



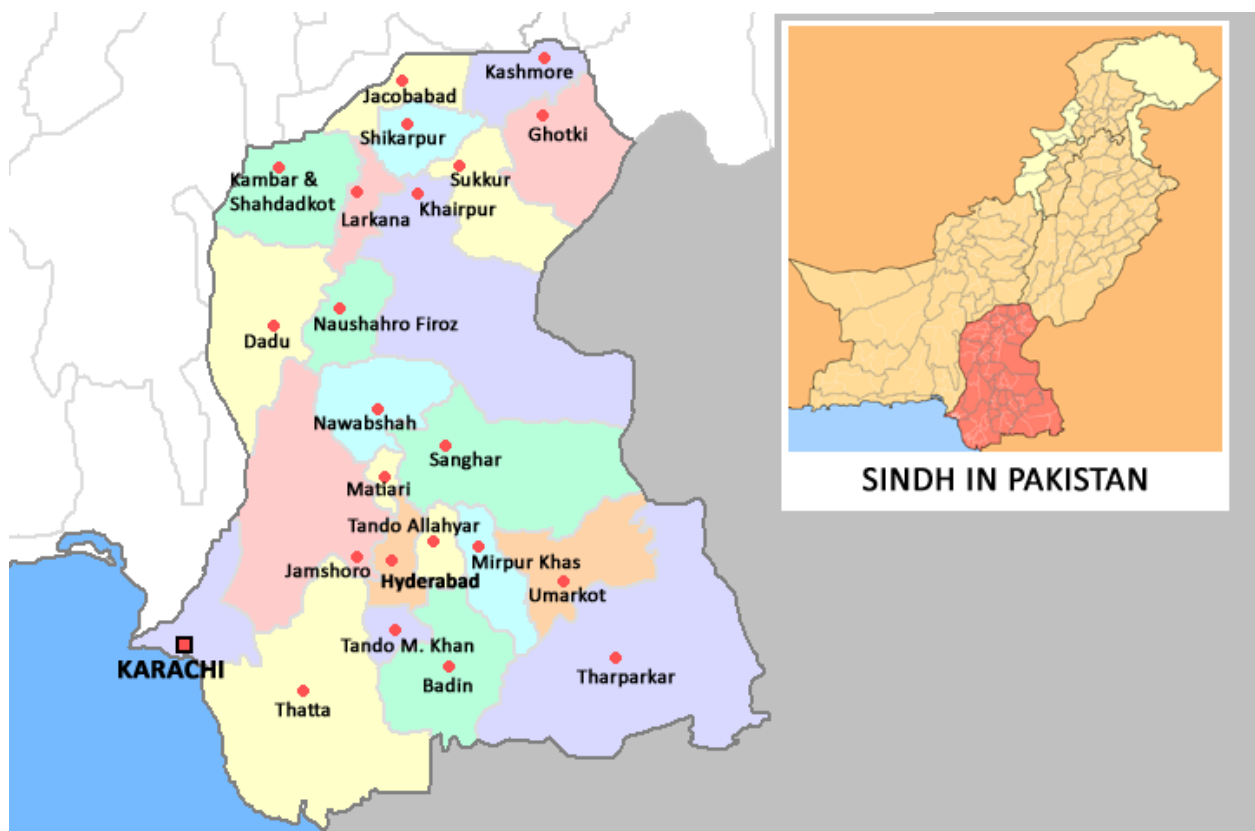
Government of Sindh

The Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Annual Report 2017 - 2018



