



# February Monthly Report

*Team Pakistan*



 [www.ghrd.org](http://www.ghrd.org) | [www.ghrtv.org](http://www.ghrtv.org)

 @Global Human Rights Defence

 @globalhumanrightsdefence

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Sr. No.	Topic	Page No.
1.	Violence against Women and Girls	1
2.	The case of India and the Effects of Covid-19 on VAWG	2
3.	Institutional pledges	3
4.	Future commitments	5
5	Sources	6

## Introduction

This report aims to provide an explanatory insight into some of the most relevant events that occurred in Pakistan throughout the month of February. After providing a brief country profile to deepen the readers' understanding of the context in which such events have taken place, this report will describe situations affecting vulnerable groups' and minorities' human rights. The report will delve into events affecting women's rights, children's rights, and the rights of religious and gender minorities. The events highlighted throughout this report serve as a reminder of the relevance of both the advocacy and research of human rights. The report also aims to provide an informative overview for readers on current news in Pakistan.

## Country Profile

Pakistan, officially designated as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, achieved its independence in 1947 following the decision of the British to partition the Indian subcontinent into two independent countries: India and Pakistan (GHRD, 2022). Pakistan is located in South Asia and shares its land borders with India, Afghanistan, Iran and China. Additionally, the State is strategically located bordering the Arabian sea making it a key littoral state of the Indian Ocean Region. Pakistan is a Muslim majority state, and its Constitution recognizes Islam as the official state religion under Article 2 (Constitution of Pakistan, 1956).

Pakistan has a bicameral legislature which is composed of the Senate as the upper house and the National Assembly as the lower house. The country follows a multi-party system with several major parties, including the Pakistan People's Party, the Pakistan Muslim League and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (GHRD, 2022). Pakistan has adopted a democratic parliamentary federal structure with a ceremonial president and powerful prime minister (PM) of Pakistan. Currently, the president of Pakistan is Mr. Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi, and the PM is Muhammad Shehbaz (GHRD, 2022). PM Sharif was elected as the 23rd Prime Minister by the National Assembly following a no confidence motion, which led to the removal of the former PM Imran Khan, in April 2022 (GHRD, 2022)

Pakistan's capital is Islamabad, the nation's largest port city and business hub is Karachi, and the second-largest city is Lahore. Other major cities include Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Multan, Gujranwala, Hyderabad, Peshawar, and Quetta. The spoken languages are Urdu, English, Punjabi, Dari, Balochi, and Pashto (BBC, 2022; GHRD, 2022). The recorded population as for the annual year 2022 was 229.5 million (United Nations Population Fund, 2022).

Pakistan is currently facing a balance of payments crisis which has caused massive inflation and led to protests across the country. In addition to the economic turmoil, Pakistan is also struggling to recover from the floods that caused massive destruction and displacement across the country last year (Newsweek Pakistan, 2022)

Pakistan is also one of the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) alongside India, Israel, and North Korea, which are outside the framework of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). It shares a historical territorial dispute with India over the status of Kashmir and both states have fought three wars in 1947; 1965; and 1971 and have further fought a limited war in 1999 in the Kargil sector of Kashmir. Pakistan is also a part of regional groupings such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and enjoys a privileged status in the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

## Children's Rights

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) demonstrated a briefing on raising awareness on children's rights from March 2020 to February 2023. It is worth mentioning that the Commission has kept track on 338 child rights violations such as sexual abuse, child labor, street children and forced conversion. The main intention of the briefing was to stimulate a dialogue about children's rights and the significance of it. According to NCPCR around 2,101 children were kidnapped, raped, or sodomized in the past six months. The largest province Punjab, which is steeped in feudalism, tops the list with 1,564 child abuse cases. The break-up for other provinces is Sindh – 338 cases, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – 77 cases and Balochistan – 23 cases. The federal capital chipped in with 99 cases.

