



# FEDERAL OMBUDSMAN SECRETARIAT

FOR PROTECTION AGAINST HARASSMENT (FOSPAH)

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment Kashmala Tariq hosted an event for creating Awareness regarding Protection Against Harassment and Women's Property Rights at President Secretariat, Islamabad**

The President of Pakistan Honorable Dr. Arif Alvi was the chief guest of this vibrant event, the attendance of Guest of Honor Ms. Sharmeela Rassool, Country Representative UN Women Pakistan, Guest of Honor Dr. Sania Nishtar, Senator, Special Assistant of the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, Senators, Ambassadors and people from all spheres of life justified the slogan “*Inclusion not Seclusion*” put forward by none other than Federal Ombudsman Kashmala Tariq. The purpose behind this slogan was to amplify the importance of both genders being equally responsible for the betterment of whole society. Federal Ombudsman also emphasized on the due share for women in the inheritance. The welcome speech was delivered by the Federal Ombudsman Kashmala Tariq wherein she put forward the slogan “*Inclusion not Seclusion*” and asserted the importance of collective responsibility and roles of both genders. She stressed on the plight of working women which is yet to be addressed, issues like harassment, hostile environment, discrimination and non conducive conditions at workplace. She shared that after the enactment of the “Enforcement of Women's Property Rights Act 2020”, Federal Ombudsman for Protection Against Harassment abbreviated as FOSPAH has been empowered to protect and enforce women property rights. She shared that FOSPAH has been trying to motivate women who have been deprived of their property rights (ownership as well as possession), to come to FOSPAH for redressal of their grievances. While addressing all the speakers, Federal Ombudsman threw light upon empowering women, rights of women and the role of society for adaptation of the basic roles enshrined in the Holy Quran and the Constitution of Pakistan. She vowed and pledged to make gender diversity real and not surreal.

Guest of Honor Ms. Sharmeela Rassool threw light on discrimination faced by the women in everyday life and the role of media. Dr. Sania Nishtar also advocated equal rights of women in every sphere of life. She also shared that in Ehsaas Program they have implemented policy to incentivize women for their responsibilities.

The Honorable President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi delivered the closing speech and shared his views on workplace harassment and women's property rights and appreciated Federal Ombudsman Kashmala Tariq for her efforts in this regard. He stated that he believed that every woman be seated in this hall must have faced harassment of any form in their lifetime at least for once. He further stated that taking away the inheritance rights of women is strictly forbidden in Islam. The President said that women would remain vulnerable for physical and mental violence unless they are made financially independent. The President considers this a worrisome situation that after fourteen hundred years of Islam, our society is still unable to espouse these essential teachings of Islam.

A performance at the end of evening by the group students, depicting all the cultures through their attires added more colors to the event.