

Peace is Everyday Reality

Transcript

Naheed Israr

Thank you so much. So thank you so much for inviting me today. I'm Nahid Star. I work as the Senior Program Manager at Hive Pakistan. Hive Pakistan is a social impact organization. I have been in the development sector for a little over 8 years now. Before joining Hive Pakistan, I used to write about social and women-related issues. Those stories that often came from the margins, but carried deep insights into how our society, the Pakistani society works. I also co-wrote analysts of street theatre campaigns on harassment in educational institutions and workplaces, because we thought of theatre as a way to start uncomfortable but necessary conversations. And this is about HIVE Pakistan. We are a social organization, like I said, working on peace building, minority rights, countering violent extremism, and gender-based issues. Our work centers on strengthening the grassroots actors, the people who live with the conflicts and resilience every day, and supporting them to design the solutions rooted in their own realities, in their own mechanisms of conflict resolution. Long before the development sector started working in Pakistan. We do not, we discourage that HAIV or any other entity dictate them to how they should be resolving their conflicts or the issues that is harming their communities. At HAIV, we also strive to decolonize the peace and development work.

Speaker 2

Thank you so much, Naheed, for sharing the video. I hope you are now back on our audio to share your reflections.

Naheed Israr

Yes, I'm back. Sorry, the connectivity issue. No problem. Just to build the context, what you all saw is actually at height we learned that women don't experience peace at negotiation tables or policy forum. I'm talking about the common women, local women from underserved communities. This experience it in their daily lives, in their homes, on their streets and within their communities. This video captures those everyday acts of care, protection, connection, how women create peace quietly by exercising their agency, their observation. Often their work that benefits the whole community goes unrecognized, but has lasting impact. And we are seeing this because the project that we have seen, they were initiated in last year and the year before. And still those interventions are still working and communities are benefiting from that. Just to add here, you see, During work, our work, one thing that really stood out was how even

when women are physically present in discussions, they really share their own views, their opinions. Often the conversations were dominated or, you say, heightened by their male counterparts, leaving very little space for women's voices. And of course, the fear of ridicule or dismissal. I myself a woman and I know I myself refrain from sharing or expressing my views. So just imagine the woman who would never have been given the space to speak for herself from under the community, how she would be feeling when she's engaged or present in a conversation and being dominated by the male counterparts. So Of course, this could be another reason that they choose to stay silent. But when we created an enabling environment through regular community women bodies and women-centered conversation settings, a space where they felt safe, heard and respected. They begin to open up. They begin to share how they seek peace. Now, some might, some of you might look at these initiatives and say, Oh, it's just a wash project or just a clean drive, but it's much more than that. It's not about installing street lights or building communal washrooms. It's about facilitating the spaces where women can define peace in their own language. and lived realities, the life that they experience every day, the fears that haunts them every day. If a woman knows that her daughter can safely go out to relieve herself, or that she can walk home from work after dark without fear, because there are no street lights, that is peace for her. You and I cannot define peace for her in any other way. because peace for these women is not an abstract idea. It's the dignity, safety, and quiet assurance into the fabric of their everyday life. Thank you so much for watching this video, and thank you so much for listening to me. And if you have any questions, I'm here to answer. Thank you.

Speaker 2

Thank you so much, Naheed.