

**SAMEENA  
NAZIR**

**PEACE**

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**“GLOBAL PEACE STARTS WITH PEACE AT HOME. WE MUST PROTECT WOMEN FROM VIOLENCE AT HOME AND SUPPORT THEM TO TAKE ACTIVE PART IN PEACE-MAKING AT THE VILLAGE, COMMUNITY, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.”**

– SAMEENA NAZIR

## **WOMEN’S RIGHTS PROGRAM SPECIALIST**

A dynamic, creative and resourceful peace advocate and a developer of international women’s rights programs in Muslim countries and communities. Sameena Nazir has **advised national and international organizations on women’s rights advocacy, programming and funding**. She has delivered keynote addresses at various international conferences, universities and United Nations forums. Ms. Nazir has successfully designed and implemented women’s rights advocacy and rural development programs in Afghanistan, Egypt, Morocco, Ghana, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Trinidad, Turkey, Uganda, USA and Yemen.

Sameena Nazir is currently serving as **Strategic Program Advisor for Networks of Change, USA & UK**, and **Founding President of a leading women’s rights NGO in Asia, PODA-Pakistan**. Earlier she has worked at Freedom House, International Human Rights Law Group and National Endowment for Democracy in USA. In 2005, she directed a research study on

women’s rights in the Middle East and North Africa that was published in English and Arabic and presented widely in the region as an advocacy tool. She has led multi-country projects funded by foundations, European Union, USAID and the United Nations.

Sameena Nazir has been recognized as a women’s rights leader globally by her election as **Vice President for Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF)** in 2015. She also served as member of the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) in Pakistan. In 2010, she was awarded the **Benazir Bhutto Human Rights Defender Award** by the President of Pakistan, and in 2009 she received the Annual Humanitarian Service Award by InterAction, in Washington, DC. In 2002, Ms. Nazir was recognized for her Courage and Vision for initiating projects for Afghan Refugee Women at International Human Rights Law Group. Ms. Nazir holds a Masters in Rural Development from Cornell University and MA in English from Pakistan.

## **Speaking Topics**

- Why peace in Pakistan is critical for peace in the world
- Attacks on Girls’ Right to Education: what can we do?
- Women’s voices for peace: where, how, why?
- Women’s rights in the Middle East and North Africa
- Organizing women in Pakistan

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