

Giving voice to the voiceless

How did we begin?

Conceptualized and founded in 1997, Uks – A Research, Resource and Publication Center on Women and Media, was formally inaugurated the same year on 18th December, as a result of a panel discussion *Empowering Women through Media*.



What are we aiming for?



Uks, with its team of highly professional media and research personnel, focuses at various aspects of womenmedia relationship. Through awareness, monitoring, advocacy and mobilization on various issues we aim to highlight...

- Women's rights are ALSO human rights
- Media and gender sensitization
- Correct society's perception of women
- Understanding of gender bias to effectively resolve the social, economic, health and political issues
- Training in gender sensitization
- Balanced attitude towards women in media
- Extent of usage of derogatory/offensive language by media over women related reports/news and investigation of causes
- Development of alternative concepts, approaches and language use while dealing with women

Areas of Focus

Areas where Uks has played a significant role through workshops, trainings, focus group discussions, publications and radio programmes include

- Portrayal of women in the media
- HIV and AIDS Gender perspective
- Women in disaster situations
- Drug abuse and women
- Violence against women
- Women's rights as human rights



Uks Radio – Voice of the voiceless

Why Radio?

Reasons are more than one

- One of the most effective means of communication even today
- Perhaps the only form of mass media communication that has reach across the remotest areas of Pakistan
- Rising popularity of FM radio channels
- Cost effective

Agent of change

Uks radio project has been extremely effective in

- Generating awareness over women's rights, media and gender sensitization, correct society's perception of women, understanding of gender bias, balanced attitude towards women in media etc.
- Featuring women in leading roles from different walks of life
- Covering issue based stories in the remote areas of Pakistan
- Reporting disasters/calamities in a gender sensitive manner
- Training female producers, anchors, reporters
- Empowering women through media
- Countering gender stereotypes and prejudices
- Supporting and promoting democracy, tolerance and freedom of opinion

Women ARE being heard



Reaching across Pakistan

Women are NOT voiceless anymore

Meri Awaz Suno (Listen to my voice) 2003

In October 2003, Uks launched its radio project with a 15-minute bi-weekly women's radio programme in Urdu, becoming the first radio programme in Pakistan for the women, by the women.

A variety of themes were covered bringing forward voices of women affected by hushed-up issues rampant in our society; HIV/AIDS, Human trafficking, Commercial Sex Workers, Camel Jockeys, Drug abuse Reproductive health, Education, Women rights with specific relation to Islamic Laws, Emotional Health



Launch ceremony of *Meri Awaz Suno*

Ghurbat Amn Aur Insaf –Ek tikon (The Triangle of Poverty, Peace and Justice) 2004

A series of 10-radio programmes focusing on issues such as democracy, good governance and poverty.

Uks' team traveled across Pakistan visiting some of the far flung areas as Pishin, Nowshera, Quetta, Mithi etc. covering a number of public forums, and capturing native stories that are truly representative of the issues being faced by the masses.

Topics like poverty, peace and justice were narrowed down into concrete stories and issues like

- Border displacement (Shakargarh)
- Water shortage (Malir)
- Bangle industry (Hyderabad)
- Karo kari (ShikarPur)
- Women in Jails (Islamabad)
- Women's success stories (Jehlum)
- Attock military farms (Attock)

Mujhay Bolnay Do (Let me speak) 2005

A series of 16 radio programmes on issues related to Violence against Women

Dealing with highly sensitive and tabooed issues in our society, reflecting the plight of the women in the country, Mujhay Bolnay Do brought into focus themes like Burn victims, Acid throwing cases, 'Honour' killings, Emotional Violence, Showbiz and sexual violence, Women political representatives, Harassment at work places, Performing Arts, Domestic Workers and Violence in Educational Institutions

The programme challenged myths and preconceived notions that women are not willing to talk about such issues.

Pani ki Kahani – Aurat ki zubani (Women and water issues) 2006

A series of 10 radio programmes of 15 minute duration each.

The producers traveled to different parts of the country for stories and information of the ground realities, meeting the women of rural and urban areas facing problems in livelihood due to water.

The programmes highlighted many facets of this critical issue and tried to explore ways on how to mainstream gender in water issues as well as promote gender equity.



Qudsia Mehmood at Hussainabad, Sindh where women are facing health problems due to polluted water

Chalo Phir Say Muskurain (Let's smile again) 2006

15 persuasive and powerful radio programmes produced on location in the disaster-hit areas in collaboration with the Asia Foundation to mobilize the public for their continued support for the rehabilitation and rebuilding (physical infrastructure as well as spirits) of recent earthquake survivors.

