

**“PICTURE EXHIBITION WITH AUTOBIOGRAPHY ON  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY”  
MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> , 2010**



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## Contents

## Page No

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Introduction	3
i Global Peace Pioneers.	
ii Introduction of the Event.	
iii Aims & Objectives	
iv Targeted Audience	
Peace Prayers	4
Extract of Speeches of Guests	5
Story of Nusrat Ara	7
Story Form the Field	8
Note of Thanks	9
Inauguration Ceremony	10
i. Biography of Great Women	
ii Pictures Exhibition of Great Women's.	
Impact	11
Conclusion	12
Comments of Participants and Guest speakers	13
News Clippings	14
Photographs	
Refreshment	

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Global Peace Pioneers (GPP) is a non profit Organization, working in partnership with national and international Partners. GPP is dedicated to promote religious tolerance, peace, harmony and respect for all religions in our society through various development projects. Its main focus is on peace building, livelihood, Gender Equality and Development in Education, Water & sanitation and providing Emergency Relief's.

8<sup>th</sup> March is celebrated globally as Women's Day. This day is being celebrated to acknowledge the Political, Economic and Social Achievements of the women. This day was started celebrating in 1990's but U.N has started celebrating this day in the year 1975.

On the occasion Ms. Hina Iqbal, Chairperson GPP, said that the purpose of celebrating this day is to make awareness amongst the society to give respect, honor and equal rights to women in their society. This day is celebrated to give tribute to great women's who participated actively in uplifting the social, economical, Political Status of the society. GPP has tried to salute the women who have made remarkable contributions for the prosperity and peace of the world.

On 10<sup>th</sup> march, 2010 GPP has arranged a "Biographic picture exhibition" of the famous women of Pakistan and of the women around the world. Representative from Government, UN Agencies, members of civil society, and students from different universities and women from the grass root level took active part in this event. It was a thought provoking event for the whole gathering.

## **PEACE PRAYERS:**

Ms Shaeza has started the event with a very heart touching prayer. She did prayer for peace and prosperity of the country. She prayed for the unity and love amongst the people globally without the distinction of caste, creed, color and boundaries. She requested from the Creator of universe to give us ability to make a right choices. She prayed for mercy on the people who got injury in any incidence. She thanked Allah for all His blessings and prayed for His shower of Blessings in the future also so that we can stand on a better position.

## **EXTRACT OF SPEECHES OF GUESTS:**

Ms Hina Iqbal Chairman Global peace Pioneers in her opening remarks shared the basic purpose of organizing the exhibition along with the biography's of prominent women of the globe. She said that the sole purpose of celebrating this event is to salute the women who have made remarkable contributions for the prosperity of the country. She said that even though Pakistani women have not be honored the way

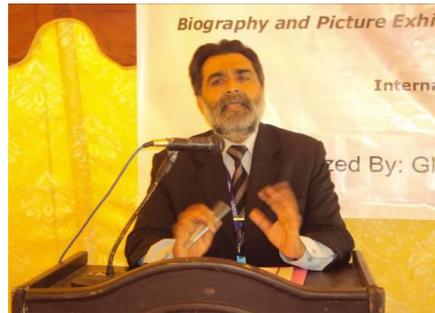


they should be so, we celebrate this day to acknowledge the dignity of women in our society and this day is all about learning from the leading women personalities of Pakistan. Which are to be considered the role models for our coming generations . She said that the importunate deprivation of women from their active role in social order is a basic cause of failure to embark upon the road of success and prosperity. In today's time women will have to struggle for her rights herself. Women in particular have been subjected to domestic torture, honor killing, lack of social justice and have been deprived from the basic necessities of life. Chairperson said women in Pakistan holds more than 50% of the total population and very little efforts have been made to bring women in the main stream society. Mostly they work as mothers, as household laborer or as a social production worker but unfortunately the economic and social values of their work have frequently under-recorded and underestimated. She admired the great work done by women in the field of literature, art, medicines and in many other fields that are of great importance.

On the occasion GPP's guest speaker Ms. Mayra Khan from daily DAWN said that women should be given equal rights, equal opportunities and in this regard she highlighted the role of media. As everyone knows that media puts a strong influence on the minds of the society and the way media worked in recent past is admirable. She said female journalists can do much in this regard because till the time we women will not put our participation and do not understand our true status we can not prosper.



