

## **Draft notes from the 10<sup>th</sup> “Discussion Meeting on the Elimination of Violence against Women in Afghanistan”**

Hosted by UNIFEM, Wednesday October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004

### **1. Background**

Violence against women is not an issue which women have been facing during the 23 years of war, but it has been the issue in the history of Afghanistan. Therefore, UNIFEM has taken the initiative to invite the people from different Governmental and Civil Society organs to find out the causes of violence against women and solutions for these problems so that violence against women is ended in Afghanistan. In the previous meeting mental health and VAW by Medica Mondiale was presented and discussed as well as some of the problems faced by women in the justice system and solutions were suggested. To continue the discussion on the other fields in which women face violence, the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting was held and moderated by Rita Taphorn and Najia Zewari from UNIFEM. There were six items on the agenda;

1. Presentation on the programme for the celebration of VAW day 25<sup>th</sup> November by the Ministry of Women’s Affairs.
2. Report of VAW and Education Subgroup.
3. Report of VAW and Research Subgroup.
4. Report of VAW and Justice Subgroup.
5. Continuation of the discussion and VAW and Health.
6. Social protection service for women.

After the welcoming and congratulation of first Afghan election successfully, the meeting started at 01:30 pm, Rita Taphorn as a chair person of the meeting explained agenda of the meeting.

### **1. Presentation by Deputy Minister of MoWA on celebration of VAW day 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2004.**

The MoWA will have the following activities:

- A large gathering in MoWA in Kabul and meanwhile in all departments of MoWA in 29 provinces of Afghanistan.
- There will be 16 day campaign starting 25<sup>th</sup> of November, 04 about violence against women.
- Legal department of MoWA will have a day conference with **a)** Supreme Court **b)** MoIC **c)** MoJ and Ministry of Pilgrimage about those articles of constitution which are about women’s rules in the society according Islam and Afghan culture.
- Department of Health and Education of MoWA will held some roundtable meetings and they will also prepare some posters and leaflets in different local languages of Afghanistan about VAW and the leaflets, messages will be distributed by ISAF aircrafts all over the country.

## **2. Report of VAW and Education Subgroup.**

Subcommittee of VAW and Education had a meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2004 at AWN office. And please find the report in Annex (A).

Next meeting of VAW and Education subgroup date will be informed by AWN office.

## **3. Report of VAW and Research Subgroup.**

Subcommittee of VAW and Research had a meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2004 at AIHRC office. And please find the report in Annex (B).

Next meeting of VAW and Research subgroup will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> of November at 10:00 am at AIHRC office.

## **4. Report of VAW and Justice Subgroup.**

Judge Fauzia from MoWA Legal Department whom host the Subcommittee meetings said that because participants from Justice Institution were not present so the meetings were not conducted.

Due to lack of time two items were postponed for the next meeting of VAW.

### **Conclusions:**

- UNDP is going to fund programme of VAW day dated 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2004 which going to be organized by MoWA but MoWA will make proposals for receiving funds from other organizations regarding this event.
- Interested organizations can send their messages for posters and leaflets for MoWA.
- VAW forum should contact with ministry of education regarding VAW and education issues.
- Harassment issues should be dealt and solved by government through ministry of interior.
- UNICEF representative should attend the next VAW meeting in order to have a better relation with MoE.
- The participants proposed that the MoE should enable civil society organizations to provide services through training for the teachers Association, and Students Committee .In order to end violence in education environment.

**Other Issues:**

AIHRC office will have some programs regarding VAW day dated 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2004 which are as follow:

- Launching report of domestic violence.
- Presentation of a film names (stonning or lapidating).
- March by women and men from AIHRC office till Kabul University to condemn VAW day.
- There will be some programmes on TV regarding VAW day.
- Publishing special edition on VAW magazine of AIHRC.
- AIHRC along with Ministry of Pilgrimage will encourage Mullah's of Mosques to preach about VAW event for people.

**Next Meeting**

**Thursday December 2nd 2004, from 01:30 – 04:00 pm at UNDP conference room.**

**Proposed Agenda:**

- Report of VAW and Justice Subgroup.
- Continuation of the discussion and VAW and Health.
- Social Protection Service for women.
- Any other business.

**Meeting adjournment: 04:00**