

EPREUVE ORALE D'ANGLAIS

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9. Women Rise against Abuse

On International Women's Day in Pakistan last month, thousands of exuberant young feminists staged their second Aura (Women's) March. Intended to build on the success of well-received march last year it was designed to be inclusive, peaceful and raucously joyful [...]. It had women from all walks of life, some in Western clothes, others in full veils, headscarves and burqas, women from cities and villages, female health workers and teachers, trans-women and male allies.

Then came an ugly backlash [...]. But the backlash was immediate, and it grew uglier day by day. First came threats of violence. Anonymous groups of young men searched Instagram for pictures of women who participated in the march and sent them threats of rape and murder. A Muslim cleric declared on television that the march's slogan – "My body, my choice" – encouraged the women to be promiscuous, which allowed men to rape them. Two weeks after the march, a resolution in the Khyber Pakhtunkwa Assembly was proposed by a female legislator from a right wing religious party. It condemned the march and its slogans as "shameful" and "obscene". The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Bina Shah, "Women Rise Against Abuse" - The New York Times,
April 16, 2019, p.10.
