

**Mapping Gender-Based Violence in  
Pakistan:  
Provincial Analysis of Rape,  
Kidnapping, Domestic Violence and  
Honor Killings [2024]**



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## Abbreviations

FIR	First Information Report
GBV	Gender-bases-violence
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
RTI	Right to information

# Introduction

## Global Overview of Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a serious human rights violation affecting individuals worldwide based on their gender. It not only compromises their physical and emotional health tremendously, but it also limits their ability to exercise their rights and participate fully in public and private life. GBV includes violence against men, boys and sexual minorities but women and girls impacted excessively and disproportionately due to systemic inequalities (World bank, n.d.). Gender-based violence includes wide range of harmful acts from physical, emotional, sexual to socio-economic abuse, violating fundamental human rights and hindering gender equality. GBV is not limited to physical violence: it includes psychological trauma, coercion, and the persistent fear of violence, having crippling consequences on persons' welfare, stability, health, independence and social inclusion. Gender-based violence is not confined to a single or specific territory; transcending socioeconomic and geographical boundaries. Intersectional factors can intensify a victim's vulnerability e.g. race, ethnicity, social class, sexuality and location. Detrimental practices such as forced marriage, rape, domestic violence, kidnapping, female genital mutilation and honour killings illustrate the pervasive nature of GBV across every region and cultures.

Estimates published by WHO indicate that globally about 1 in 3 (30%) of women worldwide have been subjected to either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.

## Pakistan's Gender Violence Landscape

Pakistan's criminal justice system struggles to address violence against women (VAW), hampered by entrenched societal stigma, patriarchal norms, limited awareness, weak law enforcement, religious beliefs, and systemic obstacles, with low reporting, extremely low prosecution, and conviction rates observed. The Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) 2017-18 reveals that 28% of women aged 15-49 have faced physical violence, and 6% have endured sexual violence (UNFPA Pakistan, n.d.). The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2022 ranks Pakistan 145th out of 146 countries, just above Afghanistan, reflecting deep gender inequities compounded by a faltering justice system. Women and girls encounter daily violence—domestic abuse, honour killings, sexual violence, and forced marriages—often with little legal recourse due to inadequate enforcement and judicial delays.

Gender discrimination and patriarchal norms restrict women's access to resources, increasing their vulnerability. Beyond physical harm, gender-based violence (GBV) undermines women's health, social standing, and economic independence, leading to miscarriages, mental health crises, and lost productivity. Studies estimate VAW costs Pakistan 80 million working days, a significant economic blow exacerbated by an overstretched and under-resourced justice system (Duvvury et al., 2021; Economic-Social-Costs-Violence-Women-Girls-Pakistan-2019.pdf, n.d.).

## Scope and Focus of the Report

To decisively address and eradicate gender-based violence (GBV) in Pakistan, a rigorous, data-driven statistical analysis is critical. This approach is vital for pinpointing provinces or regions with the highest reported cases and exposing critical gaps in the criminal justice system. Without this evidence-based strategy, efforts to reduce GBV will remain ineffective, lacking the precise insights needed to target urgent interventions and legal actions effectively.

This report emphatically focuses on analysing GBV trends and types—Honor Killings, Rape, Kidnapping/Abduction, and Domestic Violence—across Pakistan, with a strong emphasis on identifying deficiencies in reporting, investigations, and trial proceedings. By meticulously examining case registration, conviction rates, and delays in the judicial process, the study reveals deep-rooted systemic barriers. Highlighting these gaps is essential to strengthen law enforcement mechanisms, enhance victim support services, and ensure the robust implementation of legal frameworks to fiercely protect women and girls from violence.

## Research Objectives and Methodological Framework

**Objective 1:** To assess the prevalence of different types of gender-based violence—including honour killings, rape, kidnapping/abduction, and domestic violence—in the provinces of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Sindh and Islamabad Capital Territory.

**Objective 2:** To identify and analyse gaps in the reporting, investigation, and trial proceedings of these cases.

## Methodology

The quantitative research methodology involves data collection, processing, and analysis with rigorous attention. Primary data is collected through formal Right to Information (RTI) requests submitted to the police departments of the province of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and District Public Prosecutor of ICT under respective laws of Right of Access to Information. Upon receipt, all the data underwent a systematic digitization and cleaning process into Microsoft Excel database to remove errors. To ensure data integrity, multiple research team members conducted verification checks on all entries.

