



International Women's Day in Pakistan

9th March 2019

Global Human Rights Defence (GHRD) organized an event on 8th March 2019 in collaboration with Human Rights Focus Pakistan (HRFP) to celebrate International Women's Day. The theme of the program was "*Think Equal, Build Smart- Innovate to Change*" and was selected in accordance with the 2019 United Nation guidelines.

This event was organised with the aim to educate all participants, as well as the rest of the country, that violence against women is against the law and should be eliminated. The participants shared their experiences on unequal treatment, abuse and gender based violence. Special awareness was raised for young women and how they are protected and empowered through domestic as well as international law.

The woman speakers who attended the event, spoke about gender discrimination in schools. It was additionally highlighted that especially women from religious minorities are denied access to international institutions, exchange programmes, research fellowships and state benefits. They thus suffer from religious based discrimination, on top of gender based discrimination. This makes them an easy targets in society, as they are intentionally kept poor, uneducated and oppressed. Sexual harassment, abductions, forced conversion and forced marriages thus seem to occur even more amongst minority girls.

The event was successful as both GHRD and HRFP reiterated their goal to contribute to the promotion of gender equality by means of raising awareness for the occurring human rights violations. Education in relation to the discrimination of women in Pakistan is an important step towards the elimination thereof.