



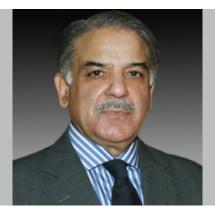






PUNJAB COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

MESSAGE



Chief Minister of Punjab

Today, women and girls form nearly half of the population of Punjab. Consequently their fair and equal treatment in all spheres of human activity is a pre-requisite for social stability, economic growth, and sustainable development. The Government of Punjab is, therefore, strongly committed to empowering women and girls across the province. We aim to achieve women's equal access to public services, socio-economic opportunities as well as basic human rights.

Punjab continues to channel its efforts and resources towards gender-sensitive strategies across sectors of governance, health, education, justice and economic empowerment. Recent pro-women legislation, the establishment of the Women Development Department, and PCSW, as well as Women's Empowerment Packages for 2012, 2014 and 2016 are some recent steps taken at the federal and provincial levels to protect women from all forms of abuse, discrimination and violence, and to ensure their proportionate representation in the decision-making process within all public bodies.

I would like to congratulate PCSW for its commendable efforts towards advancing the cause of women in Punjab.

MESSAGE



Minister for Women Development Punjab

I commend Chief Minister Punjab for his unflinching commitment and relentless efforts to empower women in the province. Advancement and protection of women's rights has been amongst his top priorities, and the Women Empowerment Packages are manifestations of his commitment. Under his leadership, a number of initiatives for women in the province have been undertaken, most of which have successfully been implemented.

Establishment of institutions for Women's development, legislation for women, working women hostels, day care centers, increases in women's quotas in government jobs, 33% representation of women in statutory bodies, transport facilities, training of women and provision of scooties, skill development programs, distribution of livestock, harassment free environment, amendments and implementation of revenue and inheritance laws, Violence Against Women Centers, gender sensitization modules in teachers training and officers' training institutions, are only a few of the many initiatives launched. I would like to extend my gratitude to Ms. Fauzia Viqar, Chairperson of the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women and her team for their continued efforts to ensure implementation of Government of Punjab's measures to empower the women of Punjab.

MESSAGE



Chairperson PCSW

Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) is a statutory, autonomous body established in February 2014 for the promotion of women's rights. After devolution of women's development to the provinces under the 18th Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan, PCSW was conceived as an oversight body to ensure policies and programmes of the government promote gender equality in Punjab.

PCSW's task in 2014-15 was to develop processes and engage in institutionbuilding activities to carry out its functions including the review of laws; monitoring implementation of national and international laws; conducting research; establishing networks with civil society, provincial, national and international experts; and monitoring institutions housing women and girls. Fortunately, we have been successful in recruiting strong members with diverse expertise, experience and longstanding commitment to promoting women's empowerment. They have continuously helped with the oversight function of PCSW and have played an active role in engaging with civil society organizations in their respective divisions in Punjab. Since its inception, PCSW has interacted actively with civil society organizations, held joint activities, engaged with parliamentarians and responded to women's complaints through a Helpline established by the Government of Punjab to provide information and address complaints of discrimination and lack of institutional response. Significantly in February 2015, the Commission submitted the Punjab Interim CEDAW Report on Concluding Observations of the UN CEDAW Committee.

In 2016, PCSW piloted four crucial initiatives including Gender Management Information System; Transitional Housing for Women Victims of Violence; Training of Nikah Registrars and Local Government Officials; and Women In Leadership. All projects overlap in that they hope to raise awareness, protect women against all forms of discrimination, and ensure women's representation and empowerment. In 2016 therefore, PCSW was considerably stronger institutionally than it was the previous year. Networking and collaborative efforts with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and International Governmental Organizations (IGOs) helped us coordinate goals and missions, and act as a bridge between local and international actors, fulfilling one of our core functions. The Commission and its members are committed to set the foundations of a strong and sustainable Commission with the capacity to fulfill its mandate.

ACRONYMS

ADP Annual Development Programme Schemes

AWAM Association of Women for Awareness and Motivation

AWAZ-CDS AWAZ Foundation Pakistan: Centre for Development Services

CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women

CBO Community Based Organization

CEO Chief Executive Officer

CM Chief Minister

CNIC Computerized National Identity Card
CRC Committee on the Rights of the Child
CSW Commission on the Status of Women

DCOs District Coordination Officers

DFID Department for International Development
DuA Dar-ul-Aman (shelter home for women)
ECP Election Commission of Pakistan

FGD Focused Group Discussion
FIR First Information Report

FPCCI The Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries

GMIS Gender Management Information System
GSP Generalized System of Preferences

HBW Home Based Workers

HDI Human Development Index

LG & CD Local Government and Community Development Department

LCCI Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry

LHC Lahore High Court

NADRA National Database and Registration Authority

NAVTEC National Vocational and Technical Training Commission

NCSW National Commission on the Status of Women

NGO Non-Governmental Organization
ODP Other Development Projects

PAMCO Punjab Agriculture and Meat Company
PCSW Punjab Commission on the Status of Women
PCTB Punjab Commission and Text Book Board
PDF Peace and Development Foundation

PGPR Punjab Gender Parity Report

PMEIF Pakistan Model Educational Institutions Foundation

POLCOM Police Station Record Management System
PWPC Puniab Women's Parlimentary Caucus

SDC Skill Development Council
SDGs Sustainable Development Goals
SYCOP Social Youth Council of Patriots
TIAW The International Alliance for Women

UC Union Council
UN United Nations

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
UNDP United Nation Development Program

UN-ECOSOC United Nations Economic and Social Council

UPR Universal Periodic Review VAW Violence against Women

WCCI Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry

WDD Women Development Department

WIL Women In Leadership

WILPF Women's International League for Peace and Freedom



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Fauzia Viqar specializes in women's empowerment with a focus on supporting legislation and policy reform and community development. With over 15 years of professional and voluntary work with government and civil society organizations, Ms. Viqar is recognized for her expertise in gender and race based discrimination and promotion of women's empowerment. She has held senior management and advisory positions with government and non-governmental organizations and civil society networks in Pakistan and Canada. Ms. Viqar was appointed the first Chairperson of the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women in 2014.



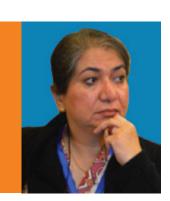
Prof. Muhammad Jalil Butt is a renowned Applied sociologist, educationist, development practitioner, lead trainer, and has served in the development sector for over 30 years. He has been managing Development Institute of Professional Studies (DIPS) an institution that offers training courses for Human Rights Defenders and development practitioners for the last 8 years. Mr. Jalil Butt is an adjunct faculty member at RIPHAH International University, Post Graduate College Sahiwal, Allama Iqbal Open University. He is a founding member of Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA) and DANISH (NGO), and served as a Lead Trainer of UNDP in the 2013 General Elections. He is also a member of the PCSW Law/Policy Committee. He is a proud feminist and actively works for women's empowerment.



Sameena Nazir is the Director of Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA) and Vice President of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). She facilitates promotion of pro-women rights legislation and has led a grassroots movement through the Annual Conference for Rural Women since 2008. Before joining PODA in Pakistan, Ms. Nazir worked at Freedom House in New York City as Project Director for Survey of Women's Rights in the Middle East and North Africa and published a comparative analysis of women's rights in 18 countries in the Middle East and North Africa region. She received Interaction's Annual Humanitarian Award in 2009 in USA and Benazir Bhutto Human Rights Award in Pakistan in 2010. She has studied English Literature and Law at University of the Punjab and International Agriculture & Rural Development at Cornell University, USA.



Ome Kalsoom Seyal is the Founder and Chairperson of the Social Youth Council of Patriots (SYCOP), an NGO working on advocating and orienting youth by creating peace and interfaith harmony among them. She studied "NGO Management of Youth Programmes for South Asia" in USA. She is also Chairperson of the Government's Dar ul Aman Management Committee in Muzaffargarh and has been a founding member of several social initiatives such as the Crisis Centre for Women and District Coordinator of Child Rights Committee, Muzaffargarh. She has extensive experience in conducting trainings on women's rights and good governance, and has been awarded the Best Master Trainer Award (National) in the Non-Formal Basic Education System. She has been elected as a Member of District Assembly/District Council thrice, and has spoken in a conference organised by Golden Voices of Women, USA.



Ume Laila Azhar is a women's rights activist and currently serves as Executive Director of HomeNet Pakistan, an organization that supports women home-based workers across Pakistan. She was a part of the Initiative for Peace and Conflict in South Asia, an initiative of UN Peace Institute. She was honoured with "The International Alliance for Women (TIAW) World of Difference 2012" award. Ume Laila has been actively involved in Regional, National and Provincial policy advocacy initiatives and is working with government line departments at the provincial and district level. She remained involved in the development of the Home Based Workers National Policy 2009-2011, 2013-2016, and was involved in the provincial policy for Home Based Workers in Sindh and Punjab 2012-2016. She also received Global Women Economic Empowerment Award 2016.



Qaisara Ismail has been a member of District Council Sargodha from 2001 to 2005 and 2005 to 2009; Chairperson Zonal Helicize Committee (2003 to 2005); Member of District Monitoring Committees Health, Education, Anti-corruption; and Member Advisory Committee of Sanatzar Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Mal Department Sargodha. She has been a Lead Trainer the of Election Commission of Pakistan and a Master Trainer and resource person in various Non-Governmental and Inter-Governmental Projects on gender mainstreaming, local government, girl child birth registration, women's leadership, life skills and business skills of women.



Shazia George is a women's rights activist, working as a Program Manager at the Association of Women for Awareness and Motivation (AWAM) since 2008. She has a Masters degree in Gender Studies and is accredited with 5 years' experience in implementing projects, report writing, designing and conducting capacity building trainings for NGOs, and spearheading advocacy campaigns for the promotion of human rights, democracy and peace, persons/women with disabilities, particularly focusing on rights of women and religious minorities. She has participated in several training courses on human rights, gender and disability issues, conducted by organizations in Pakistan, USA, India and Sri Lanka.



Romana Bashir is the founding member and Executive Director of Peace and Development Foundation (PDF). She has been working on peace building and human rights since 1995 and is a well-known, respected senior resource person in the areas of Interfaith harmony, religious freedom, and women's and minorities' rights in Pakistan. In appreciation of her work, she was appointed as a consultant of the 'Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue' by the Pope. She has developed training manuals on peace building skills and has sensitized various classes and sects on peace and harmony.



Prof. Dr. Razla Musarrat has been teaching in the department of Political Science, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) since 1984, where she is the Chairperson of the Department of Political Science, the Director of the Women Development Center and Convenor of Board of Studies of Political Science and Sociology. She is also a member of the Board of Studies of Political Science and Gender Studies at BZU Multan, Political Science and International Relations at Sargodha University Sargodha, and International Relations and Political Science at G.C University, Faisalabad. She served as an expert on the Board of Studies in Political Science at Government College University Lahore, and Peshawar University. She is a member of the Academic Staff Association, Academic Council, Board of Advance Studies and Research, and Senate of IUB. She has organized and participated in a number of conferences and gender sensitization workshops nationally and internationally. Currently, she is working on a project titled "Reforming Local Government in Pakistan".



Mohammad Zia-ur-Rehman is the Founder & Chief Executive of AWAZ Foundation Pakistan: Centre for Development Services - commonly known as AWAZ-CDS, a leading national NGO working to secure the future of marginalized communities especially women. After his graduation from B.Z. University Multan in 1994, he completed a one-year course in NGO Leadership & Management from the Centre for Development Management – a joint venture of BRAC (Bangladesh), ORAP (Zimbabwe) and School for International Training Vermont (USA), and a one-year Social Enterprise Development course at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). He was elected Regional Representative of the Action for Sustainable Development Campaign at CIVICUS Alliance in August 2016. A strong advocate of civil liberties, Mr. Zia-ur-Rehman is well known for his grassroots community mobilization and advocacy work in civil society circles of South Asia.



Dr. Shehla Javed Akram is one of the most successful women entrepreneurs in Pakistan. She became a pioneer in the field of healthcare when she launched Pakistan's first hospital for acute medical care. She then broke into the traditionally male dominated sector by setting up a pharmaceutical industry. Most recently, she became the CEO of a real estate development company, JS Developers. She has worked in the public sector since 2003, and is the founding President of the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Lahore Division, which is also registered with UN-ECOSOC. She became the first woman to win elections of LCCI and the first Vice President of FPCCI. She also serves on the Board of Directors of PAMCO, SDC Punjab, PMEIF, and Ambassador for International Women (OPS).



Mr. Muhammad Usman is career Civil Servant belonging to the Secretariat Group of Civil Service of Pakistan and 26th CTP. He has served in different capacities in many Federal as well as Provincial Government Departments. He has been associated with Social Sector Departments including Federal Ombudsman, National Vocational and Technical Education Commission (NAVTEC), Benazir Income Support Programme, Literacy and Non Formal Basic Education Department (as Additional Secretary and Project Director). In 2015, he completed the Senior Management Course (SMC) and joined Punjab Commission on the Status of Women.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Government of Punjab has taken multiple administrative, legislative and policy measures through Women Empowerment Packages 2012, 2014 and 2016. These measures have reinforced the Government's commitment to securing women's political, social and economic rights in Punjab. Key legal amendments and laws passed in Punjab since devolution include Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Act and Rules 2012, Punjab Partition of Immovable Property Act 2012, Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2012; Punjab Commission on the Status of Women Act 2014; and Punjab Protection of Women against Violence Act, 2016.

In 2014, Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) was formed through the PCSW Act 2014, and conceived as an autonomous, oversight body to ensure that policies and programmes of the government promote gender equality in Punjab. The PCSW Act set forth the mandate of the Commission, which ranges from research, review of laws, rules, policies, programmes and other measures of the government; to monitoring implementation of laws and policies for achievement of gender equality and elimination of discrimination against women. A key function of the Commission is to inquire into instances of violence against women and official inaction, and hold culprits accountable. Programmes executed in 2016 have been designed to fulfil all aspects of the Commission's mandate.