To begin with, Ms. Afshan Tehseen, member of the National Commission on the Rights of Child emphasized that NCPCR advocated on system gaps across Pakistan by strategically using media as a method to promote the increasing issues that children in Pakistan face. One of Ms. Afshan Tahseen's tactics was to assign celebrity Ahsan Khan as a Goodwill Ambassador. Politicians, Prime Ministers, and Senators declared that the Commission has done a substantial job on defending children's rights. Moreover, it was emphasized that health issues of children in Pakistan need to be the biggest priority, as major factors of child mortality are malnutrition, diarrhoea, and chest infection. The Commission (as well as senators) added that children with disabilities need to be in the forefront as well. There is a consensus that NCPCR is doing a crucial job on enhancing the living conditions of children in Pakistan, however, there is still a long way before major issues are no longer prominent, and the Government should stop its negligence to achieve this. (NCRC, 2023)

### a. Recent Incidents

In one of the incidents, a thirteen-year-old girl went missing on February 15th in Karachi. Her parents are scared that their daughter has been abducted by an online predator as she used to play Ludo on her phone. The parents fear that one of their daughter's unidentified online "friends" manipulated her through the game and convinced her to meet outside her house and then abducted her. The authorities are moving fast to find what happened to the girl. ("Parents fear abduction," 2023).

In another case, after two months of the kidnapping of his 15-year-old daughter by a 60-year-old man named Tayyab. The girl's father Arif Gill has lost hope of finding his daughter. Sitara Arif was kidnapped on December 15th and only this February have the police in Pakistan registered the case. Gill admitted that he was forced to send his daughter to work in a Muslim household because of poverty and his inability to earn a livelihood. Moreover, the father stated that "it never occurred to him that his daughter could be targeted by a man five times her age". The lawyer of the family stated that he heard of the case on February 3rd and immediately scheduled a meeting with the regional police chief, protesting police indifference. ("Christian girl kidnapped," 2023). An FIR (First Information Report) was registered against Tayyab only on February 4th. Further, when the Police raided Tayyab's house, his wife handed the Islamic marriage certificate between him and Sitara.

Moreover, according to the lawyer, Akmal Bhatti, “ The accused first raped the victim and then used the cover of an Islamic Nikah [marriage certificate] to escape punishment for this heinous crime”. Though police are now acting, it is unfortunate that the family is deprived of justice. Forced marriage is clearly prohibited under the laws of Pakistan, and it violates fundamental rights provisions under the Constitution . Further, each of the states concerned has obligations under international law to take action to address forced marriage. However, cases of young girls being kidnapped and forced to marry keep recurring : there is a clear absence of justice and action from the police which puts young girls from lower socioeconomic backgrounds in great danger .

Young girls who belong to minority groups are easily targeted for conversion and forced marriage as their parents often lack the resources to fight back. Bhatti, the lawyer, also blamed the National Commission on the Rights of Child and Punjab’s Child Protection & Welfare Bureau for not acting and allowing the violation of the girl’s rights to take place.

Moving to another case, the UAE (United Arab Emirates) decided to strictly enforce its laws regarding the acquisition of visas for Pakistanis under the age of 18. The UAE consul Bakheet Ateeq Al-Remeithi spoke in an interview about the Wadeema law and the decision to place strict measures. The Wadeema Law is the Federal Law No. 3 of 2016 concerning child rights, also known as Wadeema’s Law, which stresses that all children must be provided with appropriate living standards, access to health services, education, equal opportunities in essential services and facilities without any kind of discrimination. The consul stated that “[u] nder the Wadeema law, a large number of Pakistanis who possess work visas in the UAE are violating laws regarding children’s rights ”. Moreover, these laws define the children’s right to education and a vast number of Pakistanis are depriving their children of the right by making them stay at home. (Dogar, 2023).

On a positive note, a new project was launched by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to promote school education and fight illiteracy in the country. The project was named “ School on Wheels” and it includes the use of eight mobile schools to provide full educational facilities to children. The buses are equipped with all the necessary school equipment’s (computers, boards, desks, LCDs ) to achieve the needed learning environment. (“ Schools on Wheels,” 2023).

Every single child should have the right to live a life free of fear, exploitation, and violence. Unfortunately, cases of kidnapping, neglect, forced child marriage, conversion, and more, have long been prevalent in Pakistan. Even after the implementation of several treaties, laws, and historical movements, children’s rights are repeatedly violated to date (Jabeen, 2013). A plethora of policies are related to children in Pakistan, however, none of them is directed to the protection of child rights. (Jabeen, 2013). Cases like Sitara Arif’s, in combination with the lack of action from the authorities, will continue to happen if the aggressors are not met with any actual consequences. The importance of organisations are significant, especially because they raise awareness and aim to create a brighter future for children in Pakistan. Moreover, projects like the ‘ School on Wheels’ are effective to promote education and more projects like these are needed. However, crucial issues remain unsolved and there is a pressing need from within the country to formulate a wholesale legislation at a federal level to protect children (Jabeen, 2013).