During field work on this series it was learnt that more women than men had been hit by the Pakistani quake because they were indoors engaged in domestic chores. Another women-specific concern that has unearthed itself in the post quake events, is the harrowing tales of women, young girls and children being kidnapped from relief camps. These were some of the facts that prompted Uks to try and analyze the situation and seek answers to many untold queries.



Saadia Haq, at District Allai, with the local village children who demanded schools to be rebuilt in their area

Qudsia and Saadia at the Line of Control, Chakoti for radio series on Disaster Management



Aurat, Ghairat aur Qatl (Woman, honour and murder) 2006

In October 2006, British High Commission supported Uks for production of a series of 10-radio programmes Aurat, Ghairat Aur Qatl on 'honour' killings in Pakistan; focusing on the plight of survivors, in-depth analysis of such cases and follow-up reports.

The team surveyed cases in Naseerabad and Jaffarabad (Balochistan) and Jacobabad on the border of Sindh and Balochistan, Khyber Agency (NWFP). This project was particularly challenging because no one was willing to speak on the issue of 'karo kari' or 'honour' killings.

The series included comments of the tribal leaders and 'jirgas' of remote areas on the issue of 'honour' killings, the political atmosphere, and stance of youth on the issue.



A tribal leader and Jirga Head talking to Qudsia Mehmood on 'honour' crimes - Jacobabad

Rukhsana Mussarrat at Naseerabad (Balochistan), talking to Balochi tribal members on 'honour' crimes



Hamari Tarraqui – Hamaray Masael (Our development – Our Problems) 2008

The project was carried out to facilitate Pakistani media in reflecting women's initiatives for development and empowerment.

In the Pakistani media, women are either portrayed as victims of violence or sex symbols. The series paid tributes to the talented, brave and intelligent Pakistani women who are working to defy this image. They are stepping into the so-called domains of men, empowering themselves economically and socially and also opening up avenues and paving the ways for the less daring women to follow suit.

Uks team traveled across the country to search for talents and record stories that raise voices and concerns on themes like: women's political rights, women's economic rights, access to justice, access to education, health-related concerns, mobility and right to work

Aisha Amir with a physically disabled woman working for special persons, Islamabad.





Rukhsana Mussarat with Flying Officers at PAF Base, Mianwali



Saadia Haq, with Motorway Police Squad where women have been inducted as Patrolling Officers, N-5 Nooriyabad-Karachi





Saadia Haq with Mukhtaran Mai on her dreams of girl child education – Meerwala, Multan

Rafia Arshad interviews a young, ambitious woman running her own Renta-Car service, Islamabad

Hamari Tarraqui – Hamari Awaz (Our Development – Our Voice) 2008

Supported by National Endowment for Democracy, this project explored the past, present and future of Pakistani women in governance and the importance of having gender equity for democracy. The production also highlighted the problems; social, economic or any other that are faced by women in politics at all tiers.

The series successfully brought forward testimonies of women from urban and rural areas of Bahawalpur, Hassanabdal and Rawalpindi.

Aao Sunain Unkahi Batain, Unsuni Kahanian (Let Us Hear Unheard Voices, Untold Stories)

A series of 8 - radio programmes to advocate women's empowerment during reconstruction in the Earthequake areas supported by the Global Fund for Women (GFW). This series aimed to bring out the untold stories and unheard voices of women, mostly the marginalized ones and help raise issues of women's empowerment in the earth quake areas of Pakistan.





Projects in pipeline

Aurat, Maeeshat aur Karobar (Women, Economy and Business)

 Bringing forward various Government and non government initiatives enabling Pakistani women to fulfil their dreams and hopes and transforming the role of women in society for making a poverty free world a reality.

"Hum Kissi say kum Nahin (We are no less than others!)

 A series of 12 radio programmes on the rights of the disabled and the responsibilities of society towards them.