In 2016, PCSW piloted 3 projects as part of the ODP scheme: The Women in Leadership project aims to ensure 33% representation of women in decision-making positions in public entities in Punjab. The Transitional Housing for Women Victims of Violence project will set up safe and secure housing for women victims of violence, so that they are not forced to live in Dar-ul-Amans, other substandard or unsafe conditions, or return to their abusers. Further, the Training of Nikah Registrars and Local Government Officials project will build the capacity of approximately 39,000 Nikah Registrars and 4,000 UC Secretaries on family and marriage laws in Punjab.

Additionally, the launch of Gender Management Information System (GMIS) in 2015 and its continued and expanded collection of data in 2016 have furthered PCSW's efforts to affect policy changes to realize gender parity in Punjab.

Key activities and accomplishments include:

Punjab Women's Helpline



A major accomplishment of 2016 was the growing success of the Commission's Helpline as a mechanism for complaint redressal and awareness raising. Since its inception in 2014, the Helpline has served as a fundamental tool for the Commission to address inquiries and complaints from women across Punjab. After Government of Punjab's assessment of its success, the helpline was recommended for regularization. Currently, the Helpline has become a part of the Commission, and has its own annual budget.

Research



The Commission's mandate to "sponsor, steer, and encourage research to generate information and maintain a database relating to women and gender issues" was met through four major research-based projects in 2016. These include the Gender Management Information System (GMIS), which is a regularly updated online repository of information related to women in Punjab, and provides data for 274 indicators across demographics, governance, health, economic participation, education, and justice. Furthermore, the Commission conducted researches on Punjab's prisons, Dar-ul-Amans, and key obstacles faced by women in inheriting land, all of which are intended to affect law, policy and governance in the areas covered.

Punjab Gender Parity Report 2016



The Commission's mandate to encourage research to generate information and maintain a database relating to women and gender issues, was fulfilled in 2016, with the launch of the Punjab Gender Parity Report (PGPR) 2016, compiled and analyzed with data received for GMIS. PGPR reflects the situation of women across the six thematic areas covered by GMIS. To date, GMIS has assisted PCSW in exercising and fulfilling one of its key functions; "to examine policy, programs and other measures taken by the government affecting women. PGPR not only reflects the status of women in Punjab but also aids in the formulation of policy recommendations on the basis of reliable data.



CEDAW Report

PCSW monitors implementation of instruments and obligations affecting women and girls. As a result the Commission has developed an exhaustive set of 196 indicators to facilitate concrete reporting from government departments. Based on comprehensive input obtained from provincial and district government offices, the CEDAW Report prepared by PCSW is subsequently endorsed by the Women Development Department and shared with the Federal Ministry of Human Rights for incorporation into Pakistan's State Report, due to be presented before the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2017.



The Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) is a statutory, autonomous body established in February 2014 for the promotion of women's rights. After the 18th Amendment, policy areas related to the development and empowerment of women were transferred to the provinces. Women Development Department and, subsequently, PCSW was set up and conceived as an oversight body to ensure policies and programs of the government to eradicate discrimination and promote gender equality in Punjab.

Since its establishment in February 2014, PCSW has successfully taken a number of concrete steps to fulfill its mandate. These include:

Gender Management Information System A regularly updated online repository of information related to women in Punjab. GMIS includes data on demographics, governance, health, economic participation and oppertunities, education and justice.

Toll free Helpline

An official means for redressal of women's grievances and complaints; holding public offices accountable for inaction; building capacity and awareness of women across Punjab.

Research

Research on Dar-ul-Amans; situation of women in prisons in Punjab; and impact of Inheritance Reforms; A survey to advance women's social and economic wellbeing in Pakistan to be conducted in 2017.

Monitoring

Visits to Dar-ul-Amans and women prisons; monitoring of women's participation in the Local Government Elections of 2015; PWEP 2012, 2014 and 2016; and International Conventions.

Since 2014, PCSW has built strategic relationships with government departments and non-governmental bodies, to advocate for women's rights and gender equality in Punjab.

PHILOSOPHY OF The Punjab Commission on the Status of Women



Vision

A Punjab where women are equal, empowered and prosperous citizens.



Mission

Promote women's empowerment and gender equality in Punjab through research, review and revision of laws, policies, programs, rules and regulations. Monitoring implementation of instruments and obligations affecting women and girls and collaborating with government agencies and civil society.



Values

Transparency Respect Accountability Professionalism Integrity Gender-sensitivity

FUNCTIONS OF PCSW

Section 9 of the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2014 states:

(1) The Commission shall:

- (a) Examine policy, programs and other measures taken by the Government to materialize gender equality.
- (b) Review Punjab laws, rules and regulations affecting the status and rights of women and suggest repeal.
- (c) Sponsor, steer and encourage research to generate information, analysis and studies and maintain a database relating to women and gender issues.
- (d) Develop and maintain interaction and dialogue with non-governmental organizations, experts and individuals in society to achieve gender equality.
- (e) Mobilize grants from provincial, national and international agency for meeting any of its obligations or performing its functions.
- (f) Consider, approve and monitor implementation of the strategic plan, annual work plan and the annual budget.
- (g) Facilitate and monitor implementation of instruments and obligations affecting women and girls to which Pakistan is a signatory.

(2) The Commission may:

- (e) inspect any jail, sub-jail or other places of custody, where women and girls are kept, and make appropriate recommendations to the concerned authority or agency.
- (f) Act for advocacy, lobbying, coalition building, networking and as a catalyst for promotion of cause of women to facilitate their participation in all spheres of life.
- (h) Monitor the mechanism and institutional procedure for redressal of violation of women's rights.





ACTIVITIES In 2016

Section 9 (1) (a)

Examine policies, programs and other measures taken by the Government to materialize gender equality, empower women, and ensure political participation and representation

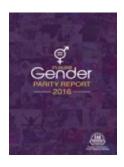
Section 9 (1) (b)

Review Punjab Laws, rules and regulations affecting the status and right of Women

- 1: PGPR
- 2. Feedback on Policies
- 3. Recommendations for Women's Empowerment
- 4. Monitoring of Women's Empowerment Packages

Women Development Department (WDD) and PCSW form the government apparatus responsible for examining and monitoring progress achieved under various women's empowerment initiatives implemented by the government of Punjab. Key activities undertaken by PCSW to achieve its mandate of examining policies and programs to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment are as follows:

Punjab Gender Parity Report (PGPR)



The Punjab Gender Parity Report (PGPR) analyses information collected from a total of 585 provincial departments/Institutions and district offices within the Government of Punjab. PGPR provides data and analysis regarding every aspect of women's lives, so as to serve as a foundation for policy-making and further research into the status of women across all thematic areas covered, including demographics, governance, health, education, economic participation and justice. PGPR 2016 served as the Commission's reference point for comparison of patterns and trends from previous years. Data compiled accurately reflects the status of women in Punjab, and in doing so, enables government bodies to effectively

respond to the needs of women in Punjab, through specifically tailored and customized programs.

2. Punjab Gender Parity Committee

Consequent to the direction of the Chief Minister, Punjab Gender Parity Committee (PGP Committee), the Chief Secretary constituted the PGP Committee, chaired by Chairman Planning and Development Department, Government of Punjab. The Committee was tasked with examining the findings of PGPR 2016, and identifying measures to counter gender disparity in Punjab, including formulation of ADP schemes on the basis of these findings. In this regard, five sub-committees were formed for each thematic area covered in PGPR, i.e. demographics and governance, education, economic empowerment, health and justice. Members of the Committee include key stakeholders from Government of Punjab, academia, non-governmental organizations and experts.

Key recommendations given forth by the PGP Committee in 2016 were as follows:

- (I) Hurdles caused by dual procedures must be removed as far as possible. LG&CD Department and NADRA databases must be linked, so that upon expiry of 3 months, Talaq Certificate is issued automatically by NADRA, and parties are informed that the Certificate is ready to be collected.
- (II) Birth registration of girls must have monetary incentives to encourage families to register births of girls.

 Registration figures must also be monitored regularly to ensure gender parity.
- (III) ECP must collect gender-disaggregated figures for candidature and voter turnout in all elections.
- (IV) Mental Health requires focus on both psychological and psychiatric treatment and should be integrated into Punjab's Health Sector Strategy.
- (V) Tertiary level healthcare should be expanded and existing basic healthcare facilities must be improved in quality and safety. The latter is also important to boost follow up visits for antenatal care.
- (VI) Smart Monitoring of Schools' programme should include an indicator on annual results of the teachers to improve the quality of education.
- (VII) Comprehensive rehabilitation strategy should be developed for social and economic re-integration of women prisoners in society. Furthermore, skills training, literacy/education and life skills must be institutionalized as a regular feature in all jails in Punjab.

3. Feedback on Policies

Sr#	Date	Subject
1.	May 3rd	Feedback provided on Implementation of Women-related Commitments provided at Meeting of the Sub-Committee on GSP Plus.
2.	May 6th	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Ministry of Interior and Narcotic Control and the Ministry of Justice and Public Security of Norway, for "Cooperation in Combating Crime".
3.	June 28th	List of issues pertaining to Human Rights Conventions to be mandatorily implemented for Pakistan to retain its GSP Plus Status.
4.	July 1st	Letter from Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing.
5.	August 25th	Feedback provided on National Policy Framework for Women Empowerment.
6.	September 1st	Report on 135th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly and related Meeting to be held from 23rd-27th October, 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland.
7.	September 7th	Provincial Transitional Team.
8.	September 8th	Feedback provided on National Policy on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.
9.	September 28th	Submission of Punjab's Report on Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
10.	October 30th	Feedback provided on Strategic Framework for Combating Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling.
11.	November 11th	Report on Concluding Observations and Recommendations on Pakistan's 5th Periodic Report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) for onward submission to the UN's Committee on the Rights of the Child.
12.	November 11th	Report on Pakistan's Third Universal Periodic Review (UPR).
13.	November 17th	Updates provided for European Union Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy.
14.	December 20th	Feedback provided on list of issues related to Review of Pakistan's Initial Report on International Covenant on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights.

Section 9 (1) (c)

Sponsor, Steer and Encourage research to generate information and maintain a database relating to women and gender issues

- 1. Gender Management Information System
- 2. Evalution of 2015 Land Reforms
- 3. Sheltering Women from Harm (Dar-ul-Amans)
- 4. Women in Punjab Prisons

1. Gender Management Information System



In order to achieve its mandate, PCSW requires access to direct, reliable, and up-to-date information regarding women in Punjab. Gender disaggregated data is essential to weigh-out economic, political and social dimensions

of gender differences, and help the government design equitable policies and programs that cater to these differences and reduce gender disparity. "Subsequently, in 2016 a comprehensive database of gender statistics, consisting of data collected on 274 indicators, was developed by PCSW with the technical support of the Urban Unit". The data is free of cost, and accessible through a web-based Management Information System (MIS) called the "Gender Management Information System" (GMIS), which reflects gender parity/disparity across six thematic areas: Demographics & Governance, Education, Health, Economic Participation, Legal Rights and Violence against Women. GMIS has assisted PCSW in compiling the first PGPR in 2016.

2. Evaluating 2015 Legal Reforms Related To Land Inheritance And Their Impact On Women

Restricted access to land negatively impacts women's economic empowerment in Punjab, and results in their disenfranchisement in all spheres of life. Although land ownership and redistribution is a significant means for uplift of poverty-stricken homes, especially in rural areas in Pakistan.





its significance is even more important as a stimulus for women's empowerment. Ownership of land may be the only means for women to economically, politically and socially empower themselves. This research explored key obstacles faced by women in inheriting land to which they are the rightful heirs, and also suggests structural and targeted interventions that may improve women's access to their right of inheritance. Research through in-depth key informant interviews and focused group discussions (FGDs) deemed the following to be the most significant barriers to women's inheritance: cultural constraints, documentation and procedural

requirements, corruption and lack of accountability, discriminatory laws, delays in the legal system, and lack of female staff in Government of Punjab's district offices. The following key recommendations were extracted on the basis of the research:

Recommendations:

- Shifting of burden of proof from women in cases where they unintenionally sign away their claim to inheritance, or are forced to do so by patriarchal heads of the family.
- Retrospective payment of land revenue after settlement of disputes.
- Amendment to land inheritance legislation to include specific provisos for uneducated women.
- Amalgamation of land record system across Punjab, in both rural and urban locations.

3. Sheltering Women From Harm: Dar-ul-Amans of Punjab



In Pakistan, government-run shelter homes for women, the Dar-ul-Amans (DuA), pre-date international consensus on shelters being a crucial component in any effective response to gender-based violence. The Government of Punjab has expanded the DuA network to every district and has systematically introduced measures to deliver services aligned with international best practices; particularly through revised standard operating procedures, guidelines, minimum standards of compliance, and robust referral and complaint mechanisms. This research report reviewed efforts already undertaken, and highlighted areas for further improvement of DuAs in Punjab. It

presents the results of a study of all 35 DuAs in Punjab, and their engagement with residents, staff, service providers, associated committees, departments, former residents, and community women unconnected to the DuAs. Drawing upon previous studies, international best practices, and governmental standards, the study gauged responsiveness of facilities, social and medico-legal care to the needs of women seeking shelter. Based on the aforementioned framework used for assessment, the research also put forward a set of recommendations to further improve DuAs in Punjab.

Recommendations:

- Increase financing for all DuAs in Punjab, including adequate allocation for repair and maintenance of essential facilities.
- Improve security by establishing a uniform protocol for all security procedures, and ensure that measures are rigorously enforced.
- Improve services by translating minimum standards into Urdu and other local languages, regularly convening compulsory training and refresher courses for all staff and affiliated service providers.
- Improve residents' rights and services by publicizing benefits, such as legal aid, which they are entitled to, offering adult education and skill building courses, and regular information sessions regarding women's legal rights.
- Improve residents' transition by establishing transitional housing for women to learn vocational and basic business skills and a micro-credit scheme for women to set up their own businesses once they leave the DuA.