Map of the Province

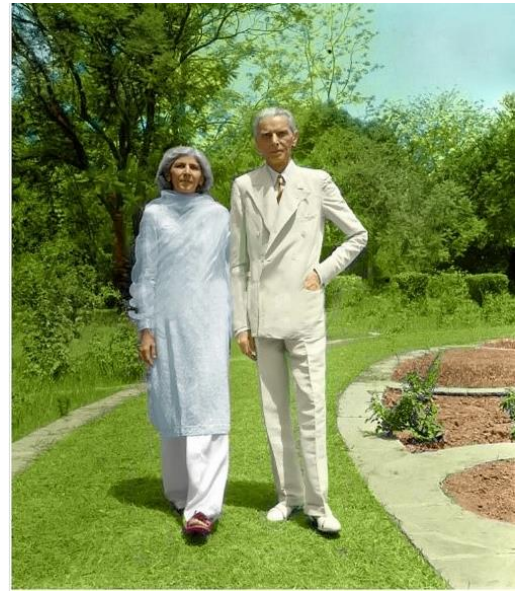
Sindh, Pakistan



Founder of the Nation

Muhammad Ali Jinnah

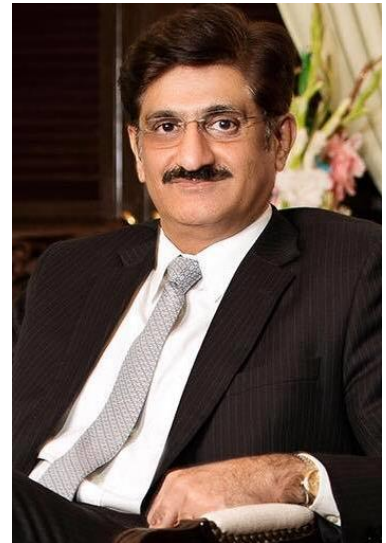
"No nation can rise to the height of glory unless their women are side by side with them...It is crime against humanity that our women are shut up with in the four walls of the houses as prisoners. There is no sanction anywhere for the deplorable condition in which our women have to live."



Chief Minister, Sindh

Syed Murad Ali Shah

It is with much pride that I write this message for the first annual report of the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women. The establishment of this Commission is a major milestone of the Sindh government, and had the struggle of many behind it. As I was also personally invested in instating this Commission, it is heartening for me to see all that SCSW has been able to accomplish in just its first year.



The province of Sindh has the honor of being most active in pro-women legislation. The Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Act was passed in 2015 and the Commission that has been set up under it is actively pursuing the passing and amending of laws to make them women friendly, as per its mandate.

As Chief Minister, I am glad to see the documentation and publishing of the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women's first annual report. This shows that the Commission is dedicated to work with transparency and fulfill its mandate within the ambit of the government instated laws.

It has been a highly successful year for the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women. Under the chairpersonship of Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, the Commission has been established now as an important organ of the provincial government. I wish it all the best in its mission to make Sindh 100% free of gender discrimination and violence.

Chairperson

Sindh Commission on the Status of Women

Ms. Nuzhat Shirin



As a continuation of the success of its right based approach, Sindh Government has set another milestone in the history of women-friendly Sindh through the establishment of the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women.

Selection on merit is not the pinnacle of success but brings an additional moral burden on the selected person to prove his/her self the best so we are working hard to prove ourselves. We are not just government representatives but the voice of the masses, specially of the women. Both sides are demanding for the fulfillment of the promises made in the constitution which is the guarantor of equal rights to all citizens, and we are working towards satisfying their needs.

It is almost impossible to work alone and without support. I am thankful to the Chief minister Sindh, MPAs, Women Caucus, Minister Women Development, Civil Society Organizations, Law department, Finance Department, Home Department, Department of Social Welfare, Department of Women Development, Secretary WDD Mr. Haroon Ahmad, Secretary Services Mr. Riaz Uddin Ahmad, principal Secretary to CM Mr. Sohail Rajput, DDO Mr. Qazi Abid and friends who worked continuously for the establishment of the Commission.

We would like to wholeheartedly thank all our members and Ex-officio who are supporting the Commission to keep it up to the mark. Special thanks goes to Justice Majida Rizvi, Mrs. Mahnaz Rehman, Ms. Raheema Panhwer, Ms. Farhat Parveen, Ms. Malika Khan & Mr. Nadeem Shaikh and Ex-Officio members such as Mr. Shahab Ansari, Ms. Musarat Jabeen and Mrs. Sheema Arif.

Commission is thankful to Trocaire, Australian Aid & UN Women for support.

It is necessary to say thanks to our office team Ms. Tuba Khalid, Ms. Savail Fazil, Ms. Sumbul Syed, Ms. Aaisha Saeed and Mr. Abdul Wahid. They have been working with us while their salary and other benefits are still not finalized. We are thankful for their commitment.