Eager to learn

Training workshops for the radio journalists

The trainee producers who have received training in radio journalism at Uks. The aim was to educate radio practitioners belonging to different cities so that they use their skills in their own localities to give voice to the suppressed and marginalized communities



Aurat Ki Tarraqui, Hamari Tarraqui Women's Progress, Our Progress



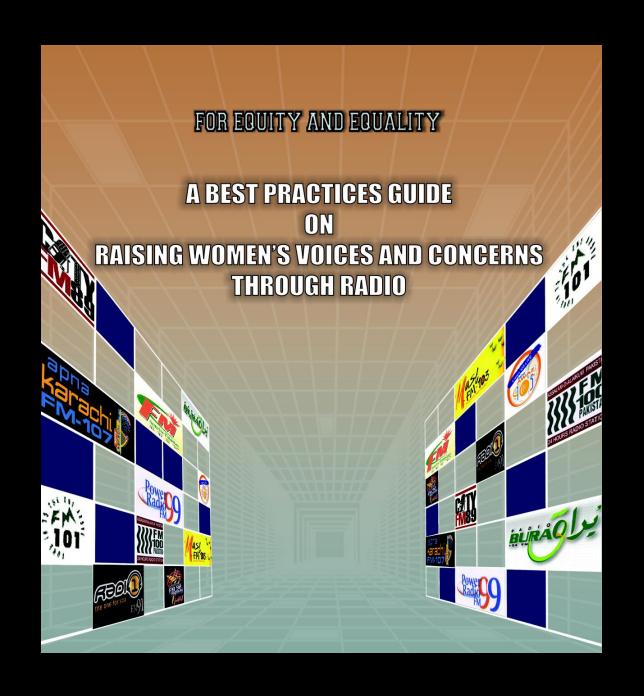
Under this NED project (2008-09), six women from different cities of Pakistan were selected to receive training in radio journalism at Uks. The aim was to educate radio practitioners on how to use their skills in their own localities and be able to produce gender sensitive radio programmes highlighting issues of women's political participation in Pakistan.











A step ahead...

NOMEN'S MEDI

On May 16, 2008,Uks' decade long struggle for fair and sensitive reporting on women's issues and promotion of neutral, balanced and unbiased approach to women and women's issues within and through the media resulted in the formation of...

Pakistan Women's Media Network

PWMN: Vision

- Ensure fair and equal representation of women working in the media
- Highlight factors behind the under-representation of women in the media
- Acknowledge the efforts of pioneering women in media
- Encourage and support aspirant young women to enter the field
- Building professional networks of media organizations and educational institutions

PWMN: Structure

With over 200 members from all over the country PWMN consists of

- An informal, non-hierarchical group of women media persons and others working in or on the media
- An autonomous body, committed to raising voices and concerns against gender-based violence, injustices and biases in the media and society



PWMN: Objectives

- Advocate positive portrayal of women in the media
- Ensure and improve representation of women in all tiers on the media
- Reinforce women's rights as human rights
- Highlight cases of harassment and discrimination against women in the media
- Provide strength and support to women in media
- Initiate open dialogue and critique of media trends that are damaging to women of and in the media
- Promote professionalism, ethics and social responsibility in media
- Bring forward success stories of women in the media
- Share information and resources to create awareness on the glass ceiling effect
- Endorse gender equality and justice within the media and society
- Minimize negative representation of women in advertisements
- Ensure that all these issues are understood by Media Editors and/or Owners

Uks-Internews Partnership

Uks in collaboration with Internews aims at

- Reaching university students through a series of planned interactive educational workshops
- Raising profile of women in Pakistani media
- Requirement of a gender sensitive media
- Analyzing ambitions, identifying issues and exploring opportunities
- Promoting media as career for Women in Pakistan





Academic institutions on our panel

- Fatima Jinnah Women's University
- Karachi University
- Lahore College for Women
- University of Peshawar









From Classrooms to Newsrooms

Promoting Media as a Career for Women in Pakistan





FROM CLASS ROOMS TO NEWS ROOMS

Promoting Media as a Career for Women in Pakistan











Uks – Woodrow Wilson

A Pilot Project for monitoring a selection of mainstream Pakistani media was initiated in collaboration with Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars -USA,.

Month long task focused on monitoring a selection of mainstream Pakistani media – print, radio and television on the coverage given to women in news reports, editorials, columns and features

The aim was to improve women's representation in Pakistani mainstream media and to lift the status of women as a whole.







More women in news & views: Is mainstream media willing to take up this challenge with gender sensitivity?