4. Women in Punjab's Prisons: Desk Review of Policies and Practice



This study was conducted to review Prison Rules, the current conditions of women in prisons across Punjab, and make appropriate recommendations to concerned authorities. The report highlights achievements and lacunae in accountability mechanisms, overcrowding, food, medical facilities, budgeting, vocational training and efforts towards rehabilitation and empowerment of female inmates.

Findings & Recommendations:

Financial and human resource constraints negatively impact the quality of services available to women during incareeration, particularly with respect to health and education.

Prison officials responsible for administration, management and monitoring are clearly identified in Prison Rules. However, mechanisms to monitor their compliance with prison rules and implications of failure to meet policy standards are not specified.

Prison Rules are not sufficiently implemented and fall short in the provision of standards in the following areas:

- Constitutional right to length of police custody before being charged.
- Arrest and interrogation of women by female police officers.
- Ready access to complaint mechanisms, stipulated by current rules.
- Vacancy of staffing posts.
- Standards for education, including literacy, vocational training and skill building.
- Standards of care for children accompanying their mothers.
- Mental health counseling for prisoners.
- Specified services for recreation and rehabilitation for juvenile women, as they are currently not considered a
 distinct entity and are grouped in with adult women.

Monitoring and oversight role of PCSW should be institutionalized, and Prison Rules accordingly amended.

Punjab Women's Helpline must be included in Prison Rules as an official complaint mechanism in case of misconduct or inaction by Prison officials.

Jail based studies, including interviews with prison officials, staff and prisoners, as well as observations of existing facilities are needed regularly to present an independent and accurae assessment of the current condition of female immates.

Section 9 (1) (d) Develop and maintain interaction and dialogue with non-governmental organizations, experts and individuals in society to achieve gender equality Section 9 (2) (f) Advocate, lobby, network and build coalitions as a catalyst to facilitate women's empowerment 1. Networking & Collaboration

1. Networking & Collaboration

Section 9 (1) (d) of the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women Act 2014 mandates that the Commission maintain interaction and dialogue with NGOs and experts to achieve gender equality. Accordingly, the Commission has maintained an active network with academics, national and international dignitaries, community and NGO leaders, and service providers to coordinate efforts towards the goal of achieving gender equality.

Majority of the Commission's collaboration efforts were done through four major avenues:

- Events organized by the Commission
- Events in which the Commission was invited to disseminate information regarding the Commission's mandate and initiatives of the Government
- Exchanges and visits with dignitaries
- Formal Memorandums of Understanding

The following are examples of some of PCSW's efforts:



Criminal Justice Stakeholders Meeting - February 10th, 2016

In 2016, four meetings were held between PCSW and key criminal justice stakeholders to discuss strategies for data sharing and increased collaboration between PCSW, Punjab Police, Public Prosecution Department, the Lahore High Court, and the Home and Prisons Department. Indicators for gender disaggregrated data from each criminal justice institutions were finalized and mechanisms for data sharing between the Police, Lahore High Court and the PCSW established.



Lahore High Court – First Women Judges Conference – February 20th, 2016

On 20th February, the Lahore High Court held its First Women Judges Conference in order to commence dialogue on gender in the Judiciary, and how to best integrate women judges within the Judiciary. Chairperson of the Commission, Ms. Fauzia Viqar, was invited to deliver information regarding specific challenges for women and discuss possible solutions. The Lahore High Court included the "Justice" section of the Punjab Gender Parity Report 2016 in the program of the conference.



Visit by the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom to Pakistan, Mr. Thomas Drew, Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (CMG) – April 1st, 2016

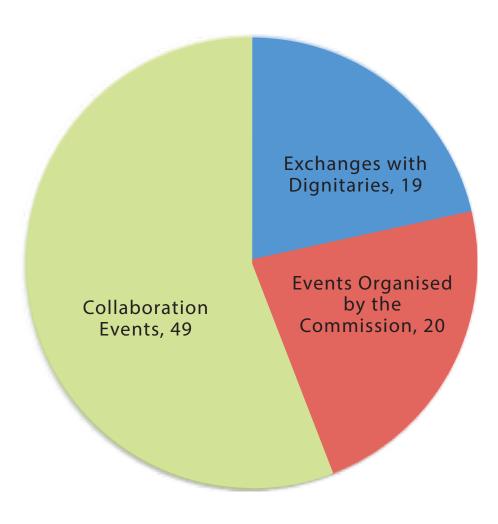
Mr. Thomas Drew, the UK High Commissioner to Pakistan, visited the Commission on the 1st of April, 2016. During this visit, initiatives taken by the government, achievements of the Commission, and opportunities for collaboration were discussed.



Consultation on Criminal Law (Amendment) (Offences in the name or pretext of honour) Act of 2016 - December 23rd, 2016

PCSW partnered with the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, and held a Consultation with senior officials of the Punjab Police, Public Prosecution Department, legal advisors, members of the Punjab Judicial Academy, and academia, to discuss the 2016 amendments, designed to prevent incidence of murder in the name of honour, and ensure punishment for perpetrators. The consultation included a discussion of implementation strategies for the amendments, as well as identification of lacunae that continue to exist despite the amendment. Further actions which need to be taken by each stakeholder were also discussed at length and followed-up by PCSW.

Events in 2016



Section 9 (1) (e)

Mobilize grants from provincial, national and international agencies, to meet its obligations or perform its functions

- 1. Annual Development Projects (ODPs)
- 2. Collaboration with UNFPA

1. Development Projects (ODPs)

The Government of Punjab awarded PCSW a grant of PKR 100,000,000 to pilot and develop projects under the development schemes mode.

(i) Women In Leadership (WIL)



In order to facilitate implementation of Punjab Women's Empowerment Package 2012, and Punjab Fair Representation of Women Act, 2014, PCSW initiated the "Women in Leadership" Project in 2016, to ensure at least 33% representation of women on all Boards of Statutory Organizations, Public Sector Companies, Special Purpose Taskforces and Committees. Objectives of this initiative include:

- Empowerment of women through leadership trainings and exposure.
- Placement of 33% women in at least 15% Boards of Statutory Organizations, Public Sector Companies, and Special Purpose Taskforces and Committees.
- Development of a comprehensive database of all public sector entities in Punjab and women leadership candidates.
- Mentoring of potential candidates by existing women leaders.

Creating spaces for women in decision-making positions in Punjab will enhance gender diversity in public institutions. This opportunity will provide women with the ability to influence important decisions and bring new voices, experiences and approaches to decision-making processes in the public sector. Within the first 10 months of the project, at least 30 women will be placed on at least 15% Boards and Committees across Government of Punjab's institutions.

(ii) Transitional Housing Scheme for Women Victims of Violence



Transitional housing, sometimes called second-stage housing, is envisioned as a residency program that includes support services designed as a bridge to self-sufficiency. The objective of the transitional home is to provide survivors of violence with safe and secure housing so that they are not confined to *Dar-ul-Amans*, other substandard or unsafe conditions, or the home(s) of their abuser(s).

The project also aims to facilitate socio-economic independence among survivors of violence. Residents are expected to stay for a duration of six months to one year and, will be required to establish personal goals to work towards economic independence and financial stability. The Project will provide financial support, skill development opportunities, employment referrals, psychological counselling, and ancillary support such as childcare and child development programs.

(iii) Capacity Building of *Nikah* Registrars and Local Government Officials in Punjab



In order to raise awareness and apprise Local Government Officials (including UC Secretaries, Councilors and Tehsil Officers) and *Nikah* Registrars about recent amendments to laws regarding marriage, PCSW has initiated a project to build the capacity of approximately 39,000 *Nikah* Registrars and 4,000 UC Secretaries in Punjab. These individuals are involved in solemnizing and registering *Nikahs*, thus must be aware of legal provisions regarding marriage, including women's rights, proper filling of a *Nikahnama*, and penalties for conducting and solemnizing an early age marriage. This initiative is hoped to contribute towards a lower incidence of early age marriage in Punjab.

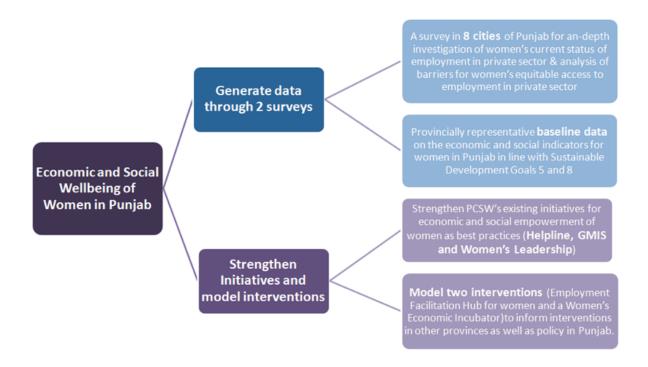
2. Women's Economic Empowerment and Social Wellbeing Project: Collaboration with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



In 2016, PCSW developed a project in partnership with UNFPA, to measure women's economic empowerment and social well-being and accordingly guide advocacy initiatives for policies related to women's economic empowerment. In this regard, a district level representative survey of approximately 42,000 households will be

conducted in Punjab, to obtain an accurate picture of the status of women's economic empowerment and it's correlation with their social well-being. The project will also include a set of studies to understand the status of women engaged in private sector formal employment, women with disabilities, and women from minority communities, including religious minorities. The survey will be carried out by Punjab Bureau of Statistics, Planning and Development Department, the Urban Unit, Punjab Economic Research Institute, and other technical and research institutes, while PCSW will work in close collaboration with these organizations to steer the survey/research study. The estimated cost of the project is PKR 543 million.

Implementation Strategy to Advance Women's Social and Economic Wellbeing in Pakistan



Section 9 (1) (g)

Facilitate and monitor implementation on instruments and obligations affecting women and girls

- 1. Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- 2. Generalized System of Preferences Plus
- 3. Universal Periodic Review
- 4. Sustainable Development Goals

International Conventions And Instruments

Government of Pakistan adheres to 27 human rights conventions and instruments, and uses CEDAW as its guiding document to create national and provincial policy frameworks for the empowerment of women. PCSW is mandated by law to monitor implementation of international instruments and report on them.

5th Periodic Report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

The 5th Periodic Report on CEDAW is due to be submitted to the CEDAW Committee in March 2017. In this regard, the Chief Minister of Punjab formulated a Committee to monitor implementation and track progress of CEDAW articles. Since its formation, the Committee's meetings have been led by the Minister for Women Development, and are convened by the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women. So far, the Committee has met 3 times a year from 2013 to 2016.

Concurrently, with the help of an especially constituted committee, PCSW developed an exhaustive set of 196 indicators to facilitate concrete reporting from government departments. CEDAW Progress Reports are compiled by PCSW according to Indicators developed, and information obtained from all provincial and district governments. In September 2016, PCSW's report was endorsed by Women Development Department and forwarded to the Federal Ministry of Human Rights, for incorporation into Pakistan's State Report.

2. Generalized System Of Preferences (GSP Plus)

Pakistan's GSP plus status is conditional on the Government's compliance with 27 international human rights' conventions. The Commission provides an update and progress report on implementation of international conventions related to women's rights and protections, for subsequent reporting by Punjab Board of Investment and Trade, to the "Sub-Committee on GSP Plus." In 2016, the Commission reportedly regularly on GSP Plus, highlighting key measures taken by the government of Punjab, to protect and empower women.

3. Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

In 2016, the Commission provided a progress report on "women's rights" to the Federal Ministry of Human Rights, which then compiles these updates for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The Universal Periodic Review involves a review of the situation of human rights in States that have attained membership of the Human Rights Council. It is a State-driven process, which provides each State with an opportunity to declare steps taken to improve the situation of human rights in their respective countries and fulfill their international human rights obligations.

4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In September of 2015, all UN Member States, including Pakistan, adopted the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs). Goal 5 of the SDG framework focuses specifically on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, and sets specific targets to achieve the objective. The Commission has placed overriding emphasis on the importance of localising and feminising the SDGs, targets and indicators.

In this regard, GMIS has been expanded to include indicators for monitoring the SDGs. Furthermore, PCSW and United Nations Population Fund's intervention titled "Economic and Social Well-being of Women in Pakistan" will directly contribute towards achievement of SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all). The survey to be conducted will provide baseline data for the Government to monitor SDG 5 and 8. As a member of the SDG Technical Advisory Group constituted by the Planning and Development Department, the Commission provides regular input to the Group, aiding monitoring and achievement of the SDGs.

Section 9 (2) (e)

Inspect jail, sub-jail or other places of custody, where women and girls are kept.

- 1. Monitoring of Jails in Punjab
- 2. Visits to Dar-ul-Amans

1. Monitoring of Jails In Punjab

In 2016, visits to jails in Khanewal and Sahiwal were conducted as part of PCSW's mandate to "inspect any jail, sub-jail or other places of custody, where women and girls are kept" and "make appropriate recommendations to the concerned authority or agency."

In 2016, the Commission conducted two district monitoring meetings/visits:

- Khanewal on 25-07-2016
- Sahiwal on 27-12-2016

These meetings were held with district administration, where key line departments of the Government, civil society activists and political representatives discussed women prisoner's conditions, and challenges encountered at length.

2. Visits to Dar-ul-Amans

The Commission visited all 35 DUAs in Punjab from January to April of 2016 to conduct comprehensive research on the condition of women so as to identify institutional challenges. In this connection, the research team visited all DuAs and related institutions such as Women's Crisis Centers to assess status and improvements required in service delivery to women obtaining shelter. This research also reviewed policies and guidelines for Dar-ul-Amans and assistance provided by the departments of health and police.

Section 9 (2) (h)

Monitor the mechanism and institutional procedure for redressal of violation of women's rights

1. Punjab Women's Helpline

1. Punjab Women's Helpline (1043)

The Commission manages a Toll-Free Helpline to:

- Provide information and raise awareness about women's rights and services;
- Offer advice and guidance to callers;
- Register complaints regarding inaction by government functionaries; and
- Ensure an enabling environment for women in professional and domestic spheres.

