

Aurat March 2019 statement

The mission of the Aurat March is to unite women, non-binary individuals, and trans people for the cause of gender justice and bring about collective social change based on the principles of inclusion, dignity, freedom and equality. The March will raise voices on a diverse issues affecting women from all backgrounds. We express solidarity for the connected nature of our struggles and work together to dismantle systems of oppression and exploitation.

We must create a society in which women from all ethnic backgrounds and religious communities, working class women, displaced and refugee women, differently abled women, and women of all gender identities, including transgender women, are free and able to care for themselves and their families.

The Women's March seeks to achieve the following:

Aurat March 2019 Demands

1. An End to Violence: This includes violence against women carried out and promoted by patriarchal forces as well as state-backed violence targeting activists and communities
 - We demand an end to physical, sexual, and emotional violence against women and all gender minorities by patriarchal forces and institutions.
 - We express solidarity with the #metoo movement and demand for effective systems to be put in place where survivors of violence and harassment are able to report cases of abuse, rape, violence and harassment, without fear of persecution, violence and backlash.
 - We demand an end to state based violence against individuals, communities, activists and their families
 - We demand an end to discrimination and violence against all persecuted religious groups.
 - We demand an end to the increasing surveillance and militarization of our everyday spaces.
 - We demand the freedom to write, speak, research and question without the fear of retribution, especially in universities and media houses where we are witnessing unprecedented levels of policing and censorship.
 - We demand an end to extra judicial killings of women, men and children in Sindh, Balochistan, KP, Gilgit Baltistan and Punjab and demand the release of all 'missing persons' and for the constitution and legal system to be implemented strongly in these cases with no exception.
2. Economic Justice: To create an economy that is equitable and transparent where all workers have access to a living wage, affordable healthcare for themselves and their families, and workplaces free from harassment and discrimination

- demand that workers of all genders be given the right to earn a living wage and access to safe housing, quality education and affordable health care for themselves and their families
- We demand that labour of all workers be recognized across all industrial, agricultural, service, and informal sectors. All workers, including home-based workers and domestic workers, must be granted a living wage, the right to form a union, and other labor protections.
- We demand that all workplaces implement The Protection Against Harassment of Women at the workplace 2010 and make their organizations free from harassment and discrimination against workers of all genders
- We demand that women's contributions to the care economy through home making and caring of their families be recognized as unpaid labor equal in worth to all other kinds of work.

3. Reproductive Justice: All women have the right to make informed decisions about pregnancy and childbirth and access to quality and affordable reproductive health services

- We demand the right to make a decisions about our bodies free from oppression and control.
- We demand that all women and individuals of gender and sexual minorities have access to reproductive health services; decide if and when to get pregnant and make informed decisions about their reproductive and sexual health.
- We demand that the state provide all women and individuals belonging to gender and sexual minorities with equal access to reproductive health services and eliminate oppressive controls over our reproductive and sexual freedom.

4. Environmental Justice: Every person and community has the right to clean water, clean air, and access to and enjoyment of public lands. Our climate and natural resources must be protected for ourselves and future generations.

- We demand clean water and clean air for all persons and communities
- We demand that governments and corporations adopt measures to combat the effects of climate change
- We demand the right to access and enjoy public lands for all persons
- We demand protection for our climate and natural resources for ourselves and future generations
- We demand an end to corporate exploitation of animals.

5. Women's Political Participation: We believe that women's political participation is essential to any democracy and society and believe that the state should carry out affirmative action to ensure high participation of women across local, provincial and federal government and active and safe participation in municipal, provincial and federal elections.

- We demand that women's political participation be ensured through quotas in political parties, local bodies, provincial and national assemblies.

- We demand an enabling environment for women, especially working class women and women from low incomes communities to contest municipal, provincial and federal elections,
- We demand restoration of student unions across private and public universities inclusive of women, trans women and gender non binary people.

6.Right to cur City: We believe that our city can only be made sustainable when it serves the need of all income groups and can provide safety and services to all citizens of this city regardless of their class, ethnicity or gender. We condemn the current anti encroachment drive and believe that the drive has an anti poor bias, driven by development and political agenda,

- We demand an end to the anti-encroachment drive taking place in katchi abaadis, low income housing settlements, and markets and demand the urgent rehabilitation and compensation of people whose homes and shops have been destroyed.
- We demand the right to access and enjoy public lands for all persons and demand violence and harassment free spaces for women, trans women and gender non binary persons.
- We demand safe state housing for low income families in the city, and for informal settlements to be regularized under the law.