



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

National Commission For Human Rights Pakistan



The National Commission for Human Rights, Pakistan (NCHR) is an independent federal body established under an Act of Parliament. It aligns with the UN's Paris Principles and upholds Pakistan's constitutional and international commitments to human rights.



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MISSION & VISION

Mission

To monitor, observe, directly investigate, raise awareness, inquire into complaints, and make recommendations pertaining to human rights issues across Pakistan. The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) is committed to fulfilling its mandate of promoting the human rights of all citizens with a focus on the most vulnerable and marginalised sections of society.

Vision

To see a progressive Pakistan where the human rights of all genders, faiths, races, and ethnicities are respected and celebrated.

NCHR CHAIRPERSON & MEMBERS



**CHAIRPERSON
NCHR**

RABIYA JAVERI AGHA



**MEMBER/COMMISSIONER
BALOCHISTAN**

FARKHANDA AURANGZEB



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**MEMBER/COMMISSIONER
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**MEMBER/COMMISSIONER
SINDH**

ANIS HAROON



**MEMBER/COMMISSIONER
MINORITY**

MANZOOR MASIH

FOREWORD

The year 2024 was a defining chapter for the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) in Pakistan. It marked a historic achievement as NCHR secured A-status accreditation from the United Nations Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), a recognition that reaffirms our independence, credibility, and unwavering commitment to upholding human rights. Further solidifying our global standing, NCHR was elected to serve on the GANHRI Bureau, representing the Asia-Pacific region for a four-year term. These milestones are more than institutional accolades—they are a testament to our relentless efforts in strengthening Pakistan's human rights framework.

Yet, beyond these recognitions, 2024 was a year of impact. It was a year of standing at the frontlines of advocacy, challenging injustices, and pushing for meaningful reforms. We actively engaged with international delegations, lobbied for Pakistan's continuation of its GSP+ status, and submitted reports on Pakistan's compliance with international treaty bodies. Domestically, we initiated suo motu actions, conducted inquiries, published investigative reports, led national consultations, and championed policy changes in critical areas—including freedom of expression, digital rights, gender justice, labor protections, and minority rights. Through these efforts, we have ensured that human rights remain central to Pakistan's legal and policy landscape.

In our quasi-judicial capacity, NCHR resolved over 697 human rights cases in 2024, addressing issues such as forced conversions, child abuse, gender-based violence, and the rights of religious minorities. Some of our most impactful interventions led to groundbreaking reports on systemic human rights violations, including torture, irregular migration, prison reform, juvenile justice, blasphemy, and the rights of sanitation workers.

One of the most defining moments of the year was NCHR's suo motu action on the tragic deaths of sanitation workers due to hazardous working conditions. Our sustained advocacy led to significant governmental commitments, including the banning of discriminatory hiring practices, the introduction of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in Punjab to ensure worker safety, and legal action to phase out manual sewer unclogging. We took this fight to the Supreme Court, filing a constitutional petition to secure long-term legislative change.

The fight against custodial torture was another critical battle. From high-profile cases like Dr. Shahnawaz Kambar's to incidents of police brutality against minors, NCHR members and team worked tirelessly to ensure the implementation of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022. We actively engaged with law enforcement agencies and civil society to develop rules and SOPs under the Act, reinforcing accountability at every level.

Our investigative visits to jails and inquiries into the alarming rise in blasphemy cases resulted in a comprehensive report, advocating for the establishment of a Joint Investigation Team and a Commission of Inquiry to address potential violations of due process. Additionally, we fought for the enforcement of Hindu marriage registration laws, the notification of Pandits or Hindu marriage registrars and lobbied for overdue legal protections for religious minorities.

NCHR's unwavering commitment to children's rights led to the release of approximately 130 under-trial juveniles, legal representation for over 100 children in conflict with the law, and the launch of a nationwide jail monitoring initiative. Our collaboration with the National Police Bureau (NPB) spurred institutional reforms in law enforcement, including the introduction of human rights training programs and the establishment of a dedicated Child Protection Unit.

Despite the challenges we faced—including external pressure aimed at deterring our work—the Commission has remained steadfast in its mission—to protect the vulnerable, challenge impunity, and ensure that justice is not a privilege for the few but a right for all.

We extend our gratitude to the Ministry of Human Rights for respecting NCHR's independence and supporting the passage of our rules, ensuring that we can function without interference. We also recognize the courage, commitment, and hard work of our NCHR members, whose dedication has been instrumental in all our achievements. Lastly, we acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of our small but incredibly effective NCHR team, whose dedication and perseverance has made an immense impact despite limited resources. Their commitment to human rights is truly commendable.

As we look ahead, our resolve is stronger than ever. We will continue to amplify the voices of the marginalized and push for reforms that create tangible change in people's lives. Human rights are not merely words on paper; they are the foundation of dignity, justice, and equality. At NCHR, we remain committed to making them a reality for every citizen of Pakistan.

Rabiya Javeri Agha

Chairperson

National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR)

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) is a federal statutory body formed through an Act of Parliament. It is an independent National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) with a mandate set up in line with the Paris Principles- a set of international standards adopted by the United Nations in 1993 that outline the independence, structure and functions of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI). NCHR is the outcome of Pakistan's constitutional commitments as well as its international treaty commitments to promote and protect human rights.

NCHR is the apex and only national human rights institution in Pakistan in terms of broadness of scope and multiplicity of functions. The Commission has been granted a wide mandate which encompasses multiple methods to pursue its stipulated goals. Very concisely, it is envisioned, inter alia: to monitor, investigate, and hear human rights complaints; act as a watch dog on legislation, set standards, and enable implementation; promote awareness of and act as an advocate for human rights; generate and enable research and data production on human rights; and drive policymaking for human rights protection.

NCHR also advises the Government of Pakistan on fulfilling its international human rights obligations under the seven core international human rights instruments which Pakistan has ratified: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

Institutional Updates

In the third year of its tenure, NCHR has strengthened its internal mechanisms and institutional practices.

After a gruelling application process, NCHR was accredited as an A-status National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). GANHRI operates in collaboration with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. This accreditation signifies that NCHR meets the highest and most rigorous standards set by the United Nations Paris Principles, which outline international best practices for National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs). These principles emphasize independence guaranteed by law, transparency, a broad and effective mandate for human rights, strong advocacy, and impactful policy interventions.

In 2024, the journey to accreditation began with a gap analysis conducted by UNDP and the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) in 2017. This analysis identified 27 critical gaps in NCHR's functionality, threatening its chances of meeting international standards. Using the analysis as a roadmap, the Commission undertook comprehensive institutional reforms. Emphasis was placed on improving governance, ensuring pluralism, completing the process of hiring of officials and strengthening in-house capacity through training and development. NCHR worked to establish its complete independence from the government, which required navigating complex bureaucratic dynamics to secure financial and administrative autonomy. NCHR's Human Resource Rules and Medical Rules were also approved and notified by the Government.

The process of accreditation was both extensive and demanding, requiring detailed documentation, evidence of performance, and a thorough evaluation of NCHR's adherence to global benchmarks. In this journey NCHR was supported and guided by the technical team of the Asia Pacific Forum (APF). It is noteworthy that Pakistan is the only new country to achieve first time A-status this year, a rare and commendable feat. GANHRI has since recognized the exceptional quality of NCHR's Statement of Compliance (SOC), adopting it as a model for other NHRIs aspiring for accreditation.

NCHR has also partially concluded its hiring process, issuing appointment letters to mid-level officers and undertaking a formal 'on-boarding' and training of new staff . Training given to new entrees focused on international and domestic human rights laws and standards, the Paris Principles and good governance standards. Public accessibility and civil society outreach became a priority as the Commission focused on making its services available nationwide. A centralized complaint mechanism was upgraded, incorporating technology to enhance efficiency. Innovations such as artificial intelligence and sentiment analysis were used to monitor trends and preempt hate speech, as demonstrated during incidents like the Jaranwala violence. Recognizing the power of partnerships, NCHR collaborated with civil society, academia and international and regional organizations to strengthen its operations and shared expertise with other NHRIs. As of 2024, NCHR has signed 37 Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with different organizations and educational institutes.

Operating within Pakistan's complex human rights landscape has not been without its challenges: following the public circulation of certain investigative reports, NCHR Members have faced threats to their safety. However, through perseverance, courage and strategic action, NCHR has transformed itself into a credible and effective institution addressing multifarious issues relating to human rights violations, garnering strength from civil society and the communities it has assisted. The achievement of A-status accreditation marks a turning point in its journey, validating the Commission's efforts and serving as a platform for advancing human rights in Pakistan.

Functions of the Commission

NCHR's functions are laid out under Section 9 of the National Commission of Human Rights Act, 2012.

The Commission shall perform all or any of the following functions, namely:-

- a) Suo-moto or on a petition presented to it by a victim or any person on his behalf, inquire into complaints of;
 - i. Violation of human rights or abetment thereof; or
 - ii. Negligence in the prevention of such violation, by a public servant;
- b) Intervene in any proceeding involving any allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court by filing application for becoming a party to the proceedings before such court;
- c) notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Commission or any person authorized by it may visit any jail, place of detention or any other institution or place under the control of the Government or its agencies, where convicts, under trial prisoners, detainees or other persons are lodged or detained for purposes of ascertaining the legality of their detention as well as to find out whether the provisions of the applicable laws or other provisions relating to the inmates living conditions and their other rights are being complied with;
- d) review the safeguards provided by or under the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan or any other law for the time being in force for the protection of human rights and recommend adoption of new legislation, the amendment of existing laws and the adoption or amendment of administrative measures for their effective implementation:--- Provided that if requested by the Government, the Commission may examine any legislation and submit its views thereon and comment on the implication of the same for legislation;
- e) review the factors, including acts of terrorism, that inhibit the enjoyment of human rights and recommend appropriate remedial measures;
- f) study treaties, other international instruments on human rights and reports submitted by the Government of Pakistan on them including the comments thereon, to make recommendations for their effective implementation;
- g) undertake and promote research in the field of human rights, maintain database on the complaints on violence of human rights received and development of human rights norms;
- h) spread human rights literacy among various sections of society and promote awareness of the safeguards available for the protection of these rights through publications, print and electronic media, seminars and other available means in all major languages of the country;
- i) direct investigation and inquiry in respect of any incident of violation of human rights;

- j) submit independent reports to the Government on the state of human rights in Pakistan for incorporation in reports to United Nations' bodies or committees;
- k) develop a national plan of action for the promotion and protection of human rights; and
- l) Such other functions as it may consider necessary for the promotion of human rights.

Chairperson Elected to the Governance Committee of the Asia Pacific Forum (APF)

In September 2024, Chairperson Rabiya Javeri Agha achieved a significant milestone by being elected to the Governance Committee of the Asia Pacific Forum (APF), a coalition of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) from across the Asia-Pacific region. Her election reflects the trust and recognition of her leadership in advancing human rights at both the national and international levels. Additionally, she was chosen to represent APF in the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Bureau, further strengthening Pakistan's role in global human rights advocacy.

The elections took place during the Annual General Body Meeting of APF, held in Bangkok, where representatives from various national human rights institutions convened to discuss regional human rights challenges and institutional strategies. Chairperson Agha's election underscores NCHR Pakistan's growing influence in shaping regional and global human rights policies. As a member of the APF Governance Committee, NCHR will play a key role in guiding the strategic direction of APF, supporting capacity-building initiatives, and ensuring that NHRIs in the Asia-Pacific region uphold their mandates effectively.

Chairperson Agha's representation in GANHRI also marks an important step for Pakistan in global human rights governance. GANHRI, which works closely with the United Nations, promotes cooperation among NHRIs worldwide and ensures compliance with the Paris Principles. Through this role, Chairperson Agha will contribute to shaping international human rights policies, advocating for stronger protection mechanisms, and fostering collaboration between NHRIs across different regions.

This achievement not only enhances NCHR Pakistan's credibility on the international stage but also reinforces its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights within Pakistan. It opens new avenues for collaboration, technical support, and policy exchange, positioning NCHR as a key player in regional and global human rights frameworks.



Chairperson Rabiya Javeri Agha takes the stage following her election to the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) Governance Committee.



The Asia Pacific Forum (APF) Annual General Meeting concludes with NCHR Pakistan making it to the Governance Committee.

JUDICIAL MANDATE

NCHR's Complaint Redressal function involves a quasi-judicial role, an investigative role, and a monitoring role. This function has four types of interventions and related processes, namely:

- 1) NCHR's role as an inquiring body/court (in turn on complaint or suo moto)
- 2) NCHR's role as an intervener in on-going court proceedings
- 3) NCHR's role as an investigator into human rights violations
- 4) NCHR's role as an inspector of jails and places of detention

NCHR has the powers to call witnesses, gather evidence and require furnishing of information, etc. The NCHR Act provides it the opportunity to take up important human rights issues and build a substantiated and persuasive case for rights implementation.

NCHR Complaint Redressal

Complaint Status from January 2024 to December 2024		
Sr. No.	Complaints/Suo Moto	Numbers
1	Fresh complaint received during the period	930
2	Cases where Suo Motu action has been taken	281
	Total	697
3	Complaints disposed/closed	1054
4	Complaints under process	514

See **Annex 1** for more details on complaints and suo moto actions.

Highlighted Cases

1. Suo Moto Action on the Abduction of a 12-Year-Old Domestic Worker in DHA, Lahore

NCHR took suo moto notice of the abduction of 12-year-old Muskan, a domestic worker from DHA, Lahore. This case, emblematic of the plight of vulnerable domestic workers in Pakistan, highlighted systemic issues such as child exploitation and lack of protective mechanisms for domestic laborers. NCHR's immediate intervention included coordinating with law enforcement agencies, initiating an investigation, and demanding action against those responsible. The

case underscored the urgent need for stricter regulations and enforcement to protect underage domestic workers from abuse, abduction, and trafficking.

2. Suo Moto Action on Honour Killing of Mst. Wazeeran in Sohbatpur, Balochistan

NCHR intervened in the tragic honor killing of Mst. Wazeeran, a resident of Sohbatpur. This case shed light on the persistent and deep-rooted issue of honor killings in the province, where cultural norms and systemic failures often hinder justice. Honor killings remain a grim reality in Pakistan, with approximately 900 women murdered each year under the pretext of preserving family honor. Despite legal reforms, weak enforcement and societal acceptance continue to enable these crimes. NCHR emphasized the urgency of addressing honor killings and gender-based violence by pursuing law enforcement agencies for swift action. The case spurred discussions about the need for community-level awareness campaigns, and it enhanced accountability measures for preventing such heinous acts.

3. Lynching of Nazir Masih in Sargodha, Punjab



NCHR Member Punjab meets with the family of Nazir Masih, a victim of mob lynching.

NCHR visited Sargodha to investigate the mob lynching of Nazir Masih, an incident that highlighted the deep-seated intolerance and prejudice faced by minority communities in Pakistan. The lynching occurred in Mujahid Colony, where a mob accused Nazir Masih of blasphemy without sufficient evidence. NCHR team visited the family of the victim and NCHR's fact-finding mission and subsequent advocacy emphasized the importance of legal protections for

minorities and strict actions against perpetrators of mob violence. The NCHR team met with the Deputy Commissioner and District Police Officer, assuring that the investigation was being carried out without any delays. The accused parties were arrested. The case led to renewed calls for curbing the misuse of blasphemy laws and fostering tolerance and interfaith harmony.

4. Kidnapping of Seven Mine Workers in Duki, Balochistan

NCHR took suo moto notice of the kidnapping of seven mine workers in Duki, a case that highlighted the precarious conditions and lack of security for laborers in hazardous industries. The Commission's proactive intervention included coordination with law enforcement agencies to ensure the workers' safe recovery and a focus on improving workplace safety protocols. The case also underscored the need for regulating labor conditions in industries like mining, where exploitation and safety violations are rampant.



NCHR Member Balochistan holds a meeting with mine workers to discuss their hazardous work conditions.

5. Suo Moto Action on Child Abuse in Tharparkar, Sindh

NCHR initiated suo moto action after alarming reports of child abuse in Tharparkar surfaced. The Commission's investigation revealed systematic gaps in protecting children in remote areas, including the absence of shelters for children facing issues like child marriage and abuse, compelling them to seek assistance in distant locations such as Malir, Karachi. This concern is underscored by data from Sahil's "Cruel Numbers 2023" report, which documented 4,213 cases of child abuse across Pakistan in that year, averaging 11 children abused per day. The report highlighted that 53% of the victims were

girls and 47% were boys, with children aged 6-15 years being the most vulnerable.

NCHR's advocacy led to increased monitoring of the region, engagement with local authorities, and recommendations for implementing child protection mechanisms. The case underscored the urgent need for policy interventions to address child abuse and improve access to justice in rural and underserved areas.

6. Environmental Pollution Complaint Against Tile Manufacturer in Sheikhupura, Punjab

NCHR addressed a public complaint regarding severe environmental pollution caused by a tile manufacturing unit in Punjab. The Commission held hearings with stakeholders, including affected residents and the Environmental Protection Department. The case highlighted the link between human rights and environmental justice, with NCHR emphasizing the need for corporate accountability and regulatory compliance to protect public health. This case set a precedent for addressing environmental violations as human rights issues.



NCHR Member Punjab holds a hearing regarding a complaint of environmental pollution.

7. Suo Moto Action on the Tragic Sewerage Deaths in Gulistan-e-Johar, Karachi

NCHR took suo moto notice of a tragic incident in Gulistan-e-Johar, Karachi, where two workers lost their lives due to inadequate safety measures while cleaning a sewerage line. The case spotlighted the exploitation and unsafe working conditions of sanitation workers in Pakistan. NCHR's intervention called for better occupational safety protocols and accountability for negligence, raising awareness about the marginalized status of sanitation laborers. NCHR has filed a constitutional petition before the Supreme Court of Pakistan, under

article 184(3) for the casual phasing out of manual unclogging of sewers. In the petition, NCHR hopes that the court may “declare the practice of manual scavenging or manual sanitation as illegal and unconstitutional (...)”. The petition was supported by Nasar Law Associates and Advocate Aroob Ansar on a pro bono basis.

8. Petition in the High Court Against the Extrajudicial Killing of Dr. Shahnawaz Kumbhar

NCHR initiated suo moto action on the extra-judicial killing of Dr. Shahnawaz Kumbhar by Mirpur Khas police on September 18, 2024, requesting reports from the Inspector General of Sindh Police and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). The case was pursued under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022.

A hearing was held at the NCHR Karachi Regional Office on November 14, 2024, attended by NCHR Headquarter representatives, FIA officials, and the deceased’s family. The FIA reported that Dr. Shah Nawaz was arrested under Section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and later extrajudicially killed in police custody. FIRs were filed against 21 police officials, including senior officers, and one civilian, under multiple sections of the PPC, Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), and the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022.

Progress reported by the FIA includes:

- 11 individuals on interim bail.
- 5 individuals in judicial custody.
- 6 individuals, including senior officials, still absconding.

The FIA assured NCHR of their commitment to ensuring justice. Forensic analysis gaps were identified and addressed, with further investigations underway. The family expressed satisfaction with the FIA's progress. NCHR advised prompt arrests of absconding officials, cancellation of bails for offenses under non-bailable laws, and physical remand for those in custody. The Commission will continue monitoring the case to ensure resolution within the stipulated legal timeframe.



NCHR Sindh Office holds meeting regarding extrajudicial killing of Dr. Kumbhar.



NCHR Secretary and Law Officer hold hearing in Karachi regarding the extrajudicial case of Dr. Shahnawaz Kumbhar.

9. NCHR's Visit to Toba Tek Singh for Maria Bibi Case

NCHR Punjab took cognisance in the case of Maria Bibi, who was murdered by her brother in front of her father in Toba Tek Singh. The NCHR team travelled to Toba Tek Singh and met the DPO, Mr. T.T. Singh. The NCHR team visited the house of the deceased victim and interviewed the relatives of Maria Bibi for

first-hand information regarding the case. The NCHR team also interacted with the local press in this regard.

The NCHR team assured that the perpetrators had been arrested and that the post mortem of the deceased had been completed. Moreover, multiple hearings were conducted in the case where the representative of DPO, Toba Tek Singh informed that the complete challan has been submitted and the trial has commenced.



10. Recovery Mission at Rehabilitation Centre

The NCHR Islamabad team successfully intervened to recover an adult woman who was being held at a rehabilitation center against her will. The victim was an adult, practicing lawyer. The complainant was admitted to the clinic by her brothers, who had subsequently filed a property related case against her. NCHR visited the center, interviewed doctors, inspected the facility, and then rescued the complainant. This case revealed the lack of regulations and safety of patients in rehabilitation centers across Pakistan. The case highlights a new trend of gender abuse in which male guardians incarcerate their female relatives for monetary or coercive reasons. NCHR will be investigating this issue shortly.



An adult woman who was forcefully incarcerated in a rehabilitation center by her brothers over an alleged property dispute.



The rehabilitation center where the woman was forcefully housed.

11. Suo moto regarding rape of two children at Islamabad police station by police

NCHR took suo motu notice of the alleged rape of two children at a police station in Islamabad by a police officer and convened a hearing on the matter. The SP, along with other police officials, appeared before the Commission to provide updates on the case. NCHR expressed serious concerns, particularly given that the accused was a police officer, which raised fears of possible intimidation, bias, or mishandling of the investigation. It was reported that the

accused had been arrested and that the matter would be dealt with as per the law. NCHR emphasized the need for an independent and transparent investigation to ensure justice for the victims.



NCHR Member Minorities and Law Officer hold hearing regarding the alleged rape of two minors at the police station.

12. Property Rights of Women from Swat

NCHR's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) team filed complaints on behalf of over 150 women from Swat who were denied their property rights at an Open Court in Kalam. After hearing the cases, the Ombudsperson KP decided to take necessary action to ensure the protection of women's rights and address the issue of customary practices denying them their rightful shares. This situation reflects a broader national challenge: a 2006 report by the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) indicated that only 3% of women in Pakistan receive their inherited properties or lands. Despite legal provisions, women often face significant hurdles in acquiring their property rights due to social and cultural restrictions, lack of awareness, and procedural delays. These barriers highlight the need for continued advocacy and policy interventions to ensure women's rightful access to property.

Chairperson Rabiya Javeri Agha receives award for her work on advancing gender equality



Chairperson Rabiya Javeri Agha received an award from UN Women for her contributions towards the advancement of gender equity. The award was presented to her during the 16 Days of Activism.

In-Depth Investigations

Risk of Sanitation Work in Pakistan

Overview

In March 2024, NCHR took suo notice of the deaths of four sanitation workers, who entered manholes without proper protective equipment (PPE). The workers were exposed to toxic fumes, leading to their deaths. This was a preventable tragedy underscoring the urgent need for implementation of protective measures.

The protection of sanitation workers has been an on-going concern for NCHR. Sanitation workers in Pakistan routinely endure dangerous conditions, exacerbated by the lack of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) standards and inadequate legal protections. The profession is stigmatized and predominantly filled by marginalized groups, including religious minorities, who face systemic discrimination and social ostracization.

In 2022, NCHR held nationwide consultations, identifying severe discrimination against non-Muslims in government hiring for low-paid sanitary jobs. Despite constitutional safeguards, major newspapers published job advertisements restricting these roles to non-Muslims, with NCHR recording over 300 such instances within days. This violates Pakistan’s constitutional commitment to equality and international human rights norms. Further investigation revealed hazardous working conditions, lack of safety measures, low job security, and severe social stigma faced by non-Muslim sanitary workers, sometimes resulting in death. Exercising its judicial and administrative powers, NCHR launched a campaign to address these injustices. These findings and recommendations were included in NCHR’s fact-finding report, “Unequal Citizens: Ending Systemic Discrimination against Minorities”.¹

Despite initiatives to address these issues, discriminatory practices and insufficient enforcement of safety protocols persist, perpetuating the vulnerability of these workers. The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) has actively advocated for the rights and improved conditions of sanitation workers through various interventions, including demanding compliance with safety regulations and pursuing legal actions against non-compliant entities. In 2022, NCHR ensured the banning of discriminatory hiring practices in sanitation work. In order to eradicate archaic practices in sanitation work, NCHR has undertaken an in-depth inquiry into the risks of sanitation work.



NCHR Member Punjab holds a meeting regarding the protection of sanitation workers.

¹ <https://www.nchr.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Minority-Report.pdf>

Inquiry Report: Risk of Sanitation work in Pakistan²



NCHR prepared this report due to serious concerns about the hazardous working conditions faced by sanitation workers in Pakistan. The tragic incident involving the loss of four sanitation workers in March 2024 highlights a critical issue that demands immediate attention. These workers, who entered manholes without proper protective equipment (PPE), were driven by economic desperation and exposed to life-threatening risks from toxic fumes. This report emphasizes the necessity for the Government of Pakistan to take decisive action by formalizing employment, enforcing health and safety standards, and phasing out

manual sewer cleaning through mechanical alternatives. NCHR remains committed to advocating for the fundamental rights and well-being of sanitation workers and stresses the need for collaborative efforts to implement these critical policy interventions.

The report includes recommendations regarding stronger implementation of safety regulations, ensuring fair wages and establishing social safety nets to mitigate economic hardships, and the need for investment in mechanized alternatives to replace hazardous manual sewer cleaning is emphasized as a critical step.

Impact

- NCHR received pledges from the government to ban discriminatory hiring practises in sanitation work. In lieu of this, NCHR upheld monitoring activities, flagging any discriminatory advertisements that cropped up, and took immediate action in having them taken down.
- Additionally, the Government of Punjab introduced SOPs for the protection of sanitation workers.
- NCHR provided compensation to families of deceased sanitation workers in various individual cases.

² https://nchr.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Risk_of_Sanitation_work_in_pakistan_Report.pdf

- NCHR has also filed a constitutional petition before the Supreme Court of Pakistan, under article 184(3) for the casual phasing out of manual unclogging of sewers. In the petition, NCHR hopes that the court may “declare the practice of manual scavenging or manual sanitation as illegal and unconstitutional (...)”. NCHR directs all sanitation work employers to “provide to all sanitation workers the required safety kits and necessary protective equipment,” and to ensure that the statutory minimum wage is upheld, to refrain from employing underage sanitation workers, and more.
- Additionally, NCHR has worked diligently to regularize temporary sanitation workers who lack compensation and adequate protections due to the contractual nature of their employment. As a result, NCHR successfully secured the regularization of 622 workers in the municipalities of Islamabad, Sialkot, and Okara.

Investigations into Allegations of Custodial Torture

Overview

Section 9 of the NCHR Act, 2012, entrusts the Commission with the function of visiting prisons, place of detentions or any other institution or place under the control of the Government or its agencies, where convicts, under trial prisoners, detainees or other persons are held, in order to ascertain the legality of their detention as well as to find out whether the provisions of the applicable laws or other provisions relating to the inmates living conditions and their other rights are being complied with. Furthermore, Section 5 of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022, empowers NCHR to supervise investigations into allegations of torture being conducted by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). Consequently, NCHR conducted numerous investigations into allegations of torture in places of detention in 2024.

During such case proceedings, NCHR noted the lack of implementation of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022, as an area of concern. The legislation remains non-operational two years after its enactment due to the lack of notified rules. This legislative inaction has hindered its implementation, leaving victims of custodial torture and abuse without adequate legal recourse. Moreover, the Act contains gaps and discrepancies that undermine its effectiveness and its alignment with international human rights standards.

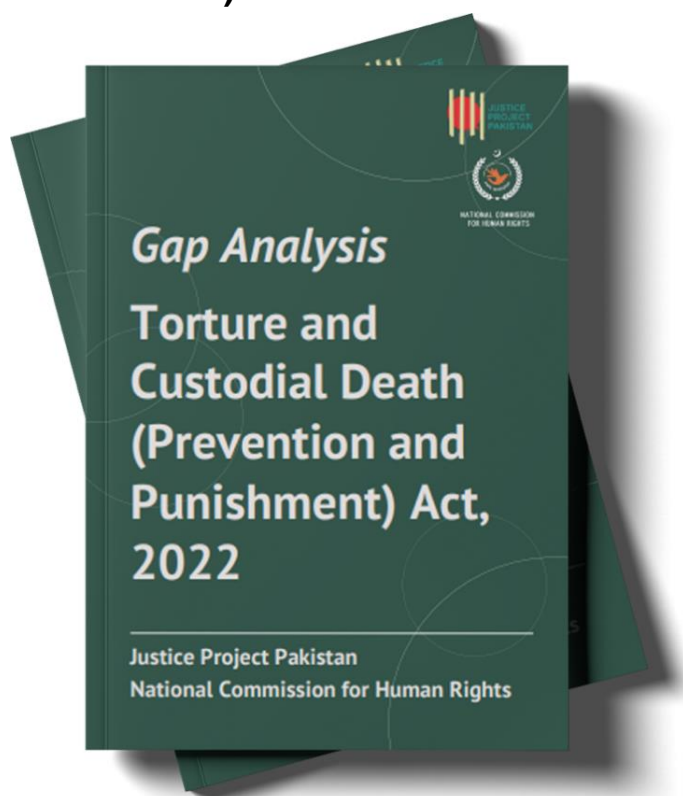
Consultations on Torture and Custodial Death Act Rules

To ensure the implementation of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022, NCHR, in partnership with Justice Project Pakistan (JPP), has undertaken significant steps. Numerous consultations have been held with the FIA, the prosecution, the police, and officials from the Ministry of Human Rights and the Ministry of Interior to build consensus on the rules, procedures, and SOPs for the Act. Draft Rules have been developed and submitted to the Ministry of Interior for approval.



NCHR hosts consultations to draft rules for the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act.

Gap Analysis: Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act ³



NCHR and Justice Project Pakistan (JPP) conducted a comprehensive gap analysis of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022, identifying deficiencies and recommending amendments to align it with international human rights laws and procedures. These efforts aim to operationalize the Act effectively and strengthen Pakistan's legal framework against torture and custodial deaths.

Advocacy Campaign

NCHR conducted a multifaceted advocacy campaign to promote the implementation of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention

and Punishment) Act, 2022. Advocacy efforts featured a social media campaign to disseminate findings from research and investigations, and consultations with key stakeholders to encourage dialogue and consensus-building on the law's enforcement. Additionally, Chairperson NCHR, Rabiya Javeri Agha, penned an Op-ed on "Eradicating Torture"⁴. The Op-ed was published in one of Pakistan's leading newspapers, and it was circulated widely.

"The people of Pakistan deserve freedom from torture and cruel treatment. There is a trust deficit in our system that must be bridged to restore confidence in the state's ability to protect its citizens."

- Chairperson NCHR, Op-ed on "Eradicating Torture"

³ <https://nchr.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Torture-Custodial-Death.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1842059>

Chairperson's Op-Ed: : "Eradicating Torture"

IT is often said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. This statement was starkly illustrated in October 2022, when the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) conducted an inquiry based on a complaint of custodial torture in Adiala Jail Rawalpindi, filed before the Islamabad High Court.

The NCHR report uncovered numerous complaints of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment suffered at the hands of jail authorities. Out of 35 inmates who recorded their statements, 26 prisoners (74 per cent) alleged various forms of torture and inhumane treatment. Every single inmate (100pc) spoke about financial extortion for accessing genuine facilities available at the jail.

There was little to no oversight by the then Oversight Committee, and over the past five years, only one prison official had been dismissed for violating human rights — a mere dispenser at the jail. At that point, Pakistan had no substantive law criminalising torture.

Today, in compliance with its domestic and international commitments, and due to strong lobbying by civil society and NCHR, Pakistan has a stand-alone law on torture: the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022.

Pakistanis deserve freedom from cruel treatment.

Torture is an act of physical or psychological violence committed by, or at the behest of, a public official for the purpose of coercion, confession, or any other specific objective. These elements must exist for an act of torture to be proven, and the penalty must be commensurate with the gravity of the crime. As such, the passage of the Act in November 2022 was an important step towards justice and accountability that specifically defined and criminalised torture. Sadly, however, nearly two years have passed, and the law remains non-operational.

For the government and relevant actors to commit effectively to the eradication of torture in Pakistan, two crucial components must be implemented. The first is the passage of operational rules under the Act, which clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder. These rules are necessary to establish a procedural framework for complaint redressal, investigation, prosecution, and compensation under the law. To date, no one has yet been convicted under the new law. While the Federal Investigation Agency holds exclusive jurisdiction to investigate

complaints against public officials, the nature of this supervision is unclear. No functional wing dedicated to investigating custodial torture has been established at the FIA, and there is no complaint mechanism for such cases on the FIA's official website, unlike for all other federal offences falling under its ambit.

Delay in the passage of such rules and procedures with regard to complaints of torture has prevented the citizens of Pakistan from utilising this vital legislation for their protection and the realisation of their rights. It is imperative that these rules be passed immediately.

The second, and perhaps more complex, aspect of this issue is the matter of resources. The country faces numerous pressing challenges, each demanding its own focus and funding. The eradication of torture and the realisation of human rights are, however, matters of absolute urgency. Robust legal resources, including a dedicated team of legal advisers, are crucial to ensuring compliance with international standards on investigating and documenting torture, particularly the Istanbul Protocol. Financial resources are critical for supporting investigative procedures, including independent forensic examinations and medical assessments. Equally crucial are technological resources, such as secure databases for case management and digital tools for evidence collection and analysis.

Additionally, public awareness and education campaigns are necessary to inform citizens of their rights, particularly those deprived of their liberty and at most risk of torture or ill-treatment, and encourage the reporting of torture. Partnerships with civil society organisations and international human rights bodies can also provide support and advocacy, and contribute to an effective system of checks and balances.

Finally, all personnel involved in the arrest, interrogation and detention of persons should receive training on human rights and, in particular, on the absolute prohibition of torture.

The people of Pakistan deserve freedom from torture and cruel treatment. There is a trust deficit in our system that must be bridged to restore confidence in the state's ability to protect its citizens. Today, on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, the NCHR stands ready to champion accountability, justice, and human rights in Pakistan. However, the government must also take a proactive and swift role in this crucial endeavour.

The writer is chairperson of the National Commission for Human Rights.

Published in Dawn, June 26th, 2024

NCHR Investigation into Blasphemy Cases

Overview

The misuse of blasphemy laws is an area of major concern for NCHR. As reported by the Human Rights Watch in 2024, “Since 1990, at least 65 people have reportedly been killed in Pakistan over claims of blasphemy.”⁵

Following complaints received by the Commission regarding the entrapment of young individuals on blasphemy charges from alleged pornographic and blasphemous websites, NCHR, in its statutory capacity under Section 9(c) of the National Commission for Human Rights Act 2012, initiated an independent inquiry into the matter in October 2023. The inquiry aimed to verify the authenticity of these complaints, examine the reasons behind the sharp rise in blasphemy cases in Pakistan over the past three years, and ensure that due process had been observed.

Methodology for the investigation included:

- Nationwide jail visits
- Interviewing hundreds of inmates incarcerated under alleged blasphemy charges
- Meeting families of accused
- Meetings with relevant government and law enforcement stakeholders
- Full bench Commission hearing with families of accused and government officials including from FIA, SP Branch, Ministry of human Rights etc:

The Commission was granted full access to all prisons housing individuals detained on alleged blasphemy charges. NCHR's visits to major prisons nationwide and interviews with inmates incarcerated on such charges exposed systemic flaws and serious violations of fundamental rights, as well as disturbing patterns of entrapment and injustice.

Report on NCHR Investigation into Blasphemy Cases⁶

The findings of NCHR's investigation into blasphemy cases culminated in a report. NCHR has made detailed recommendations in the report, which are summarized below:

1. Engage the highest levels of government and judiciary to address concerns regarding a government entity's involvement with private individuals in apprehending youth.

⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/03/12/pakistans-blasphemy-law-targets-youth-social-media>

⁶ <https://nchr.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Blasphemy-Report-Oct-2024.pdf>

2. Constituted a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) through the Ministry of Human Rights, comprising officials from Special Branch, Intelligence Bureau, Ministries of Law, Interior, FIA, and other relevant departments.
3. Take immediate action, with PTA's involvement, to address blasphemous content and fake accounts, particularly on Facebook.
4. Scrutinize FIA's procedures when applying Pakistan Penal Code sections in arrests related to blasphemy.
5. Investigate FIA's leniency toward private entities and individuals involved in these cases, with disciplinary action for officials engaging in misconduct.
6. Ensure thorough and transparent FIA investigations, including forensic analysis of confiscated devices and questioning of parties involved, especially when arrests occur at private locations arranged by instigators.
7. Ensure that investigations under PPC section 295-C are conducted by officials of the required senior rank.
8. Investigate private entities allegedly luring youth into blasphemy charges, focusing on preventive education and awareness rather than entrapment.
9. Address issues of multiple FIRs filed by the same individuals across different regions including the use of fake IDs to trap individuals through illicit content.
10. Involve the Ministry of Information in public awareness campaigns to advise youth on responsible digital behavior.
11. Consider implementing comprehensive education covering relationships, respect and media awareness.
12. Promote digital literacy in schools to teach responsible internet use and media awareness.
13. Increase access to mental health support for youth dealing with addiction, providing them with healthier coping mechanisms.
14. Launch public campaigns to discuss addictions and promote healthy alternatives.
15. Provide youth with positive outlets like sports, arts, and clubs to redirect focus and foster healthy habits.

NCHR Investigation into Environmental Pollution in Punjab

Pollution levels in Punjab, Pakistan, have reached alarming highs, with Lahore recorded as one of the world's most polluted cities in 2024. The city experienced record-breaking air pollution levels, forcing school closures and work-from-home mandates. Thousands of residents suffered from smog-induced health issues, highlighting the urgent need for action.

NCHR Punjab, recognizing the right to a clean and healthy environment as a fundamental human right, took suo moto notice of the air pollution crisis in November 2024. Member (Punjab) Nadeem Ashraf led a hearing with senior government officials, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive scientific study to identify the root causes of Lahore's smog. The NCHR urged authorities to prioritize measures addressing crop

burning, vehicle emissions, and industrial non-compliance with environmental regulations.

NCHR Punjab also addressed environmental complaints from residents of Basti Ghareebabad, District Rahim Yar Khan, regarding pollution caused by Rahim Yar Khan Sugar Mills. The residents participated in a protest at Islamabad Press Club, urging the government to protect their right to a clean and healthy environment. Following a detailed review in March 2024, NCHR issued directives, including:

- Immediate operationalization of the wastewater treatment plant.
- Completion of the cemented basement to prevent further water contamination.
- Removal of ash from the village's only pathway.
- Activation of the village dispensary to provide healthcare services.

The Environment Protection Department (EPD) and law enforcement were directed to ensure compliance and safeguard complainants from retaliation. The intervention led to swift action, site visits, and resolution of key issues, prompting complainants to withdraw planned protests.



Member Punjab hosts consultation regarding environmental pollution caused by Rahim Yar Khan Sugar Mills.



Residents of Basti Ghareebad stage protest at Islamabad Press Club, urging the government to protect their right to a clean and healthy environment.

Impact

The November 5, 2024, hearing on Lahore's air pollution yielded encouraging outcomes, with the Environment Protection Department (EPD) demonstrating proactive engagement. A critical recommendation was the evaluation of fuel quality used in Lahore, emphasizing the need for collaborative studies with the EPD and the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) to assess vehicle emissions, particularly from motorcycles. The initiation of these studies marks a positive step toward addressing one of the primary contributors to Lahore's smog.