Since its launch in August 2014, the Helpline has successfully served as an efficient resource and guiding tool for the women of Punjab. After Government of Punjab's critical evaluation of the Helpline, regularization was immediately recommended. Today, the Helpline is a permanent part of PCSW and has its own annual budget. PCSW uses the Helpline to generate short duration calls and text messages to disseminate information about women-related laws and policies, and record public feedback. The Helpline also runs telephone-based surveys around issues of government interest. The Punjab Women's Toll-Free Helpline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Helpline team comprises of all-women call agents, three legal advisors, supervisors and management staff to address inquiries and complaints on:

- Workplace harassment
- Gender discrimination
- Property disputes and inheritance rights
- Domestic violence
- Hostels, day-care centers and other facilities for working women
- Quotas for women in public sector jobs
- Skills development opportunities
- Employment policies
- Other economic and social issues

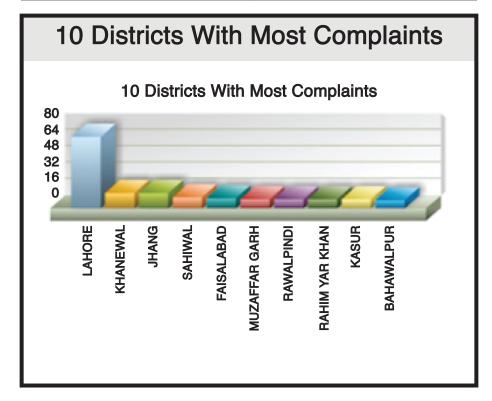




In 2016, the Helpline received a total of 24,191 calls and made 54,084 awareness calls.

Of the calls received, 239 were complaints and 23,837 were inquiries.

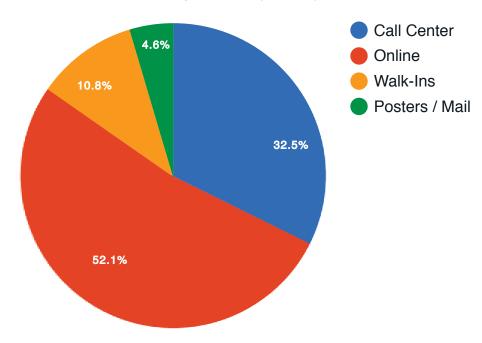
Type of Calls	Number	
Inbound	24,191	
Awareness	54,084	
TOTAL	78,275	



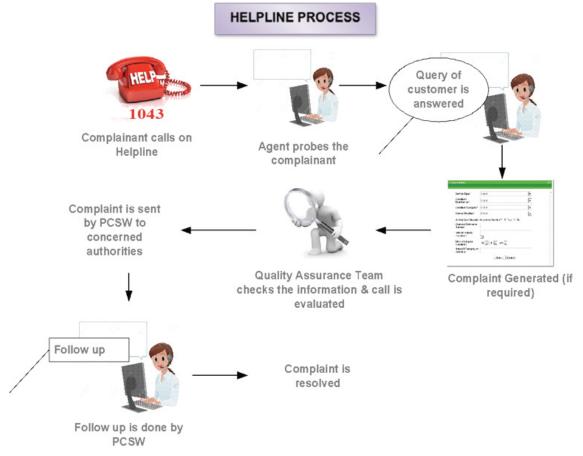
69% of complaints filed in 2016 have been resolved while 31% are still in process

COMPLAINTS BY ISSUE	
Criminal offences Related to Women	59
Property Matters	41
Harassment	37
Violence / Torture	30
Family Issues	15
Employment / Job Related	11
Harmful Traditional Practices	10
Women Shelter Related	9

Sources of Complaints (2016)



Helpline updates can be viewed on the PCSW website <www.pcsw.punjab.gov.pk> with district and category wise information.





Nikkah Registrar's License Cancelled due to Solemnizing Child Marriage

DPO Jhang has referred a case against a man accused of committing polygamy and contracting child marriage with a 13 year old girl in tehsil Shor Kot, district Jhang, to the Family Court, District Jhang. In her complaint to the Administrator, Union Council, the Complainant, the man's first wife, alleged that her husband married a minor without her permission, which is a violation of Section 6 of the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961. In contracting a marriage with a child, the accused is also in violation of section 4 of the Punjab Child Marriage Restraint Act 2015. Upon receipt of Complaint, the Administrator Union Council cancelled the license of the Nikkah Registrar under section 5 of the Act, and proceeded to refer the complaint to Family Court for redressal. Upon investigation, the DPO found that the accusation of polygamy and contracting a child marriage were correct. The case has been referred to Family Court for further redressal.

Widow's Pension Retrieved Due To PCSW's Intervention

Following PCSW's intervention, a widow from Narowal received her husband's pension, which she was entitled to, following his death. The accounts clerk demanded undue bribes from her, and began misbehaving with her and her daughter after she applied for pension at the District Accounts Office. Upon receipt of complaint via PCSWs Helpline, Chairperson PCSW wrote to the District Accounts Office, Narowal, as well the Accountant General Punjab, Deputy Commissioner, Narowal and Deputy District Account Officer Narowal, asking concerned authorities to investigate and submit a report to PCSW. Within 10 days, district offices confirmed in writing, that the Complainant had received her first installment of pension, including arrears. This status was also confirmed by the Complainant in the routine follow up conducted by the Helpline.

Lady Constables Punished for Physically and Verbally Abusing Young Girls

AIG Pakistan Railways Police has held 4 Lady Constables liable for official misconduct on account of disgracing and harassing 2 young girls at Lahore Railway Station. A complaint was lodged with the PCSW Helpline (1043), regarding verbal and physical abuse, misbehavior and harassment perpetrated by 4 female constables of Pakistan Railways Police. Upon enquiry into the complaint, Chairperson PCSW was informed that the 4 constables were found guilty of misuse of official powers and misconduct during the course of their duty. They have been punished by "withholding 1 annual increment for the period of 1 year."

Disabled Minor's Rapist Held Accountable Due To PCSW's Involvement

PCSW successfully aided registration of FIR against a man accused of raping a 14-year-old disabled girl in Toba Tek Singh. The Complainant lodged a complaint with PCSW's Helpline, and urgently requested help in registration of FIR. She complained that the local police did not accept her accusations, and refused to register FIR against the accused, due to his influence over local authorities in the district. However, due to PCSW's intervention and involvement of Secretary, School Education Department, District Police Office Toba Tek Singh and Inspector General of Police, Punjab, the FIR was successfully registered.

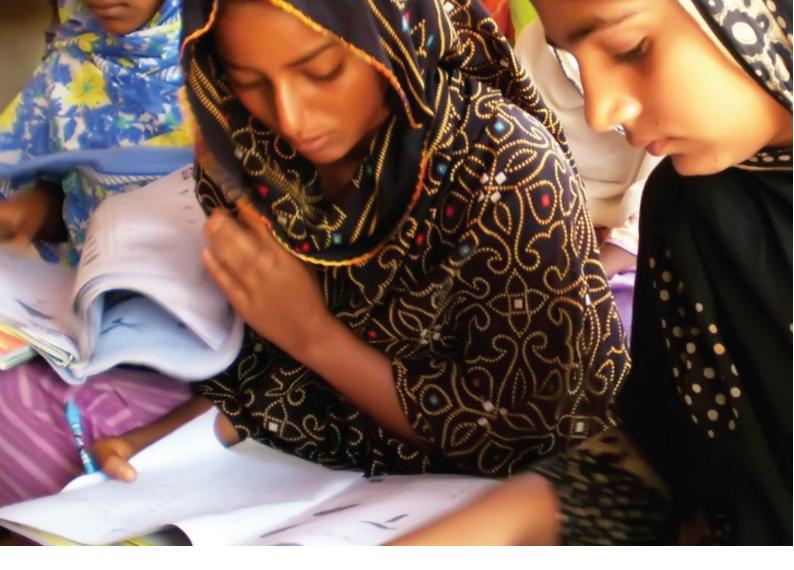
Kidnapped PWFP Girl Rescued Due To PCSW's Rigorous Follow Up

A victim of kidnapping was recovered after her mother lodged a complaint with PCSW's Helpline. The Complainant claimed that her daughter was kidnapped by her husband and brother-in-law, but local police in District Sahiwal was not cooperating and did not register a FIR. Upon lodging of complaint with PCSW helpline, Chairperson PCSW's referred the matter to the Deputy Superintendent of Police, District Police Office Sahiwal, who pursued the case rigorously and recovered the kidnapped victim.





OTHER ACTIVITIES In 2016



1: Monitoring of Punjab Women Empowerment Package (PWEP)

Government of the Punjab's strategic framework document, the Punjab Growth Strategy 2018, which complements the Federal Government's Vision 2025, endorses women-centric sub-objectives that reinforce the Punjab Government's goal of empowering women. In order to achieve outcomes desired by these policy frameworks, Punjab was the first province to introduce and implement a sustained policy, the Women Empowerment Packages 2012, 2014 and 2016, for systematic and integrated efforts to improve women's circumstances and preserve their basic human rights. The overarching themes for PWEP are Legislative Change, Mind-set Change, Increased Representation and Economic Empowerment. PCSW periodically obtains information from all 327 provincial departments/institutions and 258 district officers, updates it on GMIS, and reports to WDD.

LEGISLATION: The Punjab Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act was introduced in 2012. Section 7 of the Act established the Office of the Ombudsperson, which deals with complaints of harassment at the workplace and has the authority to inquire into complaints as well as impose penalties under Section 8 and 10 of the Harassment Act. Figure A illustrates the outcomes of complaints received by the Ombudsperson from 2014-2016.

MINDSET CHANGE: PWEI directed inclusion of all women's empowerment initiatives in textbooks compiled by the Punjab Curriculum and Text Book Board (PCTB) and instructed review of school curricula in order to ensure gender sensitivity. According to information provided by PTCB, textbooks published for 2016-17 address the issues of voilence against women in Urdu textbooks for Grade 8. In 2017-18, a chapter will also be added in textbooks for Pakistan Studies for Grades 9,10 and 12.

INCREASED REPRESENTATION: PWEP 2012 mandates at least 15% representation and employment of women in public service. 32 (26%) out of 121 Provincial Departments/ Institutions meet the 15% quota requirement while 59 (32%) of 186 District Offices meet the requirement. Figure B depicts the number of public offices that meet the 15% quota requiremet.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT: PWEI provided for free of cost vocational trainings for women who belong to minority communities. TEVTA and the Department of Human Rights & Minority Affairs have developed a follow-up machanism aimed at encouraging women to participate in trainings organized by TEVTA. Figure C illustrates TEVTA's provision of trainings to 250 women from minority communities in 2015 and 512 women in 2016.

Some PWEP initiatives monitored by PCSW are depicted below:

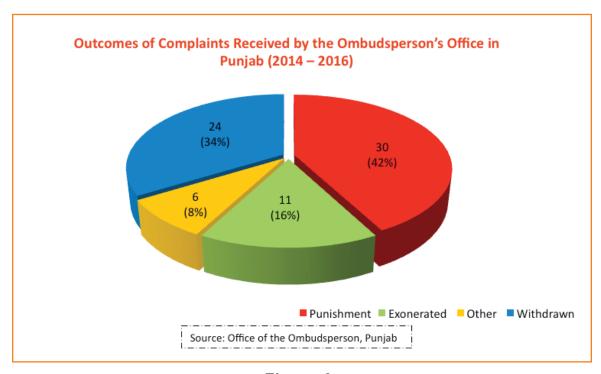


Figure A.

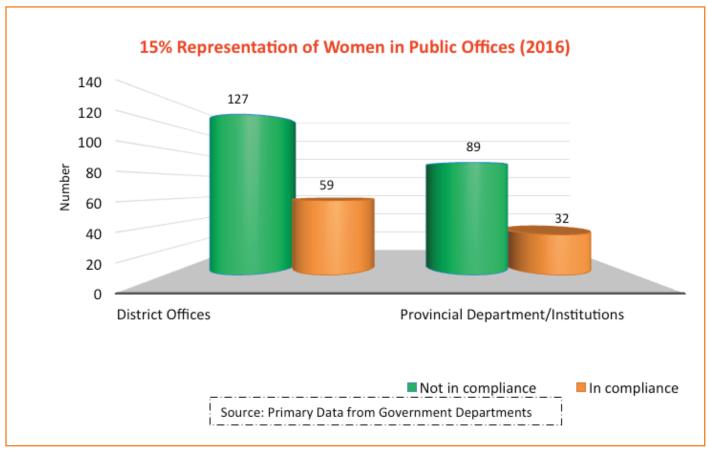


Figure B.

Data represents figures for departments/offices that provided data to PCSW in 2016

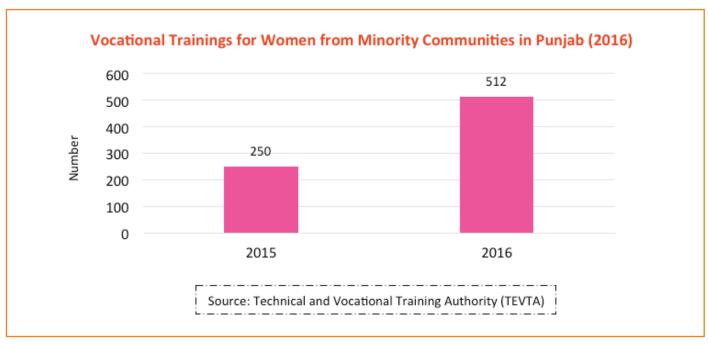


Figure C.

2: Elections of Punjab Women's Parliamentary Caucus

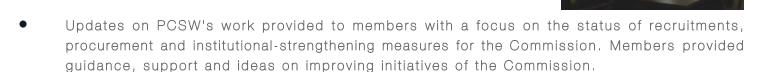
Recognizing the important role that can be played by women Parliamentarians, PCSW organized election of members of the Punjab Women's Parliamentary Caucus (PWPC) in October 2016. 40 female members of the Punjab Assembly participated in the election process for positions of Convener and Secretary of the PWPC. Ms. Hameeda Waheed-ud-Din, Minister for Women Development, Punjab, congratulated successful candidates and emphasized the Caucus role in paving the way for pro-women legislation in the province. She extended her full support to members of the PWPC.