Mr. Arshad Saeed Khan who is senior National Specialist for education-(UNESCO) shared his comments on women empowerment through education. He said in his address that we see injustice at all levels in our society. We need to change this trend through media and education. In this regard what we need is to give equal opportunity to man and women to get education. He said in his presentation that in Balochistan near about 80% women are uneducated and in Sindh the ratio is round about near to 65%. Pakistan has not satisfied the UNESCO convention for education yet.



Ms. ANN Godwin, International Faculty trainer from International Association for Human Values shared few words on Women and human Rights under the perspective of UN declaration. She said women play a very important role in uplifting a society. She takes care of a family. And a family is the base of a society. She added further we are in the time of change and it's the youth who will bring the change. She stressed on



women's education along with the education of males. She said it is not the time for good people to sit still but they have to come in action. Women should be treated properly. We have to create awareness amongst the members of the society that the person standing in front of you is a human being so, treat her like human beings.

Senior Program Coordinator Mr. Sagheer Bokhari in his address on "equal Rights, Equal Opportunities and the role of women in decision making said that we have made a good pace progress in increasing the women's participation in decision making at all levels. Women in different organization and institution are the chief authority to take any decision for improvement of their institution. The trend has been changed now we can see women on front at all platforms. All the initiatives like MOWD and NCSW has been carried out in Lady P.M Benazir Bhutto's time.



Senior Lawyer Supreme Court, Mr Kokab Iqbal said that I intended to highlight the problems of women so that they could be strengthened. In this regard he quoted the saying of Prophet of Islam Hazrat Mohammad S.A.W.

**“Women’s are imanat of Allah for you so, treat them well”.**

He said further Ms Hina, chairman GPP and other women like her should come forward too work for the rights of women. Women should make their forums collectively so that they can take practical steps for their development.



Dr Riffat HAQ head of department of Gender Studies AIOU in his address shared her golden words on topic Gender Equality and Millennium Development goals of the UN. she stressed on eradicating the gender gap for the socio economic prosperity of the country. She said that Pakistan is fully aware of the challenges that Pakistan will have to face in the near future so it is the time to focus and work together. We have to ensure gender equality at all the levels. As this is the only way to get out of the depressed circle of poverty and stress. She said we have to give importance to our own norms and values. She has an equal right to enjoy in the pleasures of life.



Ms Rashida Sohail from PTV said we gave importance to the thing that has the ability to create something and a woman has naturally gifted with this ability. We admit it that without the creation of women this universe could not work. She said further women have to eliminate in her domestic life the discrimination



between a son or a daughter because the rights of son and daughter are equal.

Dr Hafeez ur Rehman head of Department Anthropology from QAU said in his speech that we make women to feel complex by saying that you are not accomplishing your rights. We have to make them feel that they can protect themselves. Working women are performing double duty, I appreciate their efforts. Now the ratio of females in universities in different education departments is increasing very sharply. Our government has recently passed women Harassment Bill for providing a safe atmosphere to them at their work places.



### **STORY OF NUSRAT ARA:**

Nusrat Ara is an activist from N.W.F.P. She was born in 1954. She is the founder member of Women Development Organization. She is known for Pioneering work in empowering women for over two decades in a deeply conservative society. She overcame stiff Resistance to complete her education because of her relatives and social Taboos.



She launched Women Development Organization in 1995 with very little resources. She focused on Socio-Economic, Political empowerment and issues of combating violence against women and Child Labor. She began a Political Education Programmes to motivate women to fight local elections. She set up training and literacy centers for women where they were taught sewing, knitting and embroidery. She targeted customs such as honor killing and Swarah which led to women being married off the men to settle their disputes without any age distinction.

### **STORY FROM THE FIELD:**

Captain Qaisera did a very anthuastic speech she said she wants to uplift women. She wants to-do anything for their respect and honor. We give a lot of suggestions for empowering them but all these are only great words their practical implementation is very necessary. Today women are bearing the financial burden of their families. They are making quick progress. We are not behind from any one in our progress.



President Women Development Bank Ms Nusarat Arra started her discussion with a very strong point. She said rights are not given but we have to take them from our system. She said in our system the married women are usually asked not to study after

their marriages. But we have to increase awareness amongst the women that they should raise their voice and get education as much as they desire. It's their right and they should struggle to get this right. She said that the women who are working anywhere at any post the ratio of corruption in them is very low. We make a lot of Laws for empowering women but who will implement them? It's the woman who has to work for her rights.

