

**Government of Pakistan
Benazir Income Support Programme

**Press Release
25.11.2016**

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
COMMEMORATED AT BISP
MARVI ENCOURAGES BISP BENEFICIARIES TO STAND UP AGAINST VIOLENCE**

Violence against women can only be stopped if women realize their potential, speak up and support each other on this grave violation of human rights. It is weakness and lack of self-esteem which compels perpetrators to inflict harm to women. Respecting, treasuring and honoring women can only ensure the avoidance of such negative attitudes that lead to mental and physical violence against women. This was stated by Minister of State and Chairperson BISP MNA Marvi Memon in a ceremony to commemorate the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women at BISP Secretariat.

UN Women goodwill ambassador Muneeba Mazari, Chairperson Acid Survivors Foundation Valerie Khan, Executive Director Mehargarh Maliha Hussain, Chairperson Research Department Dawa Academy Tahir Mehmood, acid survivors, members of civil society, media and a large number of beneficiaries attended the event.



Minister of State and Chairperson BISP MNA Marvi Memon addressing beneficiaries in a ceremony to commemorate International day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in Islamabad on November 25th, 2016.

UN Women goodwill ambassador Muniba Mazari said that we need to break stereotypes to empower women. Mothers should raise real men who know how to respect and value women. We should work as a team to eliminate violence against women.

Chairperson Acid Survivors Foundation Valerie Khan highlighted that Pakistan has come a long way in countering acid violence. Since 2013 acid throwing cases have declined by 40%-50% but the enactment of comprehensive Acid and Burn Crime Bill would be crucial in curbing this crime.

Chairperson Research Dawa Academy Tahir Mehmood stated that women are held in high esteem in Islam. They have been granted all types of social, financial, legal and political rights prohibiting violence against them.

Executive Director Mehergarh Maliha Hussain while speaking on harassment at work place stated that situation has improved since the enactment of harassment laws by the parliament. We all need to put in our share in removing the biggest hurdle in women's progress in Pakistan.

Acid survivors Samina, Asia and Shahida narrated their stories and encouraged BISP beneficiaries to stand up against violence. They said that they were victimized by acid throwing and domestic violence but they stood up and were able to start a new life.

Chairperson BISP iterated that the strict implementation of laws protecting women against violence as Women Protection Bill, Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Bill, Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Bill and Prevention of Anti Women Practices Bill and encouragement of social uplift programmes like BISP mandated to redefine the lives of women can help stop violence against women.

During her address, Chairperson BISP also encouraged beneficiaries to report any kind of violence, they face, at BISP helpline number 0800-26477. She assured them that their complaints will be addressed.



Minister of State and Chairperson BISP MNA Marvi Memon speaking in a ceremony to commemorate International day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in Islamabad on November 25th, 2016. UN Women goodwill ambassador Muniba Mazari, Chairperson Acid Survivors Foundation Valerie Khan and Executive Director Mehergarh Maliha Husain are also present.