PCSW undertook this initiative to enhance the role of MPAs in reviewing and amending discriminatory laws and policies; proposing gender sensitive legislation; and building capacity of PWPC members. Furthermore, in 2017, PCSW and PWPC intend to monitor implementation of national and international commitments including social and economic indicators and strengthen the Caucus by developing by-laws.

Institutional Strengthening

(i) PCSW Member Meetings 20th Janurary, 9th May, 23rd August, 29th September, 2016

Key discussions in the meetings held in 2016 were as follows:



- Suggestions for 2016-17 ADP schemes were provided and members finalized proposals developed by the Commission Secretariat.
- Review of progress of the Punjab Women's Helpline; statistics for inquiries and complaints received through the Helpline; and highlighting successful interventions by PCSW.

- (ii) **ADP Schemes:** Progress review and development of projects for FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 include a) Training of Registrars and Local Government Officials; b) Women in Leadership; c) Transitional Housing for Women Victims of Violence, to be implemented in coordination with Social Welfare Department; and the Gender Management Information System (GMIS). Objectives, targets, budgets, human resource and methodologies, etc. for all four projects were discussed. With regards to the Women in Leadership initiative, members were informed that customized trainings would be imparted to women to prepare them for positions on boards and committees. Training of Registrars and officials of the Local Government and Community Development Department (LG&CD) was planned with active collaboration of LG&CD officials, civil society and academics.
- (iii) The Punjab Gender Parity Report (PGPR) 2016 received a very positive response from stakeholders and members were informed that preparation for Punjab Gender Parity Report 2017 had commenced. Working Groups for Demographics and Governance Group; Justice Sector; Education; Health and Economic Opportunities, met 8 times to finalize recommendations for adoption in the ADP schemes of 2016-17.

(iV) Key challenges faced by GMIS particularly in terms of data collection and strategies to address these: Members were informed that updating and institutionalizing GMIS would be focused on, since it was made evident that UN and other agencies were actively using its findings and statistics. Members were informed that GMIS had evolved from a donor funded initiative to being supported by the Government of Punjab, as a development scheme. GMIS trainings were conducted for district officials in Lahore, Multan and Rawalpindi (15th, 17th and 19th Feb 2016).



(V) PCSW's proposal to conduct a Punjab wide representative survey on women's economic empowerment and social well-being was developed with guidance from members and support from UNFPA and Planning and Development Department, Government of Punjab.



(Vi) PCSW had active engagement with the judiciary and police to promote awareness of women's issues, develop solutions and data sharing mechanisms among the criminal justice sector institutions. PCSW initiated data sharing that resulted in the police sharing read only access to POLCOM FIR data with PCSW and the Lahore High Court (LHC). PCSW also engaged with the Punjab Judicial Academy for awareness of laws of particular relevance for women and their application and training of judges. PCSW was also invited to speak at the Women Judges Conference 2016 and 150th LHC Anniversary in December 2016.



MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

In

2016

Engagement with Media

Media engagement is an important strategy for wide dissemination of information on rights and redressal mechanisms; for raising issues and communicating about the work of the Commission. Towards this end, the Commission was featured in 32 news stories, 24 television appearances, and 7 radio interviews in 2016 on leading TV channels and in national and local newspapers. PCSW also shared information and raised awareness on issues through social media such as Facebook (pcswpb), Twitter (pcswpb) and web based TV channels.

Media outlets in which PCSW was featured Include:

Pakistan Television

Neo TV

Capital TV

oapitai i v

Geo TV

Dunya TV

Samaa TV

Channel 92

Onamilei 92

Channel 24

NaiBaat TV

Wagt News

Din TV

Baaghi TV

DW Germany

Dawn TV

Waseb TV

Channel 5 TV

Punjab TV

A Plus

11146

Daily Dawn

Daily Express Tribune

Daily Jang

Daily NawaiWaat

Daily Pakistan

Daily Express Urdu

Daily Ausaf

Daily Dunya

Daily Din

Daily Khabrain

BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation)













LAUNCH

PUNJAB GENDER PARITY REPORT 2016 & GENDER MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM





WOMEN IN PUNJAB TO BE EMPOWERED THROUGH GENDER MIS

Unlocking the Potential of Women

PCSW and its Mandate

The last two decades sum significantly increased global emphasis on human rights concerns at the forefront of which was women's rights and the need for gender parity. Adoption of CEDAW by a large number of countries in 1979 and Pakistan's ratification in 1996, United Nation's Beijing and the property of the property Declaration Declaration of 1995, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), International Convention on Population and Development and other gender specific international instruments put a special focus on the rights of women. The United Nations took a further initiative and included a goal of promoting gender equality and empowering women in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
The recently proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) by the UN reiterate the need for gender parity with the 5th goal stated as:

Punjab

Gender Parity Report

"achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls".

Pakistan is a signatory to both the MDGs and SDGs, and is committed to doing continuous work to address these issues. The 18th Constitutional Amendment to Constitution of Pakistan of 2010, which gave autonomy to provinces further delegated the task of social and women's development to the provinces. These international & national developments served as catalyst for establishing and strengthening institutions in Pakistan, like National and Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women. Institutional strengthening was accompanied by promulgation of legislation and policies for empowerment of

In the Punjab province of Pakistan, the Provincial Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) was established in 2014. The PCSW has the mandate to promote empowerment of women and prevent discrimination against women and girls in public and private institutions as a public weekbedo bedu on weekbedo by the size of the weekbedo bedu on weekbedo by the size of the weekbedo bedu on weekbedo by the size of the weekbedo bedu on weekbedo by the size of the weekbedo bedu on weekbedo by the size of the weekbedo bedu on weekbedo by the size of the weekbedo bedu on weekbedo by the size of the weekbedo bedu on weekbedo by the size of the weekbedo bedu on weekbedo by the size of the weekbedo bedu on weekbedo by the weekbedo bedu on weekbedo by the weekbedo by weekbedo by the weekbedo by the weekbedo by weekbedo weekbedo by weekbedo by weekbedo by weekbedo by wee watchdog body on women's rights issues making government functionaries accountal Its primary function includes monitori implementation of laws/policies and violati of rights of women and girls. Though PCSW consistently provided support against abuse and discrimination; their work is equally focused on promotion of women's empowerment and gender parity.



Punjab Gender Parity Report 2016 Directing Women to Empowerment

The Punjab Gender Parity Report is a document that will serve as a comprehensive analytical aid for all concerns pertaining to Women's Rights in the Punjab. The analyzed data will be available in its entirety in the Gender MIS which will complement the report. The aim is brighlight the specific areas of concern with regard to women's rights whilst giving recognition atic areas that have shown progress.

The report is a comprehensive analysis of data collected on essential indicators to ascertain the status of women in Punjab. Disaggregated information from multiple sources including but not limited to; provincial government departments and institutions, district government offices, banks, courts, and hospitals been analyzed and compiled into this report.

The report has been divided into five sections. Section One introduces the PGPR and orthines report has been unword into the sections. Section the incodeds the Park and outlines the methodology used in compiling the report. Section two provides an overview of national and provincial pro women laws enacted during the last few years. Section three provides an in-depth analysis of all thematic areas relating to women's rights in the Punjab. Section four gives the implementations status of specific provisions contained within the Punjab Women Empowerment Package (2012) and Punjab Women Empowerment Initiative (2014). Section five contains recommendations arising out of the key findings identified in each thematic area. ach thematic area

Thematic Areas Covered by Punjab Gender Parity Report

Demographics & Governance

representation in decision making. The "glass ceiling" persists; females promoted are in decision "glass ceiling" usually appointed to less influential positions than their influential positions than their male counterparts. The judiciary has 14% female judges as compared to 86% males, with only three women in the Lahore High Court.

Health

Puniab Growth Strategy 2018 has placed significant emphasis on reproductive health and the need for population control. Since 2010, there has an annual increase of % in the number of 10-20% in the number of families availing family planning services in the Punjab. As shown in Figure II, this projects an increase in the Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (38.7%), which is now 3.7% higher than the national average. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in the Punjab is 3.5 births per woman while the national TFR is 3.7 births per

Education

Currently, about one third of primary school age children are out of school and 42% of the population (age 10+) is illiterate. About two thirds of women (age 15+) cannot read and write and 35% girls remain out of school. Punjab fares better than the rest of the provinces in terms of educational attainment and

increasing enrollment rates and decreasing dropouts of girls.

Economic Participation and Opportunities

and opportunities
As reported in the Global Gender
Gap Report 2015, the economic
participation and opportunity
index of Pakistan is amongst the
third lowest in the world. Labor
Force Participation Rates for Force Participation Rates for Punjab reveal significant gender disparity especially in urban areas. The proportion of female entrepreneurs in cottage and small-scale industry is very low; small-scale industry is very low; with a GPI of 0.0265 and 0.0439

Legal Rights

In view of the large number of Family cases (93,264) and Custody/Guardianship (10,325) cases pending in courts in the Punjab, legal aid provided by the Punjab, legal aid provided by the Legal Ald Society of the Punjab Bar Council is insufficient to meet the needs of women who require free legal representation. In 2014-15, only 49 people applied to the Legal Aid Society for legal aid and only 12 received for legal aid and only 12 received it, four of which were women. There are 37 prisons in the Punjab and the number of female prisoners is a very small percentage of the total prisoner population

Violence against Women

The high number of incidents of violence against women (6,505 cases reported in 2015) is accompanied by an extremely low conviction rate (1% in 2015

with only 81 perpetrators punished). Year wise analysis (2012-15)demonstrates consistent and identical patterns consistent and identical patterns of types of violence with rape, murder, beatings and honor killings having the highest numbers respectively. In 2015, the highest incidence is that of rape, followed by murder and beatings with each having 2702, 666 and 588 reported incidents respectively. A large number of honor killings (173) also took place in addition to 22 incidents of acid throwing in 2015. There are 196 government-run social are 196 government-run social service institutions in Puniab women and girls can take

RECOMMENDATIONS

- District Each City District Government (CDG) is mandated Government (CDG) is mandated to collect data within its district. Gender disaggregated data or other information related to the PGPR falls within the purview of PCSW. This gap needs to be filled and the requirements to be translated to district level.
- Reservation of 33 % seats for women should be extended to all categories of seats including Chairperson & Vice Chairperson in the Local Government.
- The Government of the Punjab lays specific emphasis on transport facilities in the major cities of the Province. Policies need to be devised in this regard to ensure women's needs, for example, the specific requirements of the disabled, pregnant and elderly.

- develop a provincial action plan for eliminating violence against women. The plan should be based on consultations, with Government departments, NGOs, legal experts and the
- Lack of mental health facilities in the Punjab is a serious cause of concern for vomen's psychological health Centers that provide treatment to women suffering from psychological disorders and/o mental trauma should be mental trauma should be established in urban & rural
- For legal aid to be an effective improving access to justice, it is necessary provided that it be provided systematically, conveniently, and as an integral part of justice system. The Punjab Bar Council must reorganize the Legal Aid Society and its District Committees to make it an effective organization that provides legal aid to a significant number of people in the Punjab
- strengthened; the census should strengthened; the census should be regularly organized and reasons for such delays need to be analyzed and addressed. Data collected in major data collection surveys such as the Population Consus, Agriculture Census and Economic Surveys should be disapprended by should be disaggregated by gender. Where possible, data should also be segregated by (dis)ability and minorities.

Gender Management Information System

An Overview

The Urban Unit, a public sector organization The Urban Unit, a public sector organization of the Government of Punjab, joined hands with the PCSW under the financial support of DAI-EDACE to formulate the first ever Punjab Gender Parity Report 2016 and develop Gender Management Information System (GMIS). The Urban Unit possesses a strong domain of research and development to establish GIS based information systems for better planning, management, evidence - better planning, management, evidence. better planning, management, eviden based policy, and informed decision ma The project of developing Gender MIS conceived and started in July 2015, it a challenge to complete it in span of time up till February, 2016 and launched successfully on March 7, 2016.



A comprehensive indicators Framework and developed by PCSW and Urban Unit, consisting of 300 indicators distributed over six thematic areas including Demographics and Governance, Health, Education, Economic Participation and Opportunities, Legal Rights and Violence against Women. For development of the Indicators Framework, these Legals are consultative assessment of the Gevelopment of the Indicators Framework, three larger consultative sessions of the stakeholders belonging to provincial and district level government departments, academia and civil society were conducted. Thereafter an extensive exercise of data collection was carried out. For this purpose a team of cualified, research, assenciates, were collection was carried out. For this purpose a team of qualified research associates was hired, trained and sent to all the departments in provincial government as well as to 36 district governments of Punjab. This was coupled with active interventions and follow-ups by PCSW and Urban Unit officials directly to expedite data collection, given shortage of time. Data upon certain indicators from the analable secondary source was also. available secondary sources was also consulted and searched out.

This system aims to revolutionize the lens through which gender-based issues are viewed – with core issues supported by data viewed – with core issues supported by data acquired through intensive primary and secondary research. The objective of the system is to deliver a greater level of accuracy in reporting on themes mandated to the PCSW. The data will be accessible to everyone in multiple forms. The database will be updated in real-time where possible and at counter focus ones where data is designed from De updated in resultine wines possible and or regular frequency where data is derived from non-centralized data collection sources; with different indices being updated at varying intervals. The initiatives of the Government of the Punjab for women empowerment undertaken through Punjab Women Empowerment Package (PWEP), 2012 and Punjab Wigner, Empowerment Initiatives. Punjab Women Empowerment Initiatives (PWEI), 2016 will also be monitored through this system.