Additionally, the case against Rahim Yar Khan Sugar Mills highlights the tangible impact of NCHR Punjab's directives. Following NCHR's recommendations, the Mills management has submitted a compliance report to the Environment Department for onward transmission to NCHR. Furthermore, the following outcomes have been achieved as part of the compliance measures:

- The ash-littered access route to the village has been cleared.
- A new filtration plant has been installed to improve water quality.

- The village dispensary has been made operational, stocked with medicines, and is now providing healthcare services.
- Free and uninterrupted electricity supply to the village has been restored.

The residents of Basti Ghareebabad expressed their satisfaction with case outcomes and proactive role of NCHR

Compliance ensured by the Rahim Yar Khan Sugar Mills Management on the orders of Honourable Member Punjab



RYKML/Admin/ EPA /168
Dated: 15th April 2024

To: Assistant Director
Environmental Protection Agency Punjab,
Ali Block, Link Abbasia Town,
Rahim Yar Khan.


CC to: Head Office, R Y K Mills Limited,
Lahore.

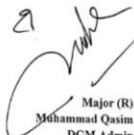
Subject: COMPLAINT OF UNCONTROLLED AND UNCHECKED ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE AND DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY RAHIM YAR SUGAR MILLS

Reference: Your letter No. 168/AD/EPA/RYK dated 03-04-2024

With regards to above referred letter, It is intimated that all the decisions made during the visit carried out on 02-04-2024 by your good self, have been complied with in true letter and spirit. The pictures of the same are enclosed as evidence and for onward submission to Hon'ble NCHR please.

Best Regards,




Major (R)
Muhammad Qasim
DGM Admin

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Scanned with CamScanner

NCHR's Jail Visits

NCHR is mandated to conduct oversight of jail management to preserve the rights of prisoners. NCHR's enabling legislation refers to inspection of "any jail, place of detention or any other institution or place under the control of the government or its agencies, where convicts, under trial prisoners, detainees or other persons are lodged or detained." When NCHR inspects jails, it performs a crucial role in monitoring compliance with international human rights standards. NCHR's inspections focus on several key areas to ensure that the dignity, safety, and rights of detainees are upheld.

During jail inspections, NCHR examines the following:

Conditions of Detention:

- Assessing cell sizes, ventilation, lighting, cleanliness, and overcrowding.

- Checking access to clean water, proper sanitation, and bedding.

Treatment of Detainees:

- Looking for evidence of torture, ill-treatment, or excessive use of force.
- Interviewing detainees confidentially to understand their experiences.

Health and Medical Services:

- Evaluating access to healthcare, including mental health services.
- Inspecting medical facilities and review practices related to communicable diseases and hygiene.

Food and Nutrition:

- Examining food quality, quantity, and whether it meets dietary needs.

Safety and Security:

- Reviewing measures to protect detainees from violence, including from other detainees or staff.
- Inspecting segregation units to ensure they are not being used as punishment contrary to rules.

Access to Justice:

- Assessing detainees' access to legal representation, the ability to appeal their detention, and communication with family or counsel.
- Looking into pre-trial detainees to determine if their detention is prolonged or unjustified.

Rehabilitation and Activities:

- Evaluating opportunities for education, work, and recreational activities.
- Reviewing programs designed to rehabilitate and prepare detainees for reintegration into society.

Special Populations:

- Paying particular attention to the needs of vulnerable groups, such as women, juveniles, persons with disabilities, and minorities.
- Ensuring their treatment aligns with specific guidelines like the Bangkok Rules (for women) or Mandela Rules

Prisons are subject to budget restraints in Pakistan, resulting in staff shortage, with existing staff working prolonged hours that are detrimental to their health, and outdated infrastructure and facilities at jails. Overcrowded cells, poor ventilation systems,

outdated medical and educational facilities, and lack of recreational space create an abysmal atmosphere for the inmates. A large percentage of Pakistan's prison population is still under-trial, with slow trials and discrepancies in court proceedings keeping already overcrowded prisons populated.

Total Number of Jail Visits 2024		
	NCHR Offices	No. of Jail Visits
1.	Head Office	23
2.	Punjab	15
3.	Sindh	04
4.	Quetta	07
5.	KP	10
	TOTAL	59

List of Jails NCHR visited across Pakistan:

Punjab	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Balochistan	Sindh
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - District Jail Lahore - Kot Lakhpat Lahore - Central Jail & Juvenile Jail Faisalabad - Central Jail (Adiala), Rawalpindi - Attock Jail - Jhelum Jail - District Jail Sheikhupura - District Jail Sahiwal - Multan - Bhawalpur 2 - DG Khan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Central Jail Peshawar - Central Jail DI Khan - Central Jail Haripur - Central Jail Bannu - Central Jail Mardan - District Jail Abbottabad - District Jail Mansehra - District Jail Kohat - District Jail Swat - Sub Jail Malakand - Sub Jail Bara - Sub Jail Jamrud - Sub Jail Landi Kotal - 1Sub Jail Charsadda - Sub Jail Tank - Sub Jail Lakki Marwat - Sub Jail Nowshera - Sub Jail Swabi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hudda Central Jail, Quetta - Central Jail, Quetta - District Jail Juvenile Section, Quetta 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women & Juvenile Jail Karachi - Central Jail Mirpurkhas - Central Prison Karachi - Malir Jail



NCHR Team inspects the barracks at Adiala Jail.



NCHR Team inspects the medial facilities at Adiala Jail.



NCHR team distribute Eid gifts and toys for the children at Adiala Jail along with Philanthropist Dr. Rubina.

Featured Jail Visits

NCHR Team Visits Quetta Central Jail

Date: 18th January 2024

On January 18th, 2024, a team from NCHR visited Quetta Central Jail. The team consisted of Member NCHR Balochistan, Secretary NCHR, Chief Coordinator NCHR, and Law Officer NCHR. The NCHR team assessed the conditions of inmates, focusing on human rights concerns and ensuring that prisoners' legal rights are being upheld. In line with international standards such as the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Mandela Rules), the team conducted interviews with prisoners, reviewed their cases, and addressed any potential violations of their rights, providing necessary recommendations to the jail administration for improvement. The team emphasized the importance of ensuring fair treatment, legal representation, and access to adequate facilities for inmates, including healthcare, education and rehabilitation as mandated by domestic and international human rights norms. Of concern to the Commission was the incarceration of children despite the provision of Diversion present in the Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018, which authorises the diversion of children in conflict with the law to community services and other alternatives to incarceration.



Member Balochistan, Ms. Farkhanda Aurangzeb visits the women and children at Quetta jail

NCHR Team Visits Police Stations in Quetta

On January 19th, 2024, a team from NCHR visited various police stations in Quetta. The team consisted of Member NCHR Balochistan, Secretary NCHR, Chief Coordinator NCHR, and Law Officer NCHR. The visit was part of NCHR's ongoing efforts to monitor law enforcement practices and conditions within police stations with a human rights lens.

NCHR Delegation Visits Death Row Inmate at Central Jail Faisalabad

On the direction of Chairperson NCHR, a delegation comprising Mr. Rana Ghulam Murtaza (Secretary Designate) and Mr. Muhammad Sajid (Assistant, Punjab) visited Central Jail Faisalabad to meet Abdul Basit, a prisoner on death row. The case of Mohammad Basit has been a long-standing concern of the Commission. Abdul Basit is permanently disabled after contracting tubercular meningitis in Faisalabad Jail. Paralysed from the waist down, Basit has spent the last 13 years of his incarceration unable to move. He lies on the floor with a Urostomy bag linked to his abdomen. NCHR has visited him in jail on several occasions.

In a 2016 report to the Human Rights Council, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment, urged the Government of Pakistan to permanently commute Basit's death sentence in the following words:^[1]

“406. The Rapporteur strongly condemns the sentence of death imposed on Mr. Abdul Basit and concludes that the Government of Pakistan, in sentencing Mr. Basit, a person suffering from a disability, to death, has violated his right to be free from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, as provided by articles 1 and 16 of the Convention Against Torture and article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

407. The Rapporteur strongly urges the State to take all necessary interim measures to ensure the full protection of Mr. Basit against any violation of his human rights, including the commutation of his death penalty.”

Humanitarian action, such as granting clemency to Abdul Basit, would be in line with Pakistan's obligations under international human rights law, specifically the International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention Against Torture (CAT) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). NCHR has written to the government repeatedly, asserting that Abdul Basit may be granted mercy on humanitarian grounds under Article 45 .



NCHR Team visits the disabled prisoner, Abdul Basit.

LEGAL MONITORING

Under its legal monitoring mandate, NCHR acts as a human rights watchdog to ensure the provision of constitutional and legal safeguards for human rights in laws. NCHR proposes amendments of existing laws or adoption of new laws, examines administrative measures for effective implementation, and proposes amendments to the same or adoption of additional measures. After conducting primary and secondary research, NCHR poses recommendations for effective implementation of treaty obligations.

Legislation		Action Taken
1	ICT Domestic Violence Bill	Continued to lobby for federal legislation against domestic violence by conducting policy review, overseeing policy implementation, and advocating with relevant government stakeholders and prominent partners such as Islamic Relief and UN Agencies. Translated the judgement of Justice Anwar of the Federal Shariat Court into Urdu to spread the message that Islam does not support violence against women
2	KP Child Marriage and Restraint Bill	Conducted consultations focused on addressing the definition of a child's age, tackling the challenges of child marriage in Pakistan, and ensuring the protection of children's rights.
3	Hindu Marriage Act, 2017	Issued a call to action to the Government of Punjab, urging the enforcement of the Hindu Marriage Act 2017, and called for the notification of Hindu Marriage Registrars or Pandits. Due to NCHR strong lobby, the Punjab government recently notified Rules for this law
4	Khunsa Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2022	Highlighted the importance of implementing this Act to ensure legal protections and social empowerment for marginalized groups

5	Vetted Bill for Persons with Disabilities, KP	<p>Since the ratification of the UNCRPD by the government of Pakistan in 2011, all provinces, except Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), have developed provincial disability acts in accordance with the principles outlined by the UNCRPD to protect the rights of people with disabilities. NCHR has been actively lobbying for this law to ensure that the rights of people with functional difficulties are not overlooked. Additionally, NCHR has advocated for the establishment of disability councils to ensure the representation of people with disabilities. NCHR also successfully lobbied for the inclusion of a Disability Impact Assessment (DIA) of all public sector projects and buildings. Ministry of Planning has now notified the relevant mandatory DIA requirement for all public sector PCs.</p>
6	Christian Marriage Act Amendment, 2024	<p>The Christian Marriage Act was originally passed in 1872, and a recent amendment this year raises the legal age of marriage to 18 years. The amendment modifies Section 60 of the Christian Marriage Act of 1872. Consultations were held to ensure that the rules are more inclusive and respectful of the diverse needs of the Christian community.</p>
7	Balochistan Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2014	<p>Although the provincial law criminalizing domestic violence was passed in 2014, the relevant rules and Rules of Business for the act have yet to be notified. NCHR has lobbied for the establishment of the Rules of Business (RoB) to ensure the effective enforcement of the Domestic Violence Act.</p>
8	Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act, 2021	<p>Legislation reviewed; recommendations sent to the government to bring the legislation in line with international standards.</p>

9	Punjab Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2014	Legislation reviewed; taken up with the Education Minister. NCHR expressed concerns that implementation of the said Act is yet to be notified by the Government of Punjab in terms of Sec 1 (3) of the act.
10	Punjab Protection of Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2021	Legislation reviewed and comments shared with the government. NCHR lobbied for early enactment of the law.
11	National Adaptation Plan (NAP) on Climate Resilience 2023	Lobbied to ensure that the NAP is implemented in a way that considers the needs of marginalized and vulnerable communities, especially women, children, transgender persons and persons with disabilities. NCHRs concerns were incorporated in the NAP. NCHR also advocated for the criminalisation of omission of sections from the Nikkahnama.
12	The Balochistan Persons with Disability Act, 2017	Advocated for the reactivation of the Provincial Council for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (PDWs) under the Balochistan Persons with Disability Act, 2017.
13	Balochistan Child Marriage Prohibition Act, 2021	Met and lobbied with Deputy Speaker of the Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola, to advocate for the swift passage of the Bill.
14	Muslim Family Laws Ordinance (MFLO) 1961	NCHR & Musawi conducted a deep dive into the issue of omission of columns in Nikahnamas and came across huge gaps in the completion of the marriage registrars. NCHR lobbied for the implementation of laws, ensuring that women's marriage rights are upheld. A matrimonial rights helpline (1413) has also been established.

15	Child Domestic Labour Draft Bill	Considering that there are more than 3.3 million children involved in child labour in Pakistan, NCHR has been advocating for the draft bill, ensuring that it reflects a comprehensive approach to addressing the very serious issue of child domestic labour in Pakistan.
16	Home Based Workers (HBWs) Bill	Lobbied for early enactment of the law.
17	Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention & Punishment) Bill, 2022	NCHR has organized numerous consultations with government representatives, prosecution experts, and CSOs to build consensus on draft rules for the Torture and Custodial Death Act. The draft rules have now been forwarded to the Ministry of Interior for final inputs.
18	Balochistan Early Child Marriage Restraint Bill	Lobbied for passing of the Bill to address the issue of early age marriage of girls
19	Agricultural Women's Rights Legislation (Proposed)	Advocated for the urgent need for legislation to protect the rights of women working in agriculture.
20	Kalasha Marriage Bill	Organized meetings with CSOs to discuss progress and provide inputs on the Kalasha Marriage Bill
21	Punjab Defamation Bill 2024	Issued a statement expressing NCHR's concern over the recently introduced Punjab Defamation Bill.



*Chairperson
NCHR speaks at
an event hosted
by Islamic Relief*

POLICY ADVISOR

As a policy advisor, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) plays a crucial role in shaping laws, policies, and institutional frameworks to uphold human rights standards. By conducting research, analyzing legislation, and engaging with stakeholders, NCHR provides evidence-based recommendations to the government, ensuring that national policies align with international human rights commitments. The Commission advocates for policy reforms that address systemic challenges, promotes inclusive and rights-based governance, and monitors the implementation of human rights-related policies. Through this advisory role, NCHR strengthens the legal and institutional landscape to protect and promote fundamental rights across all sectors of society.

NCHR's Policy Making function includes reviewing factors inhibiting enjoyment of human rights and recommending remedies.

Strengthening the Child Justice Sector in Pakistan: Implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Act 2018

Overview

The juvenile justice system in Pakistan faces significant challenges, including the inadequate implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Act (JJSA) 2018. Issues such as insufficient training for law enforcement and judiciary personnel, wrongful application of adult laws to minors, and overcrowded detention facilities where children are held with adult offenders persist. Additionally, arbitrary age determination due to the lack of birth certificates often leads to minors being treated as adults. Despite the JJSA's provisions for diversion and rehabilitation, over 3,000 children remain imprisoned, with many undertrial for minor offenses, especially in Karachi.

During NCHR numerous visits to various juvenile detention centres, it was noted that approximately 90% of the children had no access to legal representation despite the set up of institutions mandated to provide such aid.

The majority of children came from disadvantaged backgrounds, burdened by poverty, lack of education, and social marginalization. Over 45% of incarcerated juveniles had never attended school, underscoring the sad link between lack of education and delinquency.

NCHR has been consistently working on justice for children and has helped provide pro bono legal aid leading to the release of approximately 130 children in conflict with the law. In Adiala Jail, with the proactive support of juvenile magistrates, Rana Mujahid and Nasar Minallah Baloch speedy trials led to the acquittal of 75 children in a record breaking four days. However, within a month, 12 of them had returned back

to prison. Without proper reintegration programs, these children inevitably return to the only environment they know: prison. This revolving door highlights the urgent need for systemic reforms to break the cycle of neglect and crime.

As of 2024, 40% of Pakistan's population—around 100 million people—are under the age of 18. Alarming, 30% of these children are illiterate. Each year, 4 million young people enter the job market, but for those without an education, opportunities are almost non-existent.

This lack of prospects has severe consequences. Reports show that 34% to 42% of youth suffer from depression, and many, driven by frustration and hopelessness, turn to violence such as mob attacks in places like Jaranwala and Sialkot, where the majority of perpetrators were young, mostly unemployed men.

Sadly Pakistan is ill-prepared to handle this future crisis. Despite some good work in the set up of child protection courts, child-centric police stations, systematic and ongoing policy intervention and strong implementation mechanisms are missing. To date, despite 12 cases of child sexual abuse recorded each day, but there is no Action plan on child abuse. Despite commitment to madrassah reform announced as early as 2004 in the Madrassah Reform Project, nothing has moved.

To take children out of an antiquated system of education and criminal retribution, NCHR recommended that the government:

1. Implement Alternatives to Incarceration.
2. Ensure Rehabilitative Sentencing which reflects the child's age, maturity, and potential for reform
3. Address Socioeconomic Disparities
Ensure provision of Legal aid to ensure that children from underprivileged backgrounds have access to quality defence.
4. Create and Empower Juvenile-Specific Infrastructure
such as staff observation homes and rehabilitation centers.
5. Ensure Judicial Oversight and Accountability
6. Ensure Mandatory Training for Judicial and Law Enforcement Personnel
7. Harmonise domestic law and legal frameworks international commitments and standards like the CRC and the Beijing Rules

In the field of juvenile justice, NCHR has also partnered with UNICEF to strengthen the protection of children within the justice sector. The initiative, titled “Strengthening the Child Justice Sector in Pakistan: Implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Act 2018 (JJSA 2018)”, will be implemented by JPP and GDP in partnership with NCHR over a two-year period. Key activities include child-friendly monitoring during jail visits, conducting a child-centred analysis of the Pakistan Crime Data Analysis, and building the capacity of the judiciary, police officials, and media professionals on JJSA 2018. The project will also establish a model police station in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and form a steering committee to oversee implementation.



Justice Mansoor Ali Shah speaks at the launch of “Justice for Children”, a collaborative project led by UNICEF, NCHR and other stakeholders.



Chairperson NCHR speaks about NCHR’s efforts towards the implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Act.

Manual for Independent Monitoring of the Rights of the Children in Conflict with the Law in Closed Settings

This internal manual serves as a guide for members of the NCHR—including commissioners, staff members, and relevant partners—in conducting independent monitoring visits of the rights of children in conflict with the law in closed settings in Pakistan. The manual aligns with the NCHR’s statutory mandate and international best practices for promoting and protecting child rights.

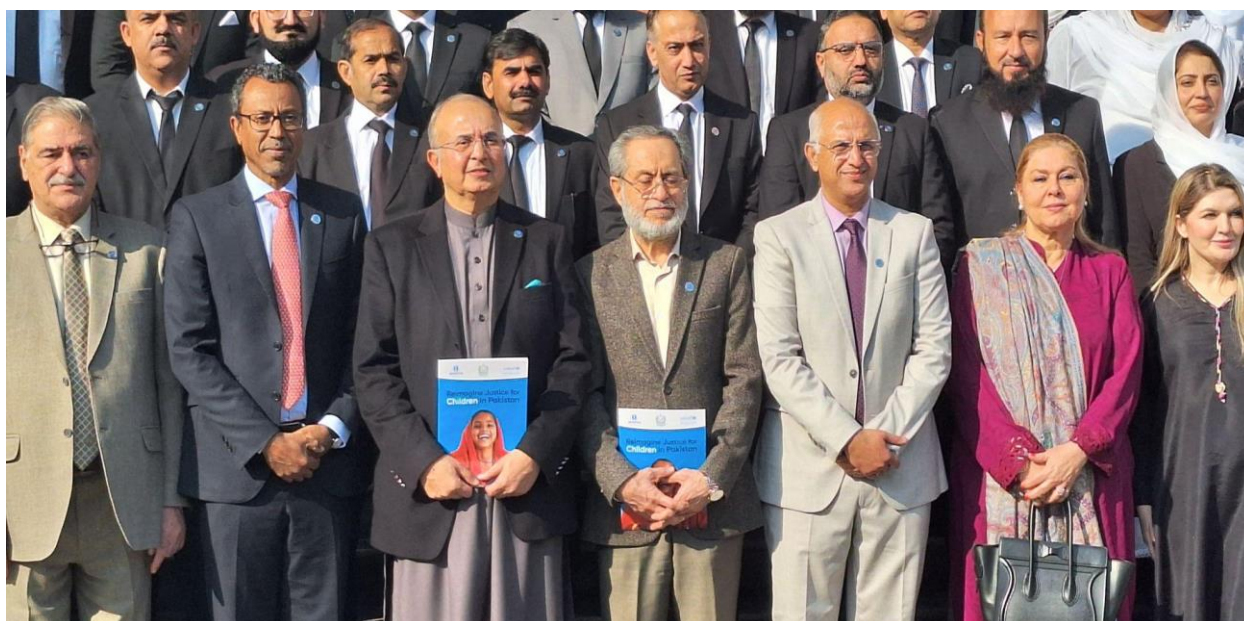
It functions as a technical tool that outlines the process NCHR must follow to fulfill its independent monitoring function for children in conflict with the law who are placed in closed settings, usually as a result of a judicial or administrative order. These settings include observation homes, juvenile rehabilitation centers, and other facilities managed by the juvenile justice system. Additionally, closed settings may include prisons, detention centers hosting children and their parents or refugees, hospitals, psychiatric institutions, and reception facilities for Children on the Move, whether unaccompanied, separated, or with their parents.

Impact

NCHR has made significant progress in addressing issues within the juvenile justice system in Pakistan. To date, NCHR has successfully secured the release of approximately 132 juveniles under trial and provided pro bono legal representation for over 100 under-trial children. Additionally, NCHR has launched nationwide child-sensitive jail monitoring activities to ensure better treatment of children in detention.

As part of the implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Act (JJSA), NCHR is participating in the "Reimagine Justice for Children in Pakistan - The Voice of Children" initiative, which includes training judges from the Federal Judicial Academy on child-sensitive justice.

NCHR has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Police Bureau (NPB) to enhance the protection of juveniles, women, and marginalized communities. This partnership aims to strengthen institutional reforms and capacity-building for law enforcement agencies across Pakistan. NPB has initiated human rights training programs for police personnel and established a dedicated Child



Chairperson NCHR is part of a protection unit to address children's specific needs, marking a significant step in improving support and protection for vulnerable groups.



NCHR Team signs an MOU with the National Police Bureau (NPB).

Enforcement of Legislation on Hindu Marriages

Overview

The Hindu community in Pakistan has historically faced significant challenges due to the absence or inadequate implementation of legislation concerning marital rights.

Prior to the enactment of the Hindu Marriage Act in 2017, Hindu women lacked formal divorce rights, often compelling them to remain in abusive marriages. Additionally, the absence of formal marriage laws made it difficult to prove the existence of a marriage, resulting in women being deprived of their rightful monetary and property entitlements.

The Hindu Marriage Act 2017 was introduced to provide legal recognition and protection to Hindu marriages in Pakistan; however, its implementation has faced significant challenges. One major issue is the lack of marriage registrars or qualified *pandits* to facilitate marriage registration. Additionally, there is limited awareness among the Hindu community about the Act and its provisions, which hinders the registration process. Bureaucratic inefficiencies, such as delays in the issuance of registration certificates and inadequate infrastructure in rural areas, further compound the problem. Moreover, a lack of training and sensitization of local authorities regarding the Act has led to inconsistent enforcement.

NCHR Interventions

NCHR Punjab issued a call to action to the Government of Punjab, urging the enforcement of the Hindu Marriage Act 2017 to provide legal recognition for Hindu marriages. At NCHR's request, the government took steps to initiate the process of registering marriage registrars to address gaps in the system. The call also highlighted the need to overcome bureaucratic obstacles and ensure an efficient registration process for Hindu marriages. This initiative aims to protect the marital rights of the Hindu community, particularly women, by ensuring legal recognition of their marriages and safeguarding their rights related to inheritance, divorce, and maintenance.

Additionally, NCHR Member Punjab held a meeting with the Chief Secretary of Punjab to discuss various human rights issues, with a particular focus on the elimination of child labor, the implementation of the Hindu Marriage Act, population growth in Punjab, and issues affecting minorities. The Chief Secretary assured that the necessary directions would be issued to the relevant Administrative Secretaries. The Provincial Human Rights Secretary was also present at the meeting.



Member Punjab meets with government officials to discuss the implementation of the Hindu Marriage Act, 2017.

NCHR Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has also been actively advocating for the passing of the Rules of Business (RoB) for the Hindu Marriage Act 2017 in the province. On October 17, 2024, the Coordinator of NCHR/KP participated in a TV program to discuss the role of the Commission in expediting the long-awaited RoBs for the Act. During the program, the Coordinator shared that the draft had already been endorsed by the Local Government Department and was subsequently sent to the Law Department for vetting. The draft is now in the final stage with the Law Department, and once vetted, it will be submitted to the cabinet for final approval. The Coordinator also highlighted the importance of enforcing existing laws related to religious minorities and emphasized the need for effective implementation to safeguard their rights in KP.



NCHR KP Coordinator Advocated for Hindu Marriage Act Rules of Business in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The Sindh Hindu Marriage Act, enacted in 2016 and amended in 2018, was a landmark step toward providing legal recognition and protection for Hindu marriages in Sindh. However, its implementation has faced several challenges:

1. **Delayed Registration of Pandits:** The Act mandates the registration of pandits (Hindu priests) to authorize them to solemnize and register marriages. As of 2021, this registration process had not been fully realized, hindering the proper documentation of Hindu marriages.

2. **Lack of Awareness and Information:** Many within the Hindu community, including pandits, remain unaware of the procedural details required for marriage registration. This lack of information leads to delays and inconsistencies in the registration process.
3. **Administrative Delays:** NCHR has identified delays within the marriage registration process, exacerbated by bureaucratic hurdles and a lack of streamlined procedures.
4. **Non-Compliance with Job and Education Quotas:** Beyond marriage registration, the Hindu community faces challenges related to the non-implementation of job and education quotas designated for minorities, affecting their socio-economic status.
5. **Security Concerns and Persecution:** Incidents of religious intolerance, such as attacks on temples and forced conversions, have created an environment of insecurity among Sindh's Hindu population, leading some to consider migration.

Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts from government authorities, civil society, and community leaders to ensure the effective implementation of the Act and the protection of the rights of the Hindu community in Sindh.

A consultative session on the above issues was held at Beach Luxury Hotel. The meeting highlighted the fact that although the Act was passed in 2018, the Hindu community still faces challenges related to the registration of marriages, leading to violations of their human rights. The session included engagement with local communities, such as Pandits, the local government department, Union Council, and town committee Secretaries, to initiate the registration process for Pandits at the Council. The Secretaries of the Sindh Local Government Board (SLGB) assured that the relevant departments would expedite the registration process without further delay.

Impact

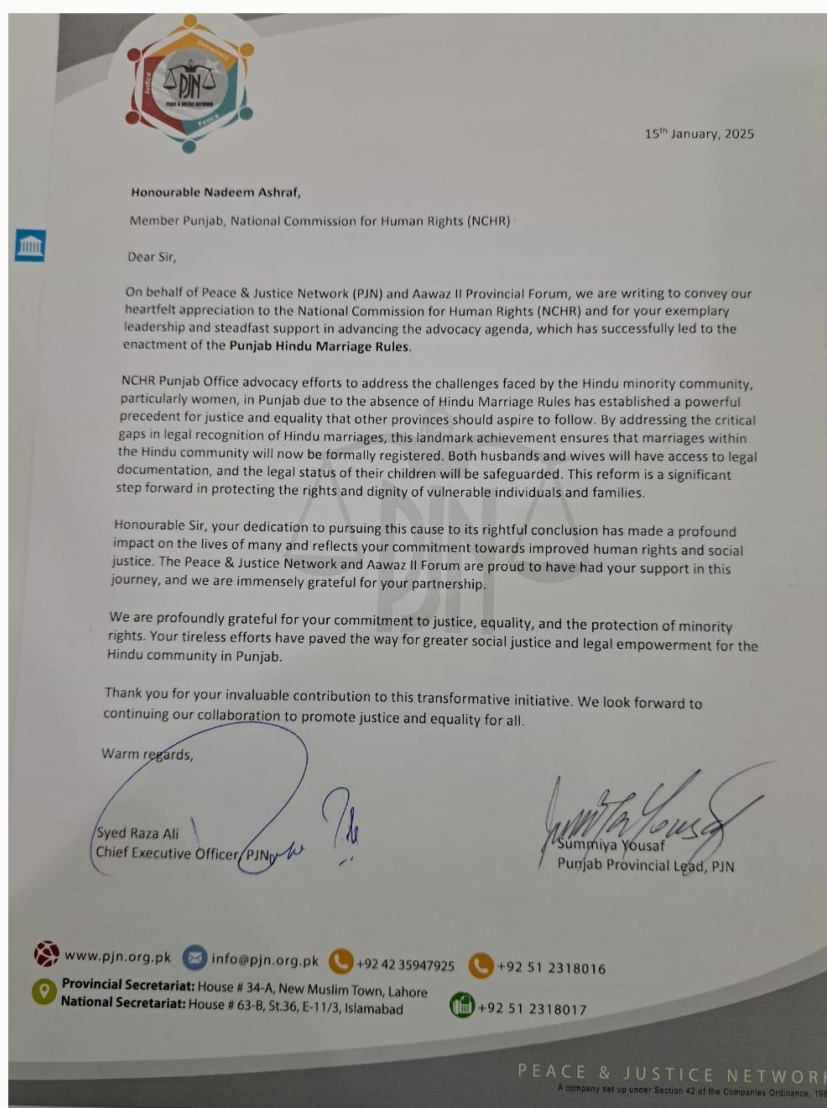
NCHR took notice of the issue surrounding the lack of marriage registration for Hindus and, after extensive lobbying, successfully initiated the designation of Hindu Marriage Registrars.

Recently, the Punjab provincial cabinet recently approved the "Punjab Hindu Marriage Act, Registration Rules 2024," marking a significant step toward formalizing the registration of Hindu marriages in the province. This development aims to provide a legal framework for Hindu marriages, ensuring the protection of marital rights and facilitating official documentation.

The establishment of these rules ensures the implementation of the Hindu Marriage Act of 2017. This move is anticipated to safeguard the rights of Hindu citizens in Punjab, promoting equality and legal recognition of their marital unions. The Chief Minister Punjab has further directed the relevant authorities to undertake emergency

measures to ensure the effective implementation of these rules, reflecting the government's commitment to upholding the rights of minority communities.

Following the approval of the Hindu Marriage Registration Rules by the Punjab Government, NCHR received a letter of appreciation from a CSO. In this letter, the CSO thanked NCHR for its role in ensuring the implementation of the Hindu Marriages Registration Act in Punjab.



Letter from CSO thanking NCHR for its role in the implementation of the Hindu Marriages Registration Act in Punjab.

Overview of “Marriage Rights Helpline - 1413”

The first ever dedicated helpline for the Protection of Women’s Marriage Rights was launched by the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) in collaboration with Musawi in January 2023. The Women’s Marriage Rights (WMRs) Helpline aims to improve access to free quality legal information, advice and representation for women

and girls, especially additionally marginalized women with mobility and resources constraints, in matters pertaining to marriage rights. The Helpline provides legal information and advice, as well as access to legal representation for marriage rights related matters, including but not limited to:

- Filling out and registration of the Nikkahnama, information about marriage rights and clauses within the Nikkahnama
- Legal age of marriage & child marriages
- Dissolution of marriage: Divorce, khula, delegated right to divorce & mutual divorce
- Forced marriages
- Custody of children
- Dower, maintenance and dowry
- Domestic violence

In the initial phase (January 2023 – February 2024), the helpline was operational to the extent of

Punjab province only. In the second phase (March 2024 onwards), the services of the helpline were expanded to other regions of the country and currently callers from across the country can access the helpline for legal assistance on marriage rights-related matters. The performance of the helpline is generally gauged through a number of parameters such as call recordings, caller feedback, access to and recognition of the helpline, types of callers, effectiveness of the helpline in connecting the users with legal aid avenues, etc.

Calls Received and Breakdown:

The helpline received a total of 869 calls during January 2023 – December 2024. The detailed breakdown of no. of calls and legal services provided through the helpline is provided below:

No. of Legal Advice and Representation Cases Handled by the Helpline Legal Team:

During January 2023 - December 2024, the WMRs helpline received a total of 869 calls, out of which 161 calls were relevant to requests for legal advice and representation. These calls resulted in provision of legal advice and representation in 208 cases, with some cases leading to representation in multiple marriage rights related matters.

Breakdown of Legal Advice & Representation Cases



Implementation of Minority Quotas in Employment

Overview

In 2009, the Pakistani government introduced a 5% employment quota for religious minorities across federal and provincial government positions, semi-autonomous bodies, public corporations, and public companies. Despite this policy, implementation has been inconsistent. Reports indicate that only 2% to 3% of these positions are filled by minority candidates, often limited to lower-grade roles such as sanitary workers or positions below Grade 14. The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) has repeatedly highlighted the issue of the unimplemented 5% employment quota for minorities.

In 2014, the Supreme Court of Pakistan emphasized the importance of enforcing job quotas for religious minorities in the public sector to enhance their socio-economic status. However, actual employment figures often fall short of these targets, with minority applicants frequently reporting discrimination and a lack of transparency in the recruitment process.

Efforts to address these challenges include directives from the Establishment Division to all ministries and divisions, urging strict adherence to the 5% employment quota for minorities. Despite these initiatives, significant obstacles persist, underscoring the need for more effective implementation and monitoring mechanisms to ensure equitable employment opportunities for religious minorities in Pakistan.

NCHR Intervention

NCHR achieved a significant policy milestone by advocating for the implementation of minority quotas in public sector employment. Recognizing the critical role these quotas play in ensuring equitable access to opportunities and protecting the employment rights of minorities, the NCHR initiated a comprehensive approach to address gaps in their enforcement.

This achievement was the result of multiple consultations and strategic meetings with stakeholders, including government officials, civil society organizations, and representatives of minority communities. These efforts culminated in a formal recommendation to the government, urging proper enforcement of the minority quota across public sector organizations.

Impact

NCHR's persistent advocacy led to tangible results, as several prominent public sector institutions across Pakistan implemented the minority quota in response to its recommendations. Among the institutions that complied were key hospitals, including:

- Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad
- Holy Family Hospital, Rawalpindi

- Poly Clinic, Islamabad
- District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospitals in Mansehra, Sialkot, and Rawalpindi
- Ayub Teaching Hospital, Abbottabad
- Benazir Bhutto Hospital, Rawalpindi
- Christian Memorial Hospital, Sialkot
- Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology

Protection of Detained Pakistani Nationals

Overview

Migrants face substantial problems in accessing information on their rights. There is a lack of good quality of interpretation and translation; a lack of effective understanding of the information provided; and problems with identifying and providing information on the particular needs of vulnerable individuals. In addition, staff in reception centres can lack the necessary training and specialist knowledge.

Collaboration with Malaysia NHRI: Legal Aid for Detained Pakistani Nationals

NCHR engaged with Malaysia's National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) to discuss providing legal aid to Pakistani nationals detained in Malaysian prisons and immigration detention centers. The discussion included exploring legal representation and humane treatment for detainees, with a focus on securing a Prisoner Transfer Agreement (PTA) between Pakistan and Malaysia. This initiative underscores NCHR's commitment to advocating for the rights of Pakistanis abroad, ensuring that detained nationals receive fair legal treatment and the opportunity to serve their sentences closer to their families.

More importantly, this collaboration served as a pilot project, demonstrating the potential of regional and global cooperation between NHRIs. It highlighted how such partnerships can effectively address complex cross-border human rights issues, particularly those affecting vulnerable populations. This successful engagement sets a promising precedent for future collaborations, reinforcing the idea that when NHRIs unite, significant advancements in protecting and promoting human rights can be achieved on a broader scale.

During the project, NCHR met with the Pakistan High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur, who provided full support and shared relevant data with the Commission. The embassy identified prisoners who had completed their sentences and were ready to be repatriated to Pakistan.

NCHR also engaged with Yayasan Bantuan Guaman Kebangsaan (YBGK), a legal aid foundation established in 2012 that offers free legal assistance for criminal matters to all Malaysians at police stations, remand hearings, and court proceedings. While

YBGK provides broad legal support, court representation is limited to individuals earning less than RM36,000 annually, based on a means test.

Additionally, NCHR met with the Kuala Lumpur Legal Aid Centre (KLLAC), managed by the Malaysian Bar, which offers legal aid for both civil and criminal cases. KLLAC, along with Bar Council State Legal Aid Centres, also serves as a secretariat for YBGK, further enhancing the network of legal support available.

Discussions focused on creating investigation toolkits and offering training to lawyers for representing foreign nationals. The meeting highlighted the need for structured collaboration between YBGK, NCHR, and the Pakistan High Commission.

NCHR also reviewed the Thai Citizen Legal Aid Scheme (T-CLAS), a collaboration between YBGK and the Thai Embassy. The scheme provides legal aid to Thai nationals, charging RM500 for visits and RM1,500 for representation, with three lawyers per visit.

Key issues faced by Pakistani prisoners in Malaysia include inadequate legal representation, challenges with illegal immigration cases, and complexities of the Malaysian legal system. Justice Project Pakistan (JPP) has been aiding by gathering mitigating evidence for death row cases.

These meetings marked significant progress toward securing legal representation for Pakistani nationals in Malaysia. NCHR is committed to leveraging collaborative models like T-CLAS to enhance support mechanisms for foreign nationals, ensuring access to justice and legal aid.



The NCHR team visited the office of SUHAKAM, the NHRI of Malaysia.

NCHR, in collaboration with Justice Project Pakistan (JPP), organized a high-level consultation for policy stakeholders to commemorate International Migrants Day. The event focused on addressing the challenges faced by Pakistani migrants and prisoners abroad, with two thematic sessions dedicated to prevention and protection. NCHR Chairperson Rabiya Javeri Agha emphasized the gaps in legal aid and consular support for Pakistanis detained overseas, urging the activation of Prisoner Transfer Agreements (PTAs) and improved diplomatic efforts to protect the rights of Pakistani

citizens abroad. Key topics discussed included safe migration, consular protection, and repatriation. The consultation was attended by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, prominent Senators, Parliamentarians and more.



Migrants Day: High-level Consultation for Policy Stakeholders

The dialogue ended with a consensus on key actions:

- Pass a Consular Protection Act for overseas Pakistanis
- Publicise PTAs for transparency & repatriation
- Expand awareness campaigns on health, legal aid & rights
- Boost inter-ministerial coordination
- Create a legal aid fund for detainees

Eradication of Child Labour

Overview

Child labor remains a significant concern in Pakistan, with an estimated 12.5 million children engaged in various forms of labor. These children often work under hazardous conditions in sectors such as agriculture, brick kilns, domestic service, and manufacturing. Factors contributing to this issue include poverty, limited access to education, and inadequate enforcement of labor laws.

