

## **Report on Field Visit by Senior Management to Study Women-Related Issues, Education, and Social Cohesion.**

### **VISIT TEAM:**

**1-Ms.Asiya Nasir(Chairperson)**

**2-Ms.Surriya Asghar(Vice President)**

**3-Mr.Aftab Masih(Program Manager)**

**Location: FSD,Quetta,Lahore,Peshawar**

### **Introduction:**

The purpose of this report is to document the findings and observations from a field visit to Faisal Abad, Lahore Quetta and Peshawar to gather information about the situation of women and their access to education, health, social justice, issue like underage marriages in particular, as well as the level of social cohesion in the community. The visits were conducted in the year 2022 and involved senior management team members of RWN.

### **Background:**

This field visit was initiated by the senior management of the organization to assess the situation of women and their access to education in the target location, as well as to evaluate the level of social cohesion in the community. The organization has a mandate to promote gender equality, women's rights, and social inclusion, and has identified education and social cohesion as key areas of focus.

### **Methodology:**

During the visit, the team conducted number of interviews with key stakeholders, including Key faith leaders, MPs, community leaders, educators, and women's rights advocates. The team also visited local organization o strengthen partnership of RWN with like-minded groups.

### **Findings:**

The findings from the visit indicate that the overall situation of women and their access to education, health, Justice is still a challenge, for example, the team observed that teen age have been victim of forced marriages, and also have limited access to education for women in rural areas in particular. Women economic status is needs to be addressed as the financial barriers hinders their development.

**Social Cohesion:**

In terms of social cohesion, the team observed that Pakistan is a patriarchal society where men are the primary authority figures and women are subordinate. Gender is one of the organizing principles of Pakistani society. Patriarchal values embedded in local traditions, religion and culture predetermine the social value of gender.

**Forced Conversion:**

The team also documented several cases of forced conversion of women which took place in Faisal Abad division. The local people and community leaders highlighted that such as physical violence is on rise. The motivations behind the conversions varied, but often included financial gain, personal satisfaction. The impact of forced conversion on women's access to education and their overall well-being was significant, as many women were unable to continue their education or faced discrimination and marginalization in their communities.

**Recommendations:**

Based on the findings, the team recommends the following actions to address the challenges facing women, social cohesion, and their access to education:

increasing funding for education in rural areas or developing programs to address cultural attitudes that limit women's access to education.

To address forced conversion, the team recommended, increasing awareness and advocacy efforts, providing support and protection for women who have been affected, and working with local communities and law enforcement to prevent forced conversions from occurring.

To improve social cohesion, the team recommended, promoting inter-ethnic dialogue and collaboration, increasing opportunities for women to participate in decision-making processes, and developing programs to promote tolerance and understanding.

**Conclusion:**

The field visit provided valuable insights into the situation of women and their access to education, health, access to justice, as well as the level of social cohesion in the community. The findings indicate a number of challenges facing women, including limited access to education and forced conversion, as well as challenges related to social cohesion. The team's recommendations aim to address these challenges and improve the situation of minorities and women in particular in Pakistan.

It is hoped that this report will be used to inform policy and programmatic decision-making and drive positive change for women and social cohesion in the

**Compiled by RWN Office Islamabad,**

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