

The Constitution of Pakistan adopted in 1973 provides the foundational framework for governance and the rights and responsibilities of its citizens. It establishes Pakistan as an Islamic Republic and emphasizes the protection of individual rights, including freedom of speech, religion, and equality before the law. The Constitution also outlines principles of policy to promote social justice and the welfare of the people. It is organized into twelve parts, consisting of a preamble, 280 articles, and six schedules. Overall, the Constitution of 1973 is a significant document that defines the structure and principles of governance in Pakistan.

Key features

1. Name and territory of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

This article establishes the official name of the country as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It also defines the territories that constitute Pakistan, including provinces, tribal areas, and other regions.

2. Islam to be the State religion:

This article declares Islam as the State religion of Pakistan, reflecting the country's commitment to its Islamic identity. However, it also emphasizes the protection of the rights of religious minorities, ensuring their freedom to practice their respective religions.

3. Laws inconsistent with or in derogation of fundamental rights to be void:

This article establishes the supremacy of fundamental rights and declares that any law contradicting or violating these rights will be considered null and void. It ensures that the rights of individuals are not compromised by conflicting legislation.

4. Security of person:

This article guarantees the security and protection of an individual's person. It prohibits arbitrary detention, arrest, or torture, ensuring that individuals are safeguarded against any form of unlawful or unjust treatment by the authorities.

5. Safeguards as to arrest and detention:

This article lays down certain safeguards to prevent arbitrary arrest or detention. It includes provisions such as the right to be informed of the reasons for arrest, the right to legal representation, and the right to challenge the lawfulness of detention.

6. Inviolability of dignity of man, etc.:

This article emphasizes the dignity and privacy of individuals, prohibiting any treatment that is inhuman, degrading, or violative of their personal rights. It protects individuals from any form of physical or mental abuse, ensuring respect for their inherent worth and value.

7. Freedom of movement, etc.:

This article guarantees the freedom of movement within Pakistan. It ensures that citizens have the right to travel, reside, and settle in any part of the country. It also protects their right to leave Pakistan and return without unjust restrictions.

8. Freedom of assembly:

This article recognizes and safeguards the right of citizens to assemble peacefully and hold public gatherings. It ensures that individuals can exercise their freedom of expression collectively, allowing for the peaceful expression of diverse viewpoints and opinions.

9. Freedom of association:

This article guarantees the right of citizens to form associations, societies, and political parties. It enables individuals to join together for common causes, fostering a sense of collective identity and facilitating organized efforts to address social, political, or cultural issues.

10. Freedom of trade, business, or profession:

This article protects the freedom of individuals to engage in lawful trade, business, or profession. It ensures that citizens have the right to choose their occupation or pursue economic activities without unnecessary interference, subject to reasonable restrictions in the interest of public order, morality, or health.

11. Freedom of speech, etc.:

This article safeguards the freedom of speech, expression, and the press. It allows individuals to express their opinions, ideas, or beliefs freely and without fear of censorship. However, it also permits certain restrictions on these freedoms in the interest of Islam's glory, the integrity of Pakistan, or national security.

12. Freedom to profess religion and manage religious institutions:

This article protects the freedom of individuals to profess and practice their religion. It ensures that citizens have the right to adhere to their religious beliefs and customs, and it grants them the autonomy to manage their religious institutions without undue interference.

13. Equality of citizens:

This article emphasizes equality before the law and ensures that all citizens are treated equally, regardless of their religion, race, caste, or sex. It prohibits discrimination and guarantees equal rights and opportunities for all individuals within the country.

14. Right to education:

This article recognizes and enshrines the right to education for all citizens. It ensures that every child between the ages of five