Young girl in Pakistan. Source: © Elsie Pictures/Flickr, 201

## Women's rights

### The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW)

The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) is a financially and administratively autonomous body established in July 2000. It is an outcome of the national and international commitments of the Government of Pakistan to gender equality, and its role is to monitor the implementation of laws for the protection and empowerment of women and review and examine policies, in order to facilitate the government in the process of the implementation of obligations and international tools.

In February 2023, NCSW has expressed its condemnation over the recent F-9 Park incident which happened in Islamabad, where a woman was reportedly raped at gunpoint. NCSW has written to many institutional authorities, calling for increased security measures in public spaces to prevent similar facts from occurring again in the future. Akbar Nasir Khan, Islamabad Police Chief has also been contacted by the body, demanding a fair and thorough investigation into this serious case of a violation of women's constitutional rights. In the letter addressed to the Officer, the Commission emphasized the need to improve safety and security measures, and urged the Minister of Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar to provide updates concerning the Anti-Rape Investigation and Trial Act, 2021. This is an act aiming to ensure redressal of sexual crimes through a special investigation team and a special court providing for more efficient procedures and a speedy trial. The commission also demanded information about the anti-rape crisis cells and sexual offences investigation units, as well as the progress in framing rules under the act. (Monitoring Report, 2023)

### University Swabi removes age restriction for women's admission

Swabi University is a public university, established in 2021, and situated in Anbar, Swabi in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan. In February 2023, it was announced there will no longer be any age related restrictions for women's admissions in any of its Departments. The decision was deliberated during the 25th Swabi Academic Council, and announced by the Vice Chancellor Shahana Arooj during a press release. The decision was taken in view of the numerous women dropping out of college following them being married off to marriage. (Staff Report, 2023)



## Religious and gender minorities

### Religious minorities

Pakistan is a predominantly Muslim country, with 96.28 percent of the population practising Islam, and also has smaller religious minorities according to the 1998 national census (Minority Rights Group, 2019). These minorities include Christians, Ahmadis, Hindus, Shi'as, Isma'ilis, Bohras, Parsis and Sikhs, which are officially recognised either as religious minorities or as Muslim community. The numbers of members belonging to religious minorities appear to be unrepresentative, as it is estimated that they are form a bigger portion of the population than is recorded in the outdated national census (Minority Rights Group, 2019).

Religious minorities continue to experience discrimination, persecution and marginalisation in the country, and are often looked down on as second-class citizens. This was reasserted earlier this year when the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) released a report on the state of freedom of religion and belief in the country, which showed that the persecution faced by religious minorities is a consistent issue (Hussain, 2023). The report, titled 'A Breach of Faith: Freedom of Religion or Belief in 2021-22', focused especially on forced conversions, the desecration of places of worship and marginalisation of the Ahmadi community.

Pakistan is one of the countries with the strictest blasphemy laws in the world and, in January 2023, Pakistan's parliament decided to strengthen them. Anyone deemed to have insulted Islam or the Prophet Muhammad faces fines, prison, and death sentences (Masood, 2023). This has now been extended also to anyone that insults people connected to him, meaning Prophet's wives, companions or close relatives (Masood, 2023). Pakistan's blasphemy laws are of great concern as they are often used to persecute religious minorities, or to settle personal disputes or feuds over land (Masood, 2023). A senior counsel for Human Rights Watch in Asia commented that "the new legislation is very worrying. Pakistan's existing blasphemy laws have enabled and encouraged legal discrimination and persecution in the name of religion for decades" (Masood, 2023). This problem has been also raised during the 42nd session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group, which took place from January 23rd to February 3rd of 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. Pakistan received a total of 340 recommendations, including on amending blasphemy laws to avoid discrimination against religious minorities (UPR Info, 2023). Over the last three decades, around 1,500 Pakistanis have been charged with blasphemy and even though there have been no executions, many have been murdered by mobs or vigilantes because of allegations that they insulted Islam (Kutu, 2023). The last of such instances happened in February 2023, when a mob stormed a police station in the city of Nankana Sahib and lynched a man under police custody and accused of blasphemy (AA News Desk, 2023). Muhammad Waris, in his early twenties, was taken into custody after he was attacked by a mob for allegedly insulting the Qur'an, but he was followed and then beaten to death (AA News Desk, 2023). In general, blasphemy-related violence is still very high, with a reported increase of anti-blasphemy activities online and through social media (Minority Rights Group, 2019). Many blasphemy cases are registered against the Ahmadi Muslim community in Pakistan. Although they consider themselves Muslim, under the strict blasphemy laws they cannot refer to themselves as such and neither can they practise aspects of their faith (Hussain, 2023). The anti-Ahmadi sentiment and persecution can be also seen in online hate speech as more than half of it is directed to them according to the HRCP report (Hussain, 2023).

