



January 20, 2009

PGA Statement on Restoring Girls' Education in Swat, Pakistan

PGA welcomes the debate held on the floor of the National Assembly of Pakistan on 15 January, 2009 surrounding the deeply disturbing recent developments in Swat, Pakistan, the announcement by Taliban militants of their stated intention to impede the access of girls and women to educational institutions in the region in contravention of Pakistan's Constitution and the UN Charter. PGA also welcomes the statement made to the House by the federal government of its commitment to uphold its national and international obligations herein and the resolution on Swat to be presented by the women's caucus to parliament.

PGA also welcomes 19 January 2009 announcement by the Government of the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), Pakistan that educational institutions currently closed re-open on March 1, 2009 and that the provincial administration will also ensure the safety and security of children in this regard.

PGA wishes to acknowledge the intensive efforts of a diverse range of groups and individuals who contributed to these important restorative developments, including its current and former members in National and Provincial Assemblies of Pakistan, government and opposition, women and men, from secular left to religious right; its members in the United States Congress, and PGA's friends and colleagues in Equality Now.