The study used demographic data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics to determine the 18 and above Population in each province i.e. *Table 5 of 7th Population and*

*Housing Scheme* (Population Census 2023, n.d.). Case rates were computed using the standardized crime rate formula endorsed by the Public Safety Institute and UNODC (2023):

$$\text{Crime Rate} = \left( \frac{\text{Number of GBV reported cases to the Police}}{\text{Population of the Province}} \right) * 100,000$$

### Limitations

- The data for ICT was received from the District Public Prosecutor and did not include information on kidnapping cases.
- The request was filed before Islamabad police under Right of Access to Information Act, 2017 and even after filing the complaint before Pakistan Information Commission, the data was not provided by the ICT police.
- ICT's data did not mention cases that were under investigation.

### Right to Information

*Every citizen shall have the right to have access to information in all matters of public importance subject to regulation and reasonable restrictions imposed by law.*

**Article 19A of the Constitution of Pakistan**

#### RTI Laws in Pakistan:

- The Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013
- Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Act 2016
- The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Information Act, 2013
- The Balochistan Right to Information Act of 2021



## Definitions

### Kidnapping

Kidnaping under section 359 is of two kinds kidnapping from Pakistan, and kidnapping from lawful guardianship; while section 363 defines punishments as:

‘Whoever kidnaps any person from Pakistan or from lawful guardianship, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine<sup>1</sup>.

### Abduction

Abduction is defined under section 362 of PPC as:

Whoever by force compels, or by any deceitful means induces, any person to go from any place, is said to abduct that person. <sup>2</sup>

### Rape

Rape is defined under section 375 of PPC as:

A man is said to commit rape who has sexual intercourse with a woman under circumstances falling under any of the five following descriptions

- i. against her will;
- ii. without her consent;
- iii. with her consent, when the consent has been obtained by putting her in fear of death or of hurt;
- iv. with her consent, when the man knows that he is not married to her and that the consent is given because she believes that the man is another person to whom she is or believes herself to be married; or
- v. with or without her consent when she is under sixteen years of age. Explanation: Penetration is sufficient to constitute the sexual intercourse necessary to the offence of rape<sup>3</sup>.

### Domestic Violence

Domestic violence in Pakistan is addressed under section 3 of the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2021 as:

“Domestic Violence shall mean all acts of physical, emotional, psychological, sexual and economic abuse committed by a respondent against women, children, vulnerable persons, or any other person with whom the respondent is or has been in a domestic relationship that causes fear, physical or psychological harm to the aggrieved person.”<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, Section 359 & 363.

<sup>2</sup> Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, Section 362.

<sup>3</sup> Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, Section 375.

<sup>4</sup> Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2021, Section 3, Pakistan

**Honor Killing**

When a man takes the life of a woman and claims that he did it because she was guilty of immoral sexual conduct, it is called an honour killing, not murder (R. Ali, n.d.).

**FIR (First Information Report)**

An FIR is an account of a cognizable (i.e. over which police has jurisdiction) offence that is entered in a particular format in a register at the police station. Every person has a right to report any matter at the concerned police station and have a case registered in the form of an FIR. The matter may be reported orally or in writing to an officer at a police station or on patrol. An officer who receives an oral report shall reduce it to writing and cause it to be recorded in the FIR register. A certified copy of the FIR, signed by an officer bearing the stamp of the police station is to be provided to the person who reports the crime.<sup>5</sup>

**Challan**

In criminal proceedings, a challan (charge sheet) is submitted to the court after the completion of investigation by the police.

**Conviction**

Conviction is the act or process of judicially finding some one guilty of a crime; the state of having been proved guilty.

**Acquittals**

Trial Court after putting accusation to the accused and examining one PW holding that it had no jurisdiction to try the case and acquitted the accused. Held, such order is an order of acquittal within the meaning of section 403 (1), Cr.P.C. and the accused cannot be re-tried. (DB) 1968 P Cr.LJ 1328 State v. Bashir Ahmed.<sup>6</sup>

**Withdrawn**

Withdrawn refers to the process where a legal case is discontinued or dropped before a final judgment is made. In the context of criminal cases in Pakistan, a case may be withdrawn by the prosecution, complainant, or the court under certain circumstances.