Furthermore, a key issue for religious minorities in Pakistan is the kidnapping, forced marriages and conversion of Hindu women and girls to Islam. This was pointed out also by the United Nations’ (UN) experts who called on the government to act (Al Jazeera, 2023). There are no reliable estimates on the numbers of forced conversions; human rights activists estimated that around 300 cases take place each year and the numbers might be even higher since there are gaps in reporting and documentation (Minority Rights Group, 2019). According to the HRCP’s report, victims are mostly young girls, even underage, from the low-income families of the Hindu and Christian communities in the Punjab and Sindh provinces (HRPC, 2023 ). Factors that make these girls more vulnerable to forced conversions are socio economic fragility, like poverty, as well as their gender and class (HRPC, 2023 ; JURIST, 2023). In addition, experts argued that there is a lack of access to justice for the victims, which can also be related with the suggestion that religious authorities are involved with the complicity of security forces and the justice system (UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2023). In February 2023, a family alleged that a 17-year-old Hindu girl from the Sindh province was abducted, forced to convert to Islam and marry her abductor (Tiwari, 2023). The girl’s family said she was kidnapped on February 15th, from Naukot market, where a man began teasing her and later kidnapped her (Tiwari, 2023). The girl’s family reported the matter to the police, but, according to the father, have not taken any action and on February 19th, they presented him a certificate that his daughter had embraced Islam on her own free will and changed her name (Tiwari, 2023). Most cases follow a similar pattern: [A] minor girl from either the Hindu or Christian community abducted and coerced into converting to Islam, often followed by a marriage sans consent to her assailant or captor, one that she is too young or too vulnerable to fully understand the implications of (HRCP, 2023, p. 8)

b. Gender minorities

Gender minorities suffer discrimination and violence in many aspects of their lives as Pakistan offers limited protection and rights to people belonging to gender minorities, and they are not fully accepted and included in the society. The LGBTQI+ community is often forced to hide, so it is difficult to estimate the size of the community in the country. Transgender people were for example counted for the first time in the last census in 2017, showing that there are only 10,418 transgender people in the whole country which is a gross underestimate of the actual size (Mustafa, 2023). Marvia Malik, a young transgender woman, made history as the first openly transgender female anchor in Pakistan on Kohenoor News Network (Levesque, 2023). On February 24th, 2023, she escaped severe injuries after two gunmen opened fire on her when she was returning home (Levesque, 2023). She claims that her LGBTQI+ and intersex rights activism played a major role in the assassination attempt as she received threatening calls before the incident (Levesque, 2023).

## Positive Developments

### a. Climate change

Actions are taking place to improve and restore the natural areas in Pakistan and make the country more climate resilient, especially after the 2022 floods. One such project is the recently announced joint collaboration between the US and Pakistan, in the transition of energy towards forms of renewable energy in Pakistan (Staff Report (a), 2023). Pakistan has a goal that by 2030, 60 percent of the energy will be renewable, and this partnership will help advance that goal. It is called the “US-Pakistan Green Alliance framework”. This framework includes the sharing of knowledge and investment by the US in Pakistan’s energy sector: such as a 500,000 USD investment by the US in restoring the electricity infrastructure in areas of Sindh that were affected by floods, a research grant for the development of electrical vehicles for the Lahore University of Management Science and additional support for the US-Pakistan Women’s Council’s ‘Future of Women in Energy Scholars Program’ (Staff Report (a), 2023). Another project is one where The Marine Science School of the Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water & Marine Sciences (LUAWMS) successfully restored over 16 acres of mangrove forest in the Sonmiani Marsh Dam area of Balochistan (Staff Report (b), 2023). As part of the project, the fisherman community engagement events were held in the local areas, to discuss their livelihood in relation to the mangroves and how that can be done sustainably (Staff Report (b), 2023).

