

AAN Structure and Resources

AAN is set up as a non-profit, non-partisan, membership based entity. Women ages 18 and above who understand and accept the AAN Charter, will be facilitated to form a local chapter. All local chapters in a province and region will become members of the national AAN network.

AAN has a national secretariat hosted by the Center of Gender and Policy Studies (CGaPS). It will pool expertise on different issues and provide the expertise and play mentoring role for the local chapters as needed. The national secretariat will prepare policy briefs and help organize advocacy events with legislators and policy makers.

The national and provincial secretariats and the AAN local chapters will mobilize resources in support of their activities.



Training manuals produced for AAN by CGaPS.

Awaz-e-Niswan



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Awaz-e-Niswan

National Network of Women Voters



AAN

National Secretariat:
Center of Gender & Policy Studies (CGaPS)



Introduction

Women constitute 44% of registered voters in Pakistan yet remain invisible with low political participation as a result of restrictive gender norms, few sex segregated polling booths and female staff, and the culture of political parties to disenfranchise women.

For women to be recognized as influential constituents in their own right, female voters need to be organized and be informed and aware of the power of their vote and how to exercise it beyond Election Day.

Awaz-e-Niswan Goal

Increased political commitment towards the needs and concerns of women voters in Pakistan with gender responsive political processes

Objectives

1. To increase the visibility and influence of women voters and their issues amongst duty bearers including elected representatives through the formation of a vibrant national network of women voters
2. To draw attention and resources to priority areas of concern of female voters and engage with elected representatives and government functionaries to address these issues.

Awaz-e-Niswan Charter

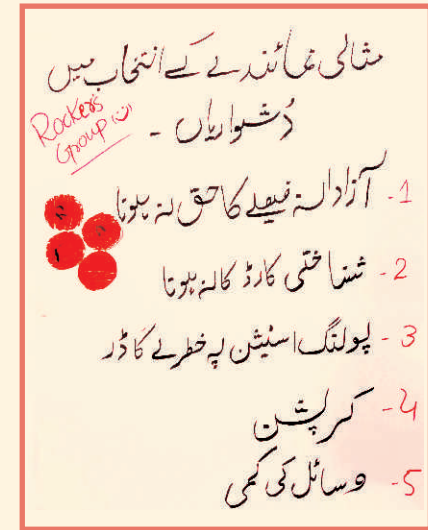
Awaz-e-Niswan (AAN) is a membership based network of women voters across the country. It is not affiliated to any political party or organization and aims to represent the concerns of women voters in Pakistan irrespective of their political, social or geographic locations.

AAN Principles

1. Women are full-fledged citizens of Pakistan able to exercise all their Constitutional rights.
2. Women have the right to political, economic and social participation and advancement
3. Women have a right to live a life free of violence
4. Women have the right to participate at all levels of decision-making, whether in their homes, their communities, at the workplace or in politics.
5. Women have the right to be informed about political parties, the candidates fielded by them and the process of voting
6. Women have the right to cast informed votes in local, provincial and national elections
7. Women have a right to be engaged in political processes without fear of violence

AAN expects to achieve the following outcomes:

- Informed and aware women voters with identified priorities and action plans based on the needs and interests of members of each local chapter of AAN.
- Engagement of network members i.e. active women voters, with duty bearers at district, provincial and national level to attract additional resources for prioritized concerns of women
- Increased public awareness of women's issues and sustained support for the AAN network



Barriers to electing an Ideal Representative-identified by female students