

## 6.2 Charter of Demand

1. Ensure that women rights are a priority area for manifestoes of all political parties.
2. Ensure the effective implementation of women's quota in political party structures, including decision-making bodies and candidate nominations.
3. Political parties shall mandate comprehensive training programs for women within political parties, covering leadership skills, political strategies, and issue-based advocacy.
4. Both political parties and election commission shall ensure strict anti-harassment policies not only within political parties but also on the digital spaces to create a safe and inclusive environment for women to actively participate in the political process.
5. Launch public awareness campaigns to promote the importance of women's political participation and challenge stereotypes, fostering a supportive public opinion.
6. Allocate sufficient funds to support women candidates during election campaigns, addressing financial barriers that hinder their active involvement.
7. Ensure transparent, merit-based selection criteria and process for nomination of women on reserved seats.
8. Government shall ensure 33% representation of women in local government.
9. Election Commission of Pakistan shall ensure Implementation of measures to enhance the accessibility of polling stations, taking into consideration the unique needs and challenges faced by women, including those in rural and remote areas.
10. Both political Parties and ECP shall ensure developing and disseminating gender-sensitive voter education programs to inform women about their rights, the importance of voting, and the electoral process.
11. Government shall ensure and implement enhanced security measures around polling stations to ensure the safety of women voters and candidates, especially in areas prone to political violence or where women are barred to vote.
12. Election Commission shall ensure transparent reporting and publication of gender-disaggregated data related to electoral processes, providing insights into women's participation at every stage.



عام انتخابات، خواتین کا کوٹہ 5 سے بڑھا کر 10 فیصد کیا جائے، عورت فاؤنڈیشن  
 لاہور (جنرل ریپورٹر) عورت فاؤنڈیشن نے خواتین کی سیاسی شرکت کے حوالے سے پارٹ آف ڈیمانڈ پیش کرتے ہوئے مطالبہ کیا ہے کہ عام انتخابات میں خواتین کا کوٹہ 5 فیصد سے بڑھا کر 10 فیصد کیا جائے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار عورت فاؤنڈیشن کی صوبائی کارڈینیشنر نمیلہ شاہین، ساروہم، وجاہت جول ماہم، بسین وہنگرنے پریس کانفرنس میں کیا۔

## 6.3 Press Coverage



# Women's safety, facilitation stressed

## Activists urge selection for reserved seats on merit

**OUR CORRESPONDENT**

LAHORE

Women political activists have called for protection of women from harassment and facilitation of their voting to bolster their participation in the democratic process.

They called for ensuring that women's rights are a priority area for the manifestoes of all political parties.

The activists from different parties participated in a training on leadership, women's participation, mapping of the political situation, communicating as a leader, networking, alliance-building and the culture of democracy.

The demands for substantial women's representation in the political process leading to the coming general elections included effective implementation of their quota in party structures, including decision-making bodies and candidate

nominations.

The parties were urged to mandate comprehensive training programmes for women members in leadership skills, political strategies and issue-based advocacy.

The activists said both political parties and the Election Commission should ensure strict anti-harassment policies not only within organisations but also in the digital spaces to create a safe and inclusive environment for women to actively participate in the political process.

They called for public awareness campaigns to promote the importance of women's political participation and challenge stereotypes, fostering a supportive public opinion.

Allocation of sufficient funds to support women candidates during election campaigns for addressing financial barriers that hindered their active involve-

ment was also urged.

The activists called for transparent, merit-based selection criteria and processes for nomination of women on reserved seats.

### The demands included effective quotas for women in party structures

The government should ensure 33 per cent representation of women in local governments, they added.

The ECP was urged to ensure implementation of measures to enhance the accessibility of polling stations, taking into consideration the needs and challenges faced by women, including those in rural and remote areas.

Both the parties and the ECP were urged to ensure developing and disseminating gender-sensitive voter

education programmes to inform women about their rights, the importance of voting and the electoral process.

Government shall ensure and implement enhanced security measures around polling stations to ensure the safety of women voters and candidates, especially in areas prone to political violence or where women are barred to vote.

The activists demanded that the commission ensure transparent reporting and publication of gender-disaggregated data related to the electoral processes, providing insights into the women's participation at every stage.

Speaking to the media while releasing the charter of demands, women's rights activists said the 2018 elections had witnessed an increased focus on women's political participation with higher female voter turnout in much of the country.