



ACTION PLAN
TO IMPROVE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION
IN PAKISTAN
(Revised version: 2020)

September 2021

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RIGHTS
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN



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Introduction

Action Plan on Human Rights 2016 was prepared by the Ministry of Human Rights to improve the human rights situation in the country. The Action Plan consists of six broader areas of interventions with 60 Actions on i) Policy, Legal Reforms & Access to Justice; ii) Implementing Key Human Rights Priorities: Rights of women, children, minorities and vulnerable population; iii) Cross cutting interventions for protection of Human Rights: education, sensitization and awareness raising; iv) International/UN Treaty Implementation; v) Establishment and strengthening of National Human Rights Institutions; and vi) Implementation and Monitoring Mechanism of the Action Plan.

It has been more than three years since the implementation of Action Plan kicked off with the collaboration of federal ministries & provincial departments with the Ministry of Human Rights taking the lead for its overall implementation.

A number of initiatives have been taken by the Ministry under the Action Plan including policy intervention, legal reforms, capacity building of stakeholders, inclusion of human right in the curriculum at various levels, human rights violation redressal and financial assistance to victims and importantly the massive public awareness campaign for general public and duty bearers. Keeping in view the cross-cutting nature of human rights realization, initiatives have proactively been taken by various social sector federal ministries and provincial departments to improve the overall situation of human rights in the country.

While reviewing the progress on implementation of the Action Plan, it has been observed that implementation on all 60 Actions has been initiated with more than 75 percent progress. On the basis of progress review, lesson-learned and new dimensions of international human rights priorities, the Action Plan has been modified in the following major areas under the same 06 thematic priorities and 60 Actions:

- i. Immediate enactment of 09 laws.
- ii. Effective enforcement of 19 major laws including newly enacted.
- iii. Operationalization of Legal Aid and Justice Authority and establishment of Fund under Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020 for free legal aid to the poor victims of human rights violations.
- iv. Implementation of Action Plan on protection of religious minorities formulated by MOHR Working Group under NAP Action Point 9.
- v. Implementation of recommendations on Jail Reforms-2020 made by Implementation Commission constituted by Islamabad High Court.

- vi. Human Rights Education to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- vii. 12 major development initiatives under PSDP of MOHR for the next three fiscal years: *(Total budget estimates: Rs. 1,065 million)*.
- viii. Comprehensive Media Awareness Campaign on child abuse, women rights including VAW, women inheritance rights and protection on women and children from abuse and exploitation.
- ix. Establishment of Legal, Research and Monitoring Unit in MOHR for a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up.
- x. Strengthening of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) for their effective functioning since all NHRIs have already been established.

Keeping in view the progress review of Action Plan 2016, there is need to emphasize further on the key role of provincial governments and federal line ministries for implementation of Action Plan in the following areas of interventions: -

- i. Proactive role of Provincial Task Forces to review and monitor the initiatives for promotion and protection of human rights.
- ii. Provincial Strategies for implementation of Action Plan at the provincial level.
- iii. Review of legal framework for bringing amendments/new legislations in line with constitution of Pakistan and GOPs national and international commitments.
- iv. Establishment of District Human Rights Committees to monitor the human rights situation at grass root level.
- v. Initiatives for human rights education, sensitization, awareness, research and communication for brining behavioural change in the society and promote tolerance and interfaith harmony.
- vi. Capacity building of relevant stakeholders including police, prison and mid-level judiciary.

The detailed Action Plan on Human Rights (Revised) 2020 is given below:

ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS
(Revised version 2020)

THEME-I NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK (08)

I. Policy Framework for promotion and protection of Human Rights

	Actions	Relevant organizations
1.	Development of National Policy Framework on Human Rights	Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR)
2.	Formulation/ implementation of Provincial/ Regional Strategies on protection of human rights to be approved by respective provincial/regional Cabinets (Punjab, KP have already formulated their HR strategies)	MOHR, Provincial Human Rights Departments