### b. LGBTQI+

Against the backdrop of a strikingly difficult situation for the LGBTQI+ community, and particularly the transgender community in Pakistan, small positive developments do occur occasionally. The Akhhuat Foundation, an organization that advocates for the social welfare of marginalized groups in society, and the Punjab Police, entered in a partnership with the aim of supporting and protecting the transgender community and ensuring their welfare (Staff Report (c), 2023). An memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between both the parties. Part of the partnership will be joint support in the creation and functioning of “Protection Centers” for the transgender community, with the Akhhuat Foundation providing specialized training to the police officers who work in those centres and providing data and knowledge on particular problems faced by the transgender community in specific areas. Another aspect will be a joint effort to improve the accessibility to medical facilities for the transgender community (Staff Report (c), 2023).

### c. Women’s Rights

Around the time of International Women’s Day, specific projects were announced by the Pakistani government to improve the situation of women in the education and the labour market in Pakistan (Staff Report (d), 2023). A pilot Digital Skill Development Program was created by the Punjab Skills Development Fund (PSDF) and the Lahore School of Economics (LSE), to train female students in digital skills to prepare them for employment and build their confidence (Staff Report (e), 2023). Additionally, this program aims to identify why many girls are not accessing education and skills training and to address these problems. Statistics show that many women in Pakistan are not part of the

labour market and are prevented from getting education and the necessary support to enter this. Data showed that in Punjab, there are about 44.5 million women in working age, yet only about a quarter of them are in the labour market (Staff Report (e), 2023). Research has shown that factors like “lack of encouragement, family support, and adequate skills” prevent women from getting jobs and earning money. This new pilot program attempts to address these factors and prepare female students with practical skills and confidence to ultimately help to improve the socio-economic status of women in Pakistan (Staff Report (e), 2023).

Additionally, on International Women’s Day, the Pakistani government announced a citizen’s guide to prevent gender-based violence being incorporated into the gender unit of the Ministry of Planning and Development, as a part of the assessment criteria of development projects (Staff Report (f), 2023). This was incorporated to ensure that a gender perspective was considered as part of the review process. This is part of a larger process by the Minister Ahsan Iqbal, to include more women in development schemes. He mentions that 50 percent of scholarship programmes are reserved for women and announced the start of an Innovation Fund Programme, specifically for women entrepreneurs (Staff Report (f), 2023; Staff Report (g), 2023).

#### d. Children’s Rights

The government of Pakistan is aiming to eradicate polio throughout the country and large-scale anti-polio vaccination campaigns have thus been deployed to accomplish this. In Sindh and Punjab, a five-day vaccination drive was set-up to immunise over 21 million children under the age of five against polio (Staff Report (h), 2023). As part of the vaccination drives, a campaign has started amongst truck drivers, organised by the Karachi Goods Carriers Association, together with the government, to use the famous truck art on the side of long-haul lorries to depict anti-polio messages and urge parents to vaccinate their children (Anadolu Agency, 2023). These trucks are able to reach parents in remote areas where vaccination levels are lower. The use of trucks that reach all these remote areas, and the cooperation of truck drivers in supporting this campaign, is happily received by those working to make Pakistan polio-free (Staff Report (i), 2023).

## Looking Forward

On March 18th, the chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), Ms. Hina Jilani, demanded security forces to leave schools and colleges buildings in Swat (Dawn, 2023). Swat is the 15th largest district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, in Pakistan (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2023). The region was seized by the Taliban in late-2007, until Pakistani control was re-established in mid-2009. During this time, militants killed politicians, soldiers and opponents. They have also banned female education and destroyed nearly 200 schools for girls.