Once the calendar year comes to an end, all the data collected and represented in the Gender MIS will be depicted analytically in the Gender Parity Report, which will be an annual report published by the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women on the 8th of March every year - International Women Day



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25th February, "Protection of Women against Voilence Law", Daily Express

SHARE I V 🖂



قانون کی منظوری سے خواتین پر تشدد کی روک تھام ممکن ہو سکے گی 'حمیدہ وحبیدالدین

لاہور (جنزل نیوزر پورٹر)وزیر برائے ترقی خواتین پنجاب حمیدہ وحیدالدین نے کہاہ کہ پنجاب اسمبلی ہے واکننس بل کی اتفاق رائے ہے منظوری کے بعد خواتین پر تشدد کی روک تھام ممکن ہو سکے گی۔ میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ خواتین پر تشدد کے بڑھتے ہوئے واقعات کے پیش نظر حکومت نے خواتین کو تحفظ اور شیلٹر فراہم کر نے اور گھر بلوخواتین سمیت تشدد کا شکار خواتین کی بحالی کیلئے مؤثر نظام تحفظ وضع کرنے کی ضرورت محسوس کی۔ بل میں گھر بلوتشدد، جذباتی، نفسیاتی اور بدکا می، معاشی استحصال، شاکنگ اور سا بحر کرائم کی ضرورت محسوس کی۔ بل میں گھر بلوتشدد، جذباتی، نفسیاتی اور بدکا می، معاشی استحصال، شاکنگ اور سا بحر کرائم کے ضفظ فراہم کیا گیا ہے۔

9th January, "Women Commission Writes to Police, Prosecutor General", Express Tribune

Gang-rape case

Women commission writes to police, prosecutor general

Fauzia Viqar says fair probe needed to ensure justice for rape survivor

A AROOSA SHAUKAT

LAHORE

The Punjab Commission on the Status of Women has written a letter to Capital City Police Officer Amin Wains and the prosecutor general pointing out insensitive investigation of a teenage rape survivor.

The letter has been written in the wake of the girl's attempt to commit suicide as reported by her family a week ago.

"The commission has been in communication with police for quite some time. A formal complaint in this regard was sent on Friday, The commission has also issued a condemnation statement," PCSW Chairperson Fauzia Vigar told The Egyes Tibure.

Viqur said the commission had been monitoring the situation and was in contact with the child's family. However, she said, the commission had been unable to meet the child due to reluctance of her family to allow visitors. "We can't figure out why the family is reluctant... it has been claiming that too many people from the government are meeting them."

She said that being an oversight department, the commission was monitoring whether or not the government departments concerned were providing assistance where it was needed.

Viqar says the commission's view is that the government machinery is active. The commission has pointed to reports of insensitivity towards the child during investigation. Her family says that was the reason for her attempting suicide. Viqar says the commission has called for greater sensitivity during investigation.

With regard to the information that has emerged she says that sexual relations with a minor amount to statutory rape. "It is illegal irrespective of consent," she says.

Police had initially arrested eight suspects. The DNA report of the victim had revealed rape " There is exploitation at all stages including registration of FIRs, medical examinations and investigation, Institutions need to be reorganised

Standing Committee on Law and Parliamentary Affairs Chairperson Azma Bukhari

by one suspect; semen samples of another were also found on her clothes. Viqar says some people are quick to disregard the severity of the crime altogether.

Citing Section 376 (2) of the Pakistan Penal Code, she says a gang-rape involves two or more people... two people, if not eight, have been found involved, "A reference to the character of the victim is frequently invoked to let the perpetrator off. This should not be permissible."

Reorganisation of institutions

Standing Committee on Law and Parliamentary Affairs Chairperson Azma Bukhari has called for reorganisation of various government institutions.

"The reality is far from perfect since exploitation of women goes on at all levels," she says. In case of a rape victim, she says, there is exploitation at all stages including registration of FIR, medical examination and investigation. "The relevant institutions need to be reorganised in a scientific way," she says.

Bukhari says she hopes that the long-delayed legislation on protection of women against violence will help resolve some aspects of the larger issue. "Women centres, as provided in the bill, will provide medical, legal and psychological support [to victims]," she says. "There is a huge gap between where we stand and where we want to be but we are on the right track," says Bukhari.

Policy slippage

Insisting that government departments, agencies do their duty

Status of Women Commission cannot do much if complaints are withdrawn even in instances where the complainant is other than the aggrieved

On complaints received at its telephone helpline (1043), the Punjab Commission on Status of Women considers its job as that of reminding the line departments concerned about their duties regarding the lawful status of women, It considers the job done once the departments concerned take up the matter (at the commission's behest) and deal with it as per their own discretion.

Where a complaint is filed by a third party, the commission does not find it necessary to verify with the aggrieved party if the resolution of the matter has been to their

In a complaint received in November 2015. the commission got an FIR registered with Kot Sabral police in Rahim Yar Khan in a threeto-four-year-old incident where a woman was sold in marriage on directives of some tribal elders. However, the FIR was later quashed on the request of the complainant, a male cousin of the woman who had earlier reported the matter to the commission.

In its report to the commission, the Rahim Yar Khan DPO said there were political differences between the complainant and some of the men identified in the FIR - who had already lodged kidnapping cases against some of the complainant's relatives. He said the two parties had agreed to withdraw their complainants. Later, Kot Sabzal

SHO confirmed to The Egyest

Tribune that FIR regis-

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rival candi-

dates in the

local government elections. He

also admitted to tak-

ing money from the

suspects in return

for withdrawing the

Asked why he

hadn't approached

the police when the

marriage took place,

he said the suspects

were influential people

so he stayed quiet for his own

safety. He reported the matter after they im-plicated some of his relatives in false kidnapping cases, he said.

The commission had yet to confirm it with the woman if she was satisfied with the arrangement. Sonia Qadir, in charge of the helpline, told The Tribune that they had just verified the police report with her mother who expressed her satisfaction with it.

The original complaint received at the helpline had stated that the woman's mother had also been sold in marriage 10 years ago to a man from Kalhora tribe in a district of Sindh. However, she had managed to escape and return to her family in Kot Sabzal.

However, in other instances, the commission's intervention had been successful in initiating prosecution of those involved in crimes against women or settling differences between women complainants and their male relatives. A woman forced into prostitution allegedly by her in-laws some months after her marriage last year was recovered earlier this year on intervention of the Punjab Commission on the Status of the Women.

Civil Lines police in Mandi Bahauddin recovered the girl and arrested the suspects in February - over a month after the registration of a kidnapping case on directives of the police higher ups who were informed about the matter by the PCSW. In its report to the PCSW, the Civil Lines police said the suspects were

helpline since its launch in August 2014.

Of these, 75 are about crimes against

or family isputes, according

to helpline incharge

Sonia Qadir

omen. Other are related to property

being tried for kidnapping and selling the woman for prostitution (a charge added to the FIR after the man recorded her statement following her recovery). Speaking

Express Tribune. worker Khanewal district.

but the police had

refused to entertain

his complaint saying

said that on losing touch with her and her in-laws, residents of Mandi Bahauddin, he had tried locating her on his own, but in vain. He said that he had later approached the Twelfth Mile police take any action against him. station in Khanewal

son Fauzia Vigar said that the commission's job was to ensure that complaints submitted to it were taken care of by line departments that the case did not fall in concerned. She said the commission followed

?? The commission's job is to ensure that complaints submitted to it are taken care of by line departments concerned

PCSW chairperson Fauzia Vigar

DIG Haider Ashraf

up with the departments to ensure that griev ances were addressed in accordance with the law. However, she said, it could not do any

thing if the complainants withdrew their Helpline in charge Sonia Qadir told The Tribune that the commission had received 228 complaints since the launch of the toll-free helpline in August 2014. Of these, she said 75 were about crimes against women. Other

> complaints were related to property or family The helpline website states that callers can seek legal advice on problems like sexual harassment, property dispute and domestic violence. It is operational from Monday to

> Saturday between 8am and 4pm. Qudir said action was taken in cases of violence, discrimination or violation of basic rights. She said the commission pursued the complaints till action was taken on them by the departments concerned.

> Qadir said that lack of women officers was one reason why some women felt uncomfortable approaching the police with their com-plaints. Besides, she said men accused of gender-based crimes frequently were able to avoid prosecution because of their privileged positions in household and the society.

> Operations DIC Dr Haider Ashraf said than all complainants were equal before the law regardless of their gender. He dismissed the impression that there was any gender-based discrimination against female complainants. On the low number of women in the department, he said the gender ratio in the police department was similar to that in most other government departments.

their jurisdiction. He said he had given up on the matter as he was unable to afford a trip to Mandi. One of his neighbors had later reported the matter to the PCSW through the helpline. Once approached by the PCSW, Khanewal police again pointed out lack of jurisdiction. The commission then took the report to the office of the Inspector General of Police, who referred it to the Civil Lines police in Mandi Bahauddin.

?? All complainants are equal

gender. There is absolutely no

gender-based discrimination

against female complainants

before the law regardless of their

In another instance, a rape suspect was arrested in Pakpattan following the PCSW's intervention on behalf of the complainant. In its report to the Pakpattan DPO, the PCSW had complained that the police officials concerned were not arresting the suspect and were instead pressuring the complainant and her family to withdraw their FIR. The DPO assured the complainant and her family that strict action would be taken against any policeman found negligent in prosecuting the suspects or involved in harassing the complainant.

On commission's intervention, Lahore po lice arranged a meeting between a woman and her brother where the latter assured that he would not harass her or any other member of her family. In her complaint, the woman had said that her brother was threatening to kill her and her father if they don't transfer their property in his name. She had said that she reported it to the police but they did not

Speaking to The Tribune, PSCW chairper-



Call to make women aware of land inheritance

Home / Today's Paper / Lahore / Call to make women awars of land inheritance

August 24, 2016 Print: Lahore

LAHORE

The research studies on 'Legal Reforms on Land Inheritance 2015 - Impacts on Women' and 'Sheltering Women from Harm - Darul Amaan of Punjab 2016' were launched here by Punjab Commission on Status of Women (PCSW) on Tuesday.

The researches were compiled to encourage generating information, analysis and studies as well as to maintain a database relating to women and gender issues in Punjab. The data has been provided by all relevant departments of the Punjab government and the essential verification has been done by PCSW team.

Women Development Department Secretary Bushra Aman, Adviser to CM on Law & Order Salman Sufi, DG Planning & Evaluation, Tauseef Khatana, Sr Institutional Development Specialist the Urban Unit Adeel Shafqat, Farida Shaheed from Shirkat Gah and Fouzia Viqar Chairperson PCSW spoke on the occasion while a number of participants from civil society. academia. NGOs. government departments. Darul Amaan, lawyers community and media attended the launch.

The speakers stressed on the need to raise awareness among women in Punjab regarding common malpractices related to land inheritance through long-term social change campaigns in order to empower them.

"Punjab Land Revenue Act amended in 2012 and 2015 will help to safeguard women's rights in matters of inheritance and land ownership.

The need of the hour is to ensure that Darul Amaan across the province are run by women in order to provide a comparatively secure environment for the women residents therein", said Bushra Aman. Till date only 23 Darul Amaan have female wardens and rest are run by men which creates complications for women in distress.

"With patronage and interest of the Punjab CM, we have been able to make periodic revisions to improve provision and monitoring of staff in Darul Amaan across Punjab.

The major challenge lies in effective implementation of our policies and rules and for that all departments and stakeholders need to work in close collaboration. These research studies will go a long way in making recommendations based on globally accepted best practices," said Punjab Minister for Women Development Hameeda Waheed-ud-Din while talking to media.

Tauseef Khatana from Urban Unit said, "The Urban Unit is proud to partner in the launch of research studies as we staunchly believe in and advocate for empowerment of women in Pakistan. Future research in these areas must map the complete business process of transfer and suggest the improvement wherever required".

Chairperson PCSW Fouzia Viqar thanked the Punjab government for being a support in compiling the researches. She said that research launch was a step towards materialisation of goal of women empowerment in Punjab.

DAWN

Women commission rejects CII bill

LAHORE: The Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) has rejected the Council of Islamic Ideology's (CII) proposed 'model' bill for the "protection of women" and condemned it as unconstitutional, illegal and in complete violation of fundamental human rights.

The CII's proposal contravened fundamental rights of women enshrined in the Constitution and violated international laws and treaties Pakistan signed and was bound by, said the PCSW in a statement on Monday.

"In the light of Article 25 of the Constitution that upholds equality of all citizens before the law, the proposed bill adds no value to the rights of women," the statement said.

The CII bill contains some 163 recommendations addressing issues of property, marriage and motherhood, besides crimes (including violence) committed against women. It also proposes steps like allowing men to "lightly beat their wives" and banning co-education past the primary level, that sparked a controversy.

All the rights that the CII claims to grant women under its "model" bill are already enshrined in the laws, the PCSW argues.

It ridicules the CII advice of getting codified in law that "women will not be permitted to receive foreign officials and state guests" and urged all concerned citizens and government bodies to reject the bill as unconstitutional and redundant for it not only impinges on the women's rights but also reverses the rights gained over a century through a process of evolution of fundamental rights and freedoms.

The CII's draft bill reduces to nothing the rigorous efforts made by the government to protect the rights of women and it treats them as legal minors and property of men by prescribing that they need to be instructed in all matters of life, the commission says.

Criticising CII recommendations for women on co-education, breastfeeding, ban on formula milk, use of contraception, criminalising abortion after 120 days, barring women from labour-intensive work and military combat, the PCSW says women all over the world have excelled in every walk of life.

From accomplishing the most physically challenging of tasks to running governments and big corporations, there is nothing that women have not been able to accomplish, it says, adding Pakistan is among one of the few nations in the world which has had a female head of the state.

"The CII appears to have forgotten the roles played by eminent women such as Ms Fatima Jinnah, Begum Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan, Ms Maleeha Lodhi and current ministers Ms Saira Tarar, Ms Anushay Rahman and Ms Hameeda Waheed-ud Din. CII's position would be in all respects a huge step back from the progress that has been made to date."

