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Aurat Foundation

Blue Veins Vision

Blue Veins has a vision of a world where women live healthy, educated, free and safe lives. Where equality and dignity is a right not a privilege. Where women spend their life creating and thriving, rather than surviving victimization and recovering from atrocities.

Blue Veins Mission

The mission of Blue Veins is to work together in harmony with a higher spirit to improve the quality of life of women and children and establish a people-centered framework for empowerment, sustainable health, and a social development to guide, to build up a culture of cooperation and partnership and to respond to the immediate needs of those who are vulnerable. Blue Veins empowers women to articulate demand and access their rights by enhancing women's leadership and building networks.

BLUE VEINS

March 2016

NEWSLETTER Vol. 1

UNDER GENDER EQUITY PROGRAM

Dear Readers,

Greetings!

We are joyous to present the first quarterly newsletter highlighting implementation of a project "Strengthening District Bar Associations & Setting Up Facilitation Kiosks in Courts" under Gender Equity Program of Aurat Foundation, supported by the American people through United States Agency for International Development" (USAID). The newsletter will provide you with information about the project progress, recent achievements and important forthcoming activities related to Gender Equity Program Cycle-8 at Peshawar. In this first newsletter, we also introduced Blue Veins to you. You can get more information about Blue Veins from our website <http://blueveins.org/> and via our Facebook and Twitter accounts @BlueVeinsPak for in depth information about the activities of organization. We hope this newsletter will keep you informed about Gender Equity Program Cycle-8 during the project cycle.

Kindest regards,

Tahira Kaleem

Project Manager - Gender Equity Program



First Meeting with President District Bar Association Peshawar





1st Coordination Meeting With President District Bar Association Peshawar

Blue Veins is committed to build, strengthen and galvanize women's collective power for a just and sustainable world – for all.

Blue Veins is a rationalist women organization born out of a need for information, activism and grass root organizing towards the empowerment of women. Today Blue Veins works to empower women and improving their status which is essential to realizing the full potential of social, political and economic development.

Blue Veins believes every woman and girl should have the opportunity to shape her future by naming her hopes, aspirations and dreams. But too often, their voices are muted, suppressed and ignored.

Blue Veins stands to defend the rights and interests of women, but also upholds the equal value of all persons, transforming inequalities shaped by race, ethnicity, class and income, sexuality, ability, location, age and other factors. We build community actions that are responsive to human rights urgencies and opportunities for action.

Blue Veins advocacy efforts reflect the diverse dreams, passion and power of women/girls and other groups acting for change.



GEP-Blue Veins Project Staff liaising meeting with cabinet members of district bar association Peshawar

Gender Equity Program aims at:

- Enhancing equity by expanding women's access to justice and human rights
- Increasing women's empowerment by expanding knowledge of their rights and opportunities to exercise their rights in the work place, community and home
- Combating Gender Based Violence
- Strengthening the capacity of Pakistani organizations that advocate for gender equity, women's empowerment and elimination of gender based violence.



Activities briefing during Project Staff Orientation session

Under this project, in district Peshawar Blue Veins is envisaged to improve women's access to justice by capacitating and strengthening the role of District Bar Associations. Under this sub-grant the two main programming areas are:

- Strengthening and Gender Sensitization of District Bar Associations.
- Setting up of Facilitation Kiosks in Courts

The project is expected to encourage women lawyers to not only represent their profession but also to provide free of cost services to women litigants. The sub grants will provide a platform to women and men lawyers to share and disseminate information with not only litigants but also others seeking assistance on GBV and related issues.

The facilitation kiosks established in courts will positively contribute to a change in the mind sets of the people and will encourage women in seeking justice: by giving them an opportunity to manage the information desks and in linking women litigants with women lawyers.

Project Activities at a Glance



Project Orientation Session-Mr.Qamar Naseem-
Program Coordinator Blue Veins
briefing about the project activities



Group photo of Project Staff after
successful completion of orientation session

Blue Veins recruited well qualified and experienced project staff for Gender Equity Program Cycle-8. The project staff was oriented about the Blue Veins background, Project activities and Staff duties and responsibilities. The staff is committed to work for the enhance gender equity and promising to work. The orientation session was attended by Blue Veins-GEP Project Staff and Blue Veins core staff.



Coordination meeting with Mr. Ismail Khalil-
President District Bar Association Peshawar



: Project Milestones and activities briefing by Tahira Kaleem
Project Manager-GEP/Blue Veins during coordination
meeting with District Bar Association Peshawar

Blue Veins initiated meeting with District Bar Association Cabinet, to brief them about the project objectives, key activities and role of both the partners in the project implementations, they were also informed about the benefits in terms of resources to the district bar and legal aid given to the women litigants by accommodating the district bar association member lawyers. Blue Veins and district Bar Association Cabinet agreed mutually on memorandum of understanding and conduct of the activities under the project in the premises of District bar.



Grant Opening Meeting with Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

Mr. Muhammad Ayub, Project Coordinator-GEP/Blue Veins and Ms. Tahira Kaleem, Project Manager-GEP/Blue Veins participated the National coordination meeting organized by Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) at Islamabad, where all participants from 12 districts participated. The participants shared work plans, project progress and signed MOU with SPO.



Welcome note by Ismail Khalil- President District Bar Association Peshawar during Project Launching Ceremony



Lawyer from District Bar Association Appreciating and Expressing His Views During Project Launching Ceremony

A ceremony to launch a project and orient the stakeholders about the project objectives and beneficiaries, held at district court on 10th of February 2016. The ceremony was marked activity to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the District Bar Association and Blue Veins to coordinate and collaborate for the smooth implementation of the project in District Bar, Peshawar. The MOU was signed jointly by Mr. Ismail Khalil-President of District Bar Association, Peshawar with mutual consensus of the District Bar Association members and Mr. Qamar Naseem-Program Coordinator Blue Veins. The ceremony was attended by Lawyers, Civil Society organizations, media persons, members of District Bar Association Peshawar.



: Participants from district bar association, media, and civil society at Project Launching Ceremony

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