Fears of a Taliban comeback have recently resurfaced in the area. The Pakistani military denied such reports, but according to the Arab News, TTP (Taliban) fighters returned to Swat in September last year. Local leaders, as well as police and government officials interviewed by the media, reported the return of up to 300 Taliban militants to the valley and said that the localised joint operations by police and the army had been launched to suppress the movement. Locals' fears of a Taliban comeback were most visible back in September 2022, when hundreds of people took to the streets in Swat Valley to demand peace and protection (Khan, 2022).

On a fact-finding mission to the province, a Human Rights commission spoke to a range of civil society members, journalists, lawyers, and district administration officials. Ms Jilani said HRCP appreciated the determination of Swat people against the new wave of militancy. She said HRCP was deeply concerned about the forced disappearance of people and demanded the missing persons be shown and presented in courts if they were guilty of any crime. She also showed concern over the 'extrajudicial killings' and said that the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan strongly condemned illegal acts such as these. She reiterated that the Commission would continue to play its role in the protection of human rights in the country (Dawn, 2023).

As Swat remains an area of concern, the hope is that peace can be restored and further conflict avoided. The visit of the Human Rights commission seems to demonstrate appropriate concern with the developments in the area, presenting itself as an institutional commission with an active approach. A resurrection of Taliban forces in the region would be a setback, especially to women and girls, who have been able to finally attend school again, since mid-2009. An interruption in their already fragile education process would not only mean a regression in the country's fragile human rights achievements in the past years, but also a throwback to a difficult period in each of their individual lives and that of their families. We hope that the peace efforts of Swat people demonstrating on the streets pays off, and look forward to the action of the Human Rights Commission in Pakistan on this matter.

## Conclusion

This report touched on events that transpired throughout the month of February in Pakistan affecting women and children, the rights of religious and gender minorities, as well as reflected some positive developments.

The NCPCR provided a briefing on children's rights in Pakistan. As part of their report, the NCPCR recommended the use of media to promote children's rights in particular with factors of child mortality. In terms of incidents affecting children's rights, there was an abduction of a girl in Karachi, another child being coerced into a forced marriage and raped. In terms of women's rights, the NCSW condemned attacks against women and called for measures to be instated and for updates on anti-rape initiatives. A positive development in the KP province as a public university announced it would no longer have age-related restrictions for women's admissions. As for religious minorities, Pakistan's blasphemy laws were strengthened by the parliament, which is concerning as they have been known to encourage religious persecution. Another issue for religious minorities is the forced conversion of Hindu women to Islam with a subsequent lack of access to justice for victims. As for gender minorities, a young transgender woman was the victim of an assassination attempt during last month.

Despite these instances, there have been positive developments in several areas. These include a framework for renewable energy, a partnership between a foundation and the Punjab police to protect the transgender community through a memorandum of understanding, a digital skill development programme for women and a large-scale anti-polio vaccination campaign for children.



