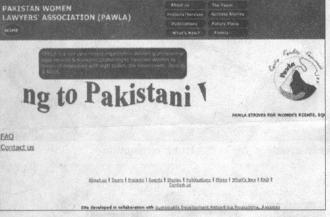
Talking about women's rights

By Gloria Caleb



OMEN'S rights in this country have long been a far crv. Specially the rural woman, who is not only unaware of her rights, but is exploited in the name of honour. Although the conditions of women in urban areas are better than those of rural women, yet age-old and restraints have hindered their independence.

To this end, a number of organizations have come up during the past few years to help women fight for their rights. out of which some have maintained a strong Web presence. "Ensuring women are no longer victims of violence...Providing counsupport to selling and women and their children through difficult life transitions...Safeguarding women's future by creating awareness of their legal rights..."

That's exactly what the PAWLA web site states and what the organization believes in.

PAWLA site, www.pawla.sdnpk.org/ provides surfers with a brief overview of the organization. It also mentions the organization's history, mission statement and objecIts site provides a brief history of the organization and a list of APWA activities and events. The layout and design is good, however, one sad bit about the site is that most of the links are redundant. Had the links worked the site would have been plethora of information.

Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation (APISF), www.brain.net.pk/~apisf/ma in.html is an organization committed to women's empowerment and believes that this is only possible through their participation in governance at all levels. site too provides a detailed outline of what the organization stands for and how they plan to fulfil their goals. Besides this, details on the programmes that have been designed to build an environment to empower women and make them part of the democratic process are also present.

However, since the site is under construction, some of the details are not

Women's movements are no longer empty slogans and chants, that's all that comes to mind while you surf the Simorgh Women's Resource and Publication Centre web www.spinifexpress.

China, Fiji, India, Hong Kong, Nepal, Malaysia and more. However, it is a pity to see that no provision for ordering these publications online is available.

xiber.com/

Behbud.

behbud/ is an organization that works for the elevation of the status of women. With headquarters Rawalpindi, it boasts of branches in most cities of the country such as Karachi, Lahore, Quetta, Peshawar, Multan, Gujranwala, Jhang and D.G Khan. Their site offers information on the health care and educational centres run by Behbud in various colonies in Karachi. Besides this, information on the various vocational centres that come under the banner of Behbud are also available on this web site. National Commission on the Women, www.ncsw.gov.pk/ strives to promote gender equality and empower women thus providing them with an environment in which they realize their full potential and are equal partners with men create and maintain social order in collaboration with civil society and the government. The site offers information on the background and history of the organization and an outline on how they propose to

achieve their goals. Information on the NCSW ordinance is also provided on this site. This ordinance was proposed to provide for the setting up of the NCWS. Besides this, you will find archives that boast of a number of legal documents that would be of help to women in various situations. News tion's annual report are other noteworth. updates and the organizaon this site. The annual report gives us an outline of the organization's endeavours during the past fiscal year. A list of links to various other organizations that work for the uplift of the status of women are also pro-vided here: A complaint form through which you can mail your grievances to the organization in just a click away. This is a very good feature and must be adopted by most other organizations to strive alleviate that women's problems.

Taking a look at the sites

com.au/fasiapub/pakistan/si Besides this, the site also provides insight on how they m.htm. The organization is plan to fulfil their objectives and how they plan to

help women free themselves

from the clutches of unjust

societal norms. FAO's that

would help women under-

stand their rights and their

privileges have also been

The organization's contact

information for various sub-

centres that provide legal

aid within the city and a

number of interesting case

studies are also available on

this web site. Don't forget to

checkout the calendar of

events, with a list of objec-

tives for every programme

that the organization con-

ducts. This calendar will

provide surfers with a fair

idea of what the organiza-

tion is actually involved

with and how it plans to

women.

provided on this site.

rives.

actively involved research on women's issues and has strong links with

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other national and international women's groups. The site boasts of a

superb list of publications

that address issues of gen-

der and class as well as some

important documentary

films based on women's lives

and struggles in Pakistan.

This site is truly an asset that boasts of superb feminist literature. Simorgh also conducts seminars, conferences, income generation projects and gender awareness workshops to help women make a place for them-

selves in a society that is

obsessed with gender bias,

details of which are provid-

ed on this site. Diaries and

postcards are also available

which would prove to be

redress the problems of The All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA), www.un.org.pk/unic/apwa.h tm works diligently towards the uplift of the status of women, by making them aware of their rights and providing opportunities to make them self-sufficient.

excellent feminine gifts. A list of publishing houses involved with women's publications is also found on this web site. Here one can also find links to publishing houses in

just the beginning.... Hopefully in time these NGOs will take appropriate measures to educate the masses of uneducated, rural women that they strive to various Asian countries. help, and invent new ways to including Bangladesh, enlighten them.

see that a major organization that works so diligently against the violation of the dignity of women was not present. Yes, the WAR site was not available. While talking to an official at WAR it was revealed that the organiza-Well, while surfing these

that strive to give women

their rightful place in socie-

tv. it was heartening to see

that these organizations

were making their presence

felt not only in the real

world but in cyberspace as

well. However, it was sad to

tion was revamping the site, which is scheduled to be launched by mid-August. sites one thing that does come to mind is that, awareness of this sort is available only to the educated woman who has access to the latest technology. The rural woman who is most in need of awareness, still remains at a loss. But then, this is