A comprehensive report based on the findings of the quantitative and qualitative content analysis









PWMN: Expected Outcomes

- Data on how women are portrayed in the selected print and electronic media for a specific period
- A National level conference on More Women in Mainstream Media
- Commitments from media managers to have more women in their organizations
- Gradual breaking of the glass ceiling- by having more women in decision-making levels
- A media guide on promoting Affirmative Actions in media organizations (why and how to bring in more women in the mainstream media)
- More sensitized media on women and media issues
- Partnership/linkages with media organisations

PWMN: Landmark Achievements

- The study Global Report on the Status of Women in News Media sponsored by the International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) in Washington; DC.
- Uks has collaborated with World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) for The Global Media Monitoring Project that takes place every five years to collect data on selected indicators of gender in news media worldwide, to determine what changes have ensued since the media monitoring of 2005 including changes in reporting on gender violence. For the year 2009, Uks is conducting the study in Pakistan and representing Pakistan for the first time.
- Data digitalization of Uks media resource material

PWMN: Upcoming Project

Best Journalist Practices Leadership for Women Journalists

Under the banner of PWMN, a two-pronged project is in process through the State Department's Citizen Exchange program with an emphasis on television news production training and preparing female journalists for positions of leadership. The partners for this project are the Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism & Communication in Bangladesh; the Nepal chapter of the International Association of Women in Radio and Television; and Uks--Research, Resource and Publication Centre on Women and Media in Pakistan.

Uks' Firsts

Promoting an unbiased and balanced attitude towards women in media

- Empowering Women through the Media Panel discussion
 December 1997
- Impact of Newspaper Language and Reporting on Women's Status and Development
 September 1998
- Portrayal of Women in the Media one-day workshop
 April 1999
- Monitoring and Sensitising the Print Media on the Portrayal of Women in the Press – Consultative Workshops for Media Persons

A National Study on Monitoring and Sensitisation of the Print Media on the Portrayal of Women

Changing Images

First ever study on monitoring of print media on the portrayal of women

Conducted by:

ks. A Research Resource and Publication Centre on Women and Media

Uks resource pool – clippings from 12 newspapers scanned daily, on the projection of women in the print media











Police claimed on Wednesday that the three of the accused have been arrested and they are looking for the fourth.

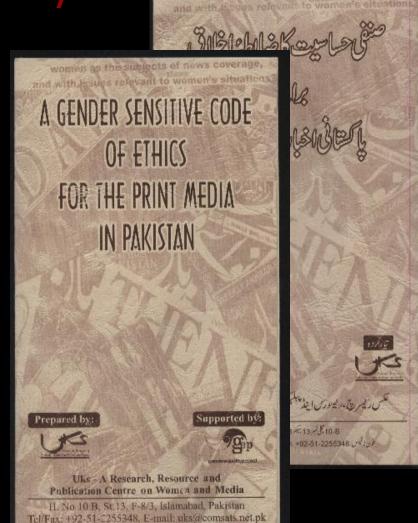
The unfortunate victim told the Westridge police that she hired a taxi outside the Rawalpindi General Hospital for Dhoke Kashmirian where she lives. On the way, two more per-



South Asia's first NGO to compile and disseminate gender sensitive code of ethics for print media in its country

Challenging Trends

Uks publication on formulating a gender-sensitive code of ethics for the print media



Gender sensitivity awards for journalists

SEEMA KIYANI

ABAD-Advisor to Prime r on Women Development, Welfare and Special Educalofar Bakhtiar on Wednesmedia is the mirror image iety and its role cannot be d in highlighting the sufferwomen folk in the country. was speaking as chief guest istribution of 'Gender Sen-Awards' to the journalists intributed their efforts for ing the masses over women

The programme was organisation working for on March 8.

She said the government was women can fight for their rig fully committed to uplift the status of women at all levels and also be- come forward to join the fi lieved in the freedom of press.

"Women in the country are fac- able to deeply understan ing discrimination, exploitation and women's sufferings as compa hurdles in their careers. The government is concerned about these problems and is committed to resolving them, however the media should also feel its responsibility in creating awareness among the masses over such issues."

Women Development had also conferred Gender Award to a senior ed by Uks, a non-govern- woman journalist on Women's Day who has also been working as

She said the women s journalism as they would be their men colleagues.

She said there was no no setting up any Press Council country but a body, which monitor the activities of the go ment. She also urged women nalists to broaden their area of Nilofar said the Ministry of by not confining just to the w

> Director Uks, Tasneem A nalist since long said the C



KHYBER MAIL (Peshawar) Wednesday, June 20, 200

Code of ethics underlined for print media

By Zinul Haq

PESHAWAR: A strong code of ethics and watch-dog group should be formulated to keep check on those newspapers, magazines and periodicals who were projecting women in retrogressive and commercialize manner and encourage stereotype notions of femininity.

It was the outcome of a one-day consultative work. ferent areas and personalities in the organizational structure of the newspapers, which could play important role in publishing responsible materials relating to women and other issues.