II. Legislative Reforms

3.	Constitution of a dedicated Joint Committee comprising of Federal and Provincial Governments to review discriminatory legislation	MOHR, Law Division, MOI
4.	<p>Immediate enactment and effective enforcement of legislation:</p> <p>Immediate Enactment of: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Torture, Custodial Death and Custodial Rape (Prevention and Punishment) Bill, 2018,</i> ii. <i>Christian Marriage and Divorce Bill, 2019</i> iii. <i>ICT Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2019</i> iv. <i>Islamabad Capital Territory Senior Citizen Bill, 2019</i> v. <i>The Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Bill, 2019</i> vi. <i>Criminalization of Enforced Disappearances Bill, 2019</i> vii. <i>ICT Child Marriage Restraint (Amend) Bill, 2019</i> viii. <i>Compulsory Immunization Bill 2012</i> ix. <i>Reproductive Health Care and Rights Bill 2013</i> x. <i>Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Bill, 2020</i> <p>Effective Enforcement of: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>The Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Act, 2020</i> ii. <i>The ICT Child Protection Act, 2018</i> iii. <i>The Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018</i> iv. <i>Establishment of Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020</i> v. <i>Transgender persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2018.</i> vi. <i>ICT Rights of Persons with Disability Bill, 2018,</i> 	<p>MoI</p> <p>MoRA</p> <p>MoHR</p> <p>MoHR</p> <p>MoI</p> <p>MoI, MoHR</p> <p>MoRA</p> <p>MoNHS</p> <p>MoNHS</p> <p>MoIB, MoHR</p> <p>MoHR</p> <p>MoHR</p> <p>MoHR</p> <p>MoL&J</p> <p>MoHR</p> <p>MoHR</p>

	<p>vii. <i>Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act 1992</i></p> <p>viii. <i>Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2010</i></p> <p>ix. <i>Criminal Law (2nd Amendment) Act 2011 (Acid Control & Acid Crime Act)</i></p> <p>x. <i>Criminal Law (3rd Amendment) Act 2011(Anti Women Practices Act)</i></p> <p>xi. <i>Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018 (Child Protection)</i></p> <p>xii. <i>Hindu Marriages Act, 2016</i></p> <p>xiii. <i>Criminal Laws Amendment (offences related to Rape) Act, 2016</i></p> <p>xiv. <i>Criminal Laws Amendment (offences related to honour killing) Act, 2016</i></p> <p>xv. <i>The Enforcement of Women's Property Rights Act, 2019</i></p> <p>xvi. <i>National Commission on the Rights of Children Act, 2017</i></p> <p>xvii. <i>Section 194 & 211 of PPC to ensure the punishment for false accusation of blasphemy Law</i></p> <p>xviii. <i>Cost of Litigation Act 2017</i></p> <p>xix. <i>Prescription of "Child Domestic Labour" in Part-I (Occupation) of the Schedule of the Employment Children Act, 1991.</i></p>	<p>Commissioner ICT, Prov. Labour Depts</p> <p>L&J Div.</p> <p>MoI</p> <p>MoI</p> <p>MoI</p> <p>MoRA MoI</p> <p>MoI</p> <p>MoI</p> <p>MoI MoHR MoI, Home Depts</p> <p>L&J Div.</p> <p>MoHR</p>
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III. Administration of Justice

5.	Establishment of Legal Aid Authority and Fund under Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020 for free legal aid to the poor victims of human rights violations	Law & Justice Division, MOHR
6.	Speedy justice for victims of Human Rights violations through strengthening and capacity building of law enforcement agencies, prosecutors etc.	MOI, Home Departments, Police and Prosecution Depts.
7.	Recommendations of Cabinet Committee on Enactment of Special Laws for provision of speedy justice be implemented (Annex-I)	Law & Justice Division, MOHR
8.	Improve forensic sciences; upgrade physical facilities and equipment to investigate Gender Based Violence/crimes on scientific grounds in each province	MOI, Home Departments

THEME-II IMPLEMENTING KEY HUMAN RIGHTS PRIORITIES (26)