In Punjab, the most populous province, the situation is particularly dire. The Punjab Child Labour Survey (2019–2020) revealed that approximately 8.7% of children aged 5 to 14 are involved in child labor, with many exposed to hazardous environments. Challenges in Punjab are exacerbated by insufficient coordination among stakeholders and the lack of localized, actionable strategies to effectively combat child labor.

Efforts to address child labor in Pakistan have seen some progress. In 2022, Pakistan amended existing laws by increasing penalties for crimes related to child trafficking, child pornography, and the employment of child domestic workers. The Punjab Labor Department conducted over 6,000 inspections at brick kilns, identified 239 child labor violations, and arrested 60 individuals.

Addressing child labor in Pakistan requires a multifaceted approach, including strengthening law enforcement, enhancing educational opportunities, and developing targeted interventions that consider the unique challenges of each region.

NCHR Intervention

To address this pressing issue, NCHR has undertaken a series of initiatives to strengthen institutional mechanisms and promote multi-stakeholder collaboration:

1. Conducted a Situation Analysis of Child Labor in Punjab⁷ to identify the extent and nature of the problem. The report is available on NCHR website at
2. Identified key priority areas and stakeholders, informed by the Punjab Child Labor Survey (PCLS), ensuring clarity on roles and responsibilities.
3. Advocated for the formation of a provincial multi-sectoral committee/council on child labor to enhance policy alignment and enforcement.

⁷ <https://nchr.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/situation-analysis-of-child-labor-in-punjab.pdf>

4. Facilitated stakeholder engagement through consultative processes, both bilateral and collective, to build consensus on action plans.
5. Worked towards the development of a Provincial Strategic Framework with clear timelines to combat child labor.
6. Engaged with the Sahiwal Division administration, focusing on priority districts to localize efforts.
7. Supported the development of District-Based Action Plans for two identified priority districts, ensuring tailored solutions.
8. Advocated for the costing, validation, and endorsement of these action plans, ensuring sustainability and accountability.

These interventions are working to create a robust framework to combat child labor, protect vulnerable children, and provide them with opportunities for education and growth, paving the way for a child-labor-free Pakistan. Once a costed action plan is finalised it will be shared with the Government for action and redress.



Stakeholder consultation on the eradication of child labour.

Policy Consultations

Consultative Session on Curbing Child Abuse

Child abuse remains a pervasive issue in Pakistan, with alarming statistics highlighting the gravity of the situation. According to recent reports, over 4,200 cases of child sexual abuse were reported in 2023, equating to 12 children abused every day. These figures likely represent only a fraction of the actual incidents, as many cases go unreported due to stigma, fear, and inadequate legal mechanisms. Weak enforcement of existing laws, gaps in legal frameworks, and inadequate protection mechanisms leave countless children vulnerable to abuse. The lack of awareness and coordinated strategies further exacerbates the issue, making it challenging to prevent abuse and rehabilitate affected children effectively.

NCHR actively works to help in the registration of FIRs against employers/perpetrators and provides pro bono legal aid and assistance in the rehabilitation of child victims of abuse.



NCHR team interviews a child who is held in detention.

To combat this pressing issue, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), in collaboration with Search for Justice, organized a session to address the prevalence of child abuse. The session focused on identifying gaps in existing laws and discussing strategies to enhance the protection and advocacy of children's rights.

Recognizing the critical need for enhanced child protection policies and enforcement mechanisms, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) partnered with

Sahil, a leading child protection organization, to jointly launch the "Cruel Numbers 2023" report. This initiative convened media representatives, policymakers, and various stakeholders to raise awareness and develop strategies aimed at preventing, protecting, and rehabilitating children affected by sexual abuse. The collaboration underscores a commitment to strengthening child protection frameworks and ensuring a safer environment for all children in Pakistan.

The "Cruel Numbers 2023" report presents a comprehensive analysis of child abuse cases reported across Pakistan. According to the report, a total of 4,213 cases of child abuse were documented, encompassing 2,021 instances of child sexual abuse, 1,833 abductions, 330 cases of missing children, and 29 child marriages. Alarming, children as young as 0-5 years were among the victims, with the most vulnerable age group being 6-15 years. The data also revealed that acquaintances, including relatives and family members, were the most frequent perpetrators of child sexual abuse.

Geographically, Punjab reported the highest number of cases, followed by other provinces and regions, indicating that child abuse is a pervasive issue across the country. The report also highlighted that 91% of the total reported cases were registered with the police, reflecting active involvement by law enforcement agencies in addressing the issue.

Through this partnership and the dissemination of the "Cruel Numbers 2023" report, NCHR and Sahil aim to inform and influence policy reforms, enhance public awareness, and implement effective interventions to protect children from abuse and exploitation in Pakistan.



Consultative meeting with stakeholders for the development of situational analysis of child sexual abuse.

Human Rights Education

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) plays a vital role in promoting human rights education in colleges and universities by providing lectures and talks on human rights principles, organizing awareness campaigns, and facilitating capacity-building programs for students and educators. Through collaborations with

educational institutions, NCHR develops training modules, conducts seminars, and encourages research on human rights issues, fostering a culture of respect, equality, and social justice. By empowering young minds with knowledge of their rights and responsibilities, NCHR helps create a generation of informed citizens who can advocate for and uphold human rights in their communities and future professions

In 2024, NCHR made substantial progress in advancing human rights education throughout Pakistan. NCHR organized a range of seminars, awareness sessions, and dialogues in universities aimed at increasing understanding of human rights among students and faculty members. These initiatives reached hundreds of students, enabling them to gain knowledge on key human rights issues and encouraging them to advocate for positive change. In addition, NCHR conducted specialized seminars for faculty members, equipping them with the necessary expertise to integrate human rights into their teaching and foster inclusive academic environments.



NCHR collaborated with several prominent institutions, including Bahria University Islamabad, Fatima Jinnah University, Rawalpindi Women University, Capital University of Science and Technology, National University of Science and Technology, Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University⁸, and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.⁹ As part of these efforts, NCHR supported the establishment of Human Rights Societies in several universities. These societies provided students with the platform to engage in discussions, campaigns, and advocacy on human rights issues, thus contributing to the promotion of social justice and inclusion.

⁸<https://pakobserver.net/nchr-signs-mous-with-shifatameer-e-millat-fjwu-to-impart-human-rights-education/>

⁹ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1804846>



NCHR KP Team at Government Degree College Tangi



NCHR Member Balochistan signs an MOU with Shifa Tameer e Millat University.



NCHR Team at Allama Iqbal Open University.



NCHR Member Balochistan signs an MOU with SBK Women's University Balochistan.

Awareness Consultation on Rights of Women Home-Based Workers

Women home-based entrepreneurs in Pakistan encounter numerous challenges that impede their economic empowerment and social inclusion. A significant issue is the lack of formal recognition, which results in limited access to fair wages, inadequate labor rights, and minimal social protection mechanisms. Societal norms and gender inequalities in labor markets further marginalize these women, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and economic insecurity.

Financial constraints are a major hurdle, as many women struggle to secure funding due to limited collateral and a lack of financial literacy. This financial exclusion hampers their ability to start or expand their businesses. Additionally, restricted access to markets and networks limits their business growth and sustainability. Cultural and societal norms often confine women to domestic roles, restricting their mobility and opportunities for entrepreneurship. The absence of formal recognition as workers deprives them of legal protections and access to social security benefits. Furthermore, limited access to education and training opportunities hinders their entrepreneurial skills and knowledge, making it challenging to navigate business complexities. Collectively, these factors contribute to the economic vulnerability and social marginalization of women home-based entrepreneurs in Pakistan.

Efforts to address these challenges include the establishment of the Home-Based Women's Workers Federation (HBWWF) in 2009, which advocates for the rights of home-based female workers. In May 2018, a significant milestone was achieved with the enactment of the Home-Based Workers Act in Sindh, recognizing home-based workers as part of the province's labor force and providing legal protections.

Despite these initiatives, substantial work remains to ensure the effective implementation of policies and to create an enabling environment that supports the economic empowerment and social inclusion of women home-based entrepreneurs in Pakistan.

To address these issues, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), in collaboration with UNDP Pakistan and the Women's Chamber Multan, organized a consultation to explore the challenges faced by women home-based workers. The consultation focused on key issues such as labor rights, fair wages, and access to social protection. It provided a platform for policymakers, advocates, and stakeholders to discuss strategies to address gender inequality in labor markets and to promote the legal and economic rights of women workers. These efforts aim to create a more inclusive labor environment and empower women entrepreneurs to achieve financial independence and social recognition.



Chairperson NCHR signs an MOU with the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan Division (WCCIM)



Chairperson NCHR meets with home-based women workers in Multan.



Chairperson NCHR with the All Pakistan Women Association in Multan.

NCHR Hosts Town Hall Meeting to Foster Interfaith Harmony in Jaranwala

In a horrific incident in Jaranwala, Pakistan, a violent mob attacked the Christian community, burning down over 17 churches and numerous homes. The attack left hundreds of families displaced and traumatized, exposing deep-seated issues of religious intolerance and the vulnerability of minority communities. According to reports, more than 100 individuals were arrested in connection with the violence, yet justice for the victims remains a pressing concern. The destruction of places of worship and homes has disrupted lives, damaged social cohesion, and highlighted the urgent need for systemic measures to prevent such incidents and protect vulnerable communities.

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) acted swiftly, becoming the first

organization to visit the affected families in Jaranwala within 10 hours of the incident. NCHR has been actively advocating for the speedy trial of the perpetrators and ensuring the government's rehabilitation efforts, including repairs to the destroyed homes and places of worship. NCHR team has repeatedly visited the town to oversee the repairs and reconstruction and meet affected families. With support from UNDP, NCHR also distributed emergency rations amongst the

Additionally, NCHR hosted a town hall meeting in Jaranwala to promote interfaith dialogue between Christian and Muslim youth, emphasizing shared values and mutual respect. This initiative aimed to foster social cohesion, bridge gaps between communities, and advance peaceful coexistence in the region, helping to heal the wounds caused by the tragedy and prevent future incidents of intolerance and the promotion of peaceful coexistence among all faiths in Pakistan.



The NCHR team was a first responder at destruction sites after the Jaranwala Incident.



The NCHR team oversees reconstruction of churches in Jaranwala.



The NCHR team views reconstructed churches in the aftermath of the Jaranwala Incident.



The NCHR team hosts students from Jaranwala for a capacity-building session on religious tolerance.

Discussion on Agricultural Women's Rights Legislation

Women are the backbone of Pakistan's agriculture sector, making up a large portion of the workforce. However, they face many challenges, including low pay, limited access to resources, and discrimination.

Challenges faced by women in agriculture:

- Low pay: Women earn less than men for the same work.
- Limited access to resources: Women have less access to land, credit, and modern machinery.
- Discrimination: Women face discrimination in the workplace.
- Unpaid work: Many women work on family farms and enterprises without pay.
- Lack of decision-making power: Women have limited say in decision-making.

On January 30th, 2024, NCHR engaged in a discussion with Zia Ur Rehman, CEO of Awaz Foundation, and his team regarding the rights of agricultural women in Sindh and Punjab. The discussion emphasized the urgent need for legislation to protect the rights of women working in agriculture, a sector where they face significant challenges related to labor conditions, land rights, and economic inequality. The meeting underscored the importance of creating a legal framework that would safeguard these women's rights, ensuring better working conditions, access to resources, and protection from exploitation.





Chairperson NCHR meets with CEO of the Awaz Foundation and his team to discuss the rights of agricultural women in Sindh and Punjab.

Meeting with FDI for Climate Justice Project

Climate change in Pakistan has significant impacts including more frequent and intense heat waves, severe droughts, devastating floods, glacial retreat, landslides, and increased storm activity, leading to major disruptions in agriculture, infrastructure damage, displacement of populations, and threats to food security and public health, with the 2022 floods being a prime example of climate change-induced disaster in the country.

Chairperson NCHR met with the FDI team to discuss their climate justice project, which focuses on the impacts of climate change on young girls in Balochistan and Islamabad. The project aims to raise awareness about the gendered effects of climate change and develop strategies to address the specific challenges faced by young girls in these regions.



Chairperson NCHR meets with the FDI team to discuss their climate justice project.

Committee Formed Under IG Prisons to Devise Syllabus for Remission of Sentences for Minority Prisoners Following NCHR's Recommendation

On April 23, 2024, following the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR)'s recommendation to the Government of Punjab regarding an amendment in Rule 215 of the Pakistan Prison Rules, a committee was constituted under the Inspector General (IG) of Prisons. This committee is tasked with developing a syllabus for the remission of sentences for minority prisoners. The aim is to ensure that minority groups within the prison system are afforded fair treatment and opportunities for sentence reduction based on their rehabilitation.

Meeting with Afghan Refugees & Children on the Move

In 2024, Pakistan initiated a large-scale repatriation campaign targeting undocumented Afghan nationals, resulting in the detention of thousands, including vulnerable groups such as women and children. Detention facilities where Afghan women and children were held faced criticism for overcrowding and inadequate conditions, further exacerbating the trauma faced by detainees.

The repatriation also underscored broader challenges faced by "children on the move," including separation from families and delays in identification and trial under Foreigners Act. The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) was at the forefront addressing these challenges and ensuring voluntary repatriation. NCHR teams visited detention centers to assess living conditions and ensure the protection of detained women and children. Additionally, the Commission's *Children on the Move* report highlighted critical gaps in the protection of migrant and refugee children, advocating for stronger safeguards against trafficking, family separation, and abuse. NCHR collaborated with UNICEF and other international partners to develop actionable recommendations, emphasizing access to psychosocial support, and legal aid for displaced children. These interventions aim to ensure that children on the move are treated with dignity and that their rights are upheld, even in the face of challenging migration and repatriation policies.

In its 2022 report on the "The Plight of Afghan Refugees", NCHR issued the following recommendations regarding incarcerated Afghhan refugees:

- Police must show compassion in the exercise of their power
- Judiciary may look to ensure the speedy trial of such persons
- Where sentences are to be awarded, they may be within a minimum time period or they may be token sentences such as being detained until the rising of the court.
- Strong liaison must be established between the Prison Administration and the Afghan mission in Pakistan in order to ensure safe and immediate return of these

people as stipulated by section 14 B of the Foreigners Act 1946.



NCHR Balochistan attends a policy dialogue on the issues faced by refugees in Pakistan.

Other policy interventions by NCHR include

- **NCHR pens open letter for Prime Minister on Internet shutdowns.** In the letter, NCHR stated that ‘Women entrepreneurs, students, and gig workers—key contributors to Pakistan’s 69% annual freelancing revenue growth—are especially affected, facing barriers to livelihoods, education, and skill development. For the 14th consecutive year, Pakistan has been classified as “Not Free” in terms of internet rights, risking further setbacks to the ‘Digital Pakistan’ initiative and the country’s economic recovery’ NCHR urged the government to;
 1. Halt internet shutdowns that hinder rights and economic growth.
 2. Engage with stakeholders to develop inclusive internet governance policies.
 3. Prioritize the rights of all citizens, particularly women, youth, and marginalized groups, in digital policies.
- **NCHR calls for legislation criminalizing Domestic violence**
- **NCHR calls for strong policy interventions for Persons with Disability,** including the implementation of Disability Impact assessment DIA on public sector buildings, a open window operation for Disability Certificates, a dedicated NADRA desk for PWDs, pending legislation by PWDs and increased accessibility on public transport on inter- provincial routes.



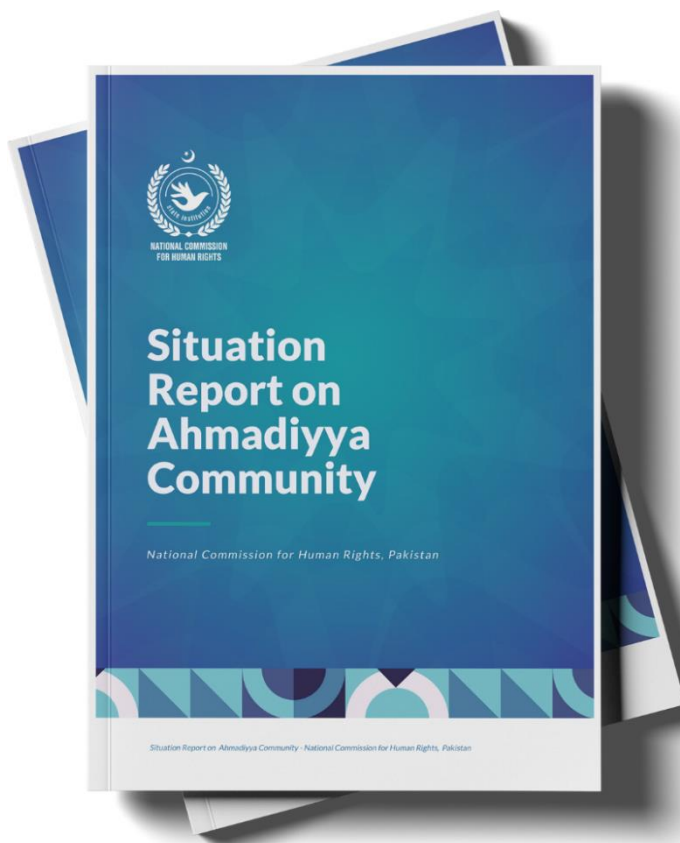
Consultative meeting with civil society.

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) plays a pivotal role in knowledge production and research by conducting studies, gathering data, and analyzing human rights trends to inform policy and advocacy efforts. Through independent research, thematic reports, and situation analyses, NCHR identifies systemic human rights challenges and provides evidence-based recommendations for legal and institutional reforms. The Commission collaborates with academia and civil society, to promote research-driven solutions and foster a deeper understanding of human rights issues. By generating credible knowledge, NCHR strengthens human rights discourse, enhances public awareness, and supports informed decision-making at the national level.

NCHR's research and knowledge production function is crucial, encompassing both conducting research (qualitative and quantitative) and promoting it, maintaining a comprehensive database, and submitting independent reports to the government on the state of human rights. Over the past year, NCHR has developed and published the following reports:

Situation Report: Monitoring the Plight of the Ahmadiyya Community



In fulfilling its statutory duties, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) closely monitored media reports and received numerous complaints from the Ahmadiyya community. These complaints, both individual and submitted by Ahmadiyya organizations, contained detailed accounts of human rights violations and attacks on places of worship, and desecration of graves and burial grounds, highlighting the community's status as one of the most persecuted communities in Pakistan.

The NCHR conducted a situation report to assess the nature and extent of these

violations, which included violence, discrimination, and threats to life and property. Despite constitutional guarantees for religious freedom and the legal entitlement to profess one's religion, these rights remained largely unfulfilled in practice for the Ahmadiyya community. The government's role in ensuring the realization of these rights was deemed crucial, and the Commission urged immediate action to address the persecution faced by the Ahmadiyya community.

To address the situation, the NCHR took several proactive steps, including:

- Writing to the Ministry of Human Rights, local and district administrations, and police to demand swift action against those perpetrating religious persecution and violence.
- Intervening in cases where students had been expelled due to their faith, facilitating their readmission.
- Preventing attacks on places of worship and ensuring the enforcement of Section 297 PPC, which criminalizes trespass on places of sepulture and the desecration of human corpses.



The desecration of Ahmediyya graves is a matter of concern for NCHR.

The Commission continues to advocate for strong, urgent action from both federal and provincial governments to protect the Ahmadiyya community and called for full implementation of their human rights entitlements. NCHR stressed that urgent government intervention is necessary to address the ongoing persecution and discrimination against this vulnerable group.

Situation Analysis of Child Labour in Punjab

The Situation Analysis of Child Labour in Punjab report provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of child labour in the province. It examines the prevalence, contributing factors, and the existing policy and legal frameworks addressing child labour. The report identifies key challenges impeding efforts to combat this issue and highlights the socio-economic and systemic factors driving child labour in Punjab.

By presenting evidence-based recommendations, the report aims to guide relevant stakeholders—including parliamentarians, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the general public—in developing and implementing effective strategies to combat child labour.

The analysis emphasizes the need for coordinated actions to:

- Protect children's rights,
- Enhance enforcement of legal protections, and
- Promote the well-being and development of affected children.

The report is a call to action for fostering a deeper understanding of child labour and accelerating efforts to eradicate it, ensuring a safer and more equitable future for Punjab's children.



Child bonded labourers at a brick kiln in Punjab.

Protecting the Rights of Foreign Nationals Imprisoned in Pakistan

This report highlights Pakistan's obligation, under international law and its Constitution, to safeguard the fundamental rights of foreign nationals incarcerated in its prisons. As of April 2024, 1,107 foreign nationals are detained across Pakistan's prisons. Many of these individuals face significant challenges, including inadequate legal representation, lack of translators, and limited consular assistance from their diplomatic missions. These circumstances leave them vulnerable within Pakistan's legal system, unable to effectively communicate with courts or present evidence from their home countries, often resulting in disproportionately harsher penalties.

To address these issues, the report emphasizes the importance of enhancing coordination between government agencies, diplomatic missions, and National Human Rights Institutions to ensure effective consular assistance and improve identification and verification processes. It calls for the formulation and implementation of a unified policy on consular access for foreign nationals, amending the Pakistan Prison Rules to include provisions for consular support. Measures must be taken to ensure foreign nationals are informed of their right to consular assistance upon arrest and detention, with guaranteed access to legal counsel and consular officers in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. Training and education for law enforcement, prison, and judicial officials on these rights and the vulnerabilities of foreign nationals are also essential.

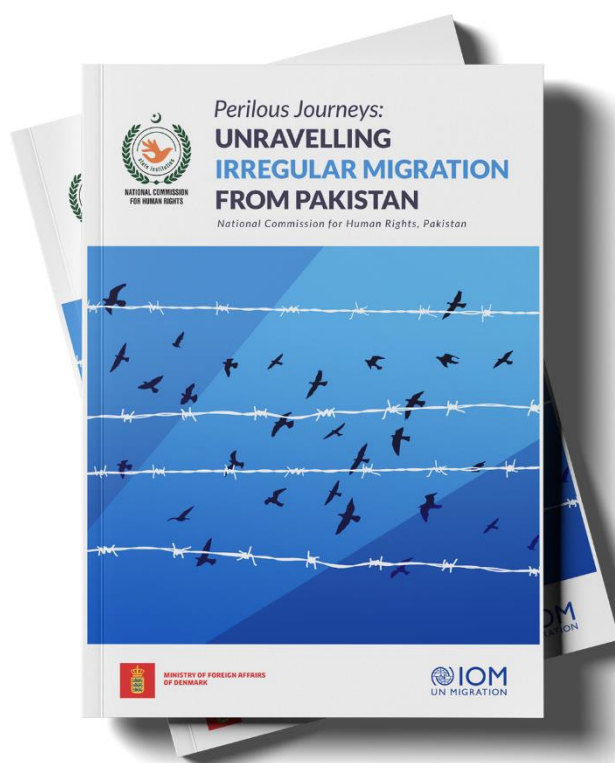


Foreign fishermen prisoners in Malir Jail. NCHR assisted in the repatriation of these prisoners.

The report further recommends that Pakistan actively negotiate and implement prisoner transfer agreements to enable foreign nationals to serve their sentences in their home countries. Safeguards for the rights of foreign nationals should be codified into the Pakistan Prison Rules, and detention conditions must adhere to international standards. Ensuring regular contact between prisoners and their families is also critical.

By adopting these recommendations, Pakistan can better protect the rights of foreign nationals in its prisons, align its practices with international standards, and strengthen its commitment to human rights and the rule of law.

Perilous Journeys: Unravelling Irregular Migration from Pakistan



NCHR conducted a comprehensive analysis of irregular migration from Pakistan, distinguishing human trafficking from migrant smuggling based on factors such as purpose, legality, consent, and transnationality. While both are subsets of irregular migration, they involve distinct legal and enforcement challenges. Irregular migration encompasses practices such as undocumented movement, overstaying visas, and coerced migration, often leaving migrants without legal recognition and exposing them to significant human rights violations.

The report highlights how global forums, such as the Colombo Process and Asia-Pacific Consultations, prioritize border control over human rights, limiting protection for migrants. Pakistan's migration routes have shifted, with a growing number traveling through Dubai to Egypt or Libya before attempting entry to Europe. By mid-2023, Pakistan had become the fifth most prominent country of origin for migrants to Europe, driven by political instability, economic uncertainty, terrorist activity, and environmental disasters like the 2023 floods. These factors exacerbate poverty and reduce opportunities for employment and education, fueling migration despite its risks.

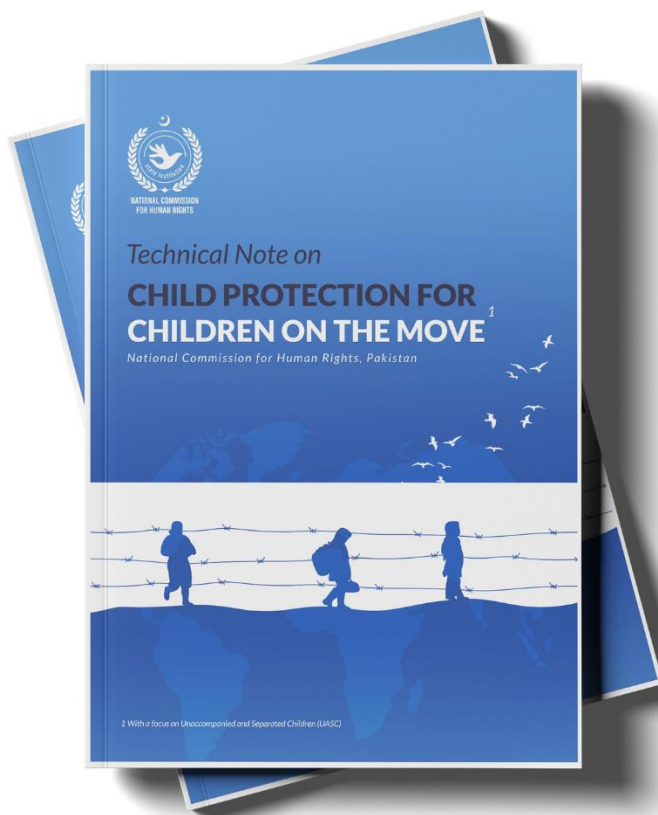
Economic opportunity remains the primary driver of migration, influenced by job availability, education, and social networks. A significant portion of Pakistan's population, especially in urban areas, expresses a desire to migrate. In response, Pakistan introduced anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling legislation in 2018, empowering the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to prosecute criminal networks while protecting victims. However, restrictive policies often push migrants towards more dangerous crossing methods.

The report calls for a collaborative, multifaceted approach involving government agencies, civil society, and international stakeholders to address the root causes of

migration and protect migrant rights. It emphasizes the need for policies that reduce vulnerabilities and improve socioeconomic opportunities, alongside enforcement measures targeting organized crime. The report received widespread acclaim, garnered significant media attention, and was launched in three major cities.



Technical Note on Child Protection for Children on the Move



NCHR has actively advised the Pakistani government on addressing child protection challenges and ensuring the enforcement of child rights, particularly for vulnerable groups such as Children on the Move. Through consultations with children, civil society organizations, and policymakers, NCHR has emphasized safeguarding these children. It has handled multiple complaints involving Children on the Move in collaboration with the police and UN agencies, adhering to international standards.

NCHR conducted visits to detention facilities where children accompanying their mothers and

juveniles under trial, including Afghan refugee children, were identified. Following media reports, the NCHR assessed the conditions of Afghan refugees in Sindh's detention centers and issued a report with recommendations to the government. In line with the Juvenile Justice System Act 2018, the NCHR has also worked with the police and judiciary to provide legal aid to juveniles in detention and support family reunification efforts.

Despite these commendable initiatives, Children on the Move continue to face significant risks and challenges, necessitating a systemic and robust response. To address this, NCHR has developed a technical note as a guiding tool for state actors, civil society members, and other stakeholders. This document aligns with Pakistan's international obligations and domestic legal framework, offering best practices for cross-border management, detention support, and family reunification. It also includes updated resources to enhance legal and technical compliance, aiming to improve the protection and support for Children on the Move.



Afghan children at Karachi Central Jail.

Gap Analysis: Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022

NCHR, in collaboration with the Justice Project Pakistan (JPP), undertook a comprehensive gap analysis of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022 to assess its compliance with international standards. While the Act represents a significant milestone in Pakistan's legislative history, the analysis highlights several areas where it falls short of the requirements set by the UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) and other international instruments.

Key shortcomings include the exclusion of psychological pain and suffering from the definition of torture, ambiguous complaint and investigation procedures, absence of provisions for non-refoulement, and failure to reference critical international protocols like the Istanbul Protocol, Minnesota Protocol, and Mendez Principles. Additionally, the Act does not penalize cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment (CIDT), undermining efforts to comprehensively address torture.

The reliance on the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) for punishments inadequately addresses the specific crimes of torture and custodial death and is misaligned with international standards. Penalizing “malafide” complaints contradicts Article 13 of the UNCAT, risking the suppression of genuine victims from filing complaints.

Although the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has jurisdiction to investigate torture cases under NCHR supervision, the Act fails to define their roles and responsibilities

clearly. Over a year since its passage, no dedicated FIA wing for custodial torture investigations exists, nor does a complaint mechanism for such cases on its official platform. The overlap with the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021 also raises procedural ambiguities, particularly concerning custodial rape cases..

To enhance the Act's impact, immediate steps are required to align it with the UNCAT and international standards, operationalize its provisions, and develop enabling rules. This includes clear investigation procedures, robust complaint mechanisms, and delineation of responsibilities between the NCHR and FIA, ensuring the Act fulfills its potential to strengthen Pakistan's criminal justice and human rights framework.

Inquiry Report: Risks of Sanitation Work in Pakistan

Sanitation workers in Pakistan face hazardous working conditions, systemic discrimination, and insufficient legal protections. These challenges are exacerbated by the lack of enforcement of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) standards and the profession's stigmatization. Predominantly composed of marginalized groups, including religious minorities, these workers are subjected to economic desperation and social ostracization, often forced to take life-threatening risks to sustain their livelihoods. Despite some initiatives to address these issues, discriminatory practices and the absence of robust safety protocols persist, leaving workers vulnerable.

NCHR has been at the forefront of advocating for the rights and safety of sanitation workers. The tragic deaths of four sanitation workers in March 2024, who entered manholes without proper protective equipment (PPE), highlight the dire need for systemic reforms. Driven by economic desperation, these workers were exposed to toxic fumes, a preventable tragedy that underscores the urgency of implementing protective measures.

NCHR has called for stronger enforcement of safety regulations, including mandatory PPE, regular safety training, and adherence to protocols for working in confined spaces. Addressing economic instability through fair wages and social safety nets is crucial to reducing the pressures that lead workers to compromise their safety. Raising awareness about workplace hazards and investing in mechanized alternatives to manual sewer cleaning are also critical steps. Furthermore, the report emphasizes the importance of accountability, with stricter inspections and penalties for non-compliance, as well as collaboration between government bodies, community organizations, and advocacy groups to support workers through legal aid, health services, and financial assistance.

The report urges the Government of Pakistan to take decisive action to formalize employment, enforce OSH standards, and phase out hazardous manual sewer cleaning. These measures are essential not only for regulatory compliance but also as a moral obligation to protect the lives and dignity of sanitation workers. NCHR remains committed to advocating for the rights and well-being of these workers and stresses the need for collective efforts to implement these critical policy interventions.

NCHR Investigation into Blasphemy Cases

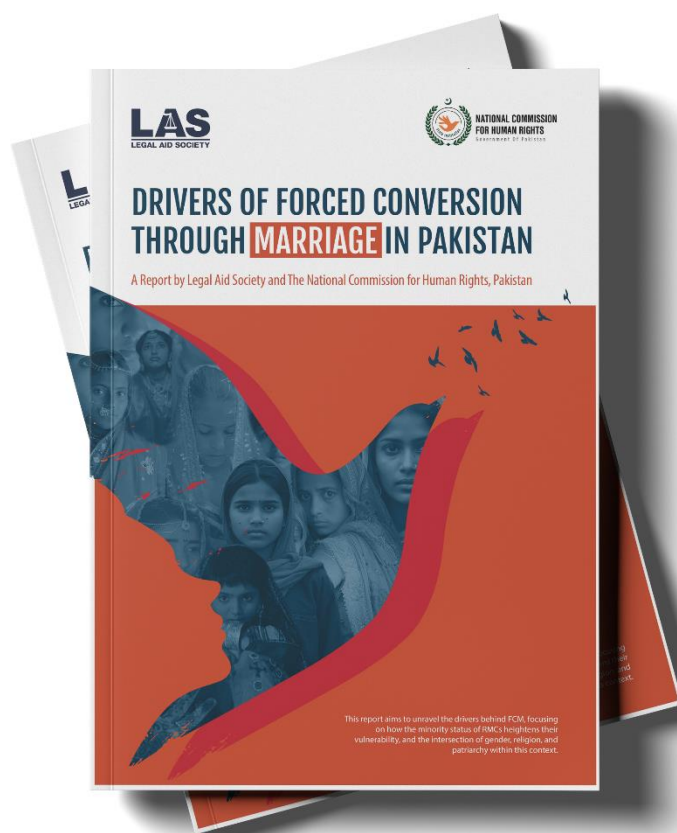
In response to complaints regarding the entrapment of young individuals on blasphemy charges linked to alleged pornographic and blasphemous websites, NCHR initiated an independent inquiry in October 2023. This investigation aimed to verify the authenticity of these complaints, explore the reasons behind the rise in blasphemy cases over the past three years, and ensure that due process had been followed. The Commission's inquiry involved nationwide jail visits, interviews with inmates, meetings with their families, and discussions with relevant government and law enforcement stakeholders, revealing significant flaws in the handling of these cases.

The inquiry uncovered a disturbing trend in which many blasphemy cases were initiated by the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cybercrime unit in collaboration with private entities. Young men were often targeted through entrapment tactics, including female operatives using pseudonyms to lure them into blasphemous activities online. Arrests were frequently made by private individuals rather than law enforcement, with detainees subjected to torture, coerced statements, and obstructed access to legal aid. The failure to follow proper investigative procedures and conduct forensic analysis of devices further compromised the legitimacy of these cases.

The inquiry also revealed deplorable conditions in prisons, where those accused of blasphemy were often held in overcrowded, unsafe barracks to protect them from harm by other inmates. These individuals faced coercion, extortion, and violations of their privacy. The investigation highlighted a severe lack of support for young people facing pornography addiction, compounded by limited mental health services and digital literacy education, leaving many vulnerable to exploitation.

In light of these findings, NCHR has called for a comprehensive review of the roles of government and private entities involved, as well as urgent reforms in both investigative and judicial procedures. Recommendations include forming a Joint Investigation Team, scrutinizing FIA's practices, enhancing digital literacy and mental health support for youth, and launching public awareness campaigns about responsible online behavior. These steps are crucial to ensuring the protection of young people and upholding fair legal processes in blasphemy cases.

Drivers of Forced Conversion through Marriage in Pakistan



Forced Conversion through Marriage (FCM) in Pakistan is a pervasive human rights issue primarily affecting minor girls and women from Religious Minority Communities (RMCs). Despite existing legal protections for religious freedom, FCM persists due to intertwined socio-cultural, economic, and political factors that heighten the vulnerability of RMCs. This research, a joint project of NCHR and the Legal Aid Society (LAS), explores the drivers of FCM, focusing on the intersection of gender, religion, and patriarchy, revealing how systemic discrimination exacerbates this practice.

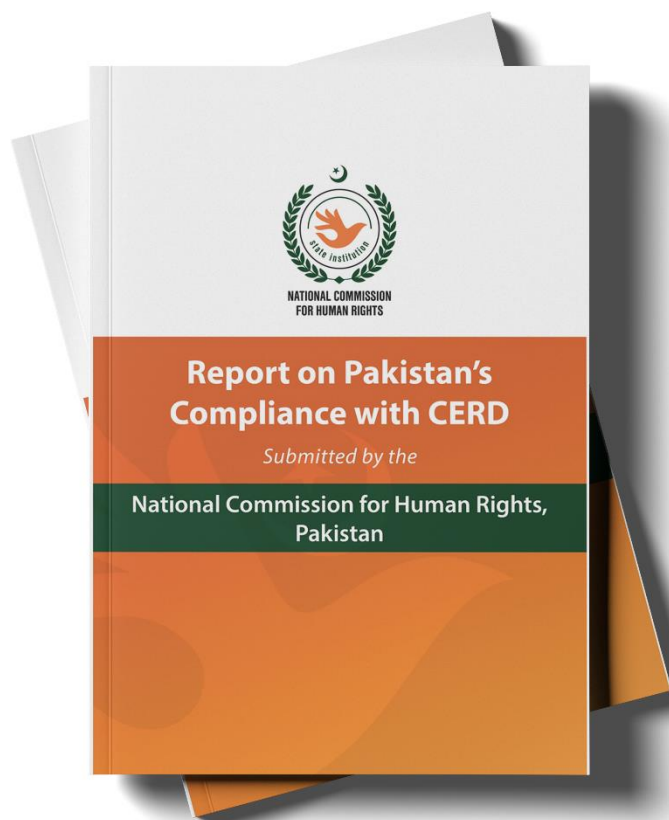
The study underscores the complexity of "force" and "consent" in this context, identifying eight scenarios of FCM: willful, for shelter, induced, fraudulent, out of greed, exploitative, under duress, and forceful. Through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and In-Depth Interviews (IDIs) with survivors, along with secondary data, the research highlights the role of ideological motivations, societal power dynamics, and inadequate legal accountability in enabling FCM. Perpetrators often exploit religious and patriarchal ideologies, face minimal repercussions due to weak investigations and prosecutions, and are supported by local power structures. The socio-economic and political marginalization of RMCs further diminishes the autonomy of women and girls, exposing them to cycles of exploitation, abuse, and limited access to education.

The impacts of FCM are severe, including psychological trauma, physical and sexual abuse, and social stigmatization. At a community level, FCM erodes cultural heritage, undermines religious freedom, and deepens societal divisions. These practices perpetuate human rights violations and weaken the rule of law, exacerbating inequalities for RMCs and women.

This research aims to inform policymakers, NGOs, and stakeholders in developing targeted interventions to combat FCM. Recommendations include comprehensive legal reforms, effective enforcement mechanisms, proactive community engagement, and initiatives to promote interfaith dialogue. Such measures are critical to protecting

vulnerable communities, fostering tolerance, and building a more equitable society in Pakistan.

Report on Pakistan's Compliance with CERD



NCHR published its report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, addressing the state of racial and ethnic discrimination in Pakistan. As a signatory to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), Pakistan has committed to eliminating racial discrimination and fostering understanding among all ethnic and racial groups.

With over 240 million people, Pakistan is a multi-ethnic and multilingual nation, home to diverse groups such as Punjabis, Sindhis, Pashtuns, Baloch, Hazaras, Brahuis, and

various religious groups including Christians, Hindus, Sikhs, and Ahmadis. While this diversity enriches Pakistan's culture, it also presents significant challenges, including persistent issues of racial and ethnic discrimination.

The report highlights that, despite ICERD's obligations and Pakistan's progress, instances of exclusion, restriction, and discrimination based on race, color, descent, or ethnic origin remain widespread. These issues fall under Article 1 of ICERD, which defines racial discrimination and underscores the need for urgent measures to address them.