Published in Dawn, May 31st, 2016

ڈاکٹرعظمی خان کافٹل افسوس ناک سانحہ ہے: فوزیہ وقار

غیرت کے نام پر قتل یا حادثہ پولیس کیس کی تفتیش کر رہی ہے

ڈاکٹر عظمیٰ خان کا جہلم میں کے نام رقل یا حادثہ پولیس خواتین کی چیئر پرین فوزیہ کمیشن اس سانحہ کو باریک کے واس چیئر مین کی طرف انصاف کے تقاضوں کیلئے



لاہور (نمائندہ خصوصی) پاکستانی نژاد جرمن شہری گھرکے اندر بہیانہ آل ایک افسوسناک سانحہ ہے، غیرت کیس کی تفتیش کررہی ہے۔ پنجاب کمیشن برائے حقوق وقار نے نمائندہ خصوصی ہے بات کرتے ہوئے بتایا کہ بنی سے مشاہدہ کررہا ہے اور پنجاب بارکوسل کی لیگل تمیش سے بھی کمیشن کو اس افسوسناک سانحہ کی شفاف تفتیش و

قانونی خدمات کی پیشکش کی گئی ہے۔ کمیشن متعلقہ پولیس حکام پرزوردیتا ہے کہ وہ اس کیس کی میرٹ پرجلد تفییش مکمل کر کے ملزمان کو قانون کے مطابق سزا دلائیں۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ تفیش وکیس پیروی میں ٹیکنیکل خامیوں کی وجہ سے اکثر ملزمان سزاسے نئے جاتے ہیں اورا پسے اندو ہناک واقعات کی پس پردہ وجو ہات سامنے نہ آپاتی ہیں، الہذا کمیشن اس سلسلے میں پولیس دیگر سرکاری و ثیم سرکاری ادارول، ہارکو سلزاور سول سوسائٹی سے ملکرا یک مضبوط لائے ممل مرتب کردہا ہے تاکہ عورتوں کی خلاف ایسے گھناؤنے واقعات معاشرے سے تم ہوسکیں۔

2016 Engagements with the Media

JANUARY			
9th	"Women Commission writes To Police, Prosecutor General", Express Tribune		
9th	"Fauzia Viqar Says Fair Probe Needed In Gang Rape Case", Daily Jang		
9th	"Faizia Viqar: Psychological Treatment of Victims of Violence is the Crying Need of the Time", <i>Daily Nai Baat</i>		
17th	"Current Affairs" TV Shows Appearance, PTV		
25th	"Dunya TV Interview with Kamran Shahid", <i>Dunya</i>		
FEBRUARY			
12th	"Capital Talk TV Interview with Zanjeer I Adl		
20th	"Gender Management Information System on the Cards", The News		
20th	"Workshops in Different Cities of Punjab by PCSW and Urban Unit", Daily Nai Baat		
25th	"Protection of Women Against Violence Law would protect women from Domestic Violence", Daily Nai Baat		
26th	"TV Interview with Dunya News", <i>Dunya TV</i>		
29th	"Interview with Jang Forum on Geo TV		
1ST	"Tabdeeli with Reham Khan Show", <i>Neo TV</i>		
MARCH			
1ST	"Speakers: Islam Prohibits Violence Against Women", The News		
1ST	"Qanoon Bolta hai Interview", PTV		
2nd	Samaa TV on PCSW Helpline		
4th	Interview with BBC Radio Urdu		
4th	Channel 92 - Zair-I-Bahas Interview		
4th	BBC Urdu TV - Sairbeen Interview, BBC Urdu		
6th	Din TV Interview		
6th	Punjab Gender Parity Report 2016, The News on Sunday		

7th	"Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence Act, 2016, Proud of Punjab Government", <i>Daily Jang</i>	
8th	"Punjab Digs Deep for Gender Parity", The Nation PK	
8th	City 42 Interview	
8th	"Punjab Government Claims Laurels for First Gender Parity Report", Pakistan Today	
8th	"Punjab Gender Parity Report and Gender Management Information System Launched", The News	
8th	"In Corridors of Power, Equal Opportunity for Women Stressed", Express Tribune	
8th	"Women's Day: Government Committed to Protecting Women", Express Tribune	
16th	"Launch of Gender Management Information System", Daily Jang	
18th	"PTV Show - Peshraft", <i>PTV</i>	
19th	"Women Over Mullahs", <i>Pakistan Today</i>	
29th	Interview With Din TV	
30th	Interview With Radio Pakistan	
APRIL		
	APRIL	
4th	APRIL "Insisting that Government Departments and Agencies Do Their Duty", Express Tribune	
4th 13th		
	"Insisting that Government Departments and Agencies Do Their Duty", Express Tribune	
13th	"Insisting that Government Departments and Agencies Do Their Duty", <i>Express Tribune</i> Interview with Radio Pakistan	
13 th	"Insisting that Government Departments and Agencies Do Their Duty", <i>Express Tribune</i> Interview with Radio Pakistan Din TV - PoWVA event "The Resident of Pakistan 12-Years Old Minor Girl got Justice on the Intervention of	
13th 13th 26th	"Insisting that Government Departments and Agencies Do Their Duty", <i>Express Tribune</i> Interview with Radio Pakistan Din TV - PoWVA event "The Resident of Pakistan 12-Years Old Minor Girl got Justice on the Intervention of Punjab Commission on the Status of Women", <i>The Jehan PK</i>	
13th 13th 26th	"Insisting that Government Departments and Agencies Do Their Duty", Express Tribune Interview with Radio Pakistan Din TV - PoWVA event "The Resident of Pakistan 12-Years Old Minor Girl got Justice on the Intervention of Punjab Commission on the Status of Women", The Jehan PK FM 95 Show with Sughra Sadaf	
13th 13th 26th 29th	"Insisting that Government Departments and Agencies Do Their Duty", Express Tribune Interview with Radio Pakistan Din TV - PoWVA event "The Resident of Pakistan 12-Years Old Minor Girl got Justice on the Intervention of Punjab Commission on the Status of Women", The Jehan PK FM 95 Show with Sughra Sadaf MAY	
13th 13th 26th 29th	"Insisting that Government Departments and Agencies Do Their Duty", Express Tribune Interview with Radio Pakistan Din TV - PoWVA event "The Resident of Pakistan 12-Years Old Minor Girl got Justice on the Intervention of Punjab Commission on the Status of Women", The Jehan PK FM 95 Show with Sughra Sadaf MAY "Workers Need a Living Wage, Not a Minimum Wage", Express Tribune	

JUNE		
1st	"The Cheif Minister's Special Monitoring Unit is Considering Setting up Violence Against	
	Women Centers Authority to Ensure Protection of Women's Rights", Express Tribune	
8th	Interview with Neo TV	
12th	"Commission Assails Zeenat Honour Killing", Express Tribune	
14th	Interview with BBC Urdu TV	
16th	"Missing NCSW", <i>Dawn</i>	
17th	"Awareness Raising: PCSW Campaign on Women's Rights", Express Tribune	
JULY		
14th	Interview with Din TV	
19th	Interview with Pak News Internet TV	
20th	Interview with Baaghi TV	
	AUGUST	
24th	"Call to Make Women Aware of Land Inheritance", The News	
	SEPTEMBER	
20th	Interview with Radio TV	
	NOVEMBER	
14th	Interview with Fatima Shaheen, <i>PTV</i>	
24th	FM 91 Radio Sophiya	
	DECEMBER	
13th	Interview with Waqt News TV	
14th	Interview with Neo TV	
17th	"Punjab to Combat Women Harassment Through Technology", Dawn	
24th	Honour Related Laws Implementation, Dawn	
27th	Interview with Waseb TV	
28th	Interview with VOA on Honour Killings	
28th	"Revenue Staff Told to Ensure Women Get Their Share of Inherited Land", Dawn	

AWARENESS RAISING

Rickshaw Campaign:

In 2016, PCSW launched an information campaign on 100 rickshaws to spread awareness to women about their rights on issues regarding child marriage, birth registration,

\$ \$1043

inheritance, and domestic violence. The Rickshaw Campaign also aimed to inform women about PCSW's Toll-free Helpline, which comprises all women call agents, three legal advisors, supervisors and management staff to address inquiries and complaints regarding workplace harassment. gender discrimination, property disputes and inheritance rights. domestic

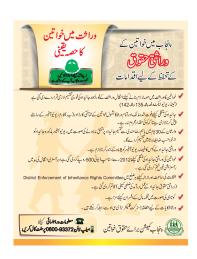


violence, hostels, day-care centres and other facilities for working women, increased women's participation in government

decision making bodies, quota for women in public sector jobs, skills development, changes in employment policies, and various other economic and social issues. The campaign spent Rs.91,000 Rupees to distribute the information.

2016 Posters Campaign









Advertisement on Education for Girls

In December 2016, the Commission ran a television campaign for women's empowerment on Pakistan's Express News. The advertisements ran for 50 seconds each and occurred numerous times throughout the week of December 23rd _ 30th

2016 EVENTS CALENDAR

2016 EVENTS CALENDAR				
JANUARY				
6th	Canadian First Secretary Turner Visit – Orientation to PCSW			
10th	Women on Wheels (WOW) Event			
12th	Women in Information Technology with Sanjh Preet			
13th	Strategic Advisory Group Meeting with DAI			
15th	Towards 2047: Policy Dialogue on Punjab's Climate and Growth with LEAD			
18th	DFID Punjab Representative Mr. Ben French			
22 th	Sustainable Development Goals Planning AWAZ CDS			
22 th	PPIC 3 Board Meeting			
29th	Civil Society Consultation on Punjab Women's Empowerment Package			
29th	Million Kitchen with UN Women			
29th	Implementation of Harassment Prevention Act in Punjab with WISE			
	FEBRUARY			
5th	PSCW Orientation for the Church of Pakistan			
9th	DFID Meeting for Women's Issues and Solutions			
10th	Criminal Justice Sector Stakeholders - Meeting for Data Sharing			
20th	1 st Secretary of U.K. Govt Visit Ms.Emma Harber			
20th	First Women Judges Conference with Lahore High Court			
24th	Sustainable Development Goal Event			
25th	DFID Head Ms. Joanna Reid Visit - Women's Issues and Solutions			
25th	INGAD Meeting for PCSW Update			
29th	Jang Forum on Women's Empowerment & Violence Against Women			

MARCH		
3rd	AF Celebration of Women	
3rd	150 th Anniversary of Lahore High Court	
7th	GMIS Launch	
8th	Punjab Safe Cities Authority Meeting	
10th	Criminal Justice Sector Stakeholders - Meeting for Data Sharing	
10th	Harassment Prevention Event with Ombudsperson of Punjab	
15th	"One Child, One Teacher, One Book, One Pen" with LCWU	
17 th	UN Women Deputy Country Representative - Safe Cities	
21st	Down Syndrome Awareness Event	
22nd	Canadian 1 st Secretary Mr. James Clark Visit - Orientation to PCSW	
22nd	PITB Meeting with ED for Data Integration	
22nd	Lecture at SWD Training School	
	APRIL	
1 st	British High Commissioner's Visit	
4th	Criminal Justice Sector Stakeholders - Meeting for Data Sharing	
6th	AWAZ - CARE Meeting	
11 th	Visit from Mr. Mike Cognato, Consulate of U.S.A.	
28th	Media Engagement on Women's Issues with CLAAS	
20th	Original Legis - Octor Obstacled and Marking for Data Obstacle	
	Criminal Justice Sector Stakeholders - Meeting for Data Sharing	
	MAY	
6th		
	MAY	
6th	MAY Media Orientation of PCSW	
6th 7th	MAY Media Orientation of PCSW Khabrain News Event by Human Rights Society	

JUNE			
3 rd	Researches Launch on Justice Sector		
30th	PGPR Justice Sector Committee Meeting		
30th	Australian High Commissioner's Visit		
JULY			
13th	PGPR Education Committee Meeting		
15th	PGPR Health Committee Meeting		
19 th	PGPR Demographics & Governance Committee Meeting		
21st	Punjab Women's Empowerment and Domestic Violence Legislation at the Australian High Commission		
21st	Punjab Women's Empowerment and PCSW with Tasmia Foundation		
28th	Khabrain News Forum on Child Abduction		
29th	Meeting with JICA Consultants for discussion on women's economic		
	empowerment		
20	empowerment AUGUST		
2nd			
	AUGUST		
2nd	AUGUST CEDAW Update Meeting		
2nd 4th	AUGUST CEDAW Update Meeting MSF Representative Visit for understanding PCSW functions and activities		
2nd 4th 5th	AUGUST CEDAW Update Meeting MSF Representative Visit for understanding PCSW functions and activities MOHR Briefing on Child Abduction with MOHR Regional Directorate Senior Manager DFID Governance Program Visit for women's empowerment		
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	Annexure			
SEPTEMBER				
7 th	Visit From Dutch Parliamentarians and Rutgers Delegation On Preventing Violence Against Women And Girls With Engagement Of Men And Boys			
16th	DFID Punjab Representative Ms. Ruth Graham Visit			
19th	BLLF Exhibition			
26th	HBW Survey by UN Women and Punjab Bureau of Statistics Meeting - Input			
28th	Pro Women Legislation Discussion with Rozan Organization			
OCTOBER				
3rd	SDG Discussion with P & D			
NOVEMBER				
6th	School of Tomorrow $^-$ Women's Empowerment Challenges with Beacon House System			
9th	WESWB Project Steering Committee Meeting			
14th	Stakeholders Meeting for PCSW Events Planning			
15th	UK High Commission Visit - Forced Marriage Unit			
25th-26th	Population Planning Conference with Population Association of Pakistan			
29th	EU Human Rights Defenders Event with PODA			
30th	Elections for Women's Parliamentary Caucus of the Punjab Assembly			
	DECEMBER			
13th	Pro Women Laws and Helpline Awareness with LCWU			
16 th	World Bank Country Strategy Team Meeting			
16th	Economic Report of Punjab Briefing Punjab Economic Research Institution			
20th	National Commission on Human Rights Strategic Planning Report Launch with LJCP and NCHR			
21st	UN Women Deputy Country Representative Visit - Safe Cities Audit Survey and Project for Lahore			
21st	Caucus and UN Women Meeting			
23rd	Event on Bonded Labour Act with Bonded Labour Liberation Front			

THE PUNJAB COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN ACT 2014

(Act I of 2014)

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JEO I IOI4	TILADING

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- Definitions.

