

# ROSHNI

## CONSENSUS ON BASIS NATIONAL ISSUES

A National Political Consultation among politicians, intellectuals, scholars, activists and professionals, organized by "Roshni" in Lahore on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March, arrived at a consensus on the following 19 national issues and the future direction of politics in Pakistan:-

1. The systems of 'Jagirdari' and 'absentee-landlordism' be abolished. A minimum of 12 ½ acres per family to be given in ownership to land-less tenants to improve agricultural production.
2. The people be declared as owners of the means of production. Equal access to the means of production be accorded to all in accordance with one's ability to work.
3. Positive measures be adopted to develop a self-sustained and debt-free economy, and fruits of its development be delivered directly to the common man.
4. Equal rights, dignity and self-respect be guaranteed to all citizens, irrespective of religion, ethnicity sect or gender.
5. New leadership from amongst the lower and middle classes be raised to represent the majority.
6. Politics of confrontation, intrigue, deceit and exploitation be shunned. Politics of dialogue, consultation, cooperation and coordination among diverse interests, identities and groups be practiced.
7. A free judiciary, a non-political civil service and a non-interfering military be ensured. Their subservience to the will of the people be established.
8. Religious elitism and sectarianism be done away with.
9. A culture of tolerance and goodwill be created.
10. Maximum autonomy be provided to the Provinces as against the federal authority.
11. Electoral system be genuinely improved. Correct criteria be fixed for candidates contesting elections, and those not fulfilling these be debarred from taking part in elections. Inexpensive elections be ensured to provide true representation of the majority of people in the assemblies. The wealthy be restrained

from purchasing votes by declaring this practice a penal offence.

12. Restoring the 1973 Constitution in its original form.
13. The authority to amend the constitution to lie only with the elected and fully representative parliament.
14. The concept of "National Security Council", over the head of the Parliament, be rejected.
15. "Accountability Commission" be made a permanent institution for countering bribery and mal-administration.
16. Minorities be declared part of "One Pakistani Nation", and their full participation in State affairs be arranged.
17. All discriminatory laws against women and minorities be abolished.
18. Women be given equal rights with men in all respects.
19. The workers be given share in industry, and tenants be given ownership of agricultural land.