### **NOTE OF THANKS:**

Chairman GPP Ms Hina Iqbal thanked at the end of discussion and presentation session to the honorable Guests and Participants on the behalf of GPP management for providing their precious time and for sharing their valuable words with the gathering. She said we are very grateful to all of you for attending this program and appreciating and encouraging our efforts in regards of this great day's celebration.



## INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF BIOGRAPY'S ALONG WITH PICTURES OF WOMEN:

Global Peace Pioneer organized biography and picture exhibition of great women's of Pakistan and of women's all around the world. This ceremony was inaugurated by Ms Nusarat Ara, Mr Arshad Hafeez Khan along with all other respectable guests and participants.

There were many categories of women whose biography's and pictures were on display. First category was of consisting of pictures with biography's of historic peace creating women like mother Teresa, Florence Nightingale etc who did a lot of work during hard times for peace and for providing relief from stress to the victims of wars.

Second category was consisting of the pictures with biography's of Pakistani women like Fatima Jinnah, Begum Rana Liaquat Ali, Farween Shakar, Bano Qudsia etc who are a source of inspiration for us.

Third category displayed the pictures with biography's of famous politicians of Pakistan like Shazi Marri, Hina Rabbani Khur, Sherry Reman, Yasmeen Lari etc

Fourth category was having biographies along with the pictures of famous novelists and poets of the world like Joan of Arc, Jane Austen, Pearl Buck, etc.

Fifth category includes the biography along with pictures of activists like Nusrat Ara, Razia Bhatti, Bilquees Edhi etc. they have done a really great work for improving the status of women's of Pakistan

Sixth category was of the women in Media it was having great names like of Madam Noor Jahan, Nazia Hassan, Reshama Bibi etc. they sang a lot of national and folk songs for their country.

The biographies of great women's were very impressive for the visitor. They got inspiration from their lives and they saluted the life's and achievements of those women.

### IMPACT:

The event, GPP observed, was full of knowledge about the life histories of highlighted women of the globe. People got influence & learned about women status, their rights etc. GPP team achieved their goal in creating awareness among the people that they should give Equal opportunities, Equal rights and due respect to women in their surroundings. They got the impact that women are as important beings as men are in any society. They women's from local community got inspired with the presented women's life histories. They got the aim that their lives should also touch the same height as achieved by these prominent women.

## **CONCLUSION:**

All over the world 8<sup>th</sup> March is celebrated as Women's Day. GPP celebrated this day to recognize the Political, Economic and Social Achievements of the women of all the times in Pakistan and of women's around the world. GPP presented tribute to prominent women's who participated actively in uplifting the social, economical, Political Status of the society by arranging a picture exhibition along with their biography's. In this way GPP has tried to salute the women who have made remarkable contributions for the prosperity and peace of the world. And somewhat achieved the basic purpose of celebrating this day was to make awareness amongst the society to give respect, honor and equal rights to women in their society. And to give inspiration to the women of our time that their lives should also touch the same height as achieved by these prominent women of the world. They are as respectable and very important as men are in our system.

## **COMMENTS OF PARTICIPANTS AND GUESTS:**

Ms Rashida Sohail, news caster PTV said that every effort is a step toward completion. So it is a good effort to honor women. GPP keep it up.

Mr Faiz Rasool student of Quaid e Azam University in Anthropology department said that it's a lovely and nice program and programs of this kind can help us to overcome the inequalities in the society and to overcome gender discrimination in all aspects of life.



Ms Annie and her group form Hashoo Foundation, Umeed e Noor said it is giving a very good feeling to hear about women right at GPP as this topic is mostly ignored. And she said further that it's very important to raise voice for women rights.

Mr Faheem, student of NUML said that to achieve equal rights and opportunities for women the education and awareness should be provided to the women and to the society as much as possible. As it is a dire need of today's time.



Mr Riffat Haq from Allama Iqbal Open University said that I highly appreciate the efforts of this young team of GPP in celebrating Women day. He said you are the one who are going to bring change and if you are our future than it will be really bright.

## **NEWS CLIPPING:**

**PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE EVENT:**

**DIFFERENT SCENES DURING INTERACTIVE SESSION:**



**DIFFERENT SCENES OF PICTURE AND BIOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION**