Focusing on women projection in print media, it was noted that in those organizations, where females are employed, women issues were highlighted in true and

About the activaties, she told, the organization had conducted media workshop in many cities of Pakistan adding its members are actively involved in positive information-dissemination on women's issue. She said, they are maintaining a documentation centre on development issue and it will open for publie and oun access our archives and the data com-

Sensitizing media on HIV/AIDS reporting in a gender sensitive manner



National conference mobilizing the media on HIV and AIDS coverage

Pakistan Shserver 04 JUL 2006

UKS holds media workshop on AIDS in Karak

HAMAYUN KHATTAK

workshop on AIDS was held here They asked the journalists to join hand with them to minimize

utilize their pen for bringing

They added that very heavy sponsibility lies over the

PESHAWAR— One day media which should be avoided too.

through precautionary measures journalists of district Karak and kill of the AIDS and urged them briefly highlighted the reasons of spreading of this disease and asked the members of UKS to give also due share in advertisements to the local press also as they could better convey the message of AIDS awareness to the people

awareness in the masses awareness in the masses while highlighting the nobjectives of the UKS working this disease was spreading. informed that immoral weekly Dastak Kohat Kausar ct with the opposite sex was Saleem Bangash informed that the

skill of the disease to cope wi

Uks rings alarm bells about AIDS spread in NAs

office bearers of Uks, a non-governmental organization striving for dissemination of information about AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) said that the Northern Areas of Pakistan have been running the high risk of being victims to the lethal disease following the flow of foreign tourists and thriving border trade with

Uks representatives Quddsi-ya Mehmood and Sadia Haque

They said it was imperative to raise awareness among the adolescents in the region which are remote and cut off from the rest of the country

phy.
They suggested installing and equipping testing and screening facilitates at the border and media-men should be trained in reporting on ADIS and HIV so that they are able to report with full under-standing of the disease and its

In the studio In the field

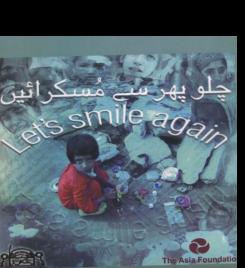


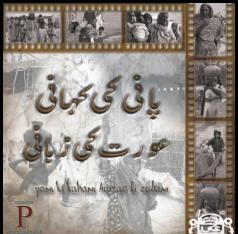
First Civil Society
Organisation to own a radio production house in Pakistan



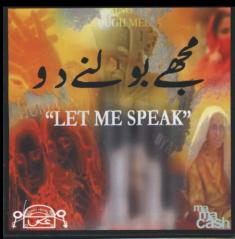


Uks Radio Productions









Airing of issue based stories from the remote areas of Pakistan



Mastung, Balochistan



Goth Mallah, Sindh



Khyber agency



Sibbi, Balochistan



Allai District

Radio journalism training



Two radio producers (one male, one female) each from Rawalpindi,
Hasanabdal and Bahawalpur were trained to use latest techniques and ethics of radio productions including gender sensitive and unbiased reporting

Training of women radio producers by Ms. Manisha Aryal, Internews by updating them on the editorial and technical sides of gender-sensitive radio productions for yet another series on women and development

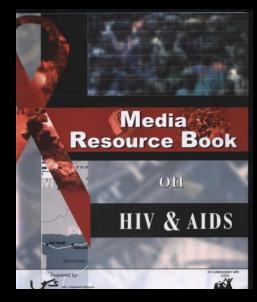


Media resource on HIV/AIDS developed by Uks

Uks radio project 'AIDS and Us'

Uks Resource Book and Media Toolkit on HIV/AIDS







Training & sensitization on disaster reporting with a gender lens after October '05 earthquake



Workshop on 'Channeling the voices of earthquake affectees'

Radio Support

Radio project: 'Chalo Phir se muskorain' (Let's smile again)

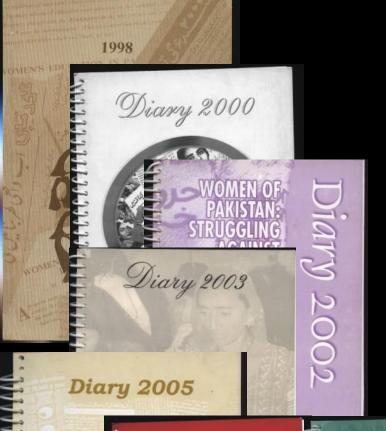


Uks radio producers at work!