## Bibliography

- AA News Desk. (2023, February 12). Blasphemy: Mob storms Pakistan police station, lynches man. The Asian Age. Retrieved March 15, 2023, from <https://dailyasianage.com/news/301667/blasphemy-mob-storms-pakistan-police-station-lynches-man>
- Anadolu Agency. (2023, March 9). Pakistan uses famous truck art to ramp up anti-polio efforts. Pakistan Today. Retrieved on March 16, 2023, from <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/03/09/pakistan-uses-famous-truck-art-to-ramp-up-anti-polio-efforts/>
- BBC. (2022, April 10). Imran Khan ousted as Pakistan's PM after vote. BBC News. Retrieved March 11, 2023, from <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-61055210>
- Costantin, N., Chen, Y., Hilmes, F., Saghir, S., Brandes, T., & Yu, C. (2022). Monthly Report- Team Pakistan. <https://ghrd.org/>. Retrieved 2023.
- Christian Girl Kidnapped by 60-Year-Old Muslim in Pakistan. (2023, February 13). Retrieved from Christian Girl Kidnapped by 60-Year-Old Muslim in Pakistan - Christian News Headlines ([christianheadlines.com](http://christianheadlines.com))
- Dogar, A. (2023, February 2027.) "UAE visas of Pakistanis depriving children of education not to be renewed". Geo.tv. UAE visas of Pakistanis depriving children of education not to be renewed ([geo.tv](http://geo.tv))
- Hadid, D. & Sattar, A. (2023, February 2). Pakistan is roiled by multiple crises at once, with little end in sight. Npr Org. Retrieved on March 20, 2023 from <https://www.npr.org/2023/02/02/1152917151/pakistan-imf-peshawar-mosque-terrorist-attack-electricity-crisis>
- Human Rights Commission asks security forces to vacate school, college buildings in Swat. (2023, March 19). Dawn. Retrieved on March 19, 2023, from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1742958/human-rights-commission-asks-security-forces-to-vacate-school-college-buildings-in-swat>
- HRCPC. (2023). A Breach of Faith: Freedom of Religion or Belief in 2021-22. Retrieved March 14, 2023, from <https://hrpc-web.org/hrpcweb/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2023-A-breach-of-faith-freedom-of-religion-or-belief-in-2021-22.pdf>
- Hussain, A. (2023, February 8). Pakistan's top rights group raises 'alarm' on religious freedom. Al Jazeera. Retrieved March 14, 2023, from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/8/pakistans-top-rights-group-raises-alarm-on-religious-freedom>
- JURIST. (2023). Pakistan dispatch: femicide against members of religious minorities must be addressed. JURIST. Retrieved March 14, 2023, from <https://www.jurist.org/news/2023/01/pakistan-dispatch-femicide-against-members-of-religious-minorities-must-be-addressed/>
- Jabeen, T. (2013). Pakistan's Child Protection Legislative and Policy Frameworks: A Critical Review. Pakistan Journal of Criminology, 5(2), 159.
- Kuru, A. T. (2023, February 3). Op-Ed: How blasphemy laws are used to serve political ends. Los Angeles Times. Retrieved March 14, 2023, from <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2023-02-03/pakistan-blasphemy-law-muslim-countries>
- Khan, N. (2022, September 22). Army, police search operation ongoing in Pakistan's Swat Valley amid fears of Taliban comeback. Arab News. Retrieved on March 20, 2023, from <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2167751/world>
- Levesque, B. (2023, February 27). Pakistan's first transgender TV anchor escapes assassination attempt. Blade. Retrieved March 15, 2023, from <https://www.washingtonblade.com/2023/02/27/pakistans-first-transgender-tv-anchor-escapes-assassination-attempt/>
- Muhammad, T., Zafar, N., Moaz, M., & Naeem, M. (2019). Combating child sexual abuse and exploitation in Pakistan-a story of 20 years.

Monitoring Report (2023, February 12) Body eyes enhanced security in public spaces to curb violence against women. Pakistan Today. Retrieved March 21, 2023. From <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/02/12/body-eyes-enhanced-security-in-public-spaces-to-curb-violence-against-women/>

Masood, S. (2023, January 21). Pakistan Strengthens Already Harsh Laws Against Blasphemy. The New York Times. Retrieved March 14, 2023, from <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/21/world/asia/pakistan-blasphemy-laws.html>

Minority Rights Group. (2019). Pakistan. Minority Rights Group. Retrieved March 14, 2023, from <https://minorityrights.org/country/pakistan/>

Mustafa, W. (2023, February 28). FEATURE-Pakistan's first digital census tackles miscounts, exclusion. Reuters. Retrieved March 16, 2023, from <https://www.reuters.com/article/pakistan-tech-census/feature-pakistans-first-digital-census-tackles-miscounts-exclusion-idINL8N3535JG>

Population Census 2023. (2023). Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. Retrieved on March 20, 2023 from [https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/population/2023/FOP\\_final\\_26-2-23\\_final.pdf](https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/population/2023/FOP_final_26-2-23_final.pdf)

Report, S. (2022, August 29). Floods continue to wreak havoc in Pakistan. Newsweek Pakistan. Retrieved March 11, 2023, from <https://www.newsweekpakistan.com/floods-continue-to-wreak-havoc-in-pakistan/>

Parents fear abduction of 'missing' girl. (2023, February 15). Retrieved from Parents fear abduction of 'missing' girl | Pakistan Today

Sharif launches 'School on Wheels' to boost child literacy. (2023, February 28). Sharif launches 'School on Wheels' to boost child literacy | Pakistan Today

Sumaira, H. (2023, February 22). " NCRC Publicizes Its First Report On The Status Of Children Rights". Urdupoint. NCRC Publicize Its First Report On The Status Of Children Rights - UrduPoint