IV. Protection of Women Rights & Elimination of GBV

9.	Formulation of National Policy guidelines on Gender Based Violence (GBV)	MoHR, NCSW, IPC Div. Provincial HR, WD Depts.
10.	Study to review all discriminatory legislation against women	MoHR, NCSW, NCHR
11.	Establishment of new Crisis Centre for Women and standardization of existing services at district level	Provincial Depts, HR, WD, PCSWs
12.	Directions for a uniform Women's empowerment package for federal and provincial governments under Article 149 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan	MoHR, IPC Div. Provincial WDD

V. Protection of rights of minorities

13.	Effective operation of an independent National Commission for Minorities (NCM)	MoRA
14.	Formulation of National Policy Guidelines and Plan of Action on rights of minorities	MoRA
15.	Implementation of Action Plan prepared by Working Group MOHR, under NAP Action point 9, on protection of religious minorities against their persecution	MOHR & MoRA, provincial HR and Minorities Affairs Depts
16.	Strengthen and enhancing effectiveness of district level Interfaith Harmony Committees	MoRA, Provincial Home Depts.
17.	Effective enforcement of Sections 99-A and 295-A of PPC	MoI & Provincial Home Depts.
18.	Special security arrangements for protection of minorities' worship places	MoI & Provincial Home Depts.
19.	Launching of a comprehensive program/package for socio-economic uplift of the members of the minority communities including:	MoRA & IH, Education departments, PBM, Social Security Institutions, EHSAAAS Program
	a. Increase in funds and number of scholarships	
	b. Provision of financial assistance to vulnerable minority groups i.e., elderly, widows, orphans, disabled and labourer	
	c. 5% quota in National Income Support Program and other safety nets	
20.	Ensure enforcement of 5 percent quota for jobs allocated for minorities	MoRA, Establishment Division,
21.	Encourage participation and dialogue of political leadership and members of Parliament at national and provincial levels in the festivals of minorities	MoRA, National and Provincial Parliaments
22.	A federal Task Force be established to encourage tolerance and Interfaith harmony	Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony

VI. Protection of child rights

23.	Review and revision of existing legislation and development of new laws	MoHR, NCRC, Provincial Social Welfare Depts.
24.	Ensure implementation of Article 25-A of the Constitution	NCRC, Fed. & Provincial Ministry/Departments of Education
25.	Progressively prohibit, restrict, and regulate child labour	NCRC, M/o Human Resource Development, Provincial SW and Labour Depts.
26.	Effective enforcement of laws for protection of children <i>including child sexual abuse</i> , trafficking for prostitution, organ transplant, forced labour, drug smuggling, begging, forced child marriages etc.	M/o Interior, Home Departments
27.	<i>Implementation of The Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018</i>	MoHR, NCRC, MoI, Home Departments
28.	Set up of <i>Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Authority</i> with DG In-charge	MoHR, NCRC

VII. Rights of Persons with Disabilities

29.	Implementation of ICT Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2020 including quotas in jobs	MoHR
30.	Formulation / <i>Implementation</i> of building codes to create accessible infrastructure for mobility of PWDs	MoHR, DGSE, CDA, Provincial Housing Depts
31.	Mandatory Disabled Impact Assessment (DIA) in development Projects	MoHR, Planning Commission, P&D Depts.

VIII. Jail Reforms

32.	Constitution of Joint Committee of federal/provincial governments to provide recommendations for Jail Reforms (<i>Implementation Commission already Constituted by IHC</i>)	MoHR, MoI, MoNHS, Home Depts, Prisons Depts.
	<i>Implementation of recommendations on Jail Reforms-2020 made by Implementation Commission constituted by Islamabad High Court</i>)	
33.	Launching of a comprehensive "Jail Inmates Rehabilitation Program	MoI, MoHR, Home Depts, Prisons Depts.
34.	Provision of missing facilities / infrastructure of Jails and Jail Staff Colonies	MoI, Home Depts, Prisons Depts.

