

PAIMAN's Network for P/CVE



Mother and Youth TOLANA

It has been PAIMAN's dream to prevent violent extremism in those regions of Pakistan which are afflicted by terrorism and violent extremism. In order to make this dream come true, it was imperative to change the way people view and perceive the world around them and empower them to respond in a small way to the numerous challenges that they faced. Responding to violent extremism through building the capacity of women and youth was not enough unless they have the structure and forum to support each other in their community endeavors. PAIMAN established Peace Groups called Mother and Youth TOLANA (TOLANA is Pashto word means together) in 2009.



Who are the members of TOLANA?

Educated youth, vulnerable and extremist youth, women/mothers, local religious leaders, female teachers of madrasa and private schools, local elected representatives are trained under PAIMAN's 'Lets live in peace' program in various aspects of preventing/countering violent extremism, mediation, leadership, active citizenship etc and after successfully conducting their community sessions then become members of Youth and Mother/Women TOLANA in their respective communities.

How TOLANA Works?

TOLANA's network with government departments, religious institutions, trade unions, teachers and Lawyers associations to work collectively for the common goal of countering/preventing violent extremism (P/CVE). TOLANA is an internal community mechanism which helps promote practices of peace and preventing/countering violent extremism from within and brings communities together by encouraging reconciliation through mediation, community networks, building connections and information sharing.

PAIMAN's TOLANA has two offshoots, Amn-O-Nisa working at the national and regional levels and TOLANA women of Faith working around inter and intra-faith harmony across the four provinces. These different peace networks are;

Amn-o-Nisa

Recognizing the important role women play in promoting social cohesion and building peace, Amn-O-Nisa (AON) was formed in April 2011 to work together for building bridges of understanding through interacting with each other, sharing experiences and coalesce for addressing issues of violent extremism through research, community outreach and advocacy. TOLANAs work at the grassroots level for



P/CVE while Amn-O-Nisa works at the national and regional level. The members of Amn-O-Nisa are media, academia, business and social sector. In their professions and beyond, the AON's members are dedicated to the cause of peace and trust-building through meaningful interventions. They want to reach out to their sister across borders to build an atmosphere of trust and advocate with their respective government to include women in peace and security discourse and make peace a priority. Initially AON held meetings in India, Afghanistan and Pakistan to regional meetings were held but in the current tense situation, the regional activities of the coalition are being stopped.

Members of Amn-O-Nisa (Pakistan) work closely with Mothers and Youth TOLANAs in their respective areas. They provide guidance, monitor their activities, mentor members of TOLANAs and carry out advocacy campaign collectively.



Women of Faith Building social cohesion through dialogue with Religious leaders

TOLANA Women of Faith Network

PAIMAN built the capacity of female madrasa teachers, women activists of other faiths and female leaders of religious political parties, and formed a coalition known as TOLANA: Women of faith Network". Through sharing and discussion, these women of faith discovered similarities and differences in their respective positions as women and as believers. Today, the members of the Network are working together to promote inclusion, equality and inter-faith dialogue in their communities, thereby providing a platform for all voices to be heard, regardless of their personal religious beliefs. They celebrate each other's religious festivals, and support each other in case of violent acts in their communities.

PAIMAN's TOLANA Women of Faith Network works actively in Karachi, Hyderabad, Multan, Lahore, Quetta, Peshawar and Charsadda since 2013 for building social cohesion, preventing violent extremism through mobilization, awareness raising, mediation and advocacy and imparting education for peace and pluralism in female madrassas.

Most of the members of Amn-O-Nisa and TOLANA:Women of Faith Network are the same hence both these networks complement each other in their peacebuilding endeavours.



All these networks work collectively and the success of these networks is embedded in the fact that around 30% members of all networks are the same and thus highly committed to the cause. The TOLANA is a link that connects the local with the national so as to develop informed policy advocacy frameworks.