<sup>5</sup> <https://punjabpolice.gov.pk/faqs>

<sup>6</sup> [https://pcps.punjab.gov.pk/acquittal\\_and\\_discharge](https://pcps.punjab.gov.pk/acquittal_and_discharge)

# Gender Based Violence in Pakistan: Key Findings (2024)

**5339** cases  
were reported  
across Pakistan

## Rape

**0.5%**

Conviction rate

On average, **19**  
cases of rape were  
reported every day  
in Pakistan

**547** cases  
were reported  
across Pakistan

## Honor Killing

**0.5%**

Conviction rate

On average, **2** cases  
of honor killing were  
reported every day in  
Pakistan

**24493** cases  
were reported  
across Pakistan

## Kidnapping

**0.1%**

Conviction rate

On average, **67** cases  
of kidnapping were  
reported everyday in  
Pakistan

**2238** cases  
were reported  
across Pakistan

## Domestic Violence

**1.3%**

Conviction rate

On average, **6** cases  
of domestic violence  
were reported  
everyday in Pakistan

## Results and Discussions

### Country Province-wise Analysis

*Table 1 Number of Gender-Based Violence Cases in Pakistan – Police Data (2024)*

Total Number of Registered Cases				
Province	Honor Killing	Rape	Kidnapping/Abduction	Domestic Violence
Punjab	225	4641	20720	1167
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	134	258	943	446
Sindh	134	243	2645	375
Balochistan	32	21	185	160
Islamabad Capital Territory	22	176		90
<b>Total</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>5339</b>	<b>24493</b>	<b>2238</b>

This table shows a comprehensive overview of registered cases of GBV indicators – honour killing, kidnapping/abduction, rape and domestic violence across Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Paktunkhwa (KP), Balochistan and ICT. This data brings out the regional polarity and emphasizes on pressing issues of violence against women within the country.

*Table 2 Rate of Gender-Based Violence (per 100,000 Women Population)*

Rate (per 100,000 Women Population)					
Province	Population	Honor Killing	Rape	Kidnapping/Abduction	Domestic Violence
Punjab	34,576,029	0.7	13.4	<b>59.9</b>	3.4
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	9,868,648	1.4	2.6	9.6	4.5
Sindh	13,336,217	1	1.8	19.8	2.8
Balochistan	2,976,610	1.1	0.7	6.2	5.4
Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT)	661,051	3.3	<b>26.6</b>		<b>13.61</b>

This table presents crime rates per 100,000 women in Pakistan's provinces, showcasing how population size influences statistics.

## Honor Killing

Every year hundreds of women of all ages and every part of Pakistan are killed in the name of 'Honor'. A total of 547 cases were reported across the five regions, Punjab with leading at 225 cases. Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) each reported 134 cases, while in Balochistan and ICT the reported cases were 32 and 22 respectively. ICT with less population showing the highest rate of Honor killing 3.3 per 100,000 population, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (1.4) and Balochistan (1.1).

Sindh's rate 1.0 suggest that honor killing remain a significant issue, that is likely influenced by tribal systems. Punjab has a lower rate 0.7, despite its large population either indicating low occurrence and underreporting.

## Rape

Rape is not a new issue to investigate, it has been existing when properties are begun to be valued more or, at the very least, since the first woman stood against it being treated as property. Rape remains a serious concern in Pakistan with 5,339 cases reported in year 2024. Punjab dominated the statistics with 4,641 cases. The remaining provinces showing lower figures significantly, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (258), Sindh (243), Balochistan (21), and ICT (176).

The high prevalence in Punjab is attributed to the combination of higher population, public awareness on reporting, robust law enforcement and media coverage. In Balochistan specifically there is no reporting compared to other provinces. Rape remains widely underreported because of the societal taboos, victim blaming, and lack of trust in the legal system.

The second indicator where ICT has the highest rate 26.6 with smaller population than other provinces, following Punjab 13.4 then, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan with lower rates, accentuating underreporting.

## Kidnapping/Abduction

Kidnapping of women in Pakistan often leads to forced marriages, domestic violence, or honor killings. It frequently involves sexual violence, trafficking, or assault, deepening victims' trauma. These abductions may also enable economic exploitation, linking to ransom demands or forced labor within criminal networks.

In 2024, kidnapping and abduction emerged as the category with the highest number of reported cases in Pakistan, totalling 24,493. Punjab alone accounted for 20,720 cases, reflecting improved reporting mechanisms and increased public awareness. Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and Balochistan reported 2,645, 943, and 185 cases, respectively. However, the absence of data for Islamabad represents a significant gap, hindering a complete national overview.

