

Government of Pakistan

Benazir Income Support Programme

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BISP INVITES HALEEMA BHUTTO AS GUEST SPEAKER UNDER ‘BISP EMPOWRES TALK’ INITIATIVE

HALEEMA BHUTTO IS A SYMBOL OF RESISTANCE AGAINST KARO KARI.

MARVI MEMON

NO SOCIETY CAN BE CIVILIZED UNLESS IT ENSURES GENDER EQUALITY AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS TO WOMEN: RAZA RABBANI

Honour killings depict gender inequality and discrimination. The government is putting in serious efforts so that every person is valued equally and women can exercise their fundamental rights. Haleema Bhutto is a symbol of resistance against karo kari and a source of inspiration for BISP beneficiaries. This was stated by the Minister of State and Chairperson BISP, MNA Marvi Memon, in her welcome note, during an event organized at BISP Secretariat under “BISP Empowers Talk” (BET) initiative.



“BISP Empowers Talk” (BET) is a BISP initiative to encourage idea generation, success transfer, motivation and inspiration for BISP beneficiaries in order to increase empowerment, dignity and meaning to life.

Under this initiative, BISP had invited Haleema Bhutto from district Ghotki whose land was grabbed by her husband illegally by leveling a false allegation of adultery on her. She was declared "Kari" by the "Panchayat" in order to grab her land. Karo kari is quite

common in Pakistan and is often used for ulterior motives. She spent one and half years on footpaths of Islamabad protesting against the cruelty and injustice meted out to her. Finally, Supreme Court took suo motto notice, decided the case in her favor and ordered the police to give her full protection and get her land back to her.

Chairman Senate, Senator Mian Raza Rabbani attended the event as chief guest. Ambassador of Argentina H.E Rodolfo Jose Martin Saravia, Ambassador of Sweden H.E Mr Tomas Rosander, Ambassador of Tunisia H.E Mr Adel Elarbi, Hungarian Ambassador H.E Istvan Szabo, South African High Commissioner Mr M. Jele, Spanish Ambassador Mr Javier Carbajosa Sanchez, Egyptian envoy Said Mohamed Elsaid Hindam and Ambassador of Denmark H.E Helle Nielsen also graced the occasion. The event was attended by members of Parliament, diplomats, representatives of government organizations, national and international organizations, media, civil society and a large number of BISP beneficiaries.



Secretary BISP complimented Chairperson BISP for her acid legislation which won Shermeen Obaid Chinoy the Oscar. He also complimented the Chairperson BISP for assisting cases like Haleema Bhutto.

Chairman Senate, on the occasion, acknowledged the role of BISP in motivating and inspiring its beneficiaries towards the goals of better life. He appreciated Haleema Bhutto for standing against the odds of society and referred her as a role model for the women. He added that no society in the world can be civilized unless it ensures gender equality and fundamental rights to women.

Haleema Bhutto, while addressing BISP beneficiaries, narrated her life story. She shared the experiences of suppression and injustice she faced and the steadfastness she demonstrated to raise her voice against tyranny. She expressed her faith in the strength of beneficiary women who in the face of hardships stand for the welfare of their families. She said that BISP beneficiaries are lucky that they are receiving social and financial assistance from this organization which is very helpful in solving the problems of hunger and poverty.

On the occasion, Chairperson BISP said that the objective of “BISP Empowers Talk” is to put women role models in front of most vulnerable women of Pakistan to encourage them to get out of misery created by poverty and other discriminations. She added that the

present government is committed to give dignity, empowerment and meaning to the lives of beneficiaries through such initiatives besides BISP's core mandate of cash transfer as envisioned by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Chairperson BISP wished Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy success on behalf of 5.2 million BISP beneficiaries for winning her next Oscar.