THEME-III CROSS CUTTING INTERVENTIONS (10)

IX. Human Rights Education & Sensitization

For working on UDHR Article 26(2): Education to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Education to promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and to further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

35.	Inclusion of human rights and civic education in the curriculum of primary and secondary school level	Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training & National Curriculum Council
36.	Inclusion of human rights and peace education in the curriculum of higher education, Law, & Social Sciences	HEC, Provincial Higher Education Depts.
37.	Inclusion of human rights education with respect to international commitments in the curriculum of public sector national training institutes such as National Police Academy, Federal Judicial Academy, Civil Services Academy, Jail Staff Training Institute, National School of Public Policy, and FIA Academy, Foreign Services Academy and provincial training institutes and Academies etc.	Establishment Div., M/o Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Judiciary, Police and prison authorities & Provincial Academies

X. Right Based Approach to Development Planning

38.	Institutionalize/Incorporate right based cross-cutting human rights issues in developmental planning both at federal, provincial and district level	Planning Commission, Provincial and District P&D Departments
39.	Adequate budgetary and resource allocation for promotion of human rights and gender initiatives in Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) and ADPs.	Planning Commission & Ministries & Division
	12 major development initiatives of MOHR for the next three fiscal years: (Total budget estimates: Rs. 1,065 million)	MoHR
	<i>i. Implementation of Action Plan on human rights</i>	
	<i>ii. Institutional Strengthening of MOHR</i>	
	<i>iii. Establishment of Human Rights Information Management System (HRIMS)</i>	
	<i>iv. Human Rights Awareness Programme</i>	
	<i>v. Strengthening of Regional Directorate of Human Rights, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta</i>	
	<i>vi. Legal, Research and Monitoring Unit for a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up</i>	
	<i>vii. Establishment of Child Protection Institute at G-6/3, Islamabad</i>	
	<i>viii. Estab. of Transgender Protection Centre, Islamabad</i>	

	<i>ix. Establishment of Sub-Directorate of MoHR in Newly Merged Areas of KP</i>	
40.	Establishment of District Human Rights Committees to review human rights situation and monitor HR violation at district level	Provincial HR Depts. and District governments
41.	Establishment of Implementation Cell for Action Plan on human rights”	Ministry of Human Rights

XI. Media, Awareness Raising & Advocacy

42.	Development of Media Policy on Human Rights including code of ethics, responsible reporting, reporter’s sensitization on HR, Award/Incentives etc.	MoHR, Ministry of Information, Provincial Information Depts.
43.	Public awareness campaign on various themes of human rights (Detail at Annex-II) <i>Specific Awareness Sessions/ Messages to promote Helpline, Zainab Alert App, and Legal Aid Authority</i>	MoHR, Ministry of Information, Provincial Information Depts.
44.	Public Service messages on human rights by Private TV channels (as a commitment to allocate 10% airtime under article 20 (e) of PEMRA Ordinance 2002)	Ministry of Information/ PEMRA/ Ministry of HR and RA&IH

THEME-IV INTERNATIONAL/UN TREATY IMPLEMENTATION (03)

XII. International Treaty Implementation

45.	Strengthening and effective functioning of Treaty Implementation Cells (TICs)	MoHR, Ministry of Commerce, Provincial HR, IPC & Law Departments
46.	Capacity building of the Treaty Implementation Cells/LEA	
47.	Establishment of Legal, Research and Monitoring Unit in MOHR for a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up	MoHR

THEME-V INSTITUTIONAL INTERVENTIONS (06)

XIII. Effective functioning of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) (because all NHRIs already established)

48.	Immediate <i>Re-Constitution</i> / functioning of National Commission for Human Rights	MoHR, NCHR
49.	Strengthening and effective operation of National Commission on the Status of Women and Establishment of PCSW to monitor violence/crime against women.	MoHR, NCSW, PCSWs
50.	Enactment/strengthening for National Commission for Minorities (NCM)	MoHR, MoRA, NCM

51.	Strengthening and effective operation of National Commission on the Rights of Children	MoHR, NCRC
52.	Establishment of NIHR	MoHR
53.	Re-organization of Ministry of Human Rights	MoHR, Estab. Division

