



NATIONAL COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN



Round Table Conference on Participation of Women in Upcoming Elections



National Commission on the Status of Women, in collaboration with the Center of Pakistan and International Relations, in its conference focused on advocating policy recommendations for the Election Commission, Government, and Media. Demanded increased women's participation on general seats, foolproof security for women contestants, and to secure the rights of women voters in the upcoming elections, thereby fostering gender equality in the electoral process.

PARTICIPANTS

Nilofar Bakhtiar (Chairperson NCSW), Amna Munawwar Awan President (COPAIR), Azma Bokhari (PMLN), Sammiya Raheel Qazi (JI), Asiyia Ishaq (MQM), Farzana Yaqoob (PPP), Shagufta Malik (ANP), Sitara Aiyaz (Politician), Nabila Malick (UN Women), Amna Sayid (UNDP), Dr. Shuja (PIDE), Dr. Saad Ali (QAU), Dr. Zahid Center (SDG), Barira (GUPC), Nayyer Ali (President WJC), Raja Faisal (PTV), Sumaira Khan (Samma), Tanzeela Mazhar (GTV), Dr. Usman (COPAIR), Dr. Rakhshanda (Gender Specialist)



RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations, born out of the insightful discussions at the Round Table Conference, aim to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable electoral landscape, fostering the active participation of women in the democratic process:



1. Enforcement of Quotas: The participants strongly recommended that the Election Commission of Pakistan proactively identify political parties that have failed to comply with the mandated 5 percent quota for women candidates, as stipulated in the Elections Act 2013 (amended 23). The Election Commission should compel non-compliant political parties to rectify this matter in accordance with the existing Act.

2. Strengthening Institutions: There is a need to bolster human machinery by enhancing the capacity and capabilities of institutions. This initiative is not only crucial for the upcoming general election in 2024 but also for subsequent elections. Strengthening institutions will contribute to a more robust and inclusive electoral process.



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3. Security for Women Candidates and Voters: ECP should ensure full proof security to all women contestants in the upcoming elections. The Election Commission is urged to take proactive measures, media should provide equal coverage to women candidates. This step is crucial for fostering a safe and inclusive electoral environment.

4. Timely Legislation Follow-Up: Emphasis on the urgency of following up on pending pro-women legislation immediately after the new cabinet is sworn in. Ensuring proper representation of women in the cabinet is vital for advancing gender equality in decision-making processes.

5. Utilizing Technology for Inclusion: The potential of technology in facilitating women candidates, voters, and supporters. The Election Commission is urged to ensure the inclusion of women facing accessibility and mobility challenges in the electoral process. Political parties are encouraged to base their manifestos on women-led political processes to ensure gender political equality.

CONCLUSION

Political Parties Manifesto should be based on Women led political process to ensure Gender Political Equality

