Day, highlighting its political significance.

Anne Jenichen presented the findings of a UNRISD study, focusing on the functions religion assumes in different national and cultural contexts, their implications for women and the role of democracy in helping women defend their rights against conservative interpretations of religion.

Farida Shaheed delivered the key note address exploring the challenges posed to gender

equality by the contemporary privileging of particular religious institutions and notions of religion in state and society across the world. She was of the view that the use of state's institutions and resources in combination with religious ideology promotes an insidious changing of mindsets towards a more conservative view of gender altogether as motherhood and the domestic sphere. She explored in detail the parameters of the relationship between religion and state power.

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امریکی قانون ہمارے شرعی قوانین کے آگے جھک گیا

شہناز وزیر علی، بشری گوہر، خاور ممتاز، عطیہ عنایت اللہ، ساجدہ میر اور رفعت سلطانہ ڈار کا رد عمل

لاہور (لیڈی رپورٹر) ہمارے شرعی قوانین کے آگے امریکہ جھک گیا ہے۔ ریمنڈ کی رہائی سے بہتری ہوئی ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار جنگ سروے میں ریمنڈ کی رہائی کے حوالے سے شہناز وزیر علی، بشری گوہر، خاور ممتاز، عطیہ عنایت اللہ، ساجدہ میر اور رفعت سلطانہ ڈار نے کیا۔

کہ ریمنڈ پر فرد جرم لگا کر اسے گرفتار کیا گیا اور عدلیہ کے سامنے پیش کیا گیا۔ اسلامی قانون قصاص و دیت کے تحت رہا ہوا۔ احتجاج کر نیوالے نہ پاکستان کا نہ شریعت کا قانون مانتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ قصاص و دیت کے قانون سے امیر لوگوں کو فائدہ پہنچتا ہے۔ ریمنڈ کی جاسوسی پر کارروائی کی ضرورت تھی۔

‘Women, religion and politics’ discussed

LAHORE, March 18: Women’s Resource Centre of Shirkat Gah, a non-government organisation, held a two-day conference in association with Heinrich Boll Stiftung, an international donor agency, on “Women, Religion and Politics” at a hotel here on Friday to mark 100 years of the International Women’s Day.

According to a press release, the conference, which concluded on Friday, was the last activity in a series of events planned to explore gender dimensions of various religious and political paradigms and their impact on women’s lives in Pakistan and across the world.

On Friday, Shirkat Gah chairperson Khawar Mumtaz

chaired the concluding session, which examined the dynamics of state and citizen interactions and the role of religion in fostering or repressing conflict between religious groups.

Prof Deirdre Good presented her study entitled “Church and Politics: Implications on Gender Equality”.

Presenting her paper entitled “Red Hot Chilli Pepper: Islam”, Dr Ayesha Siddiqi said there was absence of intelligent thinking and an alternative narrative discourse in the society that would allow the youth to think out of the box.

Rubina Saigol laid stress on content differentiation for men and women’s education

within faith based organisations resulting in a sexual division of labour and difference in views on education between secular and religious groups in a session on youth, religion and education in Pakistan.

Farida Shaheed delivered a keynote address, exploring the challenges posed to gender equality by the contemporary privileging of particular religious institutions and notions of religion in state and society across the world.

The two-day conference ended with musical performance by Zeb and Haniya and poetry recitation by feminist poet Kishwar Naheed. — **Staff Reporter**

قائد اعظم پاکستان کو سیکولر ریاست نہیں بنانا چاہتے تھے: ڈاکٹر عائشہ صدیقہ

”عورت مذہب اور سیاست“ کے موضوع پر بین الاقوامی کانفرنس کی افتتاحی تقریب سے خطاب

کی کنٹری ڈائریکٹر بریٹا پیٹرن، ڈاکٹر عائشہ صدیقہ، ڈاکٹر روبینہ سہگل، عائشہ ٹیسی حق، شین فرخ، کشورنا ہیڈ میچ گوہر، نشاط کاظمی و دیگر نے شرکت کی۔ کانفرنس کے دوسرے روز مندوبین نے مختلف سیشنز کے دوران معاشرے اور ریاست کی غلط مذہبی تشریحات اور رسم و رواج کے حوالے سے دیا بھر کی خواتین کی مشکلات میں اضافے کے عوامل کے حوالے سے مقالہ جات پیش کئے۔ ڈاکٹر عائشہ صدیقہ نے کہا کہ قائد اعظم پاکستان کو سیکولر ملک نہیں بنانا چاہتے تھے تاہم سیکولر ازم کا مطلب لا دینیت نہیں، سیکولر ازم کو اسلامی اصولوں کے مطابق ”ری ڈیفائن“ کیا جائے۔ ڈاکٹر روبینہ سہگل نے کہا کہ بعض مرد سمجھتے ہیں کہ خواتین کی صرف دینی تعلیم تک رسائی ہونی چاہئے۔

لاہور (لیڈی رپورٹر) شرکت گاہ ویمنز ریسورس سنٹر اور ہیڈ ہال شفٹنگ کے اشتراک سے ”عورت مذہب اور سیاست“ کے موضوع پر جاری دوروزہ بین الاقوامی کانفرنس گزشتہ روز اختتام پذیر ہوئی۔ خواتین کے عالمی دن کی سو سالہ تقریبات کے حوالے سے منعقدہ کانفرنس میں ترکی سے یازم ارت، پولینڈ سے مجدالینا موزیویک، جرمنی سے این جینی شن، ایران سے ڈاکٹر ہیما گوتلیک اور ہما ہودفر، امریکہ سے پروفیسر دردرے گڈ، جرمنی سے روشن دھن جی بھوئے کے علاوہ پاکستان سے وزیراعظم گیلانی کی مشیر شہناز وزیر علی، ارکان قومی اسمبلی عطیہ عنایت اللہ و بشری گوہر، جسٹس (ر) ناصرہ جاوید اقبال، شرکت گاہ کی چیف ایگزیکٹو خاور ممتاز و ریسرچ ڈائریکٹر فریدہ شہید، ہیڈ ہال شفٹنگ