Punjab reports the highest kidnapping/abduction rate at 59.9%, potentially tied to trafficking or forced marriages, signalling a serious concern. This high rate may partly reflect Punjab's larger

population compared to other provinces. Sindh shows a significant rate of 19.8% for targeted crimes against women, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan have lower rates, possibly due to cultural barriers causing underreporting. Data for the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) is unavailable.

### Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a pervasive issue in Pakistan, affecting both rural and urban areas with similar frequency. It manifests in various forms, including physical, sexual, economic, emotional, and psychological abuse. The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2020 provides a comprehensive definition, encompassing these diverse types of abuse to address the problem holistically<sup>7</sup>.

Domestic violence persists as a significant issue in Pakistan, with 2,238 reported cases in 2024, though the true number is likely much higher due to underreporting. Punjab reported the most cases at 1,167, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (446), Sindh (375), Balochistan (160), and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) (90). Lower numbers in some provinces, like Balochistan (5.4%) and ICT (13.61%), despite smaller populations, suggest high rates of violence, while Sindh's low rate (2.8%) indicates significant underreporting. Factors such as weak reporting mechanisms, victim fear, and inadequate legal protections contribute to the gap in data.

According to a study conducted by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) titled 'Factsheet on Domestic Violence During COVID-19 Lockdown in 2020, 90% of Pakistani women have experienced some form domestic violence in their lifetimes.

<sup>7</sup> Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill 2020, Government of Pakistan

## Provincial GBV Case Tracking: Key Indicators and Legal Outcomes

### Honor Killing: Analysing the criminal procedure

Table 3 Province-wise Honor Killing Data

Honor Killing							
Province	Registered Cases	Challand	Under Investigation	Cases Under Trial	Conviction	Acquittals	Withdrawn
Punjab	225	200	19	90	2	25	0
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	134	132	2	129	0	2	0
Sindh	134	34	96	21	0	2	
Balochistan	32	32	0	28	1	3	0
ICT	22	22		22	0	0	0

The above data provides insight of the legal journey of honor killing from registration to final verdict. Moreover, the number reflects the gaps in trial process, raising concerns about the effectiveness of legal mechanism. According to the table, Punjab has the highest number of cases followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Sindh, Balochistan and ICT. However, in Punjab *there are 90 cases* under the trial in court, *19 under investigation*. In some cases, FIRS (first information report) cancelled during the investigation. In KP and Balochistan, *129 and 28 cases* under the trial in court. In Sindh out of *134 registered cases*, *96 cases* were under investigation and *21 cases* under the trial in court. The data for ICT not provided by the Police.

In criminal proceedings, a challan (charge sheet) is filed in court after the police complete their investigation. Punjab leads with 200 challans, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) with 132, Balochistan with 32, and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) with 22, while Sindh lags significantly with only 34 cases reaching this stage.

Conviction rates remain disturbingly low, highlighting systemic issues. Punjab recorded just 2 convictions out of 225 cases (0.8%), while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Sindh, and ICT reported zero, and Balochistan had only one. This suggests gaps in the legal system, possibly due to insufficient evidence or out-of-court settlements. Acquittal rates further expose weaknesses: Punjab had 25,

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) had 2, and Balochistan had 3, while Sindh and ICT reported none, indicating inconsistencies in judicial processes.

### Rape: Analysing the criminal procedure

*Table 4 Province-wise Rape Data*

Rape							
Province	Registered Cases	Challand	Under Investigation	Cases Under Trial	Conviction	Acquittals	Withdrawn
Punjab	4641	3403	276	1126	20	677	46
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	258	255	3	238	1	4	0
Sindh	243	33	137	10	0	0	
Balochistan	21	17	4	17	0	2	0
ICT	176	176		636	7	338	0

In Punjab, a total of 4,641 cases were registered, with 276 under investigation and 1,126 in trial. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) reported 258 registered cases, with 238 in trial and only 3 under investigation, while Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) recorded the highest number of cases in trial at 636.

Of the 4,641 cases in Punjab, 3,403 resulted in challans, highlighting a robust process, whereas Sindh, with 243 registered cases, submitted only 33 challans, revealing a significant gap. In ICT, the number of challans matches the 636 registered cases, reflecting efficient progression.

