



Building Sustainable Peace through Developing Internal Community Mechanism

Coordination Meeting at Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan

A coordination meeting was held at Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan (AWKUM) on 20th February 2018 in Mardan. The event commenced with a welcome note from Dr. Asad which was followed by a speech by Dr. Raham Zaid. He appreciated PAIMAN's efforts of addressing a major issue which has been plaguing the society for over two decades i.e. the existing situation of violent extremism through awareness raising about how to counter/prevent it at different levels of society. This was the first meeting of a series of 29 coordination meetings with TOLANA, which will be held in the projects target districts.



Dr. Raham articulated that AWKUM owns this programme and hoped that the association with PAIMAN will go a long way. He assured us that AWKUM will provide full support to PAIMAN in its peacebuilding initiatives as it shares PAIMAN's vision of a peaceful and socially cohesive society where all can grow and thrive without any fear.

Dr. Qadir Baksh in his address stressed on the need to work for prevention of violent extremism rather than focusing on rehabilitation of the victims of violent extremism only.

Mossarat Qadeem, Executive Director PAIMAN, while addressing the august house extended gratitude to the management of AWKUM for signing an MOU with PAIMAN Alumni Trust which allowed us to work with their students on building sustainable peace.

She said, that, 'We at PAIMAN build the participants capacity so as to enable them to think critically and analyze

and comprehend the conflicts around them and detect the indicators of violent extremism. At PAIMAN we primarily make efforts to affect their hearts and minds. The aim is to help them to be compassionate and have a heart which can feel the pain of other human beings in spite of the differences that might separate them. We stress on the human element which is above all differences of religion, sect, ethnicity etc.

She further stressed on the fact that it is important to raise our voice when we see something wrong in the society because by remaining silent we condone the actions of the wrong doers i.e. the extremists in case of Pakistan. It is about time that someone takes on the responsibility to transform this silent majority to be able to rise to the occasion and condemn the wrong in society. This should be our mission today. She was of the view that we should stop being hostage to those few who have extreme views, we need to stop being passive and show our dynamism.

The students come to us as clean slates and we the teachers turn them into what they are. Hence the teacher's role is very important. Education institutions are the nucleus for spreading peace.

The event was primarily organized to award the participants of the training with certificates. After the certificate distribution Dr. Khursheed Khan, Vice Chancellor AWKUM, addressed the house. In his speech he seconded Mossarat Qadeem's views and said, Universities are not only for handing out degrees but the main purpose of an educational institution is to build its students character. He appreciated PAIMAN's initiative for building a peaceful and stable Pakistan and ensured that AWKUM will extend its full support whenever there is need for it.