

Press Statement

25th General Meeting of All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB)

Kolkata, 20th November, 2016

The 25th General Meeting of AIMPLB was held at Myrah Banquet, Prasad Square 164, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata – 14. During the 3-day meeting the detailed agenda was discussed.

Though there were various items on the agenda but the *suo-motto writ petition* initiated by the Honourable Supreme Court with reference to the *triple talaq* and polygamy continued to remain the focal point amongst the participants within the house and outside the house.

The Board explained in detail its position on Shariah Laws relating to marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, etc. It has been the Board's firm opinion that the Shariah laws have their origin in the Holy Quran and the Sunnah. These Shariah laws are divine laws and cannot be modified changed or altered by any person or authority. The point of view of AIMPLB has been explained in detail through the affidavit filed before the Honourable Supreme Court. The moment Board came to know that the central government is going to file the affidavit in the Supreme Court, it approached the honourable PM and Five Cabinet Ministers through the registered post to have the point of view of the board which represents all *Masaliks* (school of thoughts) in the country. Unfortunately, the authorities with their predetermined mind did not think it fit to know the AIMPLB point of view.

The Board explained that it is competent to take up issues with the Hon. Supreme Court and is hopeful that the constitutional guarantees to all the religious units in the country would not be disturbed.

It was also explained by the Board that the board fully respects the constitutional institutions of the country but at the same time the questionnaire designed by the Law Commission not only falls short of the professionalism on such a sensitive issue but smack of the intention of the present day government of meddling with the personal laws and bring in the Uniform Civil Code, through backdoors.

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The initiative of the Board in not responding to the questionnaire issued by the Law Commission of India has been appreciated by the house. On the other hand crores of responses for the protection of Shariah Laws and having total faith in the leadership of AIMPLB has been encouraging and we hope that the good sense will prevail in the government to withdraw its affidavit from the Honourable Supreme Court.

Based on its own assessment through government data, RTI and personal contacts, the board rejects the plea of the so called women activists in misrepresenting to the nation regarding Triple Divorce, polygamy, etc. The Board has been working for years together for social reforms amongst the Muslims, advising them to follow the Shariah properly and use the model *nikahnamah* for *nikah* which would be beneficial for both men and women.

Several important proposals for establishing the helplines to handle the family issues, establishment of more Darul Qazas across the country, creating a team of advocates at the High Court levels and continuous interactions with the advocates for advising them about the Islamic Laws, making the entire Board techno-savy, spreading its arms to every nook and corner of the country, were some of the initiatives taken by the Board.

It was also explained that **Deen-o-Dastur Bachao** movement has yielded good results across the countries and the Adivasis, Dalits, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Ambedkarites and other oppressed classes have appreciated the moves by the Board and have extended their cooperation for the protection of the Constitution of India. The Board strongly feels that any interference in the fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution to the Minorities, Adivasis, Scheduled Castes, Buddhists, Jains and other religious units will harm the integrity of the country and we as Muslims have the duty to protect the values of our country.

The women participation in the affairs of the Personal Law Board Meeting was extraordinary. More than 75 women delegates and 50 women members participated in the meeting and gave their valuable suggestions and proposals. Taking a historic decision, the Board has formulated a **"Women's Wing"** under the convenership of Dr. Asma Zahra. The social reform activities among women will be expanded across India through this wing. It has also been decided to launch an ALL India Muslim Women Helpline, a toll free call center in Urdu, English and 8 regional languages to counsel and guide Muslim women having family disputes to go to the Darul-Qaza.

n the meeting of the Members of the Board, new Executive Committee was constituted. The election of the Honourable President was overwhelmingly unanimous and the other office bearers nominated by the Honourable President in consultation with the members of the house was unanimous and approved.

The Board has placed on records its gratitude to the Reception Committee headed by Hon. MP Sultan Ahmed , the local authorities and volunteers, in extending their support for the smooth transactions of the business of the AIMPLB during the last four days.

1. Hon.MP Sultan Ahmed Sb., President, Reception Committee
2. Zafaryab Jeelini, Secretary, AIMPLB
3. Dr. Asma Zahra, Convener Women's Wing, AIMPLB
4. Kamal Farooqui, Member Executive Committee, AIMPLB