

## Stand with the Women

In a perverse way, there is a silver lining to the moral panic that afflicts authorities and conservative segments of society alike every year in the run-up to "Aurat March" on March 08, International Women's Day. Whenever the women take part in this Aurat march, many problems arise for the conservative groups.

This time, the Assistant Commissioner of Lahore did not allow to take part in any kind of rally in the city premises. She further explained, the reason behind this step is the security concerns. Most of the women took part in this march as the working women, housewives, trans-women and others for their fundamental rights.

Furthermore, during the same day on March 08<sup>th</sup>, the Jamaat-I-Islami also organized "Haya Day" to counter the Aurat march. The conservative group's issue is the slogans and dances

performed by the women. The Assistant Commissioner gave the reason that she don't want any trouble between the two parties.

Moreover, the authorities cannot suppress the fundamental rights of the women rather than providing them security. There are many difficulties faced by the women in these events as; use of inappropriate words, throwing stones ~~on~~ the protesters and conducting events by the conservative groups.

As a result, the society in this way promotes the patriarchal image and support for the conservative groups. However, the women are also a part of this country and the authorities are obliged to provide ~~them~~ security. In addition, these protests are peaceful and non-violent.

Why the authorities take that as an issue? Although, these women raise their voices just for their rights as many women face sexual or physical violence and subjected to domestic violence.