Through this report, the NCHR fulfilled its mandate as a watchdog and advisor to the Government of Pakistan on human rights obligations under core UN conventions, including ICERD. The report provided a critical assessment of on-ground challenges, highlighting urgent areas requiring action to ensure Pakistan's compliance with ICERD and its commitment to eliminating racial discrimination.

During Pakistan's review of UNCERD, the Chairman of the UNCERD committee, XXX complimented NCHR on its A status accreditation and acknowledged its substantive work on minority rights.



Yeung Kam John Yeung Sik Yuen, CERD Committee Expert and Country Rapporteur for Tajikistan.

NCHR Submission to the Human Rights Committee: Government of Pakistan's Second ICCPR Report

NCHR also submitted a written contribution for the Human Rights Committee's consideration of Pakistan's Second Report under the ICCPR. This submission draws on the Commission's extensive work, its mandated functions, and publicly available data. The NCHR also raised the issues detailed in this submission with the Government of Pakistan and remained committed to engaging further with the Committee.

The submission provided a focused analysis of civil and political rights in Pakistan, addressing key population groups and thematic issues relevant to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Each section corresponds to relevant ICCPR articles and references the Committee's list of issues dated 29 November 2023, where applicable. Recommendations by the NCHR are incorporated into the body of the text, emphasizing areas critical for the Government of Pakistan's compliance with the ICCPR.

While the Commission acknowledges the importance of all recommendations provided by the Human Rights Committee in its 2017 Concluding Observations, it highlights five priority areas that warrant immediate attention:

1. National Human Rights Institutions (Article 2)
Strengthening Pakistan's NHRI framework, including ensuring their independence, adequate resources, and capacity to monitor and protect civil and political rights effectively.
2. Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Articles 6 and 9; General Comment 35)
Addressing the widespread prevalence of gender-based violence, enhancing legislative protections, and ensuring proper implementation and enforcement mechanisms.
3. Freedom of Conscience and Religious Belief (Articles 2, 18, and 26)
Promoting and safeguarding religious freedom, addressing systemic discrimination against minority groups, and ensuring equitable treatment under the law.
4. Elimination of Slavery and Forced and Bonded Labor (Articles 2, 7, 8, and 26)
Combating modern slavery and addressing the exploitation of vulnerable populations, with a focus on strengthening enforcement mechanisms and providing support for victims.

This submission reflects NCHR's ongoing efforts to support Pakistan in fulfilling its international obligations under the ICCPR, ensuring the protection and promotion of civil and political rights for all its citizens.

AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

Raising awareness and advocating for human rights are integral components of the NCHR mandate. Through strategic initiatives, the NCHR aims to foster a culture of respect for human rights by educating communities, promoting inclusivity, and amplifying the voices of the vulnerable. This section highlights key efforts and campaigns undertaken to inform the public, engage stakeholders, and build momentum for systemic change that upholds dignity, equality, and justice for all.

EmpowHER Campaign: Girls in Sports

NCHR, in partnership with the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, successfully implemented an initiative to promote girls' participation in sports in Pakistan. The initiative focused on underprivileged and marginalized communities in Karachi, Quetta, and Chitral. NCHR collaborated with local clubs and academies deeply connected to these communities, supporting them in organizing training camps, tournaments, and mentoring sessions. These activities provided participants with opportunities to develop their skills, build confidence, and challenge societal norms. The project culminated in a final tournament in Islamabad, where teams from the three cities competed, celebrating the progress and talent of the participants.

While football was the central sport of this initiative, the broader advocacy campaign sought to promote female participation across all sports, challenge gender stereotypes, and advocate for equal opportunities for female athletes at all levels in Pakistan. By spotlighting the potential and resilience of women and girls in sports, the #EmpowHer initiative not only inspired individual empowerment but also contributed to reshaping societal perceptions of women in athletics.



Young athletes that took part in NCHR's EmpowHER football initiative.



NCHRs EmpowHER football campaign.

A status accreditation of NCHR

NCHR of Pakistan has been elected to the Bureau of the GANHRI for a four-year term, a significant milestone that recognizes its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights. This prestigious role is open only to A-status accredited National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) that meet stringent criteria under the Paris Principles, highlighting Pakistan's credibility on the international stage.

As part of the Bureau, which acts as GANHRI's management committee, NCHR will collaborate with representatives from Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Asia Pacific region. The Bureau ensures strategic direction and oversees key issues, including decisions on the Sub-Committee on Accreditation, which evaluates NHRIs' compliance with international standards. Supported by the Asia Pacific Forum (APF), NCHR will advocate for the region's NHRIs and contribute to shaping global human rights policies and dialogues, particularly in collaboration with United Nations mechanisms.

In addition to its Bureau election, NCHR Pakistan has been elected to the Governance Committee of the APF, further cementing its leadership within the global human rights community. These dual achievements mark a new chapter in Pakistan's role in advancing justice, equality, and dignity on the international stage.



NHRIs from the Asia Pacific vote for Chairperson Rabiya Javeri Agha to become part of the APF Governance Committee and a representative of APF in the GANHRI bureau.



Election for APF Governance Committee & member of GANHRI Bureau

Irregular Migration



NCHR launched a social media campaign to promote its report on irregular migration and amplify the importance of its findings. The campaign highlighted key messages from the report, emphasizing the urgent need to address irregular migration's root causes, protect vulnerable migrants, and ensure their rights are upheld.

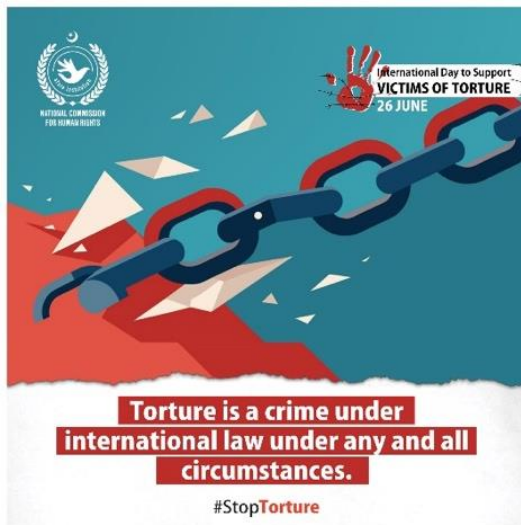
By leveraging digital platforms, NCHR successfully extended the report's reach, ensuring that its critical message resonated with a broad audience and inspired action against irregular migration and its associated human rights challenges.



NCHR team with partners and collaborators at the launch of its report on irregular migration.

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

On the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, observed annually on June 26th, NCHR shared social media post to reaffirm its commitment to eradicating torture and supporting survivors. The day, established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1997, marks a global stand against the practice of torture and serves as a reminder of the importance of human dignity and the rule of law. It commemorates the adoption of the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT), which calls for the absolute prohibition of torture under international law.



World Day Against Trafficking in Persons



On this significant day, NCHR shared a social media post highlighting the urgent need to address trafficking in persons, especially in Pakistan, where vulnerable populations are at high risk.

Human trafficking involves the exploitation of individuals for purposes such as forced labor, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and organ trafficking. Women and

children are disproportionately affected, often falling victim to traffickers due to poverty, lack of education, and socio-economic inequalities.

World Humanitarian Day

This day is observed annually on August 19th to honor humanitarian workers and advocates who dedicate their lives to serving those in need, often in some of the most challenging and dangerous environments. It is a day to recognize the tireless efforts of individuals and organizations working to alleviate human suffering and promote dignity and resilience worldwide.

On this occasion, the NCHR shared a social media post emphasizing the significance of humanitarian action in Pakistan, where communities often grapple with natural disasters, conflict, displacement, and socio-economic challenges. The post highlighted the crucial role humanitarian workers play in responding to emergencies, providing aid, and advocating for the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children, refugees, and marginalized communities.



International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

This day is observed to honor the lives affected by acts of terrorism and to express solidarity with victims and survivors worldwide. This day serves as a reminder of the importance of providing support, recognition, and justice to those impacted by terrorism, while fostering resilience and promoting peace.

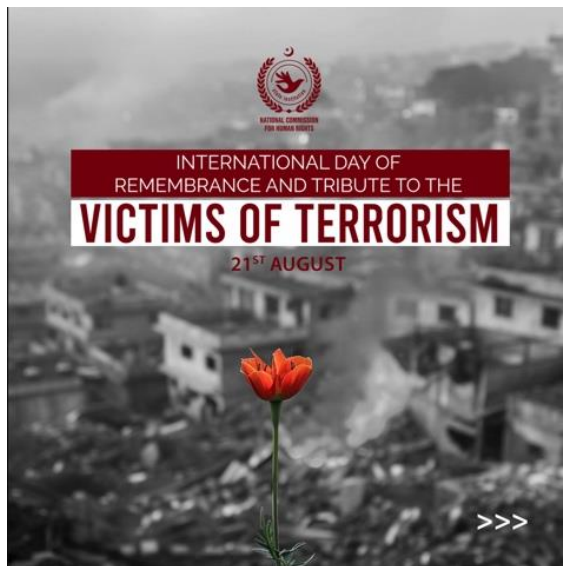
To mark this important occasion, NCHR launched a social media campaign centered around raising awareness about the human cost of terrorism and the urgent need to support victims in their recovery journeys.

Through its posts, NCHR reiterated that terrorism not only destroys lives but also seeks to erode the values of unity, diversity, and human dignity. Standing with victims

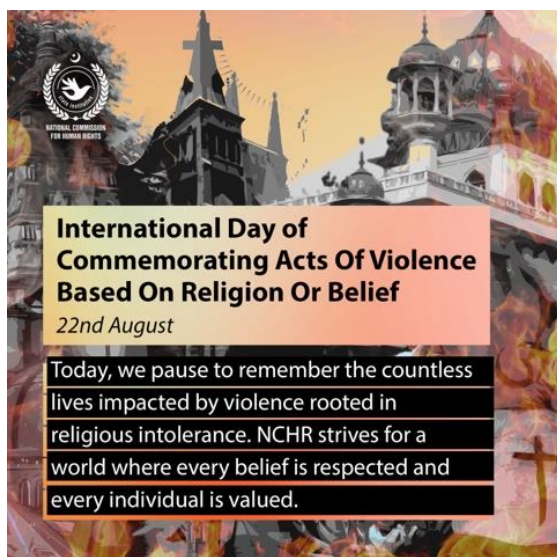
is a step toward healing and reaffirming our shared commitment to combating violence in all its forms.

The campaign concluded with a powerful call to action:

- Learn about challenges faced by victims and their rights
- Support policies that protect and assist victims
- Donate or volunteer with organizations dedicated to helping victims
- Amplify the voices of survivors and victims' families to keep their stories alive



International Day Commemorating Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief



The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) marked this important day to highlight the urgent need for tolerance, interfaith harmony, and the protection of individuals from violence rooted in religious intolerance. Recognizing the increasing

challenges faced by religious minorities in Pakistan and across the world, NCHR used this occasion to reinforce its commitment to advocating for policies that uphold the right to freedom of religion or belief, as enshrined in Pakistan's Constitution and international human rights conventions.

NCHR's social media campaign on the day focused on raising awareness about the devastating impact of violence fueled by religious discrimination and extremism. Through a series of posts, the Commission called for rejecting hatred, promoting peaceful coexistence, and ensuring justice for victims of religiously motivated violence. Messages emphasized the importance of legal safeguards, stronger law enforcement actions against perpetrators, and the need for comprehensive education and awareness programs to counter religious intolerance from an early age.

Beyond its digital outreach, NCHR also engaged with key stakeholders, including faith leaders, civil society organizations, and human rights defenders, to discuss strategies for fostering religious harmony and protecting communities from faith-based violence. The Commission reiterated the need for robust legal mechanisms to prevent hate speech, safeguard places of worship, and hold those responsible for inciting religious violence accountable.

This commemoration served as a reminder of the importance of inclusive societies where all individuals, regardless of their faith or beliefs, can live free from fear and discrimination. NCHR reaffirmed its commitment to monitoring incidents of religious violence, advocating for policy reforms, and working towards a more tolerant and just society in Pakistan.

International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances

On this day, NCHR highlighted the plight of individuals who have disappeared and the families left in anguish, calling for justice, accountability, and the end of this grave human rights violation. Enforced disappearances represent a profound breach of dignity, denying individuals their basic rights and families their truth and closure.

International Literacy Day

On International Literacy Day, the NCHR recognized the transformative power of education in empowering individuals, uplifting communities, and promoting human rights. Literacy is not only a fundamental human right but also the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and inequality.

The NCHR reaffirmed its commitment to advocating for quality education for all, particularly marginalized groups, and emphasized the role of literacy in fostering a more informed, inclusive, and just society.

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists



The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) commemorated the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, recognizing the critical role of a free press in upholding democracy, transparency, and accountability. The Commission used this occasion to shed light on the growing threats faced by journalists in Pakistan and across the world, including harassment, unlawful detentions, physical attacks, enforced disappearances, and even targeted killings. NCHR reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to supporting media professionals who risk their safety in the pursuit of truth.

As part of its awareness campaign, NCHR highlighted the alarming statistics of violence against journalists and the lack of prosecution for those responsible. The Commission called for urgent legal reforms, stronger protections for media workers, and the effective implementation of the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act, 2021. It emphasized the responsibility of the state to ensure a safe and enabling environment for journalists, free from censorship, intimidation, and retaliation.

NCHR's digital campaign featured messages advocating for justice, press freedom, and the right of journalists to operate without fear. Beyond advocacy, NCHR reiterated its commitment to monitoring cases of violence against journalists, documenting human rights violations, and providing recommendations to policymakers to strengthen protections for the press. The Commission also pledged to continue working with international human rights organizations, media watchdogs, and civil society to safeguard press freedom in Pakistan.

This commemoration served as a strong reminder that silencing journalists is an attack on democracy itself. NCHR called upon all stakeholders, including government authorities, media organizations, and the public, to stand in solidarity with journalists

and demand justice for those who have been persecuted, harassed, or killed for performing their duty to inform society.

International Day for Tolerance

NCHR marked the International Day for Tolerance by emphasizing the importance of respect, understanding, and dialogue among individuals of different backgrounds. It highlighted the need for a peaceful coexistence built on celebrating diversity. Through its campaign, it encouraged everyone to foster a culture of tolerance in their communities.



World Day for Prevention and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence



NCHR observed the World Day for Prevention and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence by raising awareness about the urgent need to protect vulnerable children. The Commission's campaign focused on prevention and healing, calling for stronger protective measures and greater support for survivors of abuse.

World Children's Day

NCHR celebrated World Children's Day, reaffirming the importance of protecting children's rights worldwide. It highlighted the need for a safe and supportive environment for all children, emphasizing their right to health, education, and safety. The Commission's post aimed to inspire collective action to ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive.



16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence



During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (from November 25 to December 10), NCHR launched a powerful campaign against gender-based

violence. The Commission used this time to raise awareness, challenge stereotypes, and advocate for stronger policies to prevent violence. Our efforts focused on breaking the silence around gender-based violence and supporting survivors.



HEAD OFFICE

Summary of Complaints, Petitions, and Suo Moto Actions

From January 1,2024 To December 31,2024		
Sr. No.	Complaints/Suo-Motu	Numbers
1	No. of Complaints carried forward	85
2	Fresh Complaints received during the period	480
3	Cases where Suo Motu action has been taken	66
	Total	631
4	No. of Complaints Disposed Off	412
5	No. of Complaints Under Process	219

Efforts/Initiatives

NCHR Signs MOU with Shifa University Islamabad as Part of Team Human Rights Campaign

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) took a significant step in promoting human rights education by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Shifa University, Islamabad, as part of the *TeamHumanRights* campaign. The collaboration aims to integrate human rights education into the academic curriculum and foster a culture of human rights awareness among students, faculty, and the broader community.

This collaboration reflects NCHR's ongoing efforts to build partnerships with academic institutions to ensure that the next generation is educated on the importance of human rights, helping to create a more informed and rights-respecting society.

NCHR Meets Vice Chancellor of Women University Rawalpindi for Collaboration as Part of Team Human Rights Campaign

As part of the ongoing *TeamHumanRights* campaign, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) held a productive meeting with the Vice Chancellor of Women University Rawalpindi on January 9th, 2024. The meeting focused on exploring potential collaboration opportunities aimed at promoting human rights education, research, and advocacy within the university community.

The meeting reflects NCHR's commitment to engaging academic institutions in raising awareness about human rights issues and fostering a generation of advocates committed to social change. This collaboration aligns with the Commission's goal of creating a widespread human rights culture, especially among young people.

NCHR Meets Head of Law School at Bahria University Islamabad to Finalize MOU on Human Rights Education

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) met with the Head of the Law School at Bahria University Islamabad to finalize the details of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at promoting human rights education. The MOU marks a significant step in NCHR's ongoing efforts to integrate human rights principles into the educational framework of leading academic institutions across Pakistan.

The finalization of this partnership with Bahria University further reflects NCHR's commitment to shaping future legal professionals who are not only skilled in law but also deeply aware of the ethical and human rights considerations that underpin justice and equality.

Discussion on the 18th Amendment: Impact and Challenges

On January 22nd, 2024, a discussion was held at SZABIST (Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology) focused on the 18th Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan. The session examined the impact of the amendment, particularly on the devolution of powers to provinces, and the challenges faced in its implementation. Participants discussed the successes and shortcomings of the amendment, analyzing how it has affected governance and the distribution of resources across the country.

NCHR and HEC MOU Signing on Human Rights Education and Research

NCHR and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at promoting cooperation in human rights education and research. The MOU emphasizes collaborative efforts to enhance human rights awareness and strengthen the capacity for research in this field across academic institutions. This partnership is a significant step in integrating human rights education into the curriculum and fostering a new generation of researchers committed to advancing human rights in Pakistan.

NCHR Team Holds Human Rights Training at Allama Iqbal University

NCHR organized a training session for the faculty of Allama Iqbal University as part of its TeamHumanRights program. The training focused on core human rights treaties, constitutional rights, and responsibilities, aiming to equip educators with a better understanding of human rights frameworks.

Collaboration with Allama Iqbal Open University

The Dean of Allama Iqbal Open University met with Chairperson Rabiya Javeri to discuss potential collaborations, particularly regarding NCHR's TeamHumanRights programs, which focus on human rights education and awareness.

Kashmir Advisory Committee Discussion on Human Rights Issues

On January 15th, 2024, the Kashmir Advisory Committee, in collaboration with NCHR Islamabad and various stakeholders, held a discussion on the prevailing human rights issues in Kashmir and the urgent need for their redressal. The meeting focused on addressing the significant human rights violations occurring in the region, particularly the ongoing challenges faced by Kashmiri civilians, including arbitrary detentions, restrictions on freedom of speech, and the overall humanitarian crisis. The discussion emphasized the need for immediate intervention by both national and international bodies to ensure that the rights of the Kashmiri people are upheld and that accountability measures are taken. The committee stressed the importance of raising awareness about the situation, advocating for policy changes, and working towards a peaceful resolution that respects human rights and the dignity of the Kashmiri population.

Chairperson Rabiya Javeri Agha Advocates for Girls' Inclusion in Sports

Chairperson Rabiya Javeri Agha appeared on the Geo Morning Show, where she passionately advocated for the inclusion of girls in sports. Highlighting initiatives such as the EmpowHer football tournaments, which were held in Chitral, Karachi, Quetta, Islamabad, and other cities, she emphasized the importance of providing girls with opportunities to participate in sports. Chairperson Agha underscored that sports not only contribute to physical well-being but also help build confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills in young girls, empowering them to break societal barriers and claim their space in various fields.

EmpowHer Campaign Launches to Promote Girls' Sports Participation

On January 22nd, 2024, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) launched the EmpowHer campaign, a four-month initiative aimed at promoting and encouraging girls' participation in sports. The campaign includes teams from Quetta (Balochistan), Lyari (Sindh), and Chitral (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), and seeks to create opportunities for young girls across Pakistan to engage in sports, empowering them to build confidence, leadership skills, and resilience while breaking down barriers related to gender stereotypes in athletics. Through workshops, tournaments, and community engagement, the initiative was designed to raise awareness about the importance of physical activity for girls and advocate for the creation of more inclusive spaces for their participation in sports.

Visits by Ambassadors to NCHR Office

Ambassador Alfred Grannas and First Secretary Ms. Julia Klein visited the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) office. During the visit, Chairperson Rabiya Javeri Agha shared valuable insights into NCHR's ongoing efforts in promoting and protecting human rights across Pakistan.

Ambassador of the European Union, Riina Kionka and members from the EU delegation visited NCHR office to discuss the Commission's role in addressing key human rights issues, including gender equality, child rights, the rights of minorities, and access to justice.



Chairperson NCHR with Ms. Riina Kionka, the Ambassador of the European Union.



Chairperson NCHR with the Ambassador of Sweden, Alex Berg von Linde, and H.E Ulrika Sundberg.

Ambassadors of Sweden Alex Berg von Linde, H.E Ulrika Sundberg and Ambassador from Norway H.E Per Albert Ilsaas, Ambassador Argentina and Portugal also visited the NCHR office to discuss NCHR's strategic priorities for the year, including advocacy initiatives, legal reforms, and the strengthening of institutional mechanisms to safeguard human rights in Pakistan.

Wellness Session for EmpowHer Program Teams

As part of NCHR campaign to address mental health amongst women from vulnerable communities, a wellness session was held as part of the NCHR EmpowHer program

for visiting teams from Chitral, Quetta, and Karachi. The session aimed to promote mental and physical well-being among the participants, especially focusing on the challenges faced by young girls involved in sports and other empowerment activities. This initiative reflects NCHR's commitment to supporting the holistic development of girls, not just through sports but also through nurturing their overall health and well-being.

Visit by Vice Chancellor of FJWU for Human Rights Literacy

Vice Chancellor Dr. Uzaira Rafique of Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU) visited the NCHR to discuss initiatives aimed at enhancing human rights literacy among students. The meeting focused on collaborating to integrate human rights education into the curriculum and increase awareness on the importance of human rights in academic settings.

Dialogue with Pak Women Representatives on Rights Issues

NCHR engaged in a productive dialogue with representatives from Pak Women, focusing on their ongoing work addressing women's, children's, and transgender rights. The discussions revolved around identifying key challenges in the protection and promotion of these rights, particularly the barriers faced by marginalized groups, and exploring collaborative efforts to tackle these issues.

Commemorative Souvenir Presented to Chairperson NCHR Rabiya Javeri Agha

The Network for Consumer Protection in Pakistan presented a commemorative souvenir to Chairperson NCHR Rabiya Javeri Agha in recognition of her outstanding efforts in the protection and promotion of human rights. This gesture acknowledged her leadership and contributions to advancing human rights in Pakistan, particularly in advocating for consumer rights and broader human rights issues.

National Women's Day Collaboration for Women Entrepreneurs' Economic Development

On National Women's Day, NCHR joined forces with the Multan Women's Chamber to focus on the economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs. This collaboration aimed at promoting women's involvement in entrepreneurship and enhancing their role in economic development through targeted initiatives, support systems, and access to resources. A key area of discussion was the recognition and support of home-based workers, who form a significant yet often invisible segment of the workforce. These workers, predominantly women, contribute to various industries but face challenges such as lack of legal protection, low wages, and limited market access.

The Multan Women's Chamber, through its advocacy and capacity-building efforts, plays a crucial role in empowering women by providing them with business training, networking opportunities, and policy advocacy to improve their working conditions. By

strengthening women's participation in economic activities, both NCHR and the Women's Chamber aim to create a more inclusive and equitable economic landscape where women entrepreneurs and home-based workers can thrive.



MoU between Multan Chamber & NCHR

Session on Mental Well-being of Officials Handling Human Rights Complaints

NCHR organized an insightful session focused on the mental well-being of officials, particularly those who handle human rights complaints on a daily basis. The session was designed to address the emotional and psychological challenges faced by human rights officers in their line of work.

Dr. Malik Nohman led the session, shedding light on the importance of mental health and the strategies that can be employed to support officials working under high-pressure environments.

Chairperson Rabiya Javeri's Address at Aawaz II Forum

Chairperson Rabiya Javeri spoke at the Aawaz II Forum titled "Sustaining Progress: Integrating Behaviour Change and Community Engagement in Policy and Programming for GBV, Child Marriage, and Social Cohesion." During her address, she highlighted the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR)'s ongoing initiatives

in addressing gender-based violence (GBV), child marriage, and fostering social cohesion. She emphasized the importance of integrating community engagement and behavior change in the design and implementation of policies and programs aimed at these critical issues.

NCHR HEAD OFFICE

Photo Gallery



Chairperson NCHR speaks about the rights of foreign prisoners in Pakistan and beyond.



Chairperson NCHR with SUHAKAM, advocating for Pakistani migrants' rights in Malaysia and regional NHRI collaboration.



Chairperson NCHR, Members NCHR, Secretary NCHR, and the GANHRI Committee prepare to interview for accreditation with GANHRI.



Chairperson NCHR, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Secretary MoHR, and a Malaysia NHRI representative at NCHR & JPP's high-level consultation on irregular migration and Pakistani prisoners' protection.



Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University students and faculty met Chairperson NCHR to discuss launching a Human Rights Society.



NCHR, in collaboration with UNDP, women-led businesses, and home-based workers, discussed multistakeholder efforts to financially empower marginalized women.



A delegation from the US State Department visited NCHR and met Chairperson NCHR to discuss innovative strategies for women's empowerment in Pakistan.



NCHR team at the launch of "Perilous Journeys: Unravelling Irregular Migration from Pakistan".



Chairperson NCHR signs an MOU with UNIOM to advance the rights of migrants.



NCHR consults government, legal experts, and CSOs to draft rules for the Torture and Custodial Death Prevention Act, 2022.



Chairperson NCHR held a meeting with Mr. Shinohara Nobukuni, First Secretary of the Japanese Embassy, to review the human rights situation in Pakistan.



Chairperson NCHR meets with Hager Abdullatif from the Egyptian embassy to discuss women empowerment initiatives led by the Commission.

MINORITY/ICT OFFICE

Summary of Complaints, Petitions, and Suo Moto Actions

From January 1,2024 To December 31,2024		
Sr. No.	Complaints/Suo-Motu	Numbers
1	No. of Complaints carried forward	85
2	Fresh Complaints received during the period	480
3	Cases where Suo Motu action has been taken	66
	Total	631
4	No. of Complaints Disposed Off	412
5	No. of Complaints Under Process	219

Institutional Visits

Visit to Bahai Center, Islamabad

A visit was conducted to the Bahai Center in Islamabad to meet with representatives of the Bahai community. The purpose of the visit was to engage in discussions regarding the community's circumstances and identify any challenges or issues they might be facing. This meeting provided valuable insights into the concerns and aspirations of the Bahai community in Pakistan, fostering mutual understanding and support.

Visit to Rehabilitation Center, Bani Gala

A visit to the Rehabilitation Center in Bani Gala, Islamabad, was carried out on 16th September 2024. The primary objective of this visit was to recover a woman who had allegedly been held there against her will. This intervention was critical in ensuring the protection of her rights and addressing concerns related to her welfare and freedom.

Visit to Christian Graveyards, H-8 and H-9, Islamabad

On 27th September 2024, an assessment was conducted at the Christian graveyards located in H-8 and H-9 (old and new) in Islamabad. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the condition of the graveyards and the facilities available. Observations from the site visit aimed to highlight areas for improvement and ensure that the dignity and sanctity of these resting places are maintained.

Visit to Hindu Graveyard (Shamshaan Ghaat), H-9, Islamabad

On 27th September 2024, a visit was made to the Hindu graveyard (Shamshaan Ghaat) located in H-9, Islamabad. The purpose of this visit was to assess the conditions and facilities available at the site. The evaluation aimed to identify any shortcomings or areas for improvement to ensure that the graveyard meets the needs of the Hindu community and upholds the dignity and sanctity of the site. Observations from the visit will inform recommendations for enhancing the upkeep and management of the graveyard.

Charity Event for Women and Visit to Hospital

NCHR participated in a charity event organized by the Care Plus Welfare Organization and Hashir Latif Welfare Organization. The event focused on distributing warm clothes to women in need during the cold weather. Mr. Manzoor Masih, Member of Minorities at NCHR, attended as a guest of honor. Following the distribution, Mr. Masih visited Rawal General & Dental Hospital, which he found to be well-equipped, with a capacity of 500 beds for patients. This event highlighted the importance of humanitarian initiatives and the role of welfare organizations in preserving human dignity. NCHR emphasized the need for more such initiatives to protect basic human rights during times of crisis.

Legislative/Policy Interventions

1. Payment of Pending Salaries to Christian Employees

Through the intervention of NCHR, advance funds were released by the government to the Faisalabad Waste Management Company (FWMC) to disburse the pending salaries of 4,000 Christian employees. The Punjab Government released funds twice, first worth Rs. 141 million and later Rs. 190 million.

2. Allocation of Budget for Equipment Purchase

NCHR successfully influenced the Faisalabad Waste Management Company to allocate a considerable budget for equipment purchases in the financial year 2024-2025.

3. Implementation of Minority Quotas in Universities

Government universities were directed to implement a 2% minority quota, resulting in 30 universities successfully incorporating this policy.

4. Advocacy for Employment Quotas for Minorities

Emphasis was placed on the implementation of a 5% employment quota for minorities, ensuring compliance in letter and spirit.

5. Ensuring Minimum Wages for Janitorial Staff

NCHR addressed wage disparity issues, ensuring minimum wages for janitorial staff across various institutions, including Pakistan Post Office, National

Savings, Capital Development Authority, Cantonment Board, PSO, and National Institute of Health.

6. Revision of Religious Education Curricula

Through collaborative efforts, NCHR facilitated the revision and adoption of the Religious Education Curriculum for seven minority religions (Bahai, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Kalash, Sikhism, and Zoroastrianism) in alignment with their beliefs.

7. Policy Recommendations for FPSC Examinations

NCHR recommended amendments to the preliminary examination pattern of the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) that disadvantaged religious minorities. FPSC assured requisite measures would be taken promptly.

8. Addressing Discrimination in Job Advertisements

NCHR advocated for the removal of discriminatory language in advertisements for sanitary worker positions, ensuring the inclusion of minorities and recommending federal government hospitals and institutions avoid such discriminatory practices.

9. Safety Measures for Sanitary Workers

Incident in Bhalwal, Sargodha: Following the death of three sanitary workers due to exposure to poisonous gas, NCHR ensured the suspension of the sanitary inspector and emphasized the utilization of safety equipment.

10. Rights of Minority Prisoners

NCHR facilitated the amendment of Rule 215 of the Pakistan Prison Rules, 1978, allowing the Punjab Government to devise syllabus and remission policies for minority prisoners.

11. Allocation of Christian Cemetery in Swat, KPK

NCHR's intervention led to the identification of land and the allotment of Rs. 5 million for a Christian cemetery in Swat.

12. Enforcement of Minority Quota in Federal Directorate of Education

Following NCHR's advocacy and hearings, five individuals were appointed under the minority quota in the Federal Directorate of Education, which had previously failed to implement this policy.

13. Drafting SOPs for Sanitary Workers

NCHR collaborated with the Punjab Government to draft SOPs for sanitary workers, which were disseminated to local governments across Punjab for implementation.

Meetings with Government Departments & International Agencies

Provincial Coordination Focus Discussion

A focus discussion event was held to address the challenges and modes of engagement regarding the provincial coordination between NCHR and the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR). The UNDP led this event, aiming to identify gaps, duplications, and synergies between NCHR and MoHR to enhance their collaboration. The discussions raised awareness about existing challenges and provided suggestions for improving coordination. NCHR emphasized the efficiency with which MoHR and NCHR already work together but also stressed the need for stronger coordination to tackle human rights issues more effectively.

Follow-up Meeting on Provincial Coordination

A follow-up meeting on the provincial coordination between NCHR and MoHR took place. This session was organized by the UNDP to build upon the previous discussions and explore deeper insights into the challenges faced by the two organizations. The discussions focused on refining strategies for more effective collaboration, addressing previously identified challenges, and finding practical solutions. NCHR emphasized the need for a streamlined approach to avoid duplications and maximize the impact of efforts.

Prime Minister's Secretariat Meeting on Interfaith Harmony

Member Minorities of NCHR participated in a meeting hosted by the Prime Minister's Secretariat, focusing on fostering interfaith harmony in Pakistan. The discussion emphasized the importance of promoting mutual understanding, respect, and peaceful coexistence among different religious communities in the country.

Focus on Transgender Rights

Member Minorities of NCHR, representing the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), was invited to attend an insightful evening dedicated to art and social transformation organized by UNESCO Pakistan in collaboration with the Embassy of France at Khas Gallery. The event centered around discussions on the lives, challenges, and human rights of transgender persons in Pakistan.

Member Minorities NCHR Participates in Human Rights Awareness Session at National Police Academy

Member Minorities NCHR participated in an awareness-raising and sensitization session held at the National Police Academy (NPA). The session, organized by the Ministry of Human Rights, aimed to enlighten police officials on various human rights laws and their effective implementation. This initiative is part of NCHR's ongoing

efforts to train law enforcement officers on human rights standards and ensure better adherence to legal protections, particularly for minority groups.

UNESCO Focus Discussion on Art and Social Transformation

NCHR attended a focus discussion hosted by UNESCO in collaboration with the Embassy of France, centered on art and social transformation. The evening event, held at Khas Gallery, focused on the human rights of transgender persons in Pakistan, exploring how art could serve as a tool for social change. The discussions raised awareness about the challenges faced by transgender individuals and emphasized the importance of addressing these gaps through collective action and advocacy.

Civil Society Engagement

Women's Rights

Interfaith Harmony and Peace Meeting

Prime Minister's Secretariat hosted a meeting chaired by Ms. Mushaal Hussein Mullick, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, with the objective of fostering interfaith harmony and peace. Religious and political leaders from the Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, and Bahai communities gathered to discuss the challenges faced by their respective groups. The conversation highlighted the importance of overcoming religious differences and building a more peaceful society.

National Symposium on Safeguarding the Rights of Religious Minority Girls and Women

The Member for Minorities, NCHR Islamabad, attended a national symposium organized by the National Commission for Justice and Peace (NCJP). The event focused on safeguarding the rights of girls and women from religious minority communities, addressing systemic challenges, and exploring pathways for advocacy and reform.

National Symposium on Protecting Religious Minority Women

Member for Minorities, Manzoor Masih, joined Bishop Samson Shukardin at NCJP's National Symposium to discuss forced conversions and child marriages affecting religious minority girls and women.

Chairing Session on Policy Frameworks for GBV, Child Marriage, and Social Cohesion⁴

Member Minorities, Manzoor Masih, was honored to chair a session organized by the British Council and AAWAZ II. The session focused on the development and sensitization of policy frameworks addressing critical issues such as Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Child Marriage, and Social Cohesion. The discussion aimed to

explore current policies, identify gaps, and propose more effective solutions to these pressing challenges.

Advocacy Seminar on Women's Rights

NCHR organized an awareness seminar at its headquarters in Islamabad, focused on the promotion and protection of women's rights. This event was part of NCHR's ongoing advocacy efforts to raise awareness about gender equality, women's empowerment, and the protection of women from violence and discrimination. The seminar brought together key stakeholders, including representatives from government bodies, civil society organizations, legal experts, women's rights activists, and members of the media, to discuss the current challenges women face in Pakistan and explore solutions for advancing their rights.

Speakers at the event addressed pressing issues such as gender-based violence, workplace harassment, lack of economic opportunities, and barriers to political participation for women. The seminar also highlighted the role of legal frameworks, including the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act and the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Acts, in safeguarding women's rights. NCHR emphasized the need for stronger implementation of existing laws, improved access to justice for survivors of violence, and greater investment in education and economic empowerment initiatives for women.

Children's Rights

Consultation on Child Bonded Labor

Member for Minorities at NCHR attended a consultation meeting focused on addressing the issue of child bonded labor. The event, led by civil societies and commissions, brought together policymakers, human rights activists, and representatives from various NGOs to discuss this pressing human rights concern. The meeting aimed to formulate strategies for eradicating child bonded labor, highlighting the need for stronger policies, effective law enforcement, and the involvement of all stakeholders to protect vulnerable children from exploitation.

Consultation on Child Bonded Labor

Member for Minorities from NCHR participated in a critical consultation addressing the issue of child bonded labor, often referred to as modern slavery. The discussion brought together policymakers, human rights activists, and representatives from various civil society organizations to analyze the prevalence, root causes, and potential solutions for combating child bonded labor in Pakistan. Participants highlighted the deep-rooted socio-economic factors that drive children into bonded labor, including poverty, lack of access to education, weak labor laws, and systemic exploitation by powerful industrial and agricultural sectors. The consultation also examined the role of informal labor markets, where children from marginalized

communities—particularly religious and ethnic minorities—are disproportionately affected.

NCHR emphasized the need for stronger enforcement of existing labor laws, particularly the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, and called for enhanced coordination between government agencies and civil society to rescue and rehabilitate affected children. The discussion also stressed the importance of alternative livelihood opportunities for families, community awareness campaigns, and education programs that can break the cycle of intergenerational labor exploitation.

Furthermore, NCHR advocated for the integration of child labor concerns into Pakistan's broader human rights and development agenda, ensuring that national and international commitments—such as those under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—are effectively implemented. The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to monitoring child bonded labor cases, engaging with relevant authorities, and pushing for policy reforms that provide long-term protection and empowerment for vulnerable children.

Recovery of Minor Abductee

After a period of 13 months, NCHR successfully intervened to recover a minor who had been abducted from Lahore, Punjab. This intervention highlighted NCHR's commitment to upholding the rights of children and ensuring their safety, as well as its proactive role in addressing issues related to human trafficking and child protection.

Minority Rights

Consultative Session on Minority Rights

On National Minorities Day, NCHR hosted a consultative session at its head office, reaffirming its commitment to protecting and promoting the rights of religious and ethnic minorities in Pakistan. The session brought together key stakeholders, including representatives from minority communities, civil society organizations, legal experts, policymakers, and human rights activists, to discuss the challenges faced by minorities and explore strategies for fostering an inclusive and equitable society.

During the discussion, participants highlighted critical issues such as discrimination in employment, barriers to education, underrepresentation in political and decision-making processes, and the rising instances of hate speech and forced conversions. Testimonies from minority community leaders underscored the need for stronger legal protections and better implementation of existing laws, including the National Commission for Minorities Act and Article 36 of the Constitution, which safeguards the rights of minorities. The session also emphasized the importance of sensitizing law enforcement agencies and judicial institutions to ensure timely justice in cases of rights violations.

NCHR stressed the need for inclusive policymaking, urging the government to adopt affirmative action measures such as reserved seats in educational institutions,

enhanced economic opportunities, and stronger legal frameworks against religious discrimination. The session also explored ways to promote interfaith harmony, including awareness campaigns, community engagement initiatives, and dialogue between religious groups to counter intolerance and extremism.

The event concluded with a set of policy recommendations aimed at enhancing the protection of minority rights through legislative reforms, institutional strengthening, and greater civic participation. NCHR reaffirmed its dedication to monitoring minority rights violations, advocating for inclusive policies, and ensuring that Pakistan upholds its national and international human rights commitments.

