

Written by Administrator

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Islamabad : In order to successfully address various dimensions of violence against women (VAW) and develop appropriate policies and interventions, need for national level data on violence against women was stressed in a brainstorming session on Violence against Women (VAW) Indicators organised at the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW).

The meeting was jointly organised by the NCSW and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) at the NCSW office and was chaired by NCSW Chairperson Khawar Mumtaz.

Representatives of various national and international organisations such as ILO, UNFPA, Aurat Foundation-GEP, DFID, Acid Survivors Foundation, Rozan and Gender Crime Cell (GCC) were present in the meeting.

The session was aimed at inviting suggestions from key stakeholders to develop standardised indicators that could be used for future surveys and research and be comparable.

Problems in the collection of information on sensitive issues such as trafficking due to numerous definitions and social issues, under-reporting of violence against women crimes and absence of analysis of data that is available e.g. in the GCC were also discussed at the event. The meeting underscored.

The points of reference for the discussion were the nationally owned indicators such as Saarc Gender Information Base (SGIB), international conventions e.g. CEDAW Concluding Observations and UN's Statistics Division indicators. The backdrop was the volume of large and small studies on VAW.

The meeting noted that the ongoing development of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) five-year plan gives a good opportunity to push for gender mainstreaming of data. The NCSW in collaboration with UN Women and other national or civil society and international development organisation has taken responsibility to take the lead in designing national level indicators. The meeting was a first step towards this process.

Courtesy: The News