

## Report about National Seminar on Working Condition of Working Women in Rural Areas and the Role of Trade Unions Organized by Pakistan Labour Federation (PLF) with the collaboration of World Asian Workers Organization (WAWO) on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2008 at Hotel Ambassador Lahore Pakistan

On the occasion of World Rural Women's Day on 15th October, 2008 A National Seminar was organized by Pakistan Labour Federation (PLF) with the Collaboration of and World Asian Workers Organization (WAWO) at Hotel Ambassador Lahore Pakistan at 2.00.OClock. 60 Participants from all over the Country were participating including 30 women's. The Seminar presided by Ms Rizwana Yasmeen Secretary General All Pakistan Women's Employees Welfare Association

Mrs Saleem President PTWF, and Chairperson PLF was the Chief Guest.

Haji Muhammad Saeed Secretary General welcomed the Participants for their valuable Participation and said that every year on the 15th October Trade Unions around the World organize seminars/Events to celebrate World Rural Women's Day. The purpose is to highlight the Problems of the Rural Working Women's and to aware the Women's workers to improve their working condition in Their Workplace.

He appreciated the Assistance of Mr. Peter A Newns President WAWO for holding this National Seminar. He said that each year hundred thousand workers are killed on site and thousands are injured and disabled due to bad and illegal working conditions at Workplace. Mrs Atia Saleem Chairperson said that Trade Unions should highlight the urgent need for the safety of the Workers. She said that for increasing Awareness amongst workers regarding the Occupational Health & safety Trade Union can play very effective Roles. She said that in Rural Areas Women's are working more than 16 hours and they have no Right to form Trade Unions and also they are not given the Old Age Benefits,

Pension, Social Security. She said that the Women Workers are facing difficult working condition in private and public sectors. Mr Abdulla Jan President (PLF) Baluchistan said that it is honor for us to provide Vocational Training in the Rural Areas in Pakistan, and also provide them knowledge regarding the formation of Trade Unions and their Basic Rights. He called for assurance of a safe and secure environment for workers.

Mrs Sajda Mir MPA demanded the Government for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against women and provides equal Rights for Women's and men before the Law. She appreciated the Executive Board of PLF for their decision to increase women participation in decision-making and responsibilities in the main leadership of PLF.

Mr Waheed Ahmad Ch Advocate Legal Advisor PLF said that working Women's participation should be encouraged by the Trade Unions make an important contribution to the protection of the Basic Rights of Women's. He said that Government should ratified ILO Conventions on Equal Rights for Women's. He said that Trade Unions have a history in the struggle for social and economic rights, equal opportunities and human dignity. He said that in PLF the number of Women's officials increased and making full use of women Trade Unionists skill and Experience in all areas of activities. He said that in our society the women's has full influence on her children and can play very effective Role to stop the suicide attacks and killing of innocent peoples. Ms Rizwana Yasmeen demanded the Government for the restoration of Trade Union activities, and withdraw all amendments which was made in IRO 1969 in 2002, as well as the Labour Policy should be framed in the

light of ILO Conventions. She assured the participants that PLF women Wings will be looking after the interest of Working Women's in Rural Areas of Pakistan.

Ms Shamila Sadiq Chairperson PTWF said that Women's representatives are to be actively involved in all decision-making at every stage of the planning regarding problems of Rural Women. She said that PLF may organize the Seminars at city level, Districts level, Regional level. Provincial and Central level and also create awareness amongst the Women's Workers in Rural Areas. Mrs Shahnaz Suhail President PLF Lahore appreciated the efforts of ILO and WAWO for Organizing this Seminar on very important issue and to provide information to the participants and providing Training to women's

Mrs Yasmeen Khakwani said that a large number of peoples of Pakistan were living below the poverty line. She said that we should continue our activities for the social protection and stop the harassment and violence against women.

Mrs Naheed Akhtar, Mrs Rukhsana Nahid, Mrs Yasmeen Khakwani, Mrs Zahida, Mirza Riaz Ghalab, Ghulam Rasool. Muhammad Aslam, Muhammad Rasheed, Molvi Muhammad Aslam, Malik Khalid Mahmood also addressed the Seminar.

**The Chief Guest distributed the Certificate amongst the participants (Haji Muhammad Saeed) Secretary General**