Staff Report (2023, February 26) Women University Swabi removes age restriction for admission. Pakistan Today. Retrieved March 21, 2023. From <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/02/26/women-university-swabi-removes-age-restriction-for-admission/>

Staff Report (a). (2023, March 15). US to help Pakistan move towards 60pc clean energy by 2030. Pakistan Today. Retrieved on March 16, 2023, from <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/03/15/us-to-help-pakistan-move-towards-60pc-clean-energy-by-2030/>

Staff Report (b). (2023, March 14). Chinese team helps restore mangrove forest in Balochistan. Pakistan Today. Retrieved on March 16, 2023, from <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/03/14/chinese-team-helps-restore-mangrove-forest-in-balochistan/>

Staff Report (c). (2023, March 7). Punjab, Akhhuat team up for 'Protection Centers' to help transgender community. Pakistan Today. Retrieved on March 16, 2023, from <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/03/07/punjab-akhhuat-team-up-for-protection-centers-to-help-transgender-community/>

Staff Report (d). (2023, March 8). President, PM urge emphasised the need to empower women for society's development. Pakistan Today. Retrieved on March 16, 2023, from <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/03/08/president-pm-urge-emphasised-the-need-to-empower-women-for-societys-development/>

Staff Report (e). (2023, March 15). PSDF and LSE collaborate on digital skill program for women students. Pakistan Today. Retrieved on March 16, 2023, from <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/03/15/psdf-and-lse-collaborate-on-digital-skill-program-for-women-students/>

Staff Report (f). (2023, March 12). Government launches citizen's guide to prevent gender-based violence. Pakistan Today. Retrieved on March 16, 2023, from <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/03/12/government-launches-citizens-guide-to-prevent-gender-based-violence/>

Staff Report (g). (2023, March 8). Muzaffargarh DC prioritises promotion of women entrepreneurs for economic development. Pakistan Today. Retrieved on March 16, 2023, from <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/03/08/muzaffargarh-dc-prioritises-promotion-of-women-entrepreneurs-for-economic-development/>



com.pk/2023/03/08/muzaffargarh-dc-prioritises-promotion-of-women-entrepreneurs-for-economic-development/

Staff Report (h). (2023, March 12). Nationwide anti-polio drive to kick-off from tomorrow. Pakistan Today. Retrieved on March 16, 2023, from <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/03/12/nationwide-anti-polio-drive-to-kick-off-from-tomorrow/>

Staff Report (i). (2023, February 24). Govt launches anti-polio awareness campaign using truck art. Pakistan Today. Retrieved on March 16, 2023, from <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/02/24/govt-launches-anti-polio-awareness-campaign-using-truck-art/>

Tiwari, A. (2023, February 23). 17-year-old Hindu Girl Abducted, Forced To Convert To Islam In Pakistan's Sindh: Report. Republic World. Retrieved March 15, 2023, from <https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/17-year-old-hindu-girl-abducted-forced-to-convert-to-islam-in-pakistans-sindh-report-articleshow.html>

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2023, January 16). Pakistan: UN experts urge action on coerced religious conversions, forced and child marriage. OHCHR. Retrieved March 14, 2023, from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/01/pakistan-un-experts-urge-action-coerced-religious-conversions-forced-and>

UPR Info. (2023, February 8). 42nd UPR Working Group: Key Highlights. UPR Info. Retrieved March 15, 2023, from <https://www.upr-info.org/en/news/42nd-upr-working-group-key-highlights>

United Nations . (2022). World Population Dashboard -Pakistan. United Nations Population Fund. Retrieved March 11, 2023, from <https://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population/PK>

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**Global Human Rights Defence (GHRD)** permits any entity to use this publication only on the condition that they give credit to **GHRD** and its work.



[www.ghrd.org](http://www.ghrd.org)

Follow Us on  
**Social Media**

 [www.ghrd.org](http://www.ghrd.org) | [www.ghrtv.org](http://www.ghrtv.org)


 @globalhumanrightsdefence

 @globalhumanrightsdefence



Stay updated on  
**human rights  
news**

 [www.ghrtv.org](http://www.ghrtv.org)

 @ghrtv\_worldnews

**Donate**



<https://tikkie.me/pay/StichtingGI/q7U797fD5TVKtA8Vx4nieG>