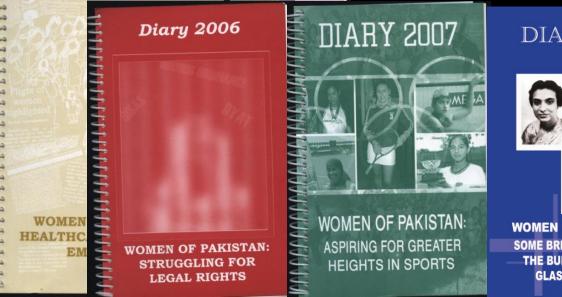


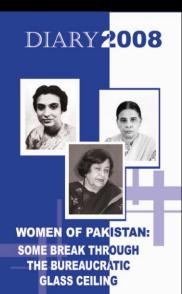


Uks Annual Diary our trademark



A striking collector's item; a new theme every year essentially related to women's development, represented through press clippings, opinions, poetry, illustrations and a detailed chronology of related events





Uks in news

Gender sensitization

Code of ethics for print media launched

DAWN

Nisar for respectful portrayal of women in print media

Print Media on the

uide for concerns

29 Aug 2008

The News - 9 JAN 2003

Politics, women's rights intermingled in Pakistan: Kishwar

The Nation.

THE NEWS 13 FEB 2008

'Hamari Tarragi,

Hamaray Masael' launched





Friday, December 14, 2001

Diary launched to highlight violence against women

ISLAMABAD: Uks, a research, resource and publication centre on women and media, launched Diary 2003 in a ceremony preceded by informal discussion at its office here on Thursday. A select gather-ing of women rights activists and media attended.

The new year's diary is entitled 'Women of Pukristan: Struggling Against Violence.' The earlier di-aries were entitled 'Women of Pakistan: 50 Years and Beyond, Women of Pakistan: Looking To-wards New Millennium' and Women in Pakistan: Vision in Print

Michia.

Briefing the audience on the oc-casion, Tasseem Ahmar, director, Uks, recounted difficulties erconn-Uks, recommend difficulties erconn-tered in compiling data on the sub-ject, especially regarding erects of 1971. A lot of information was available in documented form about violence against. Bengali women during the Bant Publistan ais but nothing was there about either party like Beharts.

The gap in the information, she said, was acknowledged in the chronology of events contained in the new diary. That is why, she said, there is a lot of detail about Dena

there is a lot of detail about Benn-galls and the portion dealing with the other party is in the Rast Pak-istan debacke is skeetly.

Ma Ahnar said that the period between 1977-88 was the darkout for women of Pakistan when women were paraded naked in Nawatpur and the diary includes the example of a blind taged awarded lashes by a court in Sahi-wal when his resorted to law for wal when she resorted to law for the redressal of her grievance.

Women movement also took a new turn. There were many women rights demonstrations that led to the formation of Women's Action Forum. She said the diary includes poems of Februida Riaz, Kishwar Naheed, Zebra Nigab and Attiya Daud, carroons of Yousaf Lodbi d editorials of Urda and English print media.

She said Uks has tried to project the supportive contribution of press in the diary. She regretted that in the crime on sex, the role of print media is still negative. It is because of the press, she said, that people now know that stove deaths

pecialic new know link slove deallies are deliberate murder and not an accident and they also appose l'aucolari and homour lellings. Palura Abdullah, another women rights activits, answering a question said that percentage of women in Pakhtasah population is women in Pakhtasah population is evenage. She auid that the difference is a due to sidence assainst ence is due to violence against women in various forms, direct or indirect. This also includes malru-trition that leads to more deaths in weatern. The girl child is always weaker as the family gives better feed to boys. Deaths during child-bearing also reduce their percent-

An official from the Ministry of Women Development said that his Ministry is taking many steps to end violence against women and has signed the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination

بستم الله الرفيال الرحية The Nation

Media role vital in creating **AIDS** awareness: Speakers



'Hamari Tarraqi, Hamari Awaz' launched

Radio programmes on gender issues launched

ذرال ابلاغ كذر يع خواتين كوحقوق سي كاي بوكى، وزير

Conferences at Uks







The journey continues...

In the ten years since its inception, Uks believes that the manner of reporting on women issues which has come to be frequently criticized for its blatant sensationalism has changed.

Most of Uks' trainings and publications with media have centred around the issue of <u>healthy projection of women issues</u>, and the radio project is in part aimed to rectify the gaps identified therein.

Uks is proud to be one of the catalysts to bring about this positive change and will continue to do so in the years to come!