THEME-VI IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING MECHANISM (07)

XIV. Prevention of HR violations and Redressal Mechanism

54.	Strengthening of Helpline 1099 for its effective and efficient working in providing free legal advice and referral services to victims of human rights violations	MoHR
55.	Establishment of Management Information System to institutionalize mechanism for disaggregated data collection, and technical analysis of data to monitor and evaluate the patterns of emerging human rights trends across Pakistan	MoHR

XV. Financial Support to victims of human rights violations

56.	Effective operationalization of Women in Distress and Detention Fund <i>and/or Establishment and operationalization of Fund under Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020</i>	MOHR, Law Division, Provincial Law Depts., Bar Councils
57.	Effective operationalization of Human Rights Relief and Revolving Fund	MoHR
58.	Effective operationalization Diyat, Arsh and Damn Fund,	MoHR, Home Depts., Prison Depts.

XVI. Implementation & Monitoring of Action Plan

59.	Effective operation of National Task Force under the chairpersonship of Federal Minister for Human Rights	M/o Human Rights to lead in collaboration with line Federal Ministries and Provincial Departments
60.	Re-Establishment and Effective operation of Provincial Task Forces under the chairpersonship of respective Provincial Ministers for Human Rights/ Law and Justice	M/o Human Rights, Provincial Human Rights Departments

Recommendations of Cabinet Committee on Enactment of Special Laws for provision of speedy justice

- a. A mechanism of inspectorate to review the pendency position and performance of subordinate courts
- b. Amendments in judicial procedures to fix time limits for adjudication of cases and appeals
- c. Role of Ombudsman to be strengthened and enhanced in respect of public complaints and to consider establishing District Ombudsmen to redress grievances at grass-root level
- d. Identification of recommendations of various judicial commissions pertaining to Speedy Justice still not implemented

Public Awareness campaign be launched on various themes of human rights

- a. 20 Rights, 20 Ads: Design and Launch awareness and advocacy campaign on rights of women, children, and minorities for behavioural change in society.
- b. Conduct Seminars, Workshops, Conferences, debates on prevention of human rights violations and extremism for behavioural change of general masses and duty bearers on human rights issues. Awareness and sensitization: Organize seminars/workshops for promoting interfaith harmony, Media (TV channels and radio) to create awareness on rights of minorities by dedicating appropriate time and programs.
- c. Sensitization of Lady Health Workers (LHWs) on human rights issues and dissemination of Information Education & Communication (IEC) material for sensitization of mothers and children through involvement of LHVs Network throughout the country at the grass-root level.
- d. Design and launch a comprehensive Media awareness Campaign on child rights including protection of children from abuse and exploitation amongst general public and duty bearers.
- e. Design and launch a comprehensive Media awareness Campaign on Women's rights including VAW, women's inheritance rights and protection of women from abuse and exploitation,

List of Abbreviation

APHR	Action Plan for Human Rights
CDA	Capital Development Authority
CrPC	Criminal Procedure Code of 1898
DGSE	Directorate General of Special Education
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GOP	Government of Pakistan
HEC	Higher Education Commission
HR	Human Rights
HRIMS	Human Rights Information Management System
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
IESSI	ICT Employees Social Security Institution
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoFEPT	Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training
MoHR	Ministry of Human Rights
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoIB	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
MoIPC	Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination
MoL&J	Ministry of Law and Justice
MoNHS	Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination
MoPDSI	Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives
MoRA	Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony
NCC	National Curriculum Council
NCHR	National Commission for Human Rights
NCM	NCM National Commission on Minorities
NCRC	NCRC National Commission on the Rights of Child
NCSW	National Commission on the Status of Women
NHRIs	National Human Rights Institutions
NMRF	National Mechanism for Research and Follow-up
NPF	National Policy Framework
PBM	Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal
PCSW	Provincial Commission on the Status of Women
PEMRA	Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority
PPC	Pakistan Penal Code of 1860
PSDP	Public Sector Development Program
TICs	Treaty Implementation Cells
UN	United Nations
UNCRPD	UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