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- 4. Appointment of Chairperson.
- 5. Appointment of members.
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CHAPTER II THE COMMISSION

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- 14. Annual report of the Commission.
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- 16. Indemnity.
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THE PUNJAB COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN ACT 2014

(Act I of 2014)

[24 February 2014]

An Act to provide for the establishment of Punjab Commission on the Status of Women.

Preamble.– Whereas it is expedient to establish Punjab Commission on the Status of Women for the empowerment of women, expansion of opportunities for socio-economic development of women and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and for ancillary matters; It is enacted as follows:-



CHAPTER I PRELIMINARY

- 1. Short title, extent and commencement.— (1) This Act may be cited as the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women Act 2014.
 - (2) It shall extend to the whole of the Punjab.
 - (3) It shall come into force at once.
- 2. Definitions.- In this Act-
 - (a) "Chairperson" means Chairperson of the Commission and includes acting Chairperson;
 - (b) "Commission" means Punjab Commission on the Status of Women established under the Act;
 - (c) "Executive Committee" means the Executive Committee of the Commission;
 - (d) "Fund" means the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women Fund established under the Act;
 - (e) "girl" means a female human being who has not attained the age of eighteen years;
 - (f) "Government" means Government of the Punjab;
 - (g) "member" means a member of the Commission;
 - (h) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules;
 - (i) "Secretary" means Secretary of the Commission; and
 - (j) "woman "means a female human being of eighteen years of age or above.

CHAPTER II THE COMMISSION

- 3. Establishment of the Commission.— (1) The Government shall constitute a Commission to be known as 'Punjab Commission on the Status of Women'.
 - (2) The Commission shall be a body corporate, having perpetual succession and a common seal with power to acquire, hold and dispose of any property and shall sue and be sued by the said name.
 - (3) The Commission shall consist of-
 - (a) the Chairperson, who shall be a woman having experience for more than fifteen years of working on issues relating to women and their rights:
 - (b) one member from each Division of the Punjab, preferably women, but at least fifty percent members shall be women;
 - (c) one woman member who is a non-Muslim;
 - (d) Secretaries to the Government, Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Finance, Planning and Development, Home, and Women Development Departments or their representatives not below the rank of Additional Secretaries;
 - (e) President, Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Central and North Punjab for the first term of three years, followed by President, Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries, South Punjab for the second term of three years, and thereafter, in like order and for like term; and
 - (f) Secretary of the Commission.
- 4. Appointment of Chairperson.— (1) The Government shall appoint the Chairperson on the recommendations of a search committee headed by Chief Secretary of the Government and consisting of the following:-
 - (a) two female members of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, one each nominated by the Government and the Leader of Opposition in the Provincial Assembly; and
 - (b) Secretaries to the Government, Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Finance, Human Rights and Women Development Departments.
 - (2) The Chairperson shall be appointed on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed and, until prescribed, as the Government may determine.
 - [2][(3) The Chairperson shall be a full-time officer of the Commission entitled to remuneration in management position scale-I (MP-I).]
 - (4) If the office of the Chairperson falls vacant owing to death, illness, resignation or otherwise, the Government shall appoint a woman member of the Commission to act as Chairperson for a period not exceeding three months or until the appointment of a new Chairperson, whichever is earlier.

[3][5. Appointment of members.— (1) The Government shall, in consultation with the Chairperson, appoint members mentioned in clauses (b) and (c) of subsection (3) of section 3 in such manner and on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed and until so prescribed, as the Government may determine.

- (2) A member appointed under subsection (1) shall not be less than thirty years of age and more than sixty five years of age, and shall have experience of working on issues relating to women rights.
- (3) The Government shall, in consultation with the Chairperson, within thirty days of occurrence of a vacancy, appoint a member for the residual term of the outgoing member.]



- 6. Term of office.— (1) Subject to section 7, a person appointed as the Chairperson or a member, other than ex officio member, shall hold office for a term of three years from the date he enters upon the office but the Chairperson or a member shall not hold office for more than two terms.
 - (2) The Chairperson or a member, other than ex officio member, may resign by submitting the resignation to the Government.
- 7. Removal of Chairperson and members.— The Government may remove the Chairperson or a member, other than ex officio member, from the office if—
 - (a) after proper inquiry, the Chairperson or the member is found guilty of misconduct; or
 - (b) the Chairperson or the member is adjudged as an un-discharged insolvent;
 - (c) the Chairperson or the member is unfit to continue in office by reason of being mentally or physically challenged and stands so declared by a medical board constituted by the Government; or
 - (d) the Chairperson or the member has been sentenced to imprisonment for an offence involving moral turpitude.
- 8. Secretariat of the Commission.— (1) There shall be a Secretariat of the Commission headed by the Chairperson and consisting of the Secretary and such officers and support staff as may be prescribed and, until prescribed, as the Government may determine.
 - (2) The terms and conditions of appointment of employees of the Commission shall be such as may be prescribed and, until prescribed, as the Government may determine
 - (3) The Chairperson shall be the chief executive of the Commission and shall be responsible for the effective conduct of the business and discharge of functions of the Commission, and for the purpose, the administrative and financial authority of the Commission shall vest in the Chairperson.
 - (4) The Secretary shall be appointed in such manner as may be prescribed and until prescribed as the Government may determine.
 - (5) The Secretary shall perform such functions as may be prescribed or as may be assigned by the Commission or the Chair person.
 - (6) The Secretary, under instructions of the Commission, shall prepare a draft three years' strategic plan, the annual work plan and budget of the Commission for approval of the Commission.

CHAPTER III FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

- 9. Functions of the Commission. (1) The Commission shall-
 - (a) examine the policy, programs and other measures taken by the Government to materialize gender equality, empowerment of women and their representation and political participation, assess implementation and make suitable recommendations to the concerned authorities;
 - (b) review the Punjab laws, rules and regulations affecting the status and rights of women and suggest repeal, amendment or new legislation essential to eliminate discrimination, safeguard and promote the interest of women and achieve gender equality in accordance with the Constitution and obligations under national and international covenants and commitments;
 - (c) sponsor, steer and encourage research to generate information, analysis and studies and maintain a database relating to women and gender issues to provide knowledge and awareness for provincial policy and strategic action for women empowerment;
 - (d) develop and maintain interaction and dialogue with non-governmental organizations, experts and individuals in society and an active association with similar commissions and institutions in other territories for collaboration and action to achieve gender equality at the provincial, national, regional and international level;
 - (e) mobilize grants from provincial, national and international agency, including multi and bilateral agencies, approved by the Government, for meeting any of its obligations or performing its functions;
 - (f) consider, approve and monitor implementation of the strategic plan, annual work plan and the annual budget;
 - (g) facilitate and monitor implementation of instruments and obligations affecting women and girls to which Pakistan is a signatory, and advise the Government before ratification or accession to any such proposed international instrument, covenant, protocol or treaty; and
 - (h) perform such other functions as are ancillary to the above functions or as the Government may assign or as may be prescribed.
 - (2) The Commission may-
 - (a) seek and receive information, data and documents from any source or entity in the course of performance of its functions;
 - (b) inquire into any complaint of violation of women's rights and make appropriate recommendation for remedial action to the concerned agency or authority;
 - (c) call for information or report from any agency or authority of the Government, civil society organization or any autonomous body;
 - (d) exercise the powers vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (V of 1908) for enforcing the attendance of any person and compelling the production of documents;



- (e) mobilize grants from provincial, national and international agency, including multi and bilateral agencies, approved by the Government, for meeting any of its obligations or performing its functions;
- (f) consider, approve and monitor implementation of the strategic plan, annual work plan and the annual budget;
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- (c) call for information or report from any agency or authority of the Government, civil society organization or any autonomous body;
- (d) exercise the powers vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (V of 1908) for enforcing the attendance of any person and compelling the production of documents;
- (e) inspect any jail, sub-jail or other places of custody, where women and girls are kept, in accordance with relevant laws and rules and after prior permission of the Government and to make appropriate recommendations to the concerned authority or agency;
- (f) act for advocacy, lobbying, coalition building, networking and as a catalyst for promotion of cause of women to facilitate their participation in all spheres of life including legal, economic, social and political empowerment;
- (g) on the recommendation of the executive committee, fix an honorarium or remuneration of advisors, consultants and experts;
- (h) monitor the mechanism and institutional procedure for redressal of violation of women's rights; and
- (i) exercise any power ancillary to above powers or as may be prescribed.
- 10. Meetings of the Commission.— (1) The Commission shall hold at least four meetings in a year, not less than one in every quarter, on such dates and at such times as the Chairperson may determine.
 - (2) The Secretary, on the directions of the Chairperson, shall call a meeting of the Commission and shall maintain the minutes of each meeting in the manner prescribed.
 - (3) The Chairperson, or in case of absence of the Chairperson, a member elected by the members present in the meeting, shall chair a meeting of the Commission.
 - (4) The guorum for the meeting of the Commission shall be one-half of the total membership of the Commission.
 - (5) The decisions of the Commission shall be taken by the majority of the members present and voting but, in case of a tie, the Chairperson or the person presiding the meeting shall have a second vote.
 - (6) A decision of the Commission shall not be invalid merely for the reason of any vacancy or defect in the constitution of the Commission.
 - (7) All decisions of the Commission shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairperson or the person who presided the meeting.
- 11. Committees.— (1) The Commission shall appoint an Executive Committee consisting of the Chairperson and three other members, of whom at least two shall be women.
 - (2) The Executive Committee shall be responsible to oversee the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Commission.
 - (3) The Commission may constitute such other committees from amongst its members as it deems fit and may refer to any such committee any matter for consideration and report.
 - (4) The Commission may, if it considers necessary, co-opt in a committee any person possessing special knowledge and expertise in the relevant subject.
 - (5) All committees of the Commission, except the Executive Committee, shall be constituted for a specified period.

CHAPTER IV FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

- 12. Fund.— (1) There shall be a Fund to be known as Punjab Commission on the Status of Women Fund, which shall vest in the Commission.
 - (2) The Fund shall consist of-
 - (a) the grants-in-aid made by the Government;
 - (b) donation made by any person, and any provincial, national and international agency;
 - (c) income from investment by the Commission; and
 - (d) all other sums or properties which may in any manner become payable to or vest in the Commission.
 - (3) The Fund shall be spent for purposes of performance of duties and discharge of functions by the Commission, including expenses on the Secretariat.



- 12. Fund.— (1) There shall be a Fund to be known as Punjab Commission on the Status of Women Fund, which shall vest in the Commission.
 - (2) The Fund shall consist of-
 - (a) the grants-in-aid made by the Government;
 - (b) donation made by any person, and any provincial, national and international agency;
 - (c) income from investment by the Commission; and
 - (d) all other sums or properties which may in any manner become payable to or vest in the Commission.
 - (3) The Fund shall be spent for purposes of performance of duties and discharge of functions by the Commission, including expenses on the Secretariat.
 - (4) The Commission may invest its Fund or a part of it in the prescribed manner or in accordance with the instructions of the Government.
 - (5) The Chairperson shall be the principal accounting officer of the Commission.
- 13. Accounts and audit.— (1) The Commission shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant record and prepare an annual statement of accounts in such manner and form as may be prescribed.
 - (2) The accounts of the Commission shall be annually audited by the Auditor General of Pakistan.
 - (3) The Government may conduct or cause to be conducted a special audit of the accounts of the Commission.
 - (4) The Government shall lay the annual or special audit report of the Commission in the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab and shall comply with the directions of the Provincial Assembly on an audit report of the Commission.

CHAPTER V MISCELLANEOUS

- 14. Annual report of the Commission.— (1) In January each year, the Commission shall submit an annual report on performance of each one of its functions to the Government.
 - (2) The Government shall, at the earliest possible opportunity, lay the annual report of the Commission in Provincial Assembly of the Punjab.
- 15. Assistance to the Commission.— All Provincial executive authorities shall assist the Commission in the performance of its functions.
- 16. Indemnity.— No suit, prosecution or legal proceedings shall lie against the Commission, the Chairperson or any member, officer, employee, advisor or consultant of the Commission in respect of anything done in good faith under this Act or the rules or for any order made, publication of report by or under the authority of the Commission.
- 17. Members and officers to be public servants.— The Chairperson, a member and every officer or employee appointed under this Act or the rules shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of section 21 of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (XLV of 1860).
- 18. Delegation of powers.— The Commission may, subject to such conditions as it may specify, delegate any of its powers or functions to the Executive Committee or to any other committee or to the Chairperson, the Secretary or an officer of the Commission, except the functions of—
 - (a) appointment of the Executive Committee or constitution of any other committee;
 - (b) the approval of strategic plan, annual work plan, annual performance report and annual budget; and
 - (c) recommendations relating to laws, rules, regulations or policies.
- 19. Powers to make rules.— The Government may, in consultation with the Commission and by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for purposes of giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

[1]This Act was passed by the Punjab Assembly on 12 February 2014; assented to by the Governor of the Punjab on 19 February 2014; and, was published in the Punjab Gazette (Extraordinary), dated 24 February 2014, pages 2641-45.

[2]Substituted by the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act 2016 (XXXI of 2016) for the following:

"(3) The Chairperson shall be a full-time officer of the Commission and shall have the status equivalent to BS-21 officer of the Government."

[3]Substituted by the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act 2016 (XXXI of 2016) for the following:

"5. Appointment of members.— (1) The Government shall appoint members mentioned in clauses (b) and (c) of subsection (3) of section 3 in such manner and on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed and until so prescribed, as the Government may determine.

(2) A member appointed under subsection (1) shall not be less than thirty years of age or more than sixty-five years of age and shall have experience of working on issues relating to women and their rights

3) The Government shall, within thirty days of occurrence of a vacancy, appoint a member for the residual term of the outgoing member.

Budget

2015 - 16:

64.127 million non-development budget 22.26 million development budget

22.26 million expenditure







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