Panel on Interfaith Harmony

NCHR Member for Minorities, Manzoor Masih, participated as a panelist in a dialogue on interfaith harmony organized by the Christian Council of Pakistan and International Religious Freedom. The discussion highlighted the importance of fostering understanding and respect among different religious communities.

Inauguration of Legal Aid Center in Collaboration with LRF, LAJA, and NCHR

On May 7, a Legal Aid Center was inaugurated in Islamabad, spearheaded by the Legal Rights Forum (LRF) and the Legal Aid and Justice Authority (LAJA), with active participation from the NCHR Member for Minorities. The event underscored the commitment to ensuring access to legal aid for marginalized communities, particularly minorities.

Mental Health Conference

On 1st August, NCHR Member Manzoor Masih participated as a panellist at the "Uplifting Mental Health of Vulnerable Populations" conference organized by the National Institute of Psychology in Islamabad. The conference focused on addressing the mental health challenges faced by vulnerable populations, particularly religious minorities, marginalized communities, and displaced populations.

National Peace Seminar

NCHR Member Minorities participated as Guest of Honour at a National Peace Seminar organized by the Government of Pakistan, emphasizing challenges faced by religious minorities.

Resolution of Christian Cemetery Issue

Following sustained efforts by NCHR, the long-standing issue of the Christian cemetery in KP was resolved as the provincial government allocated funds for its development. This resolution represents a significant step in recognizing and addressing minority community needs.

Visit to Krishna Mandir

Member Minorities, along with representatives from the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB), visited Krishna Mandir in Rawalpindi to inspect the site. After the visit, NCHR recommended necessary renovations to preserve the site, ensuring that it remains a vital space for the community while maintaining its historical and cultural significance.

Meeting Regarding Krishna Mandir

NCHR held an important hearing regarding the Krishna Mandir in Rawalpindi, following a complaint by the Hindu community regarding its renovation. After NCHR's intervention, the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) agreed to fully reconstruct the temple instead of merely renovating it, ensuring that the cultural and religious significance of the site is preserved and respected. This decision represents a significant victory for the Hindu community, particularly in terms of protecting their places of worship and cultural heritage.

Focus Discussion on the Jaranwala Incident

A focused discussion was held on the aftermath of the August 16, 2023 incident in Jaranwala, Punjab, involving violent tendencies among the youth of the area. The Christian Study Centre (CSC) emphasized the need for emotional support and trust-building within the community. The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) underscored the importance of a coordinated approach to address these issues, with a focus on fostering social harmony and rehabilitating the affected individuals.

Rights of Marginalised Groups

International Conference on Mental Health

Member for Minorities participated in an International Conference on Uplifting Mental Health of Vulnerable Segments of the Population at Quaid-i-Azam University, focusing on mental health challenges and support for marginalized communities.

Member Minorities NCHR Attends Session on Health and Harm Reduction Responses to Drug Use

Member Minorities NCHR participated in a pivotal session on "Effective Health and Harm Reduction Responses to Drug Use," led by the Justice Project Pakistan (JPP). The session focused on addressing the health challenges faced by individuals affected by drug use and exploring harm reduction strategies to mitigate the adverse effects on public health. Discussions emphasized the importance of creating policies that prioritize health and human rights, alongside supporting marginalized communities affected by drug use.

Meeting with CIP

NCHR Member Minorities had a meeting with CIP to discuss the challenges faced by transgender individuals in KP. The discussion highlighted the vulnerability of transgender people in the region, particularly in terms of social discrimination and access to essential services. The Member emphasized NCHR's ongoing efforts to address these challenges, including advocacy for legal protections, improved healthcare, and social inclusion.

Training Session on Human Rights Awareness for Police Officials

The Ministry of Human Rights organized an awareness-raising and sensitization session at the National Police Academy (NPA), with the participation of the Member Minorities from the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR). The session focused on educating police officials about important human rights legislation, including the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022, the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021, the Islamabad Capital Territory Domestic Workers Act, 2022, and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2018.

Focus Discussion on Disability Rights

Focus discussion on disability rights was held, with participation from key stakeholders including NCHR, NFWWD, DREAM, Potohar Mental Health Association, and STEP. The session highlighted significant gaps in the rights of persons with disabilities and underscored the urgent need for comprehensive reforms to ensure their full inclusion in society. NCHR emphasized the importance of implementing gender-sensitive laws that cater specifically to the needs of disabled individuals, ensuring accessibility in vital sectors such as police stations, educational institutions, and healthcare settings. The discussion also brought attention to the lack of coordination between various relevant authorities, including the Statistics Bureau and the Ministry of Finance, which has been hindering the effective implementation of policies aimed at supporting persons with disabilities.



NCHR participates in a consultation with STEP, a CSO focused on empowering persons with disabilities.

Advocacy & Awareness

Member Minorities NCHR, Mr. Manzoor Masih, Attends Joint Initiative for Distribution of Warm Clothes to Deserving Women

Mr. Manzoor Masih, Member for Minorities at the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), was invited as a guest at a joint initiative organized by the Care Plus Welfare Organization and Hashir Latif Welfare Organization. The event, which focused on the distribution of warm clothes to deserving women, addressed the urgent needs of vulnerable communities, especially during the harsh winter months.

The event served as a platform for both organizations to showcase their commitment to alleviating the difficulties faced by marginalized groups, particularly women in need. Mr. Masih's presence underscored the NCHR's ongoing commitment to supporting initiatives that improve the lives of marginalized communities, including religious minorities and underprivileged women. He highlighted the importance of such community-driven initiatives in promoting social justice and addressing the practical needs of those who are most vulnerable in society.

Discussion Session on Human Rights Issues

A discussion session was organized between NCHR Islamabad, its Member for Minorities, and the Nazarya Pakistan Council (NPC) to address the prevalent human rights issues both locally and globally. The session focused on identifying the most pressing human rights challenges, including those faced by marginalized

communities, and emphasized the urgent need for redressal. This dialogue aimed to foster collaboration between NCHR and NPC in advocating for immediate action to protect and promote human rights.

Speech on Youth's Role in Nation Building and Students' Rights at YDIP/PDIP Graduation Ceremony

On 3rd August, the Member for Minorities of NCHR delivered a speech at the graduation ceremony of the Young Development Internship Program (YDIP, Cohort 13) and Professional Development Internship Program (PDIP, Cohort 1), organized by the Pak Mission Society.

Tree Plantation Ceremony at Christ Church Rawalpindi

Member for Minorities of NCHR participated in a tree plantation ceremony at Christ Church Rawalpindi as part of an Independence Day event. Planting a tree, the hon. member highlighted environmental responsibility as a collective duty and its interlinkage with human rights.

16th August - Celebrations for Independence Day

NCHR Member for Minorities participated as the guest of honor in an Independence Day celebration organized by Pak Mission Society. The event focused on community empowerment and collaborative efforts to promote human rights.

Celebrating International Teachers' Day

Member Minorities participated in an event organized by the Nazariya Pakistan Council to commemorate International Teachers' Day. The event, held at Aiwan-e-Quaid in Islamabad, focused on recognizing the contribution of teachers and promoting the importance of education in fostering human rights awareness.

Event for Interfaith Harmony

Member Minority participated as a guest speaker at an event focused on promoting interfaith harmony. The event emphasized the importance of unity and respect among different religious communities, fostering a collective understanding of human rights across diverse faiths.

Event on Journalist Protection

NCHR Member Minorities attended a PCHR event on the "Digitalization of Threat Systems for Journalist Protection" as a keynote speaker. The event focused on the growing risks faced by journalists in the digital era and the importance of creating robust digital systems for their protection. Discussions centered around enhancing journalist safety in the digital age, and the need for effective, modern systems to track and respond to threats, which is vital in ensuring the continued safety and freedom of the press.

Kashmir Advisory Committee Meeting

On January 15th, 2024, a significant meeting took place between the NCHR and various stakeholders, focusing on the Kashmir Advisory Committee. The discussion centered on the pressing issues currently affecting Kashmir and the urgent need for their redressal. There was a strong emphasis on the necessity of coordinated efforts to address these problems. NCHR contributed by stressing the importance of a unified approach to human rights violations in Kashmir, ensuring that all parties work together for a lasting solution. The next steps include regular reporting, continuous advocacy, and measures to be implemented to tackle these issues.

National Networking Dinner by Pakistan Partnership Initiative

NCHR participated in a National Networking Dinner hosted by the Pakistan Partnership Initiative (PPI) at Ramada. The dinner provided a platform for stakeholders from various sectors to connect, exchange ideas, and discuss initiatives for fostering better connectivity within the country. During the event, participants discussed the importance of creating more opportunities for collaboration and networking to address human rights issues effectively.

Adwa Victory Day Celebrations

NCHR was invited to attend the Adwa Victory Day celebrations organized by the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia at Serena. Member Minorities Manzoor Masih joined the event, which marked the historic victory of Ethiopian forces over Italian colonialism.

Interfaith Iftar & Dinner Celebrating Ramadan and Fasts of Different Religious Groups

NCHR attended an interfaith Iftar & Dinner hosted by the Christian Study Centre in Rawalpindi. The event, attended by representatives from various religious communities, including the Bhaiyya community, Christians, and Muslims, celebrated the fasting periods of different faiths. It aimed to foster unity and understanding among religious groups, promoting peace and dialogue. The event was also graced by the Deputy High Commissioner of the UK, who highlighted the importance of interfaith harmony in strengthening societal cohesion.

Interfaith Iftar & Dinner Hosted by the British High Commission

The Member Minorities of NCHR was invited to an interfaith Iftar and dinner hosted by the British High Commissioner Jane Marriott at the Residence of the British High Commission in Islamabad. The event brought together individuals from diverse religious backgrounds, providing a platform for fostering mutual respect and promoting interfaith dialogue.

Judicial Mandate:

Incident in Tando Muhammad Khan

NCHR took suo moto action regarding the death of three sanitary workers in Tando Muhammad Khan and ensured safety equipment provision alongside compensation of Rs. 3 lakh for burial expenses.

Photo Gallery for Minority Office



اسلام آباد: نظریہ پاکستان کونسل کے زیر اہتمام کرس کی آج کے موقع پر قاطعہ چٹان پارک کے ایوان اقبال میں منعقدہ پروگرام میں چیئر مین میاں محمد چاہیہ، ایم این اے فرخ خان، نوید عامر، جواد فرح، ڈاکٹر مہر بخش کیشن، قاریہ سن ریش منظور، سید ویدیکر، کیک کاٹر رہے ہیں۔

NCHR Member Minorities/ICT participated in a Christmas cake cutting ceremony organized by the Nazariya Pakistan Council with different parliamentarians



NCHR Member Minorities/ICT speaks at an event hosted by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) regarding "The Role of Religions in Fostering Peace, Harmony and Justice"



NCHR Member Minorities/ICT delivered a keynote at the "Amplifying Voices" conference on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.



NCHR Member Minorities/ICT met with the Deputy Speaker of the Sindh Assembly to discuss the current situation of minorities in Sindh



NCHR Member Minorities/ICT attended a consultative meeting of PCHR titled "Women Protection Mechanisms & Inter-agency Coordination for addressing the challenges" as a keynote speaker



NCHR Member Minorities/ICT had a meeting with CIP to discuss the challenges faced by transgender individuals, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)



NCHR Member Minorities/ICT spoke at a Minority Affairs Dept. KP event in Abbottabad, raising awareness and training minority youth.



Member Minorities/ICT participated in an event of the "Weaving People to Grow Foundation" on interfaith harmony



NCHR Member Minorities/ICT attended a workshop organized by STEP at Family Court Complex in Islamabad. The workshop focused on challenges faced by women during family court proceedings



NCHR Member Minorities/ICT was the Guest of Honor at the National Peace Seminar organised by National Peace and Justice Council, Government of Pakistan, at Khatoon-e-Fatima Church



NCHR Member Minorities/ICT led a consultation with the Hindu community, focused on issues regarding illegal possession of worship places and forced conversions



NCHR Member Minorities/ICT participated in an awareness-raising and sensitization session held at the National Police Academy (NPA)

PUNJAB

Summary of Complaints, Petitions, and Suo Moto Actions

From January 1,2024 To December 31,2024		
Sr. No.	Complaints/Suo-Motu	Numbers
1	No. of Complaints carried forward	21
2	Fresh Complaints received during the period	136
3	Cases where Suo Motu action has been taken	103
	Total	260
4	No. of Complaints Disposed Off	67
5	No. of Complaints Under Process	193

Jail Visits

Under NCHR Act 2012, the Commission, or any other person authorised by it, may visit any place of detention to ascertain whether any violation of human rights has taken place or not. The Member Punjab and his team visited the following jails in the year 2024;

NCHR Member Punjab Visits Camp Jail, Lahore to Interview Juveniles Charged with Blasphemy Date: 11th January 2024

On January 11th, 2024, Member NCHR Punjab conducted a visit to Camp Jail in Lahore to interview juveniles who have been charged with blasphemy. This visit was part of NCHR's ongoing efforts to ensure the protection of the rights of vulnerable individuals, especially minors, within the criminal justice system, and to assess the conditions under which juveniles are detained in cases involving sensitive charges.

During the visit, Member NCHR Punjab engaged with the juveniles, listened to their testimonies, and assessed their legal status, as well as the psychological and emotional impact of their detention. The visit also aimed to gather information on their treatment in custody and to ensure that they were receiving the appropriate legal representation and protection in accordance with Pakistan's national and international human rights obligations, especially with regard to minors.

NCHR has been actively working on providing free legal aid to juveniles in Conflict with the Law. Through pro bono services of Advocate Haseeb Sultan Raja, approximately 132 children have been released from various jail throughout Pakistan and sent back home.



NCHR continues to provide free legal aid to release poor and destitute juvenile offenders from jail.

Charged with Blasphemy

On January 12th, 2024, a team from NCHR Punjab conducted a visit to Central Jail, Faisalabad, to interview four juveniles charged with blasphemy following the Jaranwala incident on August 16, 2023. This visit was part of NCHR's ongoing efforts to ensure that minors facing serious charges, particularly in sensitive cases like blasphemy, are treated according to their legal rights and with dignity. The team assessed the living conditions of the juveniles in detention, ensuring their rights were upheld, especially considering the psychological and physical impact of such serious allegations on minors. The team also reviewed the legal status of each juvenile, emphasizing the need for adequate legal representation and access to a fair trial.

Visit to District Jail, Lahore - Juvenile Barracks

The NCHR team from Punjab, in collaboration with the Justice Project Pakistan (JPP), visited the District Jail in Lahore, specifically focusing on the juvenile barracks. The team conducted interviews with juvenile prisoners to assess their conditions and address their rights, particularly in relation to their detention and treatment. This visit aimed to gather firsthand information on the legal and human rights challenges faced by these juveniles, including the impact of their detention and the need for improved rehabilitation measures.

NCHR Coordinator Visits District Jail Kasur to Inspect Conditions of Inmates

NCHR's Regional Office in Lahore, conducted a visit to District Jail Kasur. The visit focused on inspecting various barracks, including those for women, juveniles, and individuals accused of blasphemy. The inspection aimed to assess the conditions of inmates, ensuring their rights were being upheld, and to identify areas for potential improvement in line with human rights standards.

NCHR Punjab Conducts Prison Visits for Blasphemy Case Review

Member Punjab and the NCHR team also visited District Jail Lahore to interview prisoners charged with blasphemy. The visit aimed to assess the conditions of the prisoners, gather detailed accounts, and identify any potential human rights violations.

Inspection of FIA Lockup in Lahore

NCHR Punjab conducted an inspection of the FIA lockup in Lahore, focusing on the treatment of accused individuals held under physical remand.

Inspection of Kot Lakhpat Jail by Member Punjab, Mr. Nadeem Ashraf

As part of its mandate to monitor detention facilities and uphold human rights standards, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) conducted an inspection of Kot Lakhpat Jail, Lahore, led by Member Punjab, Mr. Nadeem Ashraf. This visit focused on assessing the living conditions of inmates, the adequacy of medical care, and the treatment of vulnerable groups, including women prisoners, political detainees, and individuals accused under blasphemy laws.

As an independent human rights body, NCHR plays a crucial role in ensuring that detention conditions comply with national and international human rights standards. By engaging with prison authorities, documenting concerns, and making recommendations for reforms, NCHR advocates for the humane treatment of inmates, improved healthcare facilities, and the protection of marginalized detainees.

This visit underscores NCHR's commitment to safeguarding the rights of all individuals in custody, addressing systemic issues within the prison system, and pushing for policy-level changes to enhance transparency, accountability, and justice.

Inspection Visits

Visit to Aminah Protection and Learning Centre

Mr. Nadeem Ashraf, Member (Punjab) of NCHR, along with Mr. Muhammad Khalid, Coordinator, and Ms. Jahanoor Sandhu, Complaints Officer, NCHR Regional Office, Punjab, visited the Aminah Protection and Learning Centre to oversee the facilities available for street children and youth. The visit aimed to assess the available resources, support systems, and services provided to vulnerable children and youth, ensuring their well-being and protection, and to further NCHR's advocacy for the rights of street children.

Visit to Child Protection Centre & School for Nomad Children

In its commitment to safeguarding children's rights, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) emphasizes the importance of supporting marginalized groups, including nomadic children. Member (Punjab) of NCHR, Mr. Nadeem Ashraf, visited the Child Protection Centre and school for nomad children on the outskirts of Lahore, an initiative run by Search for Justice. The visit aimed to assess the support systems in place for nomadic children, focusing on their education, protection, and overall well-being. This initiative aligns with NCHR's broader efforts to monitor and enhance child protection mechanisms across the country. For instance, NCHR Punjab has previously visited the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau in Lahore to oversee the implementation of child rights and ensure the provision of adequate facilities for vulnerable children.

By engaging with organizations like Search for Justice, NCHR seeks to address the unique challenges faced by nomadic children, advocating for inclusive policies and practices that uphold their rights to education and protection.

Legislative/Policy Interventions

1. Amendment In Punjab Prison Rules

The National Commission for Human Rights, Regional Office, Punjab made a reference to the Punjab Government regarding the discrimination against minority prisoners on the basis of their religion. As per Rule 215 of the Prison Rules, a remission in the sentence of prisoners is granted on the passing of prescribed religious educational exams. Muslim prisoners resultantly are entitled to remission by qualifying Nazra Quran, Taleem-ul-Quran courses and also on completing Hifz-e-Quran while the non-Muslim prisoners were not being granted remission based on Rule 215. The reason being that the syllabus for their respective religious courses had not been approved which was pending with the Home Department. NCHR viewed this with great concern as it was discriminatory, preventing minorities in getting remission in the sentence as was available to Muslim prisoners. The issue was taken up by the Member (Punjab), NCHR, Mr. Nadeem Ashraf with the Home Department, Government of Punjab. In pursuance of NCHR's follow ups with the Home Department has amended Rule 215 of the Pakistan Prison Rule, 1978 vide notification dated 20th January, 2023, whereby, the minority prisoners have also been allowed remission on the sentence on completion of prescribed religious courses.



NCHR team at Central Jail Lahore.

2. Suo-Motu Notice: Action Against Increasing Number Of Persons Using Narcotics/Drugs Across Lahore, Especially In Educational Institutions And Preventive Measures Taken

There has been an increasing trend in drug addiction in Pakistan as well as in the province of Punjab, which according to a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report is estimated as 2.9 million. Cognizance was taken by the Member (Punjab), NCHR and a detailed hearing was held which the representatives of the Police Department as well as Education Department were called for effective action for the prevention of narcotics/drug use. As a result, the Police Authorities took effective action against the drug peddlers and also cleared all the traditional sites used by the drug users and peddlers. Similarly, the Higher Education Department presented a comprehensive policy for checking the incidents of narcotics in the educational institution including colleges/universities.

3. Jaranwala Incident

As a follow up of the Jaranwala incident which resulted in the burning of churches as well as houses of the Christian community, the Chairperson Ms. Rabiya Javeri Agha, accompanied by Mr. Nadeem Ashraf, Member (Punjab) and Mr. Manzoor Masih, Member (Minorities) visited Jaranwala on 17th August, 2023 followed by subsequent visits by Member (Punjab) and Member (Minorities). On the recommendations of NCHR, not only expeditious compensation was given to the affected but the local level interfaith peace committees were also activated. Additionally, a school burnt during the riots was also included for reconstruction by the Provincial Government which was inadvertently not included in the initial survey. The Home Department was also asked to expedite the prosecution/trial of the delinquents.

4. Implementation Of Mandatory/Optional Holiday For Hindu And Christian Employees

It was reported that the Hindu and Christian employees in government institutions were not given mandatory holiday on the such as Diwali and Christmas as notified by the Government. As per the notification issued by the Service & General Administration Department, Government of Punjab. Letters were issues to the Home Department as well as relevant District Administrations to ensure the holiday for all Hindus and Christians on their holy days. The respective communities informed that due to NCHR's intervention minority communities were granted the notified holidays.

5. Building Ramps For Persons With Disabilities

A reference was made to Housing, Urban Development & Public Health and Lahore Development Authority regarding the conduction of ramps for persons with disabilities in public as well as private/commercial buildings including Banks, shopping plazas, restaurants, educational institutions, etc. In response to NCHR's recommendations responses were received from both departments regarding the completion of the construction of ramps for persons with disabilities, providing them easy access to public office while the working to ensure the availability of ramps in private/commercial buildings is underway.

6. Implementation Of The Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018

NCHR Regional Office Lahore held a consultative discussion the implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018 with all the relevant government departments including the Home Department, Punjab Police, & Parliamentary Affairs Department, Social Welfare & Bait ul Maal, Public Prosecution Department, Punjab Prisons, Reclamation & Probation Department. The meeting concluded with the recommendations made to the Punjab Home Department for the early notification of the rules for the implementation of JJSA, 2018, early notification of Justice Juvenile Committees

and Child Protection Centers and Observation and Rehabilitation Homes. Member (Punjab), NCHR also instructed the Punjab Police for the sensitization training of officers on the Act.

7. NCHR Punjab Visit to Sargodha Regarding Violence Against Nazir Masih

Member NCHR Punjab visited Sargodha to address the violence committed against Nazir Masih, a resident of Mujahid Colony, Gilwala. Discussions with local authorities aimed to ensure justice and provide recommendations for protecting vulnerable individuals.

8. Member Punjab Issues Directives to Environmental Protection Department for Wastewater Treatment Plant and Water Contamination Control

On April 19, 2024, Member Punjab issued directives to the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to ensure the operational functionality of the wastewater treatment plant in the region. The directives emphasized the importance of completing the construction of the cemented basement and other necessary measures to effectively control water contamination. These steps are crucial in ensuring environmental sustainability and public health safety in the area.

9. NCHR Punjab Hosts Seminar on Article 19-A and National Human Rights Protection Mechanisms

On May 7, NCHR Punjab, in collaboration with the Association of Women for Awareness and Motivation (AWAM) and the Department of International Relations at Government College Faisalabad, organized a seminar on the significance of Article 19-A of the Constitution of Pakistan, which ensures the right to information. The event highlighted the role of transparent governance and national mechanisms for human rights protection. Discussions included empowering citizens through access to information and the critical role of academia and civil society in promoting awareness about constitutional rights.

10. Monitoring Meeting on Human Rights Abuse Cases in Punjab

Member NCHR Punjab met with the DPO and Deputy Commissioner of Sargodha as part of ongoing efforts to monitor human rights abuse cases, particularly those involving minorities in Punjab. Discussions included updates on existing cases and strategies to ensure swift and just resolution.

Meetings with Government Departments & International Agencies

First Advisory Committee Meeting on Human Rights Issues

NCHR Punjab led the First Advisory Committee Meeting on a broad range of human rights issues, including women's rights, children's rights, transgender persons' rights, minority rights, labor rights, and more. The meeting brought together key stakeholders, such as the Secretary of the Human Rights & Minorities Affairs Department, Secretary of the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women, and representatives from various organizations including Akhuwat, PAHCHAAN, Democratic Commission for Human Development, Lahore Bar Association, Centre for Law & Justice, MUSAWI, Samaj Sewa Foundation, and AWAM. The meeting served as a platform for collaborative discussions and the development of actionable strategies to address the key human rights challenges faced by marginalized communities in Punjab.

Multi-Department Discussion on Issues Raised at Aawaz II District Forums

NCHR Punjab convened a meeting with representatives from the Ministry for Human Rights, Human Rights and Minorities Affairs Department, Women Development Department, Punjab Commission on the Status of Women, Labour and Human Resource Department, among others. The discussion focused on issues raised at the Aawaz II District Forums, including local community and minority rights. The aim was to review progress and identify strategies to address these concerns effectively at the Provincial Forum level.

Focus Group Discussion on Electoral Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

NCHR Punjab collaborated with UNDP, the Election Commission of Pakistan, the Ministry for Human Rights, and the Human Rights and Minorities Affairs Department in a **Focus Group Discussion**. The session aimed to identify and address barriers faced by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in participating in political and electoral processes.

Policy Dialogue on Preventing Mob Violence Against Minority Communities

NCHR Punjab organized a policy dialogue with government departments and civil society organizations to discuss the increasing trend of mob violence against minority communities in Pakistan. Participants explored actionable strategies to address this issue, including raising public awareness, strengthening law enforcement responses, and fostering interfaith harmony.

Review of NCHR and MoHR Mandates by UNDP-DHL

On January 4th, a crucial review was conducted by UNDP-DHL to assess the mandates of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) to identify areas of overlap, gaps, and duplication in their

functions. The review aimed at streamlining the human rights governance structure in Pakistan and improving coordination between these two key institutions.

During the meeting, Mr. Nadeem Ashraf, Member (Punjab) of NCHR, played a pivotal role in highlighting the independent nature of NCHR. He emphasized the Commission's mandate to operate autonomously, free from political interference, ensuring that it can carry out its human rights oversight functions impartially and effectively. Mr. Ashraf's remarks were instrumental in asserting NCHR's role in safeguarding human rights across Pakistan while working in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Rights and other relevant entities.

Meeting on Eliminating Child Labour in Model Districts

A collaborative meeting was organized by NCHR Punjab, UNICEF, and Oxford Policy Management (OPM) to address the issue of child labour. The meeting focused on identifying and developing two districts from Sahiwal Division as model areas for the elimination of child labour. The key objective of the initiative is to create a framework for these districts to serve as examples of successful interventions, showcasing effective strategies for reducing child labour and providing better opportunities for children in the region.

This initiative will involve a comprehensive approach that includes community outreach, legal reforms, education, and enhanced enforcement mechanisms. The meeting provided an opportunity to align resources and strategies to achieve these goals, with a shared commitment to ensuring the protection of children's rights.

NCHR Punjab, UNICEF & Oxford Policy Management Held a Consultative Session on Elimination of Child Labour in Punjab

The consultative session focused on formulating strategies for the elimination of child labor in Punjab. The involvement of UNICEF and Oxford Policy Management highlights a policy-driven approach to address child labor.

NCHR Punjab Meets with UNFPA & UNICEF on Provincial Action Plan for Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

A meeting took place between NCHR Punjab, UNFPA, and UNICEF to discuss the Provincial Action Plan for implementing the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy. The meeting focused on identifying steps for operationalizing the action plan at the provincial level, ensuring alignment with global standards.

Visit to Sahiwal on Child Labour Project Implementation

NCHR Punjab, in partnership with UNICEF, met with the Commissioner of Sahiwal to discuss implementing the Elimination of Child Labour Project in the Sahiwal Division. The visit aimed to strengthen child labor eradication efforts in the region.

Action Plan to Eliminate Child Labour in Sahiwal, Okara and Pakpattan

NCHR Punjab met with UNICEF Pakistan to discuss an action plan to eliminate child labor in Sahiwal, Okara, and Pakpattan.

Conference on Jaranwala Incident

NCHR Member Punjab co-chaired a conference with the Provincial Minorities Minister to discuss the challenges faced by victims of the Jaranwala incident. The conference aimed to identify solutions and ensure justice for affected communities.

Civil Society Engagement

Children Rights

NCHR Punjab Discussion on Child Participation Rights

NCHR Punjab held a meeting in collaboration with Search for Justice (SFJ). The primary focus of the discussion was to analyze and explore the best practices for ensuring child participation in line with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The session delved into the ways in which children's voices can be effectively heard and integrated into decision-making processes, with an emphasis on promoting their rights and ensuring that their perspectives are considered in both legal frameworks and societal development. The discussion aimed at creating actionable strategies for improving child participation in various spheres of society, ensuring their right to be heard, particularly in matters that affect them.

Meeting Between NCHR Member Punjab Nadeem Ashraf and CEO Search for Justice

NCHR Member Punjab, Mr. Nadeem Ashraf, met with Mr. Iftikhar Mubarak, CEO of Search for Justice, to discuss the critical issue of child sexual abuse in Punjab. The meeting focused on strategies to address this pervasive issue, enhance legal frameworks, and strengthen victim support mechanisms. Both parties deliberated on the importance of raising awareness, improving reporting mechanisms, and ensuring the accountability of perpetrators. They also explored potential collaborations between NCHR and Search for Justice to advocate for stronger child protection laws and improved judicial responses.

Meeting on Child Sexual Abuse Report in Punjab

NCHR Punjab, in collaboration with Search for Justice (SFJ), held a meeting to discuss the structure of an upcoming report on Child Sexual Abuse in Punjab. The meeting, led by Mr. Nadeem Ashraf, Member NCHR Punjab, emphasized the importance of integrating empirical data into the report to provide informed and evidence-based policy inputs. Mr. Ashraf instructed Mr. Qandeel, Consultant at SFJ, to gather data on registered cases of child sexual abuse, ensuring that the report would be grounded in accurate and reliable information to guide future interventions and legal reforms.

Consultative Meeting on Situation Analysis of Child Abuse in Punjab

NCHR, Regional Office, Punjab, in collaboration with Search for Justice, an NGO specializing in child rights, organized a consultative meeting to develop a comprehensive situation analysis of child abuse in Punjab. The meeting brought together experts, stakeholders, and organizations working on child protection issues to examine the scope, trends, and impact of child abuse in the province.

NCHR Punjab Initiates Collaboration for Child Labour Eradication in Punjab

NCHR Punjab convened a preliminary consultation with UNICEF and other key stakeholders to lay the groundwork for a collaborative effort aimed at eradicating child labour in the province. This consultation marked the beginning of a multi-faceted approach involving governmental and non-governmental organizations to address and eliminate child labour.

NCHR Punjab Hosts Discussion on Release of Juveniles Granted Bail

NCHR Punjab, in collaboration with Justice Project Pakistan, hosted a discussion session aimed at addressing the issue of juveniles who have been granted bail by relevant courts but remain in detention. The session brought together key stakeholders, including legal experts, human rights advocates, and government representatives, to review the status of these juveniles and explore the legal and procedural obstacles preventing their release. The discussion emphasized the need for timely implementation of court decisions and advocated for the protection of juvenile rights, ensuring that those granted bail are not unlawfully detained. The session underscored NCHR's ongoing commitment to safeguarding the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly children, within the criminal justice system.

Meeting on Eliminating Child Labour in Punjab

A meeting between NCHR Punjab and multiple key stakeholders, including the Planning & Development Department, School Education Department, UNICEF, and other provincial organizations, to develop two model districts (Sahiwal and Okara) in Punjab aimed at eliminating child labour. The meeting sought to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to create and implement strategies for eradicating child labour in these districts.

Women's Rights

Provincial Implementation Committee Meeting on Women's Marriage Rights

Member Punjab chaired a Provincial Implementation Committee meeting in Lahore, held in collaboration with Musawi. The meeting focused on enforcing women's marriage rights, emphasizing practical measures to ensure their protection and implementation. This initiative is part of ongoing efforts to uphold the legal and social rights of women across Punjab, fostering collaboration between stakeholders for meaningful change.



Hon'ble Justice Jawad Hassan, as strong proponent for human rights, speaks at the inter-provincial working group meeting on protecting women's rights in Pakistan.

Hearing on Women's Passport Rights

NCHR Member for Punjab held a hearing on allowing women passport applicants to list their father's name instead of their husband's. The hearing aimed to address discriminatory practices and uphold women's autonomy in legal documentation. Hearings are on-going with positive response from the government.

Meeting on MFLO 1961 and Women's Marriage Rights

NCHR Punjab met with the National Advocacy Forum to discuss implementation of the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance (MFLO) 1961 and ensure women's marriage rights are upheld.

Consultation on Feminist Manifesto

Mr. Nadeem Ashraf, Member of NCHR Punjab, was invited as a guest speaker at a consultation aimed at sharing the *Feminist Manifesto* with leaders and workers of political parties, media personnel, government departments, and civil society organizations. During the consultation, Mr. Ashraf presented key suggestions for advancing gender equality, emphasizing the need for a collective and concerted effort from all sectors of society to address gender disparities.

Keynote Speech at Mumkin Alliance Conference on Women's Political Participation

Member NCHR Punjab, Mr. Nadeem Ashraf, delivered a keynote speech at the Mumkin Alliance Conference, focusing on women's political participation. The conference, which brought together key stakeholders, emphasized the importance of empowering women in the political sphere and addressing barriers that hinder their participation.

Advocacy for Women Agricultural Workers

NCHR Punjab held a meeting with Awaz Foundation Pakistan CDS to advocate for the rights and livelihood of women agricultural workers, aiming to enhance protections in this sector.

11th September: Provincial Stakeholders Conference on Women Agricultural Workers

NCHR Punjab, in collaboration with AWAZ CDS, organized a provincial-level conference aimed at empowering women agricultural workers in Punjab. Discussions centered on the challenges faced by these workers and strategies for their socio-economic upliftment.

Minority Rights

NCHR Punjab Meets National Lobbying Delegation to Discuss Issues of Marginalized Minority Communities and Sanitary Workers' Safety

NCHR Punjab held a meeting with the National Lobbying Delegation to address the challenges faced by marginalized minority communities, with a focus on the concerns of sanitary workers. Key discussions included the implementation of a regular training mechanism for sanitary workers on safety measures to protect their well-being while carrying out their duties. This meeting highlighted the need for more comprehensive support and initiatives to ensure the safety and rights of these essential workers.

Discussion on Rising Religious Intolerance with Joint Action Committee on Peoples' Rights

NCHR Member Punjab, Nadeem Ashraf, engaged with members of the Joint Action Committee on Peoples' Rights in a discussion about the alarming increase in religious intolerance. The session aimed to identify actionable solutions to counter growing sectarianism and safeguard minority rights.

Meeting on Christian and Hindu Marriage Laws

NCHR Punjab met with the National Lobbying Delegation to discuss the implementation of the Christian Marriage Act, 1872, and the Hindu Marriage Act, 2017. The meeting focused on issues faced by minorities, especially women.

Addressing Minority Rights

NCHR Punjab, in collaboration with the Cecil and Iris Chaudhry Foundation, convened a meeting to discuss minority rights in the wake of incidents in Sargodha and Jaranwala.

Rights Of Marginalised Groups (Transgender)

Focus Group Discussion on Accessible Elections for Differently Abled Persons

NCHR Punjab participated in a Focus Group Discussion addressing ways to make elections more accessible and meaningful for differently abled persons in Pakistan. The discussion focused on inclusive electoral practices and identified strategies to remove barriers to political participation.

Meeting with CEO of Khawaja Sira Society

NCHR Punjab Member met with the CEO of the Khawaja Sira Society to discuss proposals for addressing the transgender community's needs and concerns.

Consultation Between NCHR Punjab, Civil Society Organizations, & South Asia Partnership (SAP) on Issues Faced by Textile Workers

NCHR Punjab organized a consultation with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and South Asia Partnership (SAP) to address the challenges faced by textile workers in Pakistan. During the meeting, NCHR emphasized its commitment to supporting textile workers, particularly in advocating for better labor conditions, workplace safety, and rights protection.

Consultation with Khuwaja Sira Society on Transgender Rights

NCHR Punjab organized a consultation in collaboration with the Khuwaja Sira Society, bringing together key stakeholders, including government officials, policymakers, and community leaders. The forum focused on developing inclusive policies that support and protect the rights of transgender individuals. Participants shared insights on addressing societal challenges and creating mechanisms for legal protection and social acceptance.

Meeting between NCHR Punjab & Khawaja Sira Society

A meeting was held between NCHR Punjab and the Khawaja Sira Society to discuss the emerging issues faced by the transgender community in Punjab. The meeting aimed to provide guidance and support to the Khawaja Sira Society in their ongoing work to address the challenges faced by transgender individuals. The discussion focused on strategies for better protecting the rights of the transgender community, raising awareness, and ensuring their inclusion in mainstream social, legal, and economic systems.

Advocacy & Awareness

Consultation on K-Electric Power Crisis

The Knowledge Forum, in collaboration with NCHR Sindh, initiated a dialogue/consultation to evolve a consensus on the Citizen's Agenda surrounding K-Electric and the ongoing power crisis in Karachi. The session focused on reviewing K-Electric's consumer policy, actions, and power generation choices, seeking to address issues that have impacted the city's residents. The consultation aimed at formulating a unified stance on the critical issues of power distribution and governance.

Launch of Monograph Report on Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018

NCHR Punjab participated in the launch of a monograph report on the implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018, organized by the Centre for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) at Forman Christian College. The event provided a platform to discuss the current state of juvenile justice in Pakistan, evaluating the effectiveness of the 2018 Act in protecting the rights of juveniles in conflict with the law.

NCHR Member Punjab Appreciates Grass-root Organization for Human Development's (GODH) Efforts for Street Children

NCHR Member Punjab attended a community event as the guest of honor, where the Grass-root Organization for Human Development (GODH) celebrated the contributions of street children by providing them the opportunity to participate in a vibrant Community Mela. The event, which aimed to raise awareness about the challenges faced by street children, gave these children a platform to engage with the community, showcasing their talents and resilience.

During the event, NCHR Member Punjab expressed appreciation for GODH's work in empowering street children and providing them with an inclusive space for expression. The celebration highlighted the importance of protecting the rights of marginalized and vulnerable children, particularly those living on the streets, who are often deprived of basic human rights such as education, healthcare, and social security.

Participation in Pakistan's Learning Festival - Final Ceremony

A member of NCHR Punjab participated in the final ceremony of Pakistan's Learning Festival, held at the Children's Library Complex. During the ceremony, the NCHR member commended the Children's Library Complex for its efforts in promoting education and learning among children, especially in fostering an environment that nurtures creativity and critical thinking. The festival provided an important platform for children to showcase their talents and engage in educational activities, contributing to the development of a future generation that values knowledge and human rights.

NCHR's Participation in Pakistan Learning Festival

As part of its ongoing *TeachHumanRights* campaign, the NCHR regional office in Lahore attended the final ceremony of the Pakistan Learning Festival, held at the Children Library Complex. The event focused on highlighting the importance of education and learning in fostering a deeper understanding of human rights. The participation of NCHR underscored its commitment to promoting human rights education as a fundamental pillar of societal development and empowerment.

NCHR Punjab Highlights Refugee and Migrant Rights at LGS Lecture

NCHR Punjab participated in a lecture organized by Lahore Grammar School (LGS) addressing the challenges faced by immigrants in the context of the global refugee crisis and migration. Member (Punjab) provided an insightful introduction to NCHR's stance and ongoing efforts to protect and promote the rights of refugees and migrants.