Conviction rates for rape remain alarmingly low, like honor killings. Punjab's rate stands at a mere 0.43%, KP at 0.39%, and ICT at 3.98%, while Balochistan and Sindh report zero convictions. Punjab saw 677 acquittals, ICT 338, and KP 4, with 42 cases withdrawn in Punjab, underscoring persistent judicial challenges.

## Kidnapping/Abduction: Analysing the criminal procedure

Table 5 Province-wise Kindapping/Abduction Data

Kidnapping/Abduction							
Province	Registered Cases	Challand	Under Investigation	Cases Under Trial	Conviction	Acquittals	Withdrawn
Punjab	20720	5865	2696	2398	16	416	768
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	943	920	23	619	1	8	10
Sindh	2645	256	1948	218	0	0	
Balochistan	185	143	22	136	0	17	1

Kidnapping and abduction remain a critical crime in Pakistan. Punjab reported the highest number of registered cases at 20,720, but only 5,865 resulted in challans, highlighting a significant gap in prosecution. It also recorded 2,696 cases under investigation, 2,398 in trial, 416 acquittals, and 768 withdrawals, leaving many cases unresolved. In contrast, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) registered 943 cases, with 920 challans submitted, showing strong follow-up, yet only one conviction, eight acquittals, and ten withdrawals. Sindh reported 2,655 cases, but only 256 progressed to challan, with 1,948 under investigation, 218 in trial, and zero convictions or acquittals. Balochistan logged 185 cases, with 143 challaned and 136 in trial, but no convictions, 17 acquittals, and one withdrawal, underscoring inefficiencies in the judicial process.

Despite Punjab reporting 20,720 kidnapping and abduction cases, only 16 convictions were recorded, resulting in a mere 0.07% conviction rate. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) saw just one conviction, equating to a 0.1% rate, while Sindh and Balochistan recorded zero convictions. This low conviction rate highlights challenges in evidence collection, judicial proceedings, and witness protection, compounded by delays and out-of-court settlements that contribute to high withdrawal rates. Data for Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) was not provided by the police.

## Domestic Violence: Analysing the criminal procedure

Table 6 Province-wise Domestic Violence Data

Domestic Violence							
Province	Registered Cases	Challand	Under Investigation	Cases Under Trial	Conviction	Acquittals	Withdrawn
Punjab	1167	783	345	713	3	59	9
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	446	441	5	422	0	6	0
Sindh	375	58	301	47	0	0	
Balochistan	160	118	12	68	25	26	0
ICT	22	22		22	0	0	0

In 2024, Punjab, Pakistan's most populous province, registered 1,167 domestic violence cases, with 783 challans submitted, indicating a significant portion advanced to the next stage. However, only 345 cases remained under investigation, and 713 were in trial, yet just 3 convictions were secured, with 59 acquittals and 9 withdrawals, highlighting judicial challenges.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) reported 446 cases, with 441 challaned, showing strong follow-up, but no convictions were achieved, with 6 acquittals and 9 withdrawals. Sindh logged 375 cases, but only 58 were challaned, with no convictions or acquittals, pointing to procedural delays and weak enforcement.

Balochistan recorded 160 cases, with 118 challaned and 68 in trial, securing 25 convictions but also 26 acquittals, revealing difficulties in proving domestic violence allegations. In Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 22 cases were reported, all challaned and in trial, but no convictions or acquittals were recorded.

## Recommendations

### Legislative & Policy Reforms

- Revise existing Gender-Based Violence laws to ensure swift and compulsory action by mandating immediate registration of First Information Reports (FIRs) upon receiving complaints. Legal proceedings should follow without delay, establishing a zero-tolerance approach to bureaucratic hurdles and ensuring survivors' access to justice isn't stalled by reluctance or inefficiency within the system.
- Outlaw out-of-court settlements, such as those facilitated by jirgas, panchayats, or other informal community mechanisms, in cases of Gender-Based Violence. These traditional practices often undermine survivors' rights, prioritize reconciliation over accountability, and perpetuate impunity for perpetrators.
- Establish dedicated fast-track courts specifically for Gender-Based Violence cases to tackle the backlog and delays that plague the judicial process. These specialized courts would prioritize efficiency, sensitivity, and expertise, delivering swift trials and verdicts. By reducing the time survivors spend entangled in legal battles, this measure would enhance trust in the system and deter potential offenders through timely consequences.
- Mandate reporting of Gender-Based Violence incidents by key societal actors—including healthcare professionals, law enforcement officers, and community leaders—making it a legal obligation to document and escalate cases they encounter.
- Bolster the implementation of protective legislation, such as the Domestic Violence Act and the Anti-Honor Killing Bill, by enhancing enforcement mechanisms. This could include increased funding for training law enforcement, appointing dedicated oversight bodies to monitor compliance, and launching public awareness campaigns to ensure these laws translate into real-world protection for vulnerable individuals, rather than remaining mere words on paper.

