



G-Concerns Newsletter

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Gender Election Monitoring Recommendations presented in Pakistan

Director Sabra Bano presented the recommendations from the Gender Election Monitoring (GEM) mission of the May 2013 National Assembly elections in Pakistan. As Head of the GEM mission, Ms. Bano urged the need for follow-up on the recommendations that have been compiled by the team of international and domestic observers that covered 555 polling stations around the country.



From the GEM report, the ECP has invited Gender Concerns to work closely with them in voter education programmes aimed at further raising women's electoral participation in Pakistan. [Read more>>>](#)

Project kicks off for female MPs and media

Gender Concerns launched the Khaber Kawen project at a press conference at the Parliament in Kabul, Afghanistan. Twenty-three female members of Parliament were present along with journalists and the communication officer from the US embassy. The goal of the project is to encourage female members of Afghan parliament to use new media and sustainable platforms to communicate and network. [Read more>>>](#)



Connecting Afghans for women's rights

A social networking platform for women in Afghanistan aptly named Bayan (meaning "to express oneself" in Dari and Pashtu) is enabling women to share their thoughts and opinions via mobile sms, and then discuss their posts, which are featured on a website. Gender Concerns is near the mid-point of this project that is for all ages, but has a particular focus on younger women's participation in community interaction. [Read more>>:](#)



Libya update

Gender Concerns in Libya is pleased to be nearing the launch of the Marboua project that is aimed at supporting the empowerment of women's civil organisations and women political leaders. Within this framework, Gender Concerns is creating a political café, like a traditional sitting room, in Tripoli as a safe place where Libyan women can exchange information, develop ideas and discuss strategies on areas including the implementation of gender-balanced politics.



The project also is intended to connect women's organisations through making the café accessible to women from different backgrounds and groups. [Read more >>>](#)

Building on election observation in Warsaw

Representatives from Gender Concerns International participated in a 3-day election monitoring meeting last month to address topics including roles of observation in early warnings, monitoring gender issues, communication of observations and standards regarding women's participation in elections.

Director Sabra Bano accepted an invitation to present Gender Concerns' accomplishments with "Success of an Innovation: Gender Election Monitoring" in a working session on monitoring gender issues in elections. [Read more >>>](#)

New GCI office in Pakistan

The new Pakistan office of Gender Concerns International is in the process of introducing its mission to women's organisations, other NGOs and international experts and organisations working on gender issues. It is encouraging to see partnership dialogues and working relationships being built in a short period. Gender Concerns has already been active in Pakistan through the successful completion of the Gender Election Monitoring mission in May of this year.

Gender Concerns International was the sole international organisation invited by the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) at the stakeholder's consultation meeting held on September 3rd. The chair person discussed issues related to women's representation in Local Government Provincial Acts and put forward demands for women to take part in local government elections. The media featured a statement from Gender Concerns that acknowledged and appreciated NCSW's efforts to ensure women's political participation at local and provincial levels.

Civil voices in Tunisia

There has been continuing civil unrest in Tunisia over the past few months. Protestors against the Ennahdha government gathered on the occasion of National Women's Day in August to voice their concerns over potential losses of rights for women and citizens in general.

Gender Concerns Libya staff member Maissa Arfaoui took her camera and pen out to cover the day's demonstrations for the [GCI website](#). Ms. Arfaoui wrote, *"Tunisian women from all walks of society participated in the march: young, old, covered, uncovered, black and white. They were united by at least one purpose: to defend women's rights and the gains of liberal Tunisia."*



Staff news from The Hague office

Farah de Haan has been appointed as Program Officer for Gender Concerns Libya. After weeks of preparation at the headquarters office in The Hague, she has relocated to Libya to support GCI missions there. Ms. de Haan is a native of Amsterdam, and an MA graduate in Middle Eastern studies from the University of Amsterdam.

Paola Mazzoli has taken the position of Program Management and Finance. Originally from Italy, Paola has a BA in international relations from the University of Bologna and an MSc in Asian studies from the University of Amsterdam. Ms. Mazzoli is working directly with initiatives in Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as managing a broad range of office functions and interaction with the international community and partner organisations.