NCHR Engages LGS Defence Students on Refugee and Migrant Rights

Member Punjab of NCHR conducted an interactive session with students from Lahore Grammar School (LGS) Defence, focusing on refugee and migrant rights. The session aimed to raise awareness among youth about the challenges faced by refugees and migrants, the importance of protecting their human rights, and Pakistan's role in addressing migration-related issues.

NCHR Punjab & Youth General Assembly Meet to Discuss Legal Justice and Public Engagement Elaboration:

NCHR Member Punjab, in collaboration with the Youth General Assembly, organized a meeting focused on the theme "Police, Adliya aur Awam" (Police, Judiciary, and the Public). The meeting detailed efforts to bridge the gap between the police, legal society, and the general public.

Meeting with the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI)

NCHR Punjab met with CPDI to discuss *human rights issues and collaborations with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)*. CPDI proposed a session to highlight NCHR's role in promoting human rights and discussed strategies for CSOs to enhance public awareness of human rights through grassroots engagement and advocacy.

Judicial Mandate:

Suo-Motu Notice on Abduction of 12-Year-Old Domestic Worker in DHA, Lahore

NCHR Punjab took suo-motu notice of the abduction of 12-year-old domestic worker Muskan from DHA, Lahore. The Commission condemned the abduction and immediately initiated an inquiry into the case.

NCHR Visit to the Site of Lynching in Mujahid Colony, Sargodha

An NCHR delegation visited Mujahid Colony, Gilwala, in Sargodha to investigate the tragic mob lynching of Nazir Masih. The visit focused on fact-finding and advocacy for legal action against perpetrators to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Inquiry into the Death of Mst. Fatima Jahagir

Member Punjab, Nadeem Ashraf, held a hearing into the inquiry concerning the death of Mst. Fatima Jahagir, a prison inmate at Kot Lakhpat Jail. The hearing focused on investigating potential human rights violations and ensuring accountability.

Suo Moto Action on Forced Conversion of Minor Girl in Faisalabad

Nadeem Ashraf, Member (Punjab), NCHR, intervened in the forced conversion and marriage of a minor girl in Faisalabad. A notice was issued to the City Police Officer, Faisalabad.

Hearing on Custodial Death Case

NCHR Punjab led its third hearing on the custodial death case of Safeerullah at District Jail Lahore. The session, chaired by Member Nadeem Ashraf and Dr. Islamuddin Iftikhar, focused on ensuring accountability and justice for custodial deaths.

Cognizance of Maria Bibi's Brutal Murder

NCHR Punjab took cognizance of the brutal murder of Maria Bibi in Toba Tek Singh. Following investigations, all accused were arrested, and the case was submitted to the Session Court for trial.

Hearing on Complaints Regarding Environmental Pollution

Punjab Office held a hearing on complaints regarding environmental pollution caused by a tile manufacturer in Sheikhpura, which had severely affected the residents of a local housing society. The hearing included presentations from affected parties, and the NCHR issued directions to the Environmental Protection Department to address the issue.

Hearing on Unchecked Population Growth

Punjab Office held a second hearing on the issue of unchecked population growth and its negative impact on human rights, particularly the youth. Senior officers from the Population Welfare and Health Departments attended, and the session focused on finding ways to address overpopulation and improve access to family planning and healthcare services.

Photo Gallery for Punjab Office



NCHR Member Punjab led the first Meeting of the Punjab Advisory Committee.



Consultative Meeting Hosted by NCHR in collaboration with Search for Justice on Child Sexual Abuse.



NCHR Member Punjab leads a meeting regarding the case of pollution caused by the Rahim Yar Khan Sugar Mills Case.



Meeting of Implementation Reforms Committee on Women's Marriage Rights conducted in collaboration with MUSAWI.



Multi-stakeholder consultation on Eradication of Child Labour in Punjab in collaboration with UNICEF.



NCHR Member Punjab and Provincial Coordinator visited Sargodha to investigate the Case of Mr. Nazir Masih



NCHR Member Punjab inspected Central Jail, Kot Lakhpat, Lahore.



NCHR Member Punjab met with the Chief Secretary.



NCHR Member Punjab spoke at the Report Launch of "Perilous Journeys" in Lahore.



Human Rights Conference arranged by NCHR in collaboration with KhawajaSira Society



NCHR Member Punjab visited the Sundas Foundation Blood Bank.



NCHR Member Punjab conducted a hearing on Air Pollution in Punjab.

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Summary of Complaints, Petitions, and Suo Moto Actions

From January 1,2024 To December 31,2024		
Sr. No.	Complaints/Suo-Motu	Numbers
1	No. of Complaints carried forward	06
2	Fresh Complaints received during the period	133
3	Cases where Suo Motu action has been taken	09
	Total	148
4	No. of Complaints Disposed Off	39
5	No. of Complaints Under Process	109

Jail Visits

Visit to District Jail and Police Stations, including Woman Police Station, Abbottabad

Member NCHR KP, along with the Coordinator, visited the District Jail and various police stations in Abbottabad, including the Woman Police Station. The visit aimed to assess the conditions of detention, investigate any issues related to human rights, and engage with law enforcement personnel to understand challenges in upholding rights within the justice system. Specific attention was given to the treatment of women prisoners and detainees, ensuring compliance with human rights standards and addressing any identified concerns.

Visit to District Jail Mansehra

Member NCHR KP, along with the Coordinator, visited District Jail Mansehra to assess the conditions and facilities available for inmates. The jail, which has a sanctioned capacity of 690 inmates, was observed to be housing 392 individuals, including 7 females, 8 juveniles, and 1 male prisoner charged under blasphemy.

Visit to District Jail and Police Stations in Abbottabad

Member KP of NCHR, along with the NCHR team, visited the district jail and police stations in Abbottabad. The visit aimed to inspect the living arrangements of the inmates at the district jail, ensuring their basic rights and well-being were being respected. The NCHR team also assessed the conditions of the police stations and

engaged with local authorities to identify any areas for improvement in the treatment of detainees.

NCHR KP Team Visits Central Jail Peshawar for Inspection and Data Collection



NCHR KP team visits Central Jail Peshawar for Inspection and Data Collection.

On April 30, 2024, the NCHR KP team conducted a detailed visit to Central Jail Peshawar. During the visit, the team inspected various sections and barracks, with particular focus on the section for drug addicts. The team gathered data using the prescribed pro forma, aiming to assess the living conditions and challenges faced by inmates, including those struggling with substance abuse.



NCHR KP team inspects the food facilities of inmates at Central Jail Peshawar.

Visit to District Jail Swat

Member of NCHR/KP, accompanied by the Provincial Coordinator, visited District Jail Swat. The visit aimed to assess the conditions of the jail and its compliance with human rights standards, focusing on the treatment of inmates and facility conditions.

Inspection of Sub Jail Malakand

The NCHR Member for KP inspected the Sub Jail Malakand on 9th August, raising concerns about severe overcrowding. The facility, designed for 100 inmates, was found to be housing 162 individuals, highlighting systemic issues in detention management.

Central Prison Peshawar Visit

NCHR KP assessed conditions at the overcrowded Central Prison Peshawar, which houses 3,730 inmates despite its capacity of 2,200, calling attention to prison reform.

Visit to Central Prison Mardan

The NCHR KP team found overcrowding issues, with the prison housing 2,619 inmates against a capacity of 2,000. Recommendations were made to improve the situation.

Visit to Central Prison Haripur

Evaluated the conditions of condemned prisoners. Records revealed 62 inmates condemned by Military Courts and 38 sentenced to death by judicial courts, awaiting writ petition outcomes.

Institutional Visits

Visit to Zamung Kor (Institute for Protection of Street Children), Peshawar

The Coordinator of NCHR KP visited Zamung Kor, an institute dedicated to the protection and welfare of street children in Peshawar. The visit involved a comprehensive tour of the facility, including educational and sports centers, classrooms, and hostels. The purpose was to assess the quality of services provided to street children, ensure the adequacy of facilities, and further NCHR's advocacy for the rights and well-being of vulnerable children.

Human Rights Review of KP Police Stations

Member NCHR/KP, along with the Provincial Coordinator, visited various police stations, including Rahim Abad City Police Station. The visit aimed to review human rights conditions within the police stations and ensure compliance with standards.

Legislative/Policy Interventions

1. Allocation of Funds for Church and Graveyard in Swat

Due to the intervention of NCHR/KP, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Government has allocated over Rs. 12 million for the construction of a church and a graveyard in Swat.

2. Progress on KP Child Marriage Restraint Act

Through the joint efforts of NCHR/KP and the Child Protection and Welfare Commission, the long-awaited KP Child Marriage Restraint Act has been vetted by the Law Department of KP. A lobbying meeting has also been held with the KP Minister for Law in this regard.

3. Drafting of KP Trans Persons Protection of Rights Bill 2024

The KP Trans Persons Protection of Rights Bill 2024 has been drafted by NCHR/KP in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department of KP and Blue Veins. The draft bill has been submitted to the Council of Islamic Ideology for vetting.

4. Stakeholder Consultations on KP Persons with Disabilities Bill

Stakeholder consultations regarding the KP Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) Bill have been completed. The draft bill is now with the Social Welfare Department of KP for further processing.

5. Rules of Business for Hindu Marriage Act 2017

The Rules of Business (ROBs) for the Hindu Marriage Act, 2017, drafted by NCHR/KP, have been shared by the Local Government Department of KP with the Law Department for vetting.

6. Financial Support for Surjeet Kaur

The NCHR/KP team, in collaboration with the Blue Veins team, handed over \$3,000 (839,532 PKR) to support Surjeet Kaur, the wife of Dyal Singh, who was tragically shot dead in Peshawar. Ms. Surjeet Kaur received the cash through Western Union with the assistance of Faith Defender.

Meetings with Government Departments & International Agencies

Meeting with Hon'ble Governor KP on Minority Quotas and Tobacco Control

NCHR KP Coordinator, along with members of the Subcommittee on Minority Rights, held a detailed meeting with the Hon'ble Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The discussion focused on implementing a 2% admission quota for minorities in public sector universities and enhancing tobacco control measures, particularly in educational institutions across KP. The Hon'ble Governor instructed the Chief

Secretary KP to convene a meeting with the NCHR team and take the necessary actions.

Meeting with Chief Secretary KP on Minority Quotas and Tobacco Control

Following the Governor's directions, the NCHR KP Coordinator and Subcommittee members met with the Chief Secretary of KP on January 12, 2024. The team briefed him on the issues of the 2% admission quota for minorities in public universities and tobacco control in KP's educational institutions, seeking prompt action on these matters.

Engagement with DIG Investigation on Transgender Rights

Members of the NCHR Subcommittee on Transgender Rights, led by Mr. Rizwan Ullah (Coordinator, NCHR), held a meeting with Mr. Zaib Ullah Khan (DIG Investigation). The meeting was attended by Ms. Nuzhat Taskeen (Senior Legal Officer, KP Ombudsperson), Ms. Uzma Mehboob (Consultant, UNDP), and transgender activists Ms. Arzu and Ms. Sobia Khan. The DIG was accompanied by Ms. Aneela (AIG Gender) and Mr. Osama (SSP Investigation). The discussion aimed to address issues related to the transgender community and strengthen collaboration between stakeholders.

Follow-Up Meeting with Hon'ble Governor KP on Minority Quotas

NCHR KP team and Subcommittee on Minority Rights met with the Hon'ble Governor KP to discuss progress on implementing the 2% admission quota for minorities in 34 public universities and the 5% job quota for religious minorities. The issue of "VAPES" was also discussed.

With NCHR KP's efforts, the Governor's Office pledged to launch an Online Campus Management System to monitor compliance with the 2% admission quota for minorities across public universities. This system will feature data on women, minorities, and persons with disabilities (PWDs), ensuring rigorous oversight of quota implementation. Any non-compliance issues will be resolved within 10 days to guarantee enforcement.

Meeting with Secretary Social Welfare on Pending Legislation

NCHR KP team met with the Secretary of Social Welfare to discuss pending legislation concerning the Transgender Community and Intersex Persons (Welfare, Empowerment, and Protection of Rights Act 2022). The team also briefed the Secretary on the delayed legislation regarding Persons with Disabilities in KP.

Advisory Committee Meeting on Child Rights

NCHR KP Advisory Committee (Working Group on Child Rights) convened a meeting with the Minister of Law KP to address challenges posed by child marriages and advance the KP Child Marriage Restraint Bill. During the discussion, it was agreed to

organize a consultation chaired by the Minister of Law KP, involving key stakeholders, particularly religious scholars, to deliberate on the bill and decide on the way forward.

Meeting with Chief Secretary KP on Minority Rights and Tobacco Control

As per the directions of the Hon'ble Governor KP, the NCHR KP Coordinator, along with members of the Subcommittee on Minority Rights, held a detailed meeting with the Worthy Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The team briefed the Chief Secretary on two key issues affecting the region: the 2% admission quota for minorities in public sector universities and the implementation of tobacco control policies, particularly within educational institutions in KP. The discussion highlighted concerns regarding the underrepresentation of minorities in higher education, advocating for the full utilization of the reserved admission quota. Additionally, the team raised the issue of the rising tobacco use in educational institutions and the need for stronger enforcement of tobacco control regulations to protect the health and well-being of students.

Meeting on Proposed Regulations for E-cigarettes and Vapes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

A delegation from NCHR KP, Blue Veins, and Mr. Ajmal Shah, Coordinator of the Tobacco Cell KP, held a detailed meeting with Mr. Akbar Khan, Special Secretary of the Home Department of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The primary focus of the meeting was to discuss the proposed regulations concerning the use and sale of e-cigarettes and vapes in the province. The discussion emphasized the increasing health risks associated with these products, particularly among youth, and the need for stringent regulations to protect public health. The delegation highlighted the importance of enforcing age restrictions, banning sales to minors, and regulating the advertising and marketing of e-cigarettes and vapes.

Meeting on Transgender Rights with DIG Investigation

Members of the Subcommittee on Transgender Rights from NCHR, headed by Mr. Rizwan Ullah (Coordinator NCHR), along with Ms. Nuzhat Taskeen (Senior Legal Officer KP Ombudsperson), Ms. Uzma Mehboob (Consultant UNDP), and transgender activists Ms. Arzu and Ms. Sobia Khan, held a detailed meeting with Mr. Zaib Ullah Khan, DIG Investigation. The meeting focused on addressing critical issues related to the rights of transgender individuals, including the challenges they face in accessing justice and protection under the law. Discussions revolved around improving police response to cases involving transgender people, ensuring their safety and security, and enhancing the sensitivity of law enforcement officers toward transgender rights. The meeting also explored strategies to strengthen the legal framework and support mechanisms for transgender individuals, including their representation within the criminal justice system.

Meeting on Transgender Rights and Security

NCHR Subcommittee on Transgender Rights held an important meeting with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) police, including the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of investigations. The meeting focused on the protection and security of transgender individuals in the region, addressing the rising concerns around their safety and rights. Discussions included reviewing current security protocols, enhancing police training on transgender issues, and ensuring the enforcement of legal protections under existing laws.

Meeting on Human Rights Issues of Transgender, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities

A significant meeting was held, chaired by the Commissioner of NCHR KP. The session brought together key stakeholders, including Provincial Ombudsperson KP Ms. Rukhshanda Naz, Ms. Aneela Naz (AIG Gender KP Police), CEO of Blue Veins Mr. Qamar Naseem, civil society members, lawyers, and representatives from minority, transgender, and persons with disabilities communities. The meeting focused on critical human rights issues, particularly those affecting transgender individuals, minorities, and people with disabilities.

Discussion on Minority Quotas in Education and Employment

NCHR KP, in collaboration with members of the Subcommittee on Minority Rights, held a detailed meeting with the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The agenda focused on evaluating the progress of the 2% admission quota for minority students in 34 public universities and the implementation of the 5% job quota for religious minorities. The dialogue emphasized the importance of overcoming administrative challenges and ensuring equitable opportunities for minority communities in education and employment sectors. The Governor reaffirmed his commitment to facilitating the effective implementation of these quotas to promote inclusivity and equal rights for all.

Meeting on Child Marriage and Restraint Act by NCHR KP

NCHR KP organized a meeting of the Advisory Committee (working group on child rights) to discuss the Child Marriage and Restraint Act in detail. The session aimed to explore legislative gaps, implementation challenges, and strategies to strengthen protections for children in the region.

Provincial Consultation on Gender Equality

NCHR KP team participated in a provincial consultation focused on "Gender Equality through Poverty Alleviation, Institutional Strengthening, and Gender Financing." This event was jointly organized by the National Commission on the Status of Women, UNDP, UN-WOMEN, and UNICEF. The consultation provided a platform to discuss critical issues surrounding gender equality, poverty alleviation strategies, and institutional strengthening. Key themes included the role of gender financing in

addressing socio-economic disparities and ensuring women's empowerment at the grassroots level.

Consultation on Child Marriage & Restraint Bill

NCHR KP team attended a consultation jointly organized by the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), UNFPA, UN-WOMEN, and UNICEF. The consultation focused on the Child Marriage and Restraint Bill, a crucial legislative measure aimed at addressing the challenges of child marriage in Pakistan and ensuring the protection of children's rights. This event provided a platform for stakeholders to engage in discussions about the legal frameworks needed to prevent child marriage and promote the welfare of young girls.

Addressing Accessibility Issues for Persons with Disabilities in KP's BRT System

NCHR KP, in collaboration with the UNDP team, held a comprehensive meeting with officials of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. The discussion centered on challenges faced by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), particularly due to non-functional BRT lifts and professional gaps in accommodating and assisting PWDs. The meeting highlighted the urgent need to repair infrastructure and train staff to ensure an inclusive and accessible public transport system. NCHR emphasized the importance of aligning practices with human rights standards to uphold the dignity and mobility rights of PWDs.

NCHR KP Discusses Hindu Marriage Act Implementation with Local Government and Rural Development Department

NCHR Khyber Pakhtunkhwa team convened a meeting with the Director of Operations & Policy at the Local Government & Rural Development Department to discuss the Rules of Business (ROBs) of the Hindu Marriage Act. The meeting aimed to ensure the effective implementation of the Act in the region, addressing key concerns and discussing the framework for its operation. The NCHR team highlighted the importance of a well-structured approach to safeguard the rights of the Hindu community and ensure the smooth implementation of marriage laws in the province.

Focus Group Discussion on Electoral Participation of Persons with Disabilities

Member NCHR KP participated in a UNDP-organized Focus Group Discussion on enhancing the electoral participation of persons with disabilities (PWDs). The discussion aimed at policy recommendations to facilitate inclusive political engagement.

Meeting with Secretary Social Welfare on Pending Legislation for Transgender and Intersex Communities

NCHR KP team met with the Secretary Social Welfare to discuss pending legislation regarding the Welfare, Empowerment, and Protection of Rights Act-2022 for transgender and intersex individuals. The discussion highlighted the importance of

implementing this Act to ensure legal protections and social empowerment for marginalized groups.

Addressing Child Marriage in KP

The Advisory Committee on Child Rights of NCHR KP convened a meeting with the Minister of Law, KP, to discuss challenges posed by child marriages and to push for the enactment of the KP Child Marriage Restraint Bill 2019.

NCHR KP Team Holds Detailed Meeting with DIG Investigation on Transgender Issues Working Paper

NCHR KP, in collaboration with the AIG Gender and UNDP consultant, held an in-depth meeting with the DIG Investigation. The focus of the meeting was on the working paper addressing key issues faced by transgender individuals in Pakistan. The discussion revolved around developing comprehensive strategies to tackle these challenges within the legal and investigative framework, ensuring better protection and justice for the transgender community.

CNIC Renewal Complaints Hearing

NCHR Member Sindh held a hearing to address CNIC renewal complaints. NADRA representatives assured expedited processing, demonstrating NCHR's active role in resolving bureaucratic hurdles.

Consultation on Child Marriage & Restraint Bill

NCHR KP team attended a consultation organized by the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), UNFPA, UN-WOMEN, and UNICEF. The session focused on the Child Marriage Restraint Bill and aimed to discuss strategies to prevent child marriage, promote legal protections, and ensure the rights of children, especially girls. This consultation is a step towards strengthening legal frameworks and enhancing policy advocacy for the protection of children's rights in Pakistan.

Civil Society Engagement

Women's Rights

NCHR KP Team's Engagement with EVAW/G Alliance Meeting

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) KP team actively participated in the EVAW/G Alliance meeting, organized at the team's special request. This strategic initiative was conducted in the context of the upcoming General Election 2024, aiming to address critical issues related to violence against women and girls, particularly in the electoral process. The meeting focused on ensuring a gender-sensitive approach to electoral policies, safeguarding women's rights during the election period, and mitigating risks of violence and harassment against women voters, candidates, and political workers.

NCHR KP Participates in Women Manifesto Launching Ceremony

NCHR KP team participated in the "Women Manifesto Launching Ceremony" organized by the Feminist Friday Network and Aurat Foundation. The event aimed to highlight key issues affecting women's rights and to launch a comprehensive manifesto advocating for gender equality, legal reforms, and policies that support women's empowerment. During the ceremony, discussions focused on improving the political, social, and economic conditions for women in Pakistan, emphasizing the need for stronger policies to address issues such as violence against women, gender discrimination, and access to education and healthcare. NCHR KP's participation in the event reinforced its commitment to promoting gender equality and supporting advocacy efforts for women's rights at the local and national levels.

Awareness Session on NCHR Act-2012 & KP Enforcement of Women Property Rights Act-2019

NCHR KP, in collaboration with the Office of the Ombudsperson KP for Harassment at Workplace, organized an awareness session focused on the NCHR Act-2012 and the KP Enforcement of Women Property Rights Act-2019. The session targeted the religious minorities and transgender communities in District Peshawar, with the goal of educating these groups about their legal rights and protections under these two significant laws. The session aimed to empower these marginalized communities with knowledge to seek justice and advocacy for their rights.

Joint Session on Women and PWD Rights in KP

NCHR KP and UNDP DHL Gender Desk jointly organized a session addressing the NCHR Act 2012, Women's Property Rights Act, Workplace Harassment, and Psychosocial Issues of PWDs to raise awareness and enhance legal protections.

NCHR/KP and Da Hawa Lur Launch Referral Directory

NCHR/Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Da Hawa Lur organized the launch event for the Referral Directory. This event brought together representatives from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women (KPCSW), the Social Welfare Department, Police, Home Department, and Civil Society. The directory serves as an important tool for enhancing coordination and access to services for marginalized communities, especially women and other vulnerable groups.

EVAW/G Alliance Meeting in KP

NCHR KP hosted a meeting with EVAW/G Alliance, engaging CSOs, NGOs, lawyers, and media to discuss pressing gender-based violence issues, including honor killings and acid attacks.

Legal Awareness Session for Women Prisoners

The NCHR KP team conducted a session at Central Prison Peshawar in collaboration with the Peace & Justice Network. The session educated women prisoners about their legal rights and provided avenues for legal assistance.

Information Session on Human Rights Education

Conducted an informative session at the Government Girls Degree College in Bajore, focusing on human rights education and the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace. The session aimed to raise awareness about the legal frameworks protecting women and to empower students with knowledge of their rights in the workplace.

Meeting with Chairperson Khwendo Kor

NCHR KP team held a meeting with the Chairperson of Khwendo Kor, an NGO focused on empowering rural women. The discussion centered on joint initiatives aimed at improving economic, social, and educational opportunities for rural women in KP, with an emphasis on building sustainable, community-driven programs.

Provincial Consultation on Religious Minority Women and Girls in KP

NCHR KP, in collaboration with the National Commission for Justice and Peace (NCJP), organized a consultation on protecting and promoting the rights of religious minority women and girls, with a focus on addressing child marriages and forced conversions.

Child Rights

Provincial Consultation on Gender-Based Violence, Child Marriage, and Social Cohesion

The Aawaz II Programme in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) organized a provincial consultation aimed at discussing the prioritization and integration of community engagement and behavior change actions necessary for implementing policies and legislation related to key issues under Aawaz II's focus areas: gender-based violence, child marriage, and social cohesion. The event was chaired by the Commissioner of NCHR/KP.

Minority Rights

Civil Society Forum on Religious Minorities' Rights

NCHR KP organized a meeting with Civil Society Organizations in Peshawar to discuss the Rules of Business for the Hindu Marriage Act-2017, updates on the 02% Minority Student Quota, and progress on the Kalasha Marriage Bill. The session highlighted ongoing efforts to secure the rights of religious minorities in KP.

Meeting with Civil Society on Religious Minority Rights in KP

The NCHR team met with civil society organizations in Peshawar to discuss progress on issues facing religious minorities, including the Rules of Business of the Hindu Marriage Act 2017 and the 2% Minority Student Quota.

Meeting on 2% Minority Quota and Other Minority Rights

NCHR KP held a meeting with Blue Veins and Group Development Pakistan (GDP) to address issues related to the 2% minority quota, as well as concerns of religious minorities, transgender individuals, and persons with disabilities. The meeting focused on identifying gaps in policy implementation and proposing actionable solutions to enhance equity and inclusivity.

Meeting with Deputy Secretary from Law Department

KP Office held a productive meeting with the Deputy Secretary from the Law Department to review and get updates on the revised draft of the Rules of Business for the Hindu Marriage Act. The discussion was centered around addressing any remaining concerns in the legal framework before moving forward with its final approval.

Meeting with Additional Secretary of the Social Welfare Department

KP Office met with the Additional Secretary of the Social Welfare Department to discuss the ongoing challenges faced by persons with disabilities. The meeting also addressed the delay in the passage of important disability rights legislation and the measures needed to address these issues comprehensively.

Consultation on the Draft Rules of Business for the Christian Marriage Act 1872

KP Office organized a consultation on the draft Rules of Business for the Christian Marriage Act of 1872, where stakeholders provided their feedback and suggestions. The input gathered will be used to ensure that the rules are more inclusive and respectful of the diverse needs of the Christian community in the region.

Marginalized Communities/Transgender Rights

Meeting on Women, PWDs, and Trans Community Participation in Elections

On NCHR KP's request, the management of the End Violence Against Women & Girls Alliance (EVAW/G) convened a meeting to discuss challenges and solutions for ensuring women's active participation in the upcoming General Election scheduled for February 8, 2024. The session also highlighted the barriers faced by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and the transgender community on polling day, aiming to develop actionable strategies to address these issues and promote inclusive electoral participation.

Partnerships for Marginalized Communities: MOUs Signed by NCHR KP

NCHR KP strengthened its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights by signing MOUs with The Awakening, Da Hawwa Lur, Minorities Business Development Center, and Blue Veins. These collaborations focus on addressing the challenges faced by marginalized groups within Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including women, minorities, and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Interactive Dialogue on Trans Inclusive Healthcare in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The NCHR KP team attended an "Interactive Dialogue on Trans Inclusive Healthcare in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," organized by Grow Up in collaboration with Young Umang. The event aimed to address the challenges faced by the transgender community in accessing inclusive healthcare services in the province. Key discussions revolved around policy measures, healthcare access, and the specific needs of transgender individuals in terms of medical treatment, mental health support, and social integration.

International Women's Day Celebration & Launch of Psycho-Legal Aid Cabin for Transgender Individuals and GBV Survivors

On International Women's Day, NCHR KP, in collaboration with Da Hawa Lur, launched a psycho-legal aid cabin dedicated to providing support to transgender individuals and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). The cabin aims to offer psychological counseling and legal aid to these marginalized communities, helping them navigate legal challenges while addressing mental health concerns. Member NCHR KP, who served as the Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker, emphasized the importance of inclusive support systems and highlighted NCHR's commitment to safeguarding the rights of vulnerable groups.

Addressing Accessibility Issues for Persons with Disabilities in KP

NCHR KP, in collaboration with UNDP, held a meeting with Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) officials to address the challenges faced by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). The discussion highlighted issues such as dysfunctional BRT lifts and professional gaps in accommodating PWDs. The meeting underscored the need for actionable steps to improve accessibility and ensure inclusive services for all individuals.

Health Care for Transgender Community

NCHR/KP, in collaboration with "Young Umang" and "Bridge Organization," organized a consultative session on healthcare facilities for the transgender community in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The session addressed barriers to healthcare access and identified actionable solutions.

Legal Awareness Session for Transgender Community in KP

NCHR KP conducted a legal awareness session to support the transgender community, focusing on their legal rights and methods of grievance redressal. The session emphasized building confidence in seeking legal recourse and highlighted protections under existing laws.

HIV Screening and Awareness for Trans Community in KP

NCHR KP collaborated with Da Hawwa Lur in a consultation meeting to support HIV screening and treatment for the transgender community, emphasizing free access to healthcare and public awareness.

Dialogue with Civil Society Organizations in Swat

NCHR/KP, in collaboration with “The Awakening,” hosted a dialogue with civil society organizations in District Swat. The dialogue focused on bridging gaps between NCHR and local organizations to advance human rights in the district

Provincial Consultation on KP Trans Protection of Rights Bill, 2024

Hosted a Provincial Consultation with stakeholders on the KP Trans Persons Protection of Rights Bill 2024. The consultation highlighted key areas such as trans-inclusive healthcare, the protection of the rights of the trans community, and their overall well-being. Stakeholders shared their insights on improving the legislation to ensure better protections and social inclusion for the trans community.

Consultation on Persons with Disabilities Bill

NCHR KP, in collaboration with Shirkat Gah, hosted a consultation meeting to discuss the Vetted Bill for Persons with Disabilities with stakeholders. Feedback and observations were gathered to refine the legislation further.

Consultative Meeting on Legislation for Persons with Disabilities

NCHR/KP participated as a key partner in a consultative meeting organized by Shirkat Gah on 9th August to discuss legislation concerning Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). The meeting included participation from MPAs, civil society, and representatives from the Law, Social Welfare, and Education Departments.

PWD Legislation in KP

NCHR KP met with the Social Welfare Department to address challenges faced by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and finalize pending legislation through a committee.

NCHR/KP Reviews Transgender Policy Draft

NCHR/KP held a Sub Committee meeting to review the draft policy for transgender individuals in KP. The draft was discussed in detail, with members providing several suggestions for its improvement. The meeting focused on enhancing the policy's inclusivity and ensuring that it fully addresses the rights and challenges faced by transgender individuals in the region.

Consultation on Transgender Rights Draft Bill

NCHR KP collaborated with the Social Welfare Department and Blue Veins for a consultation with the transgender community on the “Draft Bill on Protection of Transgender Person Rights.

Meeting with SP City Peshawar

A meeting involving NCHR KP, the Additional Inspector General of Gender, female police officials, and transgender community representatives aimed to address their challenges, including CNIC registration and workplace harassment.

Tobacco Control

Public Health Stakeholders' Consultation on E-cigarettes and Vapes in KP

NCHR KP team participated in a Public Health Stakeholders' Consultation organized by Blue Viens. The consultation focused on discussing the proposed regulations around e-cigarettes and vapes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During the meeting, participants explored issues related to public health, youth engagement, and the need for effective regulation to reduce the harmful effects of these products. The NCHR's involvement highlighted its commitment to protecting public health and human rights, particularly concerning young people's well-being.

NCHR KP Participates in Joint Stakeholder Consultation on Tobacco Vendor Licensing Policy Reforms

NCHR KP participated in a joint stakeholder consultation focused on strengthening policy reforms around tobacco vendor licensing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The discussion highlighted the importance of regulating tobacco sales and ensuring that the licensing process aligns with health and safety standards.

Advocacy & Awareness

NCHR KP, in Collaboration with UNDP, Organizes Advocacy & Sensitization Session on Mental Health, Psycho-Social and Legal Aid Services

National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) team, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), organized an important Advocacy and Sensitization Session focused on Mental Health, Psycho-Social Support, and Legal Aid Services. The session was held at the Gender Desk and aimed at strengthening the referral mechanisms available for individuals in need of these critical services.

Key objectives of the session included: Raising Awareness on Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support, Enhancing Legal Aid Services, Strengthening Referral Mechanisms, Cross-Sector Collaboration.

Participation in Awareness Session on KP Enforcement of Women Property Rights Act-2019

The NCHR KP team participated in an "Awareness Session" organized by the Office of the Ombudsperson KP for Harassment at the Workplace. The session focused on the KP Enforcement of Women Property Rights Act-2019, aiming to raise awareness

about the legal rights of women related to property ownership and inheritance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Advocacy & Sensitization Session for KP Police Force

NCHR KP organized an advocacy and sensitization session for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) police force to raise awareness about the challenges faced by transgender individuals. The session also provided a comprehensive overview of the NCHR Act, highlighting the rights of marginalized groups and the responsibilities of law enforcement agencies in ensuring human rights protection.

NCHR KP and Blue Veins Host Eid-al-Fitr and Baisakhi Celebration

NCHR Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in collaboration with Blue Veins Pakistan, hosted a joint celebration of Eid-al-Fitr and Baisakhi. The event aimed to promote interfaith harmony and celebrate Pakistan's rich religious diversity. Participants from various faith communities gathered to share cultural traditions, fostering a spirit of unity and mutual respect.

Awareness Session on Human Rights Education

KP Office held an awareness session at Government Degree College in Tangi, aiming to promote the importance of human rights education in fostering a tolerant and inclusive society. The session encouraged students to understand the role of human rights in creating peaceful, respectful communities.

Legal Training on Empowering Educators

NCHR/KP & The Awakening conduct a legal training on "Empowering Educators" for Secondary female school teachers of district Swat, organized by the Awakening. On that occasion, Coordinator NCHR/KP briefed the teachers about their rights and providing information on how to address their grievances. Furthermore, role of NCHR for the promotion & protection of human rights across Pakistan was also discussed in detail.

Awareness Session with Students

NCHR/KP conducted a joint session with The Awakening at Govt Girls Post Graduate College Saidu Sharif District Swat. The session was attended by more than 180 girl students of BS, Intermediate and staff members. The students were briefed about their basic rights, NCHR Act- 2012, Harassment Law, Inheritance law & overall Human Rights machinery working in KP Province. The students exhibited keen interest and raised numerous questions, particularly regarding the Child laws, Domestic Violence Bill & Harassment of Women at Workplace Act-2010.

Consultative Meeting on the State of Implementation of Hindu Marriage Act 2018

NCHR KP organized a consultative meeting to assess the state of implementation of the Hindu Marriage Act 2018. The meeting brought together key experts, including members of Aawaz II, Faith Friends, Aurat Foundation, and legal experts, to discuss the challenges and progress in the enforcement of the Act. The meeting served as a platform to identify barriers in the implementation process, discuss potential legal and administrative reforms, and develop strategies for ensuring that the Act effectively addresses the needs of the Hindu community in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

National Action Plan on Business & Human Right

Member NCHR KP participated in a provincial consultation on the National Action Plan on Business & Human Rights, organized by MOHR and UNDP, addressing the alignment of business practices with human rights.

Legal Awareness Sessio

NCHR/KP participated in a legal awareness session organized by PJN, EU, and UNDP as part of the Deliver Justice project for inmates at Central Prison Peshawar.

Provincial Consultation on KP Trans Persons Protection of Rights Bill

NCHR/KP, Blue Veins, and the Social Welfare Department KP jointly organized a provincial consultation on the KP Trans Persons Protection of Rights Bill 2024, focusing on trans-inclusive healthcare.

Awareness Session at Hindu Temple, Peshawa

NCHR/KP conducted an awareness session at a Hindu temple in Peshawar to sensitize the local Pandits and community members about NCHR's mandate and functions, with 20 Pandits in attendance. [Word-report]

Workshop for Madrassa Student

NCHR KP organized a workshop for madrassa students on social cohesion and interfaith harmony.

Judicial Mandate

NCHR KP team filed complaints on behalf of over 150 women from Swat who were denied their property rights at an Open Court in Kalam. This legal action aims to address the systemic denial of rights and ensure that women in the region have access to their rightful inheritance and property ownership.

Photo Gallery for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Office



Member NCHR KP inspected District Jail Abbottabad and various police stations, including the Woman Police Station



Member NCHR KP, along with the Provincial Coordinator, visited the District Jail Mansehra to assess the conditions and facilities available for inmates



Member NCHR KP and the Provincial Coordinator visited District Jail Swat to assess the conditions of the jail



NCHR Member KP along and the Provincial Coordinator visited Zamung Kor, an institute dedicated to the protection and welfare of street children in Peshawar. (March 11, 2024)



NCHR led a consultation for the drafting of legislation for the protection of Transgender persons in KP in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department of KP and Blue Veins.



NCHR KP Coordinator briefed the forum on the Hindu Marriage Act and pending Rules of Business at the Aawaz II – 16th KP Provincial Forum Meeting.



Members of the NCHR Subcommittee meeting with Mr. Zaib Ullah Khan (DIG Investigation) on Transgender Rights.



NCHR KP attended a consultation on the Child Marriage and Restraint Bill, organized by NCSW, UNFPA, UN-Women, and UNICEF (Jan 24, 2024).



NCHR KP Advisory Committee met with the KP Law Minister to discuss child marriage and the KP Child Marriage & Restraint Bill 2019.



NCHR KP and the Minority Rights Subcommittee met with the KP Governor to discuss the implementation of minority admission and job quotas.



NCHR KP and the KP Ombudsperson's Office held an awareness session on the NCHR Act 2012 and the KP Women Property Rights Act 2019.



NCHR KP and UNDP met with transgender persons to address their grievances.

BALUCHISTAN

Summary of Complaints, Petitions, and Suo Moto Actions

From January 1,2024 To December 31,2024		
Sr. No.	Complaints/Suo-Motu	Numbers
1	No. of Complaints carried forward	00
2	Fresh Complaints received during the period	35
3	Cases where Suo Motu action has been taken	84
	Total	119
4	No. of Complaints Disposed Off	88
5	No. of Complaints Under Process	31

Jail Visits

Visit to Hudda Jail: Engaging with Women Involved in Drug Trafficking



Member NCHR Balochistan and the Research Officer visited Hudda Jail to engage with and interview women involved in drug trafficking. This visit aimed to assess the conditions and challenges faced by these women, with a focus on their human rights, rehabilitation opportunities, and the socio-economic factors contributing to their involvement in such criminal activities.

Member NCHR Balochistan Conducts Interviews with Women Prisoners at Hudda Central Jail

Member NCHR Balochistan, Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb, alongside Research Officer Ms. Neelam Aziz and Coordinator Mr. Ali Raza, visited Hudda Central Jail. The team conducted in-person interviews with women prisoners confined under Section 9-C, as part of ongoing efforts to assess their conditions and ensure their rights are upheld. This visit was aimed at gathering firsthand information to address the challenges faced by incarcerated women and advocate for improvements in the prison system.

Member NCHR Balochistan Visits Hudda Central Jail

Member NCHR Balochistan, accompanied by interns from the Social Work Department at the University of Balochistan, visited Hudda Central Jail. Concerns raised by the delegation, including suggestions for improving conditions, were positively received by the Jail Superintendent.

NCHR Balochistan Assesses Conditions at Central Jail Quetta

NCHR Balochistan conducted a visit to Central Jail Quetta to assess the conditions and ensure human rights compliance. This visit aimed to evaluate the overall state of the prison system, focusing on issues related to inmate rights and conditions. The delegation inspected various facilities, including barracks, medical units, and vocational training centers, to assess whether the prison environment met national and international human rights standards. Special attention was given to vulnerable groups, including women, juveniles, and detainees with health conditions, to ensure their specific needs were being met.