### Law Enforcement & Investigation Enhancements

- Set up specialized Gender-Based Violence police units in every district, staffed with officers trained in trauma-informed approaches to assist survivors compassionately and competently. These units would focus exclusively on GBV cases, offering a safe entry point into the justice system and reducing the risk of re-traumatization through empathetic, expert handling.
- Expand forensic evidence collection units across regions to guarantee meticulous and standardized documentation in rape and domestic violence cases. Equipped with advanced tools and trained personnel, these units would strengthen prosecutions by providing irrefutable evidence, addressing gaps that often lead to case dismissals or acquittals.

- Create a digital case-tracking system to enable real-time oversight of Gender-Based Violence cases, from FIR registration through to court judgment. This transparent, accessible platform would allow survivors, advocates, and authorities to monitor progress, minimize delays, and hold the system accountable for delivering timely justice.
- Provide mandatory gender-sensitive training for police officers, prosecutors, and judiciary members to enhance their ability to manage GBV cases with care and precision. This training would emphasize understanding power dynamics, dismantling biases, and applying a survivor-centered lens, ensuring every level of the justice system operates with fairness and sensitivity.
- Launch nationwide public education campaigns to complement legal reforms, raising awareness about GBV laws, reporting mechanisms, and survivor rights. By engaging communities and shifting cultural attitudes, these campaigns would empower individuals to recognize, report, and resist violence, amplifying the impact of systemic changes.

### Survivor Support & Rehabilitation

- Expand the network of women’s shelters and crisis centers, with a priority focus on Punjab and Sindh, where Gender-Based Violence rates remain alarmingly high. These safe havens should be adequately funded, staffed with trained professionals, and equipped to offer not just refuge but also long-term support, ensuring survivors have a secure space to rebuild their lives away from immediate danger.
- Set up one-stop crisis response centers at public hospitals, integrating medical care, legal assistance, and psychological support under one roof. These centers would streamline access to critical services—offering emergency treatment, evidence collection, legal filings, and trauma counselling—reducing the burden on survivors to navigate fragmented systems during their most vulnerable moments.
- Guarantee free legal aid and psychological counselling for survivors through robust state-funded programs in collaboration with NGOs. This dual support would level the playing field, providing expert representation to pursue justice and sustained mental health care to heal from trauma, ensuring no survivor is left to fend for themselves due to financial or emotional barriers.
- Introduce a nationwide emergency GBV hotline staffed by trained responders available 24/7 to offer immediate guidance, safety planning, and intervention. This lifeline would bridge the gap between survivors and services, delivering rapid assistance—whether it’s dispatching police, connecting to shelters, or simply listening—empowering individuals to act in moments of crisis.
- Roll out economic empowerment programs for survivors, featuring vocational training, microfinance opportunities, and job placement assistance. By equipping women with skills, resources, and employment pathways, these initiatives would break the cycle of

dependency often exploited by abusers, fostering financial independence as a cornerstone of recovery and resilience.

### **Social Awareness & Community Engagement**

- Launch campaigns via television, radio, digital media, and community outreach using culturally sensitive, evidence-based messaging to shift societal attitudes.
- Integrate curriculum modules on gender equality, consent, and human rights, complemented by teacher training and regular impact evaluations.
- Involve religious and community leaders through structured dialogue sessions to reshape cultural narratives and actively combat honor-based violence.
- Implement secure digital platforms and confidential hotlines that empower victims to report violence safely and access support without fear of retaliation.

### **Data-Driven Decision-Making & Institutional Accountability**

- Ensure all GBV case statistics are published annually in a national report, including disaggregated data by region and demographics to inform targeted policy responses.
- Make judicial performance data publicly available through an interactive online dashboard for real-time monitoring of legal outcomes.
- Enhance the RTI framework to allow civil society and media full access to GBV-related legal proceedings, supported by capacity-building workshops.
- Create a transparent oversight entity to monitor law enforcement, judiciary, and healthcare responses to GBV, publishing quarterly performance reviews.

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