During discussions with prison authorities, NCHR emphasized the importance of improving healthcare services, ensuring access to legal aid, and addressing overcrowding. The visit also included interactions with inmates to understand their grievances and gather first-hand information on issues such as access to clean water, sanitation, and rehabilitation programs. NCHR's findings will contribute to policy recommendations aimed at strengthening prison reforms, enhancing transparency, and ensuring that detention conditions align with human dignity and fundamental rights.

Visit to Quetta District Jail Juvenile Section

NCHR Balochistan visited Quetta District Jail's juvenile section, noting concerns about juveniles involved in drug-related crimes and advocating for rehabilitation-focused approaches. The Commission noted with concern the lack of implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act 2018 and emphasized the need for a child-sensitive justice system that prioritizes education, psychological support, and skill development over punitive measures. During the visit, NCHR engaged with prison authorities to assess

the availability of counseling services, vocational training programs, and reintegration initiatives aimed at preventing recidivism.

Additionally, the Commission highlighted the importance of diversion programs and alternative sentencing mechanisms as per JJSA to keep juveniles out of the prison system whenever possible. Recognizing the vulnerability of young offenders, NCHR urged stakeholders to strengthen legal safeguards, enhance coordination with child protection agencies, and ensure that juvenile detention facilities meet international human rights standards. NCHR Balochistan visited Quetta District Jail's juvenile section, noting concerns about juveniles involved in drug-related crimes and advocating for rehabilitation-focused approaches.

Institutional Visits

Visit to Special Educational Complex (SEC) by NCHR Balochistan

Member NCHR Balochistan, Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb, accompanied by interns from the Social Work Department, University of Balochistan, visited the Special Educational Complex (SEC) under the Social Welfare Department. The visit highlighted areas for improvement in education and support for children with special needs. Recommendations provided by NCHR were positively received by the Director of SEC

Visit to Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University

NCHR Balochistan Member visited Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University to discuss the promotion of human rights education. The visit aimed at raising awareness among students about the significance of human rights and how they can actively contribute to societal change through informed advocacy and action.

Legislative/Policy Interventions

1. NCHR Balochistan Commended for Efforts in Rescuing Abducted Mine Workers in Duki

The Commission's proactive intervention included coordination with law enforcement agencies to ensure the safe recovery of seven mine workers abducted in Duki, and a focus on improving workplace safety protocols. The General Secretary of the Pakistan Workers Federation extended appreciation to the NCHR Balochistan team for their pivotal role in the rescue.

2. Collaboration with Social Welfare Department for Disability Council Reactivation

NCHR Balochistan and the Social Welfare Department convened to reactivate the Provincial Council for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (PDWs) under the Balochistan Disability Act. The collaboration seeks to enhance the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities.

3. Advocacy for Child Marriage Restraint Bill

NCHR Member Balochistan, Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb, met with Deputy Speaker of the Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola, to advocate for the swift passage of the Child Marriage Restraint Bill.

4. Consultation on Transgender Policy in Balochistan

NCHR Balochistan and Forum for Dignity Initiatives (FDI) convened a dialogue to discuss the working draft of the Transgender Policy for Balochistan, engaging diverse stakeholders.

5. Advisory Committee Meeting On Critical Issues

NCHR Balochistan convened an Advisory Committee meeting to review progress on critical issues, particularly focusing on Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). The discussion included the need for a one-window operation for disability certificates, the establishment of a dedicated NADRA desk, and the creation of accessible spaces on inter-provincial routes. The meeting underscored the urgency of addressing accessibility and documentation barriers faced by individuals with disabilities in Balochistan.

6. Provincial Jirga

NCHR Balochistan organized a provincial Jirga to discuss harmful traditional practices against women. The Jirga involved community leaders, activists, and policymakers who collaboratively explored strategies to eliminate harmful practices like early marriages and honor killings, advocating for more equitable social structures in Balochistan.

Meetings with Government Departments & International Agencies

Renewal of MOU on Human Rights Education Between NCHR and HEC

On January 3rd, a significant meeting took place between NCHR Balochistan Member Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb, Dr. Mukhtiar Ahmad, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Asif Hussain (Director at HEC), and Mr. Ahsan Kazmi, Coordinator of NCHR ICT. The meeting focused on the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) aimed at strengthening the collaboration on human rights education in Pakistan.

Consultation on Women's Rights in Balochistan

Member NCHR Balochistan participated in a consultation on women's rights with NCSW, UNICEF, UNFPA, and UN Women. During the consultation, Member Balochistan contributed to developing fact-based reports aimed at reflecting a holistic picture of women's economic situation in the province.

Networking Meeting with Duty Bearers in Quetta

Member NCHR Balochistan joined a Networking Meeting with Duty Bearers organized by Shirkat Gah (SG) at Quetta Press Club. The meeting discussed gender-equal laws, policies, and democratic institutions.

Meeting with Divisional Railways Superintendent on PWD Concerns

NCHR Balochistan convened a meeting on 7th August with the Divisional Superintendent of Railways to discuss accessibility and rights issues faced by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Balochistan.

Community Awareness and Women Empowerment Session in Quetta

NCHR Balochistan, in collaboration with Breaking Barrier Women (BBW) and UN Women, organized a session in Quetta on community awareness and women empowerment. Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb served as the chief guest. This session emphasized gender equality and strengthening women's roles within the community.

Meeting with EU Delegation on GBV

In a concerted effort to combat gender-based violence (GBV) in Balochistan, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) Balochistan engaged in a strategic meeting with civil society organizations (CSOs) and a delegation from the European Union (EU). This collaborative dialogue provided a platform for NCHR to share its insights and delineate its pivotal role in addressing GBV within the province.

During the discussions, NCHR underscored its commitment to monitoring human rights violations, advocating for survivors, and influencing policy reforms to enhance protective measures against GBV. The EU delegation reaffirmed its dedication to supporting Pakistan in fulfilling its human rights obligations, particularly concerning women's rights and the elimination of GBV. This meeting exemplifies a unified approach to strengthening human rights frameworks and implementing effective strategies to mitigate GBV in Balochistan.

NCHR Balochistan Meeting with Ministry of Human Rights Officials

Member NCHR Balochistan hosted a meeting with Director General of the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR), Mr. Sattar, and the Director of the Regional Office Quetta, Mr. Asfandiyar Badini. They discussed plans to conduct joint visits to remote districts in Balochistan to assess the human rights situation, focusing on marginalized communities and vulnerable groups.

Promotion of Children's Rights at Consultative Meeting

Member NCHR Balochistan presented key points for the promotion of children's rights during a consultative meeting led by the National Commission on the Rights of the Child (NCRC). The meeting aimed to discuss and enhance strategies for advancing

children's rights in Pakistan, focusing on issues such as child protection, education, and health.

NCHR Balochistan's Participation in Consultative Meeting on Human Rights Promotion and Protection

The NCHR Balochistan team participated in a Consultative Meeting on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Balochistan, led by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), Government of Balochistan. The meeting provided an opportunity for key stakeholders to discuss strategies for enhancing human rights protections in the province. NCHR expressed its commitment to collaborating with the SWD and other stakeholders to address critical human rights issues and strengthen the framework for protecting and promoting human rights in Balochistan.

Ensuring Accessible Elections for PWDs

NCHR participated in a discussion on “From Policy to Practice; Making Elections Accessible and Meaningful for PWDs in Pakistan,” organized by UNDP Islamabad. Member NCHR Balochistan, Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb, was requested to lead the group in formulating an action plan to safeguard the electoral rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

MOU Signing Between NCHR Balochistan and BRSP

NCHR Balochistan signed an MOU with the Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP) on 6th August. The agreement outlined areas of mutual collaboration to uphold the rights of vulnerable populations in the province.

Meeting with Deputy Speaker on Ombudsperson Appointment

NCHR Balochistan Member Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb met with the Deputy Speaker of the Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola, to discuss appointing an Ombudsperson and strengthening the Women's Caucus to address gender-specific issues effectively.

Meeting with Secretary of Social Welfare

The NCHR Balochistan team met with the Secretary of Social Welfare to discuss critical initiatives such as reviving old-age homes, establishing a skills center at Dar-ul-Aman, and resolving issues with PWD certification processes.

Meeting with DS Railways

NCHR Balochistan met with the Deputy Superintendent of Railways to discuss improved facilities for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) at train stations and on trains. During the meeting, NCHR highlighted the necessity for accessible infrastructure, such

as ramps, dedicated counters, and reserved seating, to facilitate the mobility and comfort of PWDs.

This discussion aligns with recent initiatives by Pakistan Railways, which, as of November 2024, introduced a 50% fare concession for disabled individuals traveling on all express and passenger trains, excluding the Green Line. To avail this discount, passengers must present a Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) bearing the disability logo. Additionally, attendants accompanying visually impaired passengers are also eligible for the fare reduction.

Despite these positive steps, reports indicate that many stations still lack essential facilities, such as dedicated counters, ramps, or seats to assist passengers with restricted mobility. NCHR's engagement with railway authorities aims to address these gaps, ensuring that infrastructural improvements complement fare concessions, thereby promoting an inclusive and dignified travel experience for all passengers.

Gender Equality Workshop for BRSP Staff

A workshop was held for Balochistan Rural Support Programme staff, where NCHR Member Balochistan served as the master trainer. The session emphasized gender equality and protection against sexual exploitation and harassment.

Meeting with HADO and IG Prisons

NCHR Balochistan and HADO met with the IG of Prisons to discuss skill-building programs for women and juvenile inmates, including IT training, painting, and sports.

Meeting with Superintendent Central Jail, Quetta

NCHR Balochistan Member met with the Superintendent of Central Jail Huda, Quetta, to discuss initiatives for providing technical skills to female prisoners and juveniles.

Meeting with Secretary P&D

NCHR Balochistan discussed the deferment of essential schemes for prisoners with the Secretary P&D, focusing on inmates' basic needs and well-being.

Meeting with DG NAVTCC

Member Balochistan met with the Director General of NAVTTC Quetta to propose skill training programs for juvenile and female inmates at Huda District Jail. The goal of the program is to equip these individuals with valuable skills to aid their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Civil Society Engagement

Child Rights

Collaborative Meeting on Rehabilitation of Juvenile Offenders and Human Rights Education

Member NCHR Balochistan led a meeting focused on the rehabilitation and betterment of juvenile offenders and the promotion of human rights education at the basic level. The session emphasized collaborative initiatives involving NCHR, Muslim Charity, and ICON to improve conditions for juvenile offenders in Quetta Jail. Discussions included strategies for providing educational opportunities, psychological support, and life skills to juvenile inmates to facilitate their reintegration into society. The collaboration also aims to incorporate human rights education into foundational learning programs to promote awareness among young individuals.

Advisory Group Meeting in Balochistan

NCHR Balochistan convened an Advisory Group Meeting to address critical issues such as child abuse, domestic child labor, and drug rehabilitation. The group also discussed strategies to mitigate these concerns and enhance protection measures.

Dialogue on Minority Children's Issues

NCHR Balochistan conducted a dialogue focusing on the challenges faced by children from minority communities, highlighting issues such as discrimination, limited access to quality education, lack of legal protection, and economic marginalization. The session provided a platform for representatives from minority groups, child rights advocates, and community leaders to voice their concerns, share lived experiences, and propose solutions to address systemic barriers. Participants emphasized the urgent need for inclusive policies, enhanced legal safeguards, and proactive government interventions to ensure equal opportunities for children from marginalized backgrounds.

NCHR reaffirmed its commitment to advocating for legislative reforms, strengthening child protection mechanisms, and working with relevant stakeholders to promote social cohesion and non-discrimination. The dialogue also stressed the importance of sensitizing educators, law enforcement agencies, and policymakers to the unique challenges faced by minority children, ensuring that their rights are upheld and protected under national and international human rights frameworks.

Women's Rights:

Consultative Meeting with Taraqee Foundation (TF) on Women's Empowerment

The NCHR regional office Quetta team participated in a consultative meeting organized with Taraqee Foundation (TF) to acknowledge their efforts in creating a more conducive environment for women in Balochistan. The meeting also included

discussions on promoting the rule of law and enhancing legal literacy among women, with a focus on empowering women through education about their legal rights and the available resources for seeking justice.

Minority Rights:

Radio Programme on Media's Role in Enhancing Marginalized Groups' Rights

Member for Balochistan at NCHR participated as a guest speaker in a radio programme hosted by the Aurat Foundation. The discussion focused on the crucial role of media in advancing women's rights and the rights of other marginalized groups within the domestic process. The program explored how electronic, print, radio, and social media can be strategically utilized by political parties to raise awareness and advocate for the empowerment of women and other marginalized communities.

Consultation on Women's Inclusion in CVE/PVE Laws & Policies

Member NCHR Balochistan participated as a guest speaker at a consultation hosted by the Aurat Foundation's "Search for Common Grounds." The session focused on exploring opportunities and spaces for women's inclusion in the implementation of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) laws and policies. The discussion emphasized the need for women's active participation in shaping and implementing policies that address extremism and promote peace.

Formation of Council for Composite Heritage in Balochistan (CCHB) for Peace and Harmony

Member NCHR Balochistan led a meeting on peace and harmony, bringing together key stakeholders including Ms. Sana Durrani (Chair of Balochistan EVAW&G Alliance), Mr. Shezan William (Director of Society for Relief and Development), Mr. Gull Muhammad Durrani (CEO of Women's Today), Ms. Zara Hussain (Coordinator of Women Lead Alliance Balochistan), Mr. Sunail (Christian Study Center), and Mr. Jasbeer Singh (Sikh Community Leader Balochistan). The meeting was convened to discuss the formation of the Council for Composite Heritage in Balochistan (CCHB), aiming to promote a culture of peace and harmony through the recognition and integration of diverse cultural heritages in the region.

NCHR Balochistan Hosts Meeting for 'Composite Heritage as Tool of Peace' Project

NCHR Balochistan hosted a meeting at the Regional Office in Quetta to discuss the 'Composite Heritage as Tool of Peace' project with the Focal Person for Balochistan from the Christian Study Centre (CSC) and the Director for Balochistan from the Society for Relief & Development (SRD), Mr. Shezan William. The discussion centered on the project's goals, avenues for mutual collaboration, and the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NCHR and CSC.

Commemorating Minority Day at Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Saba

Balochistan Office partnered with the Ministry of Human Rights to commemorate Minority Day at Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha in Quetta. The event served as a reminder of the rights and contributions of minority communities in Pakistan.

NCHR Balochistan's Participation in Consultation on Climate Change and Minorities' Rights

The NCHR Balochistan team participated in a consultation meeting on Climate Change and Minorities' Rights, organized by Club de Madrid (CdM), Shared Societies, and Aurat Foundation. During the meeting, the team contributed valuable input on the Inclusive Implementation of the National Adaptation Plan on Climate Resilience 2023 in Pakistan. The discussion emphasized the need to ensure that the rights of minorities are adequately considered in the country's climate change response, particularly in terms of vulnerability assessments, adaptation measures, and access to resources for affected communities.

Rights Of Marginalised Groups (Transgender Community):

NCHR Balochistan Participates in Advocacy Meeting on Transgender Rights

NCHR Balochistan participated in an advocacy meeting organized by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) at the Quetta Press Club. The discussion focused on upholding the rights of transgender individuals in Balochistan, specifically the need for the introduction of transgender rights legislation in the provincial assembly. NCHR emphasized the

importance of recognizing and protecting the rights of transgender people, advocating for the passage of laws that would safeguard their rights and ensure their inclusion in the legal and social fabric of society.

Member NCHR Balochistan Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb Participates in Policy Dialogue on Inclusive Implementation of National Adaptation Plan (NAP) on Climate Resilience 2023

Member NCHR Balochistan, Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb, participated in a policy dialogue organized by Aurat Foundation and Club De Madrid. The dialogue focused on the inclusive implementation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) on Climate Resilience 2023 in Pakistan. Prof. Aurangzeb contributed valuable inputs on ensuring that the NAP is implemented in a way that considers the needs of marginalized and vulnerable communities, highlighting the importance of inclusive strategies in tackling climate change impacts across the country.

Meeting with HADO Team

NCHR Balochistan discussed establishing a Technical Training and Protection Center for the transgender community in collaboration with HADO.

Session on CNIC Challenges for Transgender Individuals

A session in collaboration with the Educational and Youth Empowerment Society (EYES) addressed the difficulties transgender people face in obtaining CNICs, sharing individual experiences and solutions.

Discussion on Electoral Participation Among Women

Balochistan Office took part in a discussion focused on increasing electoral participation among women and people with disabilities. The conversation centered on how to create a more inclusive electoral process, including reducing barriers and ensuring accessibility at polling stations.

Labour Rights:

NCHR Balochistan Commemorates Labour Day with Focus on Workforce Rights

NCHR Balochistan organized a Labour Day event at the Regional Office in Quetta. The gathering highlighted critical workforce rights, featuring labor leaders who addressed pressing issues faced by workers. Discussions included challenges within the labor sector and proposed actionable solutions to improve conditions.

Fieldwork Visit to Habibullah Coal Mines

NCHR Balochistan facilitated a fieldwork visit for **Social Work Department interns** from the University of Balochistan to the **Habibullah coal mines**. The visit, led by Member NCHR Balochistan and the Director of MoHR Regional Office Quetta, involved discussions on human rights concerns in the mining sector. Recommendations were shared with the mine manager and progress updates were provided.

Coal Mine Labourers' Rights Meeting in Balochistan

NCHR Balochistan, in partnership with the Taraquee Foundation, met with coal mine labor unions on 5th August. The meeting aimed to address the challenges faced by mine workers and develop solutions for their welfare, including awareness about free health facilities.

Advocacy & Awareness

NCHR Balochistan Team's Participation in Closing Ceremony of Women's Voice & Leadership-Pakistan Project

NCHR Balochistan team participated in the closing ceremony of the *Women's Voice & Leadership-Pakistan* project, where they acknowledged the significant efforts of *Breaking Barriers Women*, a leading organization dedicated to empowering women and creating a more conducive environment for their advancement. The project, which has focused on supporting women's leadership and advocacy in various sectors, culminated in an event that celebrated the achievements of participating organizations and highlighted the importance of continuous efforts in advancing women's rights and gender equality.

Member Balochistan Meets Director of Balochistan Aurat Foundation at NCHR Regional Office Quetta

NCHR Balochistan's Member met with the Director of Balochistan Aurat Foundation at the NCHR Regional Office in Quetta to discuss potential collaborative efforts aimed at improving the conditions for women and juvenile inmates in Balochistan's jails. The meeting focused on identifying key challenges and discussing strategies for enhancing rehabilitation programs, improving living conditions, and protecting the rights of female and juvenile prisoners in the region.

NCHR Balochistan Team Participates in Ceremony Organised by Taraquee Foundation

NCHR Balochistan team participated as guests at a ceremony organized by the Taraquee Foundation, celebrating the launch of their website "Her Legal Rights". The event was focused on empowering women and girls in Balochistan by helping them understand their legal rights and advocating for their ability to fight for those rights. NCHR appreciated the efforts of the Taraquee Foundation in advancing gender equality and supporting women's legal literacy in the region.

National "Her Climate Conference" in Quetta

In a concerted effort to address the intersection of gender and climate change, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) Balochistan and the Forum for Dignity Initiatives (FDI) jointly organized a two-day National "Her Climate Conference" in Quetta on July 2-3, 2024.

Hosted at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences (BUIEMS), the conference aimed to advocate for gender-sensitive climate justice and strategize on enhancing women's leadership in climate change mitigation and adaptation across Pakistan. The event brought together policymakers, environmental experts, civil society representatives, and community

leaders to deliberate on the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and the necessity for inclusive policy frameworks.

Discussions underscored the importance of integrating gender perspectives into national and provincial climate policies, as emphasized in the Balochistan Climate Change Policy. Recommendations from the conference were compiled for submission to federal and provincial governments, aiming to influence legislative reforms and promote effective, gender-responsive climate action.

Participation in Feminist Conference on Protection & Promotion of Women's Rights

Member NCHR Balochistan participated as a panelist at a Feminist Conference organized by the National Organization for Working Communities (NOWCommunities) under the FemConsortia initiative. The conference focused on the protection and promotion of women's rights, highlighting key issues related to gender equality, women's empowerment, and their legal protection. The discussions at the event aimed to explore solutions for overcoming challenges faced by women in Balochistan and the broader region.

Consultative Meeting on Implementing the Domestic Violence Act in Balochistan

NCHR Balochistan participated in a consultative meeting organized by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) to discuss the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act in Balochistan. The meeting focused on the immediate need for the formation of Rules of Business (RoB) to effectively enforce the Domestic Violence Act. NCHR Balochistan emphasized the importance of collaboration among relevant stakeholders to ensure that the provisions of the Bill, once passed, are actively implemented.

MOU Signing for Human Rights Education Between Allama Iqbal Open University and NCHR

In a significant step toward promoting human rights education, a meeting was held between NCHR Balochistan Member Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb, Dr. Mohiyuddin Hashmi, focal person from Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Islamabad, and Mr. Ahsan Kazmi, Coordinator NCHR ICT. The key agenda of the meeting was the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for collaboration on human rights education between Allama Iqbal Open University and the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR).

NCHR Signs MOU on Human Rights with National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST)

On January 9th, 2024, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, in a meeting attended by Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb, Member NCHR Balochistan, Dr. Asif, Head of the Law Department at NUST, and Mr. Ahsan Kazmi, Coordinator of NCHR ICT. This MOU marks an important milestone in NCHR's efforts to integrate human rights education into higher education institutions and to cultivate a generation of future legal professionals and leaders who are well-versed in human rights issues.

MOU Signing on Human Rights Education between NCHR and Rawalpindi Women University

NCHR Balochistan member Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb, along with Ms. Iraj Munawar Gill, the focal person at Rawalpindi Women University, and Mr. Ahsan Kazmi, NCHR Coordinator ICT, met to formalize an MOU between the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and Rawalpindi Women University. The MOU aims to promote human rights education, enhancing awareness and understanding of human rights issues among students and faculty members at the university.

NCHR Balochistan Signs MOU with FDI

NCHR Balochistan signed an MOU with FDI covering collaborative efforts in health (menstrual health), climate (climate change education, leadership, and gender-sensitive climate initiatives), and economic empowerment. This partnership aims to address pressing issues through advocacy, capacity building, and action-oriented strategies.

Youth General Assembly Session

NCHR Balochistan participated in the Youth General Assembly session at BUIITEMS City Campus, Quetta, discussing human rights and engaging students from diverse academic backgrounds.

Meeting at Iqra University

Member Balochistan met with the Director of Student Affairs at Iqra University Islamabad to discuss ways to promote human rights education on campus. The conversation explored initiatives that could be implemented within the university setting to ensure that students are well-versed in human rights principles and aware of the global and local challenges surrounding these issues.

NCHR Balochistan signed an MOU with Balochistan Rural Support Programme

To promote human rights education, to strengthen referral mechanisms for cases of gender-based violence (GBV) & child protection (CP) and conduct awareness sessions on gender sensitization.

Judicial Mandate:

Suo Moto Action on Honor Killing in Balochistan

NCHR Balochistan took suo moto action on the tragic honor killing of Mst Wazeeran, a resident of Sohabatpur, Balochistan. The Commission swiftly intervened, highlighting the need for urgent attention to honor killings and gender-based violence in the region. This action reflects NCHR's commitment to addressing human rights violations and ensuring accountability for such heinous acts. The case is being pursued with a focus on providing justice for the victim and preventing future occurrences.

NCHR Balochistan Takes Suo Moto Action to Protect Family of Mr. Abdul Ghani in Dera Allah Yar

NCHR Balochistan took Suo Moto notice to provide immediate protection to the family of Mr. Abdul Ghani, a resident of Dera Allah Yar, Balochistan. The action was initiated in response to concerns for their safety and well-being. NCHR's intervention aims to ensure the family's protection from potential threats and safeguard their human rights.

NCHR Balochistan Takes Action on Life Threat Case of Mr. Noman Pervez

NCHR Balochistan received an application from Mr. Noman Pervez, a resident of Jinnah Town Quetta, regarding a life threat issue. In response, NCHR forwarded a letter to the Inspector General (IG) of Police Balochistan, requesting further inquiry and investigation into the matter to ensure the safety and protection of Mr. Noman Pervez. This action reflects NCHR's commitment to addressing threats to life and ensuring accountability for the protection of individuals' rights.

NCHR Balochistan Takes Suo Moto Action on Honour Killing Incident in Naseerabad

In response to the alarming incident of honour killing in Naseerabad, Balochistan, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) Balochistan has taken suo moto action. The commission swiftly intervened, initiating a probe into the matter to ensure justice for the victim and hold the perpetrators accountable.

NCHR Balochistan Takes Suo Moto Action on Murder of Bibi Humera in Kachhi Naseerabad

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) Balochistan has taken suo moto action following the tragic murder of Bibi Humera, a resident of Kachhi, Naseerabad. The commission intervened to ensure a thorough investigation into the case.

NCHR Balochistan Takes Suo Moto Action on the Murder of Aziz Ullah

NCHR Balochistan initiated Suo Moto action on the tragic murder of Aziz Ullah, a resident of Quetta. The Commission is actively investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident to ensure justice and accountability.

NCHR Balochistan Takes Suo Moto Action on the Kidnapping of Seven Mine Workers in Duki

In response to the **kidnapping of seven mine workers in Duki**, NCHR Balochistan took Suo Moto notice to coordinate with relevant authorities for the recovery of the workers and to address safety concerns for laborers in hazardous industries.

Suo Moto Action: Honour Killing of Mst. Bibi Zareena in Balochista

NCHR Balochistan took **Suo Moto action** on the honour killing of **Mst. Bibi Zareena** in Austa Muhammad, Balochistan. The Commission initiated an inquiry, demanding swift action from law enforcement agencies to bring the perpetrators to justice and uphold the victim's right to justice and dignity.

Suo Moto Action on Police Torture in Quetta

NCHR Balochistan intervened in the case of torture of a citizen by police personnel from the Quaid Abad Police Station, located at Aalamdar Road, Quetta.

Suo Moto Action on Target Killing in Quetta

NCHR Balochistan took action on the target killing of Aamir Gogi from Nawa Killi, Quetta, Balochistan.

Suo Moto Action on Murder in Quetta

NCHR Balochistan took action on the murder of Abdul Khaliq from Satellite Town, Quetta, Balochistan.

Suo Moto Action on Honour Killing Incident in Dera Murad Jamali, Balochistan

NCHR Balochistan took suo moto action on an honor killing incident in Dera Murad Jamali, highlighting its commitment to protecting women's rights and ensuring accountability for gender-based violence.

Suo Moto Action: NCHR Balochistan took suo moto action on the custodial death of 17-year-old Mr. Zubair Khan in Levies Thanna Balochistan.

Suo Moto Action: NCHR Balochistan took suo moto action regarding the murder of a taxi driver at Hazara Town Quetta.

Suo Moto Action: NCHR Balochistan took suo moto action on the honour killing of Mr. Ahsaan Ali's sister and cousin at Dera Murad Jamali, Balochistan

Photo Gallery for Balochistan Office



NCHR Member Balochistan notes down the concerns of juvenile prisoners at Huda District Jail, Quetta.



NCHR Member Balochistan and NCHR Secretary meet with IG Prison Balochistan to discuss water scarcity in the prisoner's barracks in Huda District Jail, Quetta.



NCHR Team inspects the Thana Gawal Mandi at in Quetta.



Transgender Community leaders visit NCHR Regional Office Quetta to discuss the issues and challenges faced by their community for redressal.



NCHR Member Balochistan and partners established the Council for Composite Heritage in Balochistan (CCHB) to promote peace and harmony.



NCHR Balochistan commemorated International Women's Day.



NCHR Member Balochistan joined a protest regarding the issue of non-payment of salaries of University employees.



Quetta's women's futsal team, supported by NCHR, secured second place in the Islamabad tournament. NCHR Member Balochistan joined them on their journey.



Member NCHR Balochistan met with the President and Founder of Vivere, Mr. Mike Hoffman, to discuss the issue of human trafficking.



NCHR Member Balochistan met with Ms. Julia Verena, the 1st Secretary of the Political Section of the German Embassy, Pakistan, to discuss women issues.



NCHR Member Balochistan was the chief guest at a joint event to promote interfaith harmony.



NCHR Member Balochistan and students from the Social Work Department, University of Balochistan, during the visit to Paracha coal mines in Sorange.

SINDH

Summary of Complaints, Petitions, and Suo Moto Actions

From January 1,2024 To December 31,2024		
Sr. No.	Complaints/Suo-Motu	Numbers
1	No. of Complaints carried forward	12
2	Fresh Complaints received during the period	146
3	Cases where Suo Motu action has been taken	19
	Total	177
4	No. of Complaints Disposed Off	91
5	No. of Complaints Under Process	86

Jail Visits

NCHR Sindh Visits Malir & Central Jails for Information on Drug Usage

NCHR Sindh conducted a visit to the Malir and Central Jails in Karachi to collect information on the excessive use of drugs within the prison system. This visit was part of NCHR's ongoing efforts to monitor the conditions within prisons and ensure that prisoners' rights, including the right to health, are upheld. The team gathered data to better understand the scope of the drug usage issue within the jails and will use the findings to advocate for reforms in prison management and drug rehabilitation programs for incarcerated individuals.

Inquiry at Women's Central Jail Sindh

Anis Haroon, NCHR Sindh Member, visited the Women's Central Jail on 3rd September to investigate complaints against jail authorities, ensuring accountability and better treatment for inmates.

NCHR Sindh Monitors Case of Indian Fishermen Prisoners in Malir Jail

NCHR Sindh conducted a follow-up visit to Malir Jail to review the status of the remaining Indian fishermen prisoners. This visit was part of NCHR's ongoing monitoring and follow-up activities to ensure their rights are upheld and to advocate for their timely repatriation.

NCHR Sindh team meet with the jail Superintendent and Chief Medical Officer of Malir Jail

NCHR team met jail authorities to inquire about the death of Indian fisherman Mr. Soraysh in prison, seeking clarification on the cause.

Legislative/Policy Interventions

Implementation of Sindh Hindu Marriage ACT 2018 and Pandit Registration

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) regional office in Sindh is pleased to report significant progress in implementing the Sindh Hindu Marriage Act (2018) and registering Pandits across Sindh. This success reflects the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders, including civil society organizations, religious representatives, and government authorities, in ensuring the protection of minority rights and upholding the principles of equality and justice.

The implementation of the Sindh Hindu Marriage Act marks a pivotal step in safeguarding the matrimonial rights of the Hindu community and ensuring their legal recognition and dignity. The registration of Pandits further strengthens the institutional framework for solemnizing Hindu marriages, providing legal certainty and accessibility for the community. This achievement reaffirms the importance of inclusive legal frameworks in fostering social harmony and respect for diversity in Pakistan.

As part of these efforts, numerous meetings and awareness sessions have been conducted in various cities across Sindh, including Hyderabad and Thana Bulla Khan. These sessions aimed to engage local communities, religious leaders, and other stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the Sindh Hindu Marriage Act and the importance of Pandit registration. These initiatives have not only raised awareness but also empowered communities to access their legal rights, fostering a sense of inclusion and equality.

Addition of CNIC Column in Nikah Nama

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) is pleased to announce a significant achievement in its advocacy for inclusivity and accountability in legal documentation. Following persistent efforts and collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the Local Government the addition of a dedicated CNIC (Computerized National Identity Card) column in the **Nikah Nama** (marriage certificate) has been successfully summary moved from the Chief Minister Sindh.

This development is particularly significant in combating child marriages, as the inclusion of CNIC details ensures accurate verification of the age of individuals entering into marriage. By reinforcing compliance with legal age requirements, this reform serves as a vital tool in protecting children from early and forced marriages, upholding their right to a safe and dignified future.

NCHR appreciates the support of Sindh government authorities, legal experts, and civil society organizations in making this achievement possible. The Commission remains committed to promoting reforms that uphold the rights and dignity of all citizens and foster equitable access to justice.

MoU Signed with SZABIST

Member Sindh NCHR Sindh Visited Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto institute of science and Technology (SZABIST) Clifton campus Karachi and had a meeting with president SZABIST Ms. Shahnaz Wazir Ali and Prof. Dr. Altaf Mukhtari. Discussion was focused on promotion and dissemination of human rights education among university students. In this regard, an MOU between NCHR Sindh Office and SZABIST was signed on human rights education and human rights awareness lectures and sessions in different campuses of SZABIST.

Dr. Shahnawaz Case

In a significant development, the Honorable High Court has entrusted the supervision of the Dr. Shahnawaz case to NCHR, recognizing the Commission's commitment to ensuring transparency, impartiality, and adherence to human rights principles.

The Commission has actively engaged with relevant authorities, including law enforcement agencies, civil society representatives, and the judiciary, to ensure that due process is observed and justice is served. In a significant step toward strengthening oversight mechanisms, every instance of extrajudicial killing has been investigated by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) under the direct supervision of NCHR.

This collaborative approach underscores the Commission's pivotal role in overseeing impartial investigations and ensuring that justice is served. NCHR's supervision of FIA investigations ensures adherence to due process, transparency, and the protection of fundamental rights.

Meetings with Government Departments & International Agencies

Provincial Conference on Inclusion of Every Child Amidst Climate Impact in Pakistan

NCHR Sindh attended a provincial conference organized by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), focused on ensuring the inclusion of every child amidst the climate impact in Pakistan. The conference addressed key issues regarding the challenges faced by the education system during climate crises and the broader implications of climate change on children's access to education and overall well-being. Discussions highlighted strategies for managing and adapting the education system to ensure it remains inclusive and resilient to climate-induced disruptions.

Strengthening Child Protection Policies in Sindh

On April 3, 2024, a meeting took place between DG Child Protection Authority and NCHR Member/Commissioner Sindh, Madam Anis Haroon. The visit focused on evaluating the status of the Child Protection Policy and addressing pressing concerns regarding the surge in child protection cases. The discussion emphasized the need for robust implementation of policies and mechanisms to safeguard children's rights in Sindh. The NCHR reiterated its commitment to collaborate with relevant authorities to enhance child protection frameworks and ensure timely interventions.

Amendments to Marriage Practices in Sindh

NCHR Sindh conducted meetings with the Director of Local Government to propose amendments to the Nikahanama and enhance the Pandit registration process, aiming for more equitable and standardized marriage practices in Sindh.

Discussion on K-Electric Overcharging

A meeting between the NCHR Sindh team and TKF explored issues of overcharging by Karachi Electric (KE), focusing on per-unit charges and additional peak-hour costs.

Meeting with NADRA

NCHR Sindh held a meeting with NADRA's Director Mr. Ammar Ahmad to discuss the development and policy regarding the addition of a CNIC column for girls in the Nikah Nama and Hindu Marriage Registration certificates.

Meeting on Hindu Marriages Act

NCHR Sindh met with the Director of Local Government to discuss updates on the Sindh Hindu Marriages Act and the registration of Hindu marriages and Pandit registration to stop child marriages and empower the girl's identity. [Word-report]

Meeting on CNIC Column for Girls in the Nikahnama

NCHR Sindh met with NADRA to discuss the policy developments for adding a CNIC column for girls in the Nikah Nama and Hindu Marriages.

Meeting with Acting Caretaker Sindh Minister for Information, Minority Affairs, and Social Protection Ministers

Member (Sindh) of NCHR, met with Acting Caretaker Sindh Minister for Information, Minority Affairs, and Social Protection Minister Ahmad Shah to discuss the Aurat March Award and its related program. The meeting aimed to promote awareness and advocacy for women's rights, minority rights, and social protection, while emphasizing the importance of recognizing women's contributions and addressing critical issues affecting women and marginalized communities.

Meeting with Deputy Director of Local Government on Hindu Marriages Act Registration

NCHR Sindh team held a meeting with the Deputy Director of the Local Government to discuss and ensure the registration of marriages under the Hindu Marriages Act and its 2018 amendment. The meeting focused on ensuring that the provisions of the Act, which provide legal recognition and protection for Hindu marriages in Pakistan, are effectively implemented at the local level. The team emphasized the need for the registration process to be accessible, transparent, and efficient, ensuring that Hindu couples can legally register their marriages and receive the legal benefits afforded to them under the law. This meeting was part of NCHR's ongoing efforts to promote the rights of religious minorities, specifically the Hindu community, and ensure that their legal entitlements are upheld.

NCHR Sindh Meeting with IG Sindh Regarding Human Rights Complaints and Suo Moto Cases

On January 5th, the NCHR Sindh team held an important meeting with the Inspector General (IG) of Sindh Police to address concerns regarding the non-responsive behavior of law enforcement in handling human rights complaints. The meeting also focused on several high-profile cases that the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) has been actively engaged with, including the tragic case of a dozen girls killed at a farmhouse and the ongoing case of enforced disappearance involving Zar Bano.

Civil Society Engagement

Children's Rights

Criminalizing Child Domestic Labour

On January 4th, Ms. Anis Haroon, Member Sindh of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), was invited as a guest speaker at a consultation organized by the National Commission on the Rights of Children (NCRC) on the draft bill for criminalizing child domestic labour. This consultation was a significant step in advancing legislative efforts to combat child labour, particularly in domestic settings, which is often hidden and underreported.

During the consultation, Ms. Haroon provided valuable insights into the importance of addressing the issue of child domestic labour from a human rights perspective. She emphasized the need for stronger legal protections for children, stressing the role of law in both preventing and providing remedies for cases of child exploitation. Ms. Haroon highlighted the urgency of criminalizing child domestic labour as a means to safeguard the rights of vulnerable children and ensure their protection from exploitation and abuse.

NCHR Sindh Member's Meeting with NCRC on Child Rights Issues in Pakistan

NCHR Sindh Member held a meeting with the National Commission on the Rights of the Child (NCRC) to discuss pressing child rights issues in Pakistan. The meeting focused on identifying key challenges faced by children in the country, including issues such as child labour, education, and access to healthcare.

Fact-Finding Mission on Child Sodomy Cases in Tharparkar

NCHR Sindh, in collaboration with the National Commission on Rights of Child (NCRC), conducted a field visit to Tharparkar to collect data and perform fact-finding regarding reported child sodomy cases in the region. This visit aimed to document the incidents, engage with stakeholders, and assess the situation on the ground to advocate for justice and protection for the victims.

Women's Rights

Aurat Foundation Consultative Meeting on Feminist Manifesto

Aurat Foundation organized a consultative meeting to share the feminist manifesto with key stakeholders, including political party leaders, workers, media personnel, and representatives from various government departments. NCHR Sindh actively participated in the meeting, which provided a platform for discussing the manifesto's goals, which focus on gender equality, women's rights, and the empowerment of marginalized communities.

Event on Political Victimization & Harassment of Women in Politics

Madam Anis Haroon, Member (Sindh) of NCHR, was invited as a guest speaker at an event organized by SZABIST. During the session, she shared her insights on the political victimization and harassment of women in politics. Her discussion focused on the challenges faced by women in political spheres and the necessary steps for ensuring their protection and empowerment.

NCHR Sindh's Roundtable Conference with SAHE on Supporting Girls' Education

NCHR Sindh held a roundtable conference with SAHE (Society for the Advancement of Education) to discuss the role of **BISP's Taleemi Wazaif** (education stipends) as a social protection intervention to support girls' education in Sindh. The conference aimed to explore the challenges and opportunities surrounding the distribution of educational stipends and their impact on increasing enrollment and retention rates for girls in schools. NCHR emphasized the need for sustained efforts and policy support to ensure that these stipends reach the most marginalized communities, thereby enabling better educational outcomes for girls.

Training Workshop on Muslim Women's Rights in Marriage and Divorce

NCHR Sindh hosted a **three-day training workshop** titled "Building a Supportive Framework for the Protection of Muslim Women's Rights in Marriage and Divorce."

Lawyers and women's rights activists participated, focusing on legislative gaps and mechanisms to protect women's rights in these areas.

NCHR Sindh Aids Assault Victim in Naushahro Feroz

Member NCHR Sindh visited a **woman assault victim** in Naushahro Feroz, Sindh. NCHR provided **medical aid** and arranged for **blood donations** to support the victim's recovery. The intervention highlights NCHR's commitment to providing **direct assistance** to victims of violence and ensuring their access to justice and medical care.

Minority Rights

Lobbying Meeting on Christian Inheritance Law

The NCHR Sindh team held a lobbying meeting with the National Law Division (NLD) and the Christian community to discuss the implementation of Christian inheritance laws. The meeting aimed to address the need for legal reforms to ensure that inheritance laws are applied fairly and in accordance with the rights of Christian individuals, advocating for the enforcement of these laws to protect their legal and property rights.

Meeting with Civil Society Organizations to Address Minority Community Issues in Sindh

NCHR Sindh hosted a meeting with civil society organizations from Umerkot and Badin at its office. The representatives shared pressing challenges faced by minority communities at the grassroots level, including social, economic, and legal hurdles. They also requested NCHR Sindh to conduct awareness sessions to address these challenges and promote understanding of minority rights. The meeting highlighted NCHR's collaborative approach to working with civil society to identify and resolve human rights concerns.

NCHR Sindh Hosts Consultation on Sindh Hindu Marriage Act to Advocate for Registration of Hindu Marriages

NCHR Sindh organized a one-day consultation at its regional office, bringing together Hindu Pandits, community leaders, and local government representatives. The session aimed to raise awareness about the Sindh Hindu Marriage Act, encouraging the Hindu community to register marriages at the Union Council level. The discussion focused on the legal benefits and rights granted under the act, with the objective of ensuring greater community participation in the marriage registration process, which is essential for safeguarding the rights of Hindu couples in Sindh.

NCHR Sindh and NLDs also organized a one-day consultation workshop in Hyderabad for Hindu community leaders, Pandits, and local government stakeholders. The workshop focused on raising awareness about the amendments to the Sindh Hindu Marriage Act, 2018 and ensuring its effective implementation.

NCHR Sindh held meetings with local government representatives to facilitate the registration of Pandits and implement the Sindh Hindu Marriages Act 2018. Discussions centered on ensuring proper legal frameworks for marriage registrations, protecting minority rights, and streamlining the process for Hindu communities in Sindh.

NCHR Sindh, in collaboration with CWSA, held a consultation session in Thana Bhulla Khan, District Jamshoro, to spread awareness among the Hindu community about the Sindh Hindu Marriages Act 2018 and its implementation.

Public Hearings and Awareness Sessions on Sindh Hindu Marriages Act 2018

NCHR Sindh conducted public hearings and awareness **sessions** with Hindu local communities. These sessions emphasized the importance of the Sindh Hindu Marriages Act 2018 and provided guidance on its provisions. Community members were educated on their rights under the Act, and feedback was collected to improve implementation and accessibility.

Challenges in Implementing the Sindh Hindu Marriage Act

On 10th August, the NCHR Member for Sindh participated in a consultative session on the Sindh Hindu Marriage Act 2018. The session addressed challenges in implementing the Act, particularly the delays in registering pandits for officiating ceremonies.

Rights of Marginalized Groups (Transgender)

Consultation on Inclusivity for Transgender Rights

NCHR Sindh, in collaboration with Subrang Society, held a district-level convention on Inclusivity aimed at fostering a more inclusive and equitable future for transgender individuals. Discussions centered on legislative reform, societal acceptance, and equal opportunities.

Labour Rights

Press Conference on Pro-Peasant Law Implementation

NCHR Sindh attended a press conference at the Karachi Press Club addressing the poor implementation of pro-peasant and rural workers' laws. Concerns were raised about the disconnect between legislation and practical enforcement.

Meeting with Hari Welfare Association

The NCHR Sindh team engaged with the Hari Welfare Association to discuss the rights of peasants and challenges like bonded labor, inadequate wages, and workplace conditions.

Advocacy & Awareness

NCHR Sindh Team Attends Press Conference on the Launch of the “Country Report on Status of Communities Discriminated on Work & Descent in Pakistan”

On January 5th, the NCHR Sindh team participated in a press conference organized by the Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network (PDSN) at the Karachi Press Club. The event marked the launch of the *Country Report on the Status of Communities Discriminated on Work & Descent in Pakistan*, which shed light on the systemic discrimination faced by marginalized communities, including Dalits, in Pakistan.

The report delves into the socio-economic challenges faced by these communities, emphasizing the persistent issues of caste-based discrimination and the barriers to equality in various spheres, such as education, employment, and social services.

NCHR Sindh Attends Panel Discussion on Domestic Violence, Gender Violence, and Child Marriage Laws

NCHR Sindh participated in a panel discussion organized by Aurat Foundation. The discussion focused on various issues surrounding domestic violence, gender-based violence, and the implementation of key legal frameworks, including the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2013, and labor laws. The panel addressed the challenges in effectively implementing these laws and the ongoing efforts to combat gender violence and protect children from early marriages. A role-play activity on child marriage and labor laws was also conducted to engage participants in understanding the practical implications of these laws and their enforcement. NCHR Sindh contributed insights into the need for stronger enforcement mechanisms and greater awareness about the rights of women and children under these laws.

NCHR Sindh Attends Karachi Youth STEM Learning Festival

From January 18th to 20th, 2024, NCHR Sindh participated in the Karachi Youth STEM Learning Festival, organized by UNICEF in collaboration with local NGOs. The festival focused on promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education among young people, especially girls, and emphasized the importance of empowering youth through access to education and opportunities in these critical fields. NCHR Sindh's participation underscored its commitment to advocating for equal educational opportunities and promoting innovation, technology, and gender inclusivity in education. The event provided a platform for students to engage in hands-on STEM activities, develop their skills, and be inspired by successful role models from various scientific and technological fields.

Book Launch and Discussion on State, Women, and Transgender Issues

NCHR Sindh team was invited to the launch of the book *"Security, Health, Opportunities, and Support Resources"* by Rumaisa Ahmed. The event included a series of conversations focusing on the role of the state, civil society, and social workers in advocating for the rights of women and transgender individuals. Hosted by

WES (Women Empowerment Society) and Subrang Society, the discussion explored how law and institutions can be leveraged to create positive social change and enhance the well-being of marginalized communities.

NCHR Sindh Meeting with TV Channels on Human Rights Institution Functioning

NCHR Sindh held a meeting with representatives from various TV channels to provide an in-depth explanation of the functioning of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and its role in protecting human rights in Pakistan. The meeting aimed to raise awareness about NCHR's initiatives, achievements, and challenges, as well as to clarify the institution's mandate in promoting human rights across the country. T

Provincial Consultation on National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights

Member NCHR Sindh participated in a provincial consultation organized by the Ministry of Human Rights on implementing the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. Discussions focused on promoting corporate accountability, respecting human rights in business operations, and developing mechanisms to protect workers' rights.

Meeting with Sindh Judicial Academy

NCHR Sindh discussed human rights law challenges with the Sindh Judicial Academy, planning an awareness session to sensitize judges.

Session with Students from Bahria University

Organized an engaging session with students from Bahria University on the importance of human rights education. The session aimed to raise awareness and inspire students to take action toward creating a more just and inclusive society.

Judicial Mandate

Suo-Motu Notice on Tragic Incident in Gulistan-e-Johar

NCHR Sindh took suo-motu notice of a tragic incident reported across various electronic and print media outlets, where two workers lost their lives during the cleaning of a sewerage line in Gulistan-e-Johar Block 13, Karachi. The Commission expressed deep concern over the lack of safety measures for workers engaged in hazardous tasks and initiated a probe to ensure accountability for the deaths and to recommend preventive measures.

NCHR Sindh Takes Suo Moto Action on Priya Kumari's Missing Case

NCHR Sindh has initiated Suo Moto action regarding the case of Priya Kumari, a young girl who has been missing for over two years. In response to the ongoing concerns about her disappearance, NCHR Sindh has forwarded the case to the Inspector General (IG) of Sindh Police, urging them to intensify efforts to locate and recover Priya Kumari.

NCHR Sindh Takes Suo Moto Action on Child Abuse Cases in Tharparkar

NCHR Sindh has taken Suo Moto action in response to the alarming reports of child abuse in Tharparkar. The Commission is actively addressing the issue by initiating an inquiry into the reported cases of child abuse, with a focus on ensuring that justice is served and measures are implemented to protect vulnerable children in the region.

NCHR Sindh Takes Suo Moto Action on Murder and Rape of Hindu Girl in Karachi

NCHR Sindh has taken Suo Moto action in response to the tragic murder and rape of a Hindu girl in Karachi. The Commission has expressed deep concern over the heinous crime and is closely monitoring the case to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

NCHR Sindh Takes Suo Moto Action on Murder of Young Man Sanaullah in Larkana

NCHR Sindh has taken Suo Moto action in response to the murder of young man Sanaullah in Larkana. The Commission has condemned the brutal killing and is actively following up on the investigation to ensure that the case is properly handled by the authorities.

NCHR Sindh Takes Suo Moto Action on Sexual Assault Case of Two Teenage Boys in Badin

NCHR Sindh has taken immediate Suo Moto action regarding the sexual assault of two teenage boys in Badin. The Commission has condemned the heinous act and is working closely with local authorities to ensure that the case is thoroughly investigated.

NCHR Sindh Takes Suo Moto Action on Illegal Jirga Decision Involving Girls as “Badle Sulah”

NCHR Sindh initiated Suo Moto action against an illegal Jirga decision in which two girls were handed over as “Badle Sulah” (compensation for reconciliation) to settle a family dispute.

Suo Moto Action on Death and Rape of Mother & Daughter in Karachi

NCHR Member Sindh intervened in the case of the death and rape of a mother and daughter in the slum area of Maripur, Karachi, as reported in the media.

Suo Moto Action on Forced Marriage and Abduction in Sindh

NCHR Commissioner Sindh intervened in the forced marriage and abduction case of Dua Shumaila Brohi.

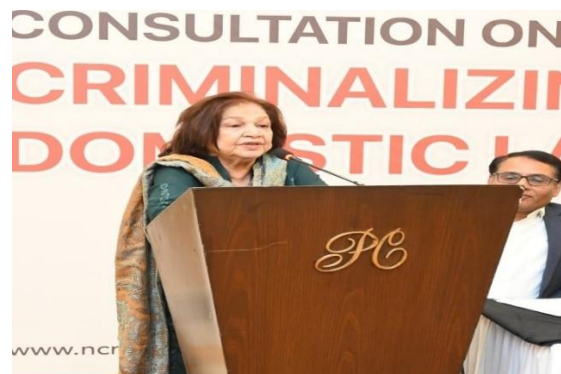
Suo Moto Action on Sexual Assault by School Headmaster

NCHR Member Sindh took action after the sexual assault and rape of a minor girl by a school headmaster. NCHR wrote to the SSP Kemari urging strict action, as the accused had been granted bail.

Photo Gallery for Sindh Office



A capacity-building session was held at the NCHR Regional Office Sindh to raise awareness regarding the Sindh Hindu Marriage Act, 2018.



NCHR Member Sindh speaks at a consultation on Criminalizing the Domestic Child Labour.



NCHR Member Sindh speaks at the launch of a report on "Assessing the Conditions of Women Workers and peasants in Rural Sindh".



NCHR Sindh conducted a jail inspection to interview drug-addicted inmates, to investigate potential drug supply within the jail, and to assess the psychological impacts of withdrawal on the inmates



Member Sindh led a 3 day workshop on Muslim Women's Rights in Marriage and Divorce.



NCHR Sindh led an awareness workshop on the Hindu Marriage Act 2018 in Hyderabad. Local Government, Pandits, and community leaders took part.



NCHR Sindh, in collaboration with PCHR, organized a multi-stakeholder, roundtable discussion to discuss media freedom response mechanism in Pakistan.



NCHR Sindh held a consultation on the Sindh Hindu Marriages Act 2018 at Thana Bulla Khan.



NCHR Sindh conducted a visit to Malir Jail to examine the health condition of foreign fishermen prisoners.



NCHR Member Sindh spoke at a consultation on Christian Personal law Rights of Marriage and Divorce.

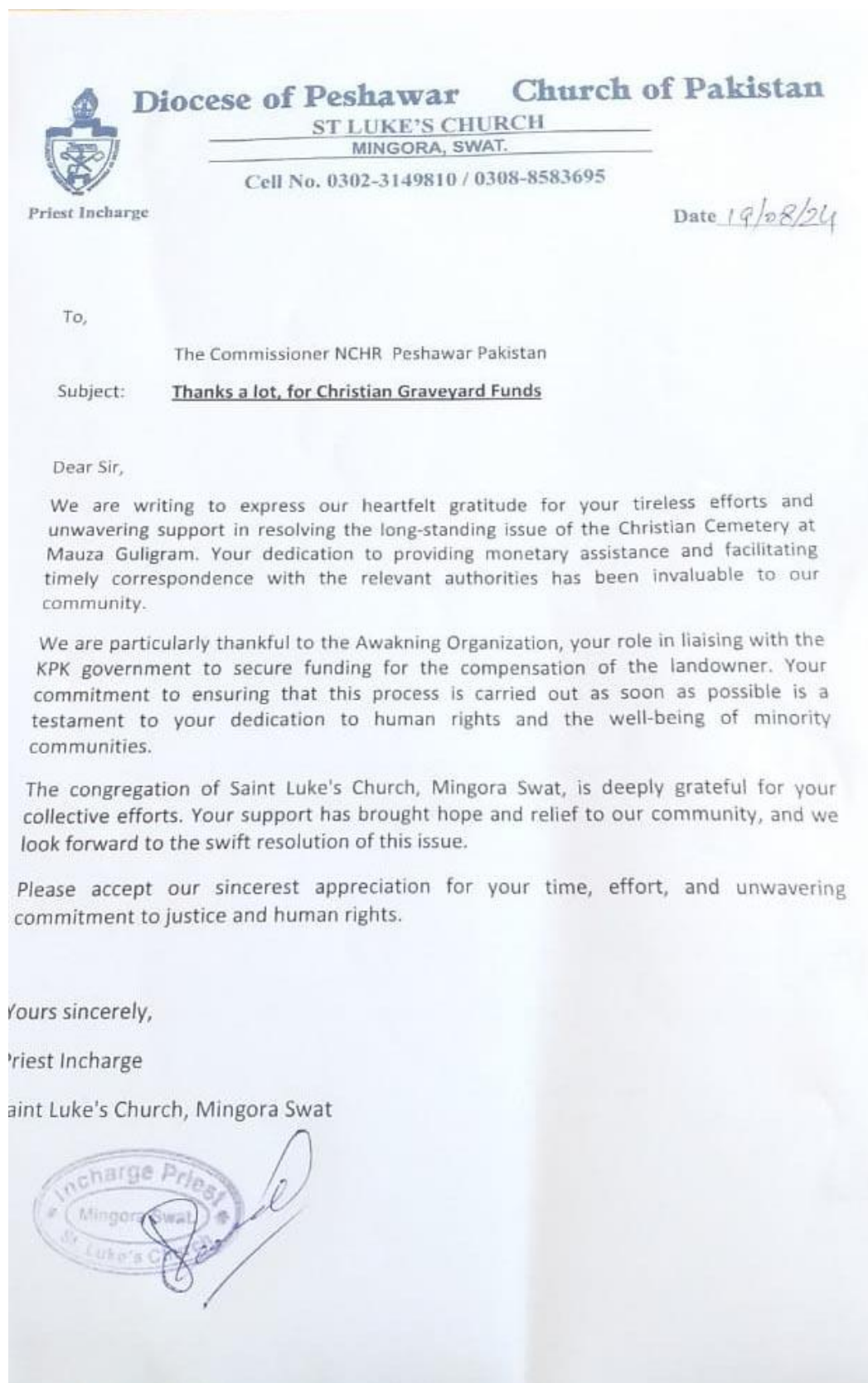


NCHR Member Sindh held a hearing with NADRA at NCHR Regional office regarding a complaint.



NCHR Member Sindh participated in a workshop on bonded Labour and energy crises.

ANNEX



**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER/ LAND ACQUISITION
COLLECTOR, SWAT.**

NOTIFICATION U/S-4 OF LAA 1894.

No. 4464 /305/Acq/DC(S)

Dated 01/11 /2024.


WHEREAS, it appears to the District Collector, Swat District that land is required to be acquired by the Government at the Public expense for the public purpose namely "ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY GRAVEYARD AT TEHSIL BABUZAI DISTRICT SWAT" it is hereby notified that land in the locality noted below is likely to be acquired for the above purpose.


This notification is made under the Provision of Section-4 of the land Acquisition Act, 1894 to all whom it may concern. In exercise of the powers conferred by the aforesaid Section, the District Collector, Swat District is pleased to authorize the Officer for the time being engaged in the undertaking with their servants and workmen to enter upon and make survey of any land in the locality and do all other acts as required or permitted by that Section.

Any person, who has any objection to the acquisition of any land in the locality, may within 30 days of the Publication of the Notification, file objection in writing before the District Collector, Swat District.

SPECIFICATION

District	Tehsil	Locality	Khasra No.	Total Area		Area to be acquired	
				Kanal	Marla	Kanal	Marla
Swat	BABUZAI	GULIGRAM	503	13	02	04	00
Total				13	02	04	00-M


SECRETARY,
AUQAF, KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
PESHAWAR.


DEPUTY COMMISSIONER/
LAND ACQUISITION COLLECTOR,
SWAT.

No. 4465-70 /305/Acq/DC(S)

Dated: 01/11 /2024

Copy forwarded to:-

1. The Commissioner, Malakand Division, Saidu Sharif, Swat.
2. The Secretary, Auqaf, Hajj, Religious & Minority Affairs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar.
3. The Secretary, Board of Revenue, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar.
4. The Manager Government Printing Press Department Peshawar for publication in the next issue of extra ordinary Government Gazette.
5. The Assistant Commissioner, Babuzai.
6. The Tehsildar/ Revenue Officer, Babuzai with the direction to serve the copy of the said notification upon the concerned land owners


DEPUTY COMMISSIONER/
LAND ACQUISITION COLLECTOR,
SWAT.

CHURCH OF PAKISTAN

LAHORE DIOCESE

The Tenth Bishop of Lahore
The Rt. Revd. Nadeem Kamran
M. Div., St. Thomas Theological College, Karachi
M.A. Punjab University, Lahore
MS. Project Management, Preston University, Kohat



Bishop's Bourse,
Cathedral Close, The Mall,
Lahore-54000, Pakistan
Office +92 42 37233560
Email: 10thbishopoflahore@gmail.com

Ref: BOL/ 223/024

Date: 06/05/2024

To,

The Honorable Chairperson,
National Commission for Human Rights,
Government of Pakistan, Islamabad.

Subject: EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR YOUR INVALUABLE SUPPORT

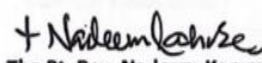
Respected Madam,

Greetings in the name of Lord Jesus!

In Unity and Faith, the undersigned speaks out for the Christian Community in Pakistan. Since the inception of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) in Pakistan, I have closely observed the significant strides your organization has made in advancing justice and protecting the rights of the vulnerable communities. Under the exceptional leadership of Ms. Rabiya Javeri Agha, Chairperson NCHR and the dedicated efforts of Mr. Manzoor Masih, the Member Minorities NCHR have effectively addressed complex issues including the forced conversion of non-Muslim underage girls, the prohibition of discriminatory advertisements, and the enforcement of the minority quota in the employment and education sectors. The work of the minority section, in particular, has been crucial in alleviating many challenges faced by marginalized communities.

We also extend our gratitude to NCHR for the significant role it played in the allocation of 10-acre land in Sector H-8 Islamabad for a Christian graveyard. These collective efforts are a beacon of hope and a testament to the power of committed leadership in fostering a just society.

With sincere appreciation,


The Rt. Rev. Nadeem Kamran
Bishop of Lahore



Christian Study Centre

126-Murree Road, P.O. Box 529, Rawalpindi Cantt. Pakistan
Tel: +92 (0)51-5130238, 9, Fax: +92(0)51-5130236
E-mail: cscpak@isb.comsat.net.pk, info@cscpak.org
www.cscpak.org NTN4151153-7

Celebrating 50 Years Of The Christian Study Centre
1967-2017

22nd May 2024

Madam Rabia Javeri Agha
Chairwoman
National Commission for Human Rights, (NCHR)
Office No. 509, 5th Floor
Evacuee Trust Complex - Adjacent to Marriott Hotel
Islamabad.

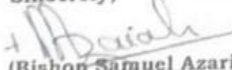
Excellency Madam Javeri Agha:

In my capacity as Director of the Christian Study Centre, Rawalpindi we appreciate the role of the Commission you are heading, in an environment which at times may not be very friendly. The efforts of your commission in sensitizing every individual that dignity and respect of the other person matters leads to a better understanding of respecting the creation of God, and to sustain harmony. Such an act also develops care, concern and justice within the society. Members of the NCHR have proven their commitment by giving attention to areas where the respect and freedom of the other person was being violated.

In the case of Jaranwala, and other such unfortunate situations where the religious minority has been a victim, the role of Mr. Manzoor Masih and your commission has been recognized with great respect and appreciation. We just wanted to thank you and members of the commission. God Bless you all.

Best wishes:

Sincerely,


(Bishop Samuel Azariah)
Director



GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
FAISALABAD WASTE MANAGEMENT COMPANY

(Company Registered under section 42 of Companies Ordinance)

No. FWMC/CS/GEN/0015

Date: 03-01-2024

To,
Ms. Alishba Kiani,
Complaint Officer, (NCHR), Islamabad.

Subject: ALLEGATION OF NON-PROVISION OF SALARY TO CHRISTIAN WORKERS

Reference to your letter No. 2 (485)23-Complaint (NCHR) dated 19-12-2023 on the subject cited above.

It is stated that, Faisalabad Waste Management Company (FWMC) is incorporated as limited by Guarantee Company under section 42 of the Companies Ordinance 1984 (now the Companies Act, 2017) on July 13, 2013 and registered with Registrar Joint Stock Companies (RJSC) as a non-profit organization.

1- FWMC is provided with the grant (Loan + PFC) from the Government of Punjab which is released to FWMC on quarterly basis. In current Financial Year 2023-24 the Government of Punjab increased the salaries of regular employees up to 35% and daily wage rate from 965 to 1231 per day but the allocation of grant could not be revised on that account, due to which, FWMC have faced a deficit of Rs. 40 million per month. FWMC put up their case before Finance Department for supplementary grant in August, 2023 to cater the increase in salaries and fuel prices but the additional supplementary grant from Finance Department is still awaited.

2- There are more than 4000 employees on pay-roll of FWMC which included the permanent staff of solid waste management department of MCF, Contractual staff and daily wage staff, where the total salaries are around Rs. 154 million per month.

3- Due to shortage of funds, timely disbursement of the salaries for month of November, 2023 and December, 2023 could not be made. However, the Government of Punjab released an advance funds (Loan Rs. 141 million) for the month of January-2024 and February-2024 to FWMC on 20th December, 2023 from which the salaries for month of November, 2023 disbursed to all employees.

4- Further the Government released an advance funds (PFC Rs. 190 million) for the month of January-2024 & February-2024 to FWMC on 21st December, 23 which is credited into FWMC bank account on 02nd January, 2024 from which the salaries for month of December, 2023 are disbursed to all FWMC employees on 03rd January, 2023.

5- Forwarded for your kind perusal and necessary action.


03/01/2024
Company Secretary
Faisalabad Waste Management Company (FWMC)
Govt. of the Punjab
Faisalabad Waste Management Company (Private)

A copy is forwarded for information to the:

- 1- PA to Chairman Board of Directors, FWMC
- 2- PA to Chief Executive Officer, FWMC



"SAY NO TO CORRUPTION"

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN

NO: MC-TMK/479/2024

Dated: 25/06/2024

To,

The Law Officer (NCHR),
National Commission For Human Rights,
Government of Pakistan, ISLAMABAD.

Subject: **SUO MOTO ACTION: ON DEATH OF THREE SANITARY WORKERS IN DISTRICT
TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN.**

Reference:- Letter No.2(245)24-Complaint (NCHR), Islamabad, dated 12TH June, 2024, on the
subject mentioned above.

I have the honours to state that sudden death of 03 sanitary worker Municipal Committee, Tando Muhammad Khan was happened on 11.06.2024 at about 7/8 Am morning the workers started cleanliness work on site in presence of I/c Chief Sanitary Inspector to clear the Sewerage Line as routine work day to day but unfortunately the gas poison in the line attack on first worker than 2nd, two workers tried to carryout from the manhole than two worker also attacked to same gas inspite necessary steps they not recovered up and expired within short time and after recovery the above sanitary worker carry to District Hospital for checkup / first aid but concerned Doctor declared died accordingly.

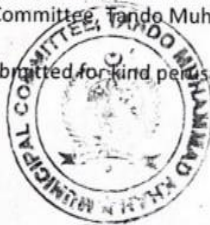
It is further submitted that in the light of Honourable High Court order CP No.D-981/2022 the Municipal administration has taken necessary steps and purchased / provided safety equipment to all concerned staff with a direction that at the time of cleanliness which will be used to avoid any complication in future.


I am also mentioned here that the Municipal Committee administration i.e: Chairman and other officers immediately arranged for "Kafan Dafan" to each Rs.3 lacs similarly they have been provided jobs to their legal heirs in Municipal Committee, Tando Muhammad Khan, the remaining benefits will also be paid after necessary sanction from Director Local Fund Audit as soon as possible.

It is pointed out that delivery of safety equipment to team of sewerage / gutter line by Honourable Chairman in presence of Councilor, such photographs are attached along with other relevant documents for kind perusal as desired.

✓ Recently Municipal Committee Administration has decided to award contract of gutter / sewerage line for the period of one year to Mr. Nadeem Gill to protect the losses of lives of sanitary worker Municipal Committee, Tando Muhammad Khan.

The report is submitted for kind perusal.




CHIEF MUNICIPAL OFFICER
Municipal Committee
Tando Muhammad Khan



PAKISTAN POST
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL PAKISTAN POST OFFICE

No.IM.25-1/2022-II

Islamabad-44080, the 14-06-2024

Subject: **CRUELTY, EXPLOITATION, ILLEGAL WAGES AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF CONTRACTED SANITATION WORKERS AND SECURITY GUARDS AT PAKISTAN POST.**


Reference: NCHR Islamabad case No.2(67)22-Complaint (NCHR) dated 20-05-2024 refers.

This pertains to a complaint filed by Mr. Naeem Sadiq and others on the above subject which was referred to the Postmaster General, Metropolitan Postal Circle, Karachi with the direction to intimate further progress of the case regarding non-observance of the terms and conditions of the agreement by M/S Defender Security Company besides intimating the outcome of the tender floated on 06-03-2024 for janitorial services.

2. The Postmaster General Metropolitan Postal Circle, Karachi vide letter dated 13-06-2024 (**Annex-A**) has informed that after issuance of final notice to the M/S Defender Security Company to abide by the terms and conditions of the agreement, the reply was found unsatisfactory. Therefore, the process of termination of the agreement is underway.

3. As regard janitorial services (sanitation workers), fresh tender was floated on 06-03-2024 and the contract was awarded to M/S Eman Janitorial Services with effect from 02-05-2024 @ Rs.41,305/- per janitor/per month besides directing the firm to ensure minimum wages to their workers.

On Behalf of Director General PPOD



(Muhammad Khalifa)
Director (IM)

Mian Waqar Ahmed
Law Officer (NCHR)
National Commission for Human Rights
5th Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex
Agha Khan Road, F-5/1, Islamabad



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
REGIONAL OFFICE BALOCHISTAN



F.No.5(3)2024-Coord/Bal/NCHR/244

Dated: 18-09-2024

The Secretary,
Social Welfare Department,
Government of Balochistan,
Quetta.

Subject: ESTABLISHMENT OF REHABILITATION CENTER FOR WOMEN

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) is an Independent Statutory body created to look into matters pertaining to all forms of violations of Human Rights within the territorial jurisdiction of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan by virtue of the National Commission for Human Rights Act of 2012.

2. During the recent Advisory Committee meeting of NCHR, the members of the committee pressed upon the need of establishing a Rehabilitation Center for Women, where they can develop some skill through trainings for their livelihood. Dar-ul-Aman is already working under Social Welfare Department but there are severe conditionalities for their survival.

3. The center which civil society desires to establish is a place where women will be imparted skills to earn livelihood. Social Welfare Department is mandated to rehabilitate and emancipate displaced women. It is therefore, requested that a timely action may be taken to establish such an institution where women can find shelter and also prepare for a secure future, after being economically empowered.

4. NCHR will be grateful, if a meeting may be convened on the issue to further discuss the matter and its minute details.

Warm Regards,

(Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb)

Member Balochistan
National Commission for Human Rights
081-2869053

Address: House No.5-C, Asad Jan Street, Near Alkhair Hospital, Zarghoon Road, Quetta



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
REGIONAL OFFICE BALOCHISTAN



F.No.5(3)2024-Coord/Bal/NCHR/245

Dated: 18-09-2024

The Secretary,
Defence Housing Authority (DHA),
Head Office, Main RCD Highway,
Quetta.

Subject: **PROMPT ACTION FOR THE SAFETY OF CHILD LABOURERS
WORKING IN DEFENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY PARK, QUETTA**

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) is an Independent Statutory body created to look into matters pertaining to all forms of violations of Human Rights within the territorial jurisdiction of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan by virtue of the National Commission for Human Rights Act of 2012.

2. During the recent Advisory Committee meeting of the NCHR, the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) drew the attention of NCHR towards an issue of child labour and also child abuse at DHA Park, Quetta. These children have also been observed to be using drugs which is a serious concern. In the light of the above observations, the authorities governing matters of DHA Park Quetta need to pay attention towards this issue.

3. Child labour under Child Rights Convention is seriously prohibited and under no circumstances a child should be allowed to work as a labourer. It is therefore, the responsibility of the institution to take note of this malpractice and provide protection to the children working in DHA Park Quetta. These children should be replaced with adult workforce.

4. NCHR will be grateful, if a prompt action is taken in this matter and a compliance report is provided to NCHR within a time period of two weeks.

Warm Regards,

(Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb)

Member Balochistan
National Commission for Human Rights
081-2869053

Address: House No.5-C, Asad Jan Street, Near Alkhair Hospital, Zarghoon Road, Quetta

PAKISTAN RAILWAYS

Divisional Office,
Quetta.

No. 248-C/0(Dup)Pt-I

Dated: .08.2024

The Member Balochistan,
National Commission for Human Rights,
Regional Office, Balochistan.

**SUB: INSTALLATION OF RAMPS, COMMODS AND
ALLOCATION OF SPECIAL SEATS IN TRAINS FOR
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs)**

REF: Your letter No. 2(1)2024-Coord/Bal/NCHR/234 Dated: 07.08.2024.

In reference to above cited letter, it is intimated that the following facilities to the disable persons has already been provided by Pakistan Railways, detail as under;

- i. Special counter having title "Aap Ki Khidmat Kay Liay" has been established for facilitation.
- ii. 50 % concession in rail fare is allowed.
- iii. Seat are reserved through online booking and reservation office, also introduced "RABTA" LCDs for 24 hours booking in Reservation office and at Station premises.
- iv. Ramps has been prepared at all important stations and staff has been assigned to facilitate the Disable persons.
- v. Wheel chairs and stretchers are also available at Major Stations.
- vi. Passenger Toilets (Eastern & Western style Commodes) are available at Railway Stations and in all the Passenger Trains.

This is for information please.

(M. Zafar Iqbal)
ACO

For Divisional Superintendent,
Pakistan Railways, Quetta



3063
13-12-24

FIP

COO



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
INTERIOR DIVISION
NATIONAL DATABASE AND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY
State Bank of Pakistan Building, Shahrah-e-Jamhuriat
G-5/2, Islamabad

NADRA/HQ Ops/Operations

12 December, 2024

To: Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb
Member Balochistan
National Commission for Human Rights

CC: NADRA Regional Head Office, Quetta

ID: Chairman's Secretariat

Subject: Designate Specific Day and Time for Transgender Community at NADRA

Ref: NCHR letter no. 5(3)2024-Coord/Bal/NCHR/267 dated 23rd October, 2024 and 5(3)2024-Coord/Bal/NCHR/248 dated 23rd September, 2024

1. NADRA highly appreciates National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) Balochistan and feel obliged to know about the issues being faced by the transgender community in Balochistan at NADRA centers. I want to assure you that NADRA is highly sensitized about the social issues being faced by transgender community in the society in general. In this regard, we have recently conducted special trainings of our field staff on women and gender sensitization to educate our staff on dealing with women, transgender persons and other marginalized communities.

2. I want to take this opportunity to inform you that we have launched a special helpline in March 2022 for facilitation of transgender person which is accessible by dialing 1777 from mobile phones and 051-111786100 from landline. We have also celebrated **Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV)** on 31st March, 2022 with activities like social media awareness campaign, branding at our field offices and Mobile Registration Vans (MRVs) and deploying our MRVs at areas with higher population of transgender persons.

3. The transgender persons are registered under Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2018. The transgender persons living with their parents can get themselves registered as per normal procedure under gender X without any documentary requirement. A transgender person already registered with NADRA with male or female gender can also change the gender to X without any documentary requirement, as per current policy.

have
and value
the judge remarks
verdict.
The court also set

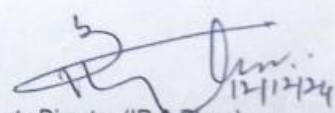


4. However, there are two scenario in the social setup of transgender persons, one is the persons who has been disowned by parents and the parents are not willing to validate the transgender child for registration with NADRA and the second scenario is where the parentage of a transgender person is unknown. In both of these scenario the transgender persons are living under the social patronage of guru have to be registered under their respective guru as chela. In this scenario, the guru needs to be registered with NADRA before the registration of any chela beneath the guru. Procedure for registration of guru and the chela beneath a guru is attached (Annex-A) for dissemination to all concerned.

5. We intend to facilitate the transgender person at their doorstep are delighted to deploy MRVs to areas of transgender persons. It is requested to please share detail of focal person from the transgender community to plan their registration. It is to further inform that any guru can request for provision of MRV for facilitation of transgender persons.

6. As per record no guru is registered in the whole province of Balochistan. Therefore, there is a need to register gurus before the registration of any transgender persons living with the gurus.

7. Forwarded for information, please.


Deputy Director (IR & Plans)
(Zaheer Ahmed Khan)



NATIONAL VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING COMMISSION
NAVTTC REGIONAL OFFICE BALOCHISTAN
H# B-151 JINNAH TOWN QUETTA.
Ph: 081-9203626 Fax: 081-9203624



F. No-A-1/NAV-B/2024-25/3092

Dated: 01/10/2024

Subject: **PROPOSAL FOR PROVIDING TECHNICAL TRAINING TO JUVENILE AND FEMALE PRISONERS OF CENTRAL JAIL HUDA, QUETTA.**

Kindly refer to a letter received from Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb, Member Balochistan National Commission for Human Rights, Government of Pakistan letter No. 5(1)2024-Coord/Bal/NCHR/249 dated 26th September, 2024 on the subject cited above (copy enclosed). NCHR has requested that Juvenile and female prisoners should be taught some hands on technical training so that after coming out of the jail, they should be able to make a livelihood for an independent economic uplift.

2. The undersigned has coordinated with the management of Central Jail Huda, Quetta, and learned that the facility currently has small-scale labs for electrician work, plumbing, fine arts, and tailoring. The management has requested that NAVTTC upgrade these labs and establish additional labs for computer and mobile repair.

3. In light of this, it is requested that a special TVET program be initiated to upgrade these labs and provide training for juvenile and female prisoners at Central Jail Huda. This initiative will contribute to the skill development and economic rehabilitation of the prisoners.

(Dr. Hussain Baksh Magsi)
Director General
NAVTTC Regional Office, Quetta

Shafiq Hussain Khokhar
Director General (P&D)
NAVTTC H/Qs Islamabad.

Copy forwarded to:-

- ✓ Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb, member Balochistan, National Commission of Human Rights, Balochistan Regional Office.
2. P.S to Executive Director, NAVTTC H/Q, Islamabad



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
REGIONAL OFFICE BALUCHISTAN



Dated: 19-12-2024

F.No.5(3)2024-Coord/Bal/NCHR

The Secretary,
Communication, Works, Physical Planning & Housing Department (CWPP&H),
Government of Baluchistan,
Civil Secretariat,
Quetta.

Subject: AUDIT OF THE BUILDINGS TO MAKE THEM ACCESSIBLE TO
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS)

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) is an Independent Statutory body created to look into matters pertaining to all forms of violations of Human Rights within the territorial jurisdiction of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan by virtue of the National Commission for Human Rights Act of 2012.

2. During the 2nd meeting of the Advisory Committee of NCHR, members of the committee shared their concern about the rapid growth of multi-storey buildings especially in congested areas of Quetta. It is a known fact that Quetta City is located in the seismic zone which can cause rapid earthquakes. The earthquake of 1935 is an example of the disaster that can be caused. In the light of such situation, there was a building code which did not allow multi-storey, high-rise buildings in Quetta. In the present times an ugly situation that is visible, reveals the multi-storey plazas and high-rise buildings, multi-storey building accommodations spreading like mushrooms in every corner of the city. In narrow streets like Raheem Colony multi-storey buildings are being constructed. These high-rise buildings anywhere in the city are a serious threat as they can cause severe damage in case of occurrence of an earthquake.

3. In the light of above situation, it is necessary that CWPP&H conducts an audit of the buildings and take necessary action for the sake of security and safety of public. The Advisory Committee also desires that the buildings are made accessible to PWDs and create the facilitation mechanism according to the accessibility code of the Baluchistan Persons with Disabilities Act, 2017.

4. NCHR will be grateful, if a prompt action is taken in this matter and a compliance report is furnished to NCHR within a period of one month.

Warm Regards,
(Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb)

Farkhanda A
Member Baluchistan
National Commission for Human Rights
081-2869053



Address: House No.5-C, Asad Jan Street, Near Alkhair Hospital, Zarghoon Road, Quetta



051 9216771
5th Floor Evacuee
Trust Complex, Agha Khan Road,
Islamabad
www.nchr.gov.pk