Support, coordination, advise, consultations, and team spirit are important tools which the Commission needs in order to be strong and effective. I hope that the Commission will progress independently and as a strong voice of women from Sindh. The Commission will support women conventionally and unconventionally. Join us in our endeavors just as our slogan states:

آو ہمارے ساتھ چلو

آو ہم اپنے صوبے کو صنفی تعصب سے پاک کریں۔

Thank you

Contents

Words from Chairperson	7
Executive Summary	8
About the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women.....	11
Aims and Objectives of the Commission	11
Members of the Commission:	13
Powers and Functions of the Commission:	11
Key Issues Identified the Commission	15
Women & girls Education.....	15
Women's Health	15
Economic Empowerment of Women	16
Political Participation	16
Violence Against Women	17
Action Plan of Commission	17
Monitoring	17
Preventive Mechanism.....	18
Law Review	20
Mechanism.....	20
INCREASING POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN SINDH	23
CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT.....	29
MONITORING VISITS	33
CASES.....	38
Cases of Violence Against Women in Sindh Scanned from Newspapers	38
Cases forwarded to IG Sindh by the Commission Chairperson	38
Intervention by the Commission in Cases of Violence Against Women	38
Issues and challenges	46
Future Plans	46
Priorities/ Significances	47
Recommendations by the Commission:.....	48
Annexes	53

Executive Summary

The Sindh Commission on the Status of Women is a monitoring body which has been set up for the promotion of social, economic, political and legal rights of women, as provided in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973, and in accordance with international declarations, Conventions, treaties, Covenants and agreements relating to women, including Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Since its establishment in September 2017, the Commission has fulfilled its mandates and performed the following functions over the year

Law Review:

It is the function of the Commission to review all Provincial laws, rules and regulations prejudicial to the legitimate interest and rights of women and suggest accordingly in term of replacement, amendment, addition or legislation afresh essentially needed to eliminate discrimination, safeguard and promote the interest of women and achieve gender equality before law in accordance with the Constitution and obligations under international covenants and commitments. Under this mandate, the Commission reviewed and proposed amendments to the following laws:

1. The Divorce Act No. IV of 1869
2. The Christian Marriage Act, 1872
3. Sindh Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2016
4. Sindh Registration of Dowry Act, 2017
5. The Sindh Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2018
6. The Sindh Home Based Workers Act, 2018 with the support of Homenet Pakistan

Alliances with the Civil Society

The Commission is mandated to develop and maintain interaction and dialogue with nongovernmental organizations, experts and individuals in society and an active association with similar commissions and institutions in other provinces for collaboration and action to achieve gender equality in the province. The Commission has formed strong alliances and relationships with the civil society, NGOs and iNGOs with its own efforts. As a result of these efforts, the Commission's role is recognized and respected by these organizations, and they have supported and partnered with the Commission for a number of activities, some of which are as follows:

1. Day of Tolerance & Women Peace Table Conference 2018 by Tehrik- Niswan
2. Attended several Press Conferences on Women's Issues with Civil Society
3. Contingency Planning for Gender Based violence SOPs in Emergency Status by National Disaster Management Authority
4. Meeting at American Consulate on Forced Child Labor
5. Conference on Gender Action Manifesto by Heinrich Boll
6. Fundraising for Education of Underprivileged Children by Behbud
7. Celebration of Rural Women Day in Thatta by HomeNet Pakistan
8. Conference on issue of Missing Persons by National Commission on Human Rights
9. Conference on Annual Report of Sindh Human Rights Commission

10. Workshop on Developing & Using Indicators for Measuring & Implementation of Human Rights in Pakistan, by UNDP and UN Office of the High Commission on Human Rights

The Commission also mobilized NGOs to strengthen the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women. Some of such activities are as follows:

1. Collaborated with UN women to organize Dialogue on Political Participation and Electoral Violence in General Elections 2018
2. Collaborated with UN women to produce and print Strategic Plan of SCSW
3. Facilitation from Trocaire to arrange for a car to conduct monitoring visits
4. Orientation of Sindh Commission on the Status of Women with civil society in Hyderabad by SAFWCO
5. Consultation with DCs from all over Sindh on safehouses, collaborated with SPO

The Commission also nurtured a strong alliance with Trocaire Australian Aid, an international NGO who graciously supported the Commission by providing necessary resources for the office to operationalize including cutlery, ACs, furniture and other amenities, a car and chauffeur for office use, and two months salaries for two staff members of the Commission.

Research:

The Commission is mandated to sponsor, steer, encourage research to generate information, analysis and studies and maintain a database relating to women and gender issues to provide knowledge and awareness for Government policy and strategic action for women empowerment. In accordance with this mandate, the Commission has conducted the following research:

1. Ongoing research on Increasing Political Participation of Women in Sindh
2. General Elections 2018 observed through gender lens and report generated with recommendations
3. Information gathered regarding safehouses in Sindh. Commission is writing a paper for improving mechanisms for Safehouses
4. The Commission created a database and compiled a report of cases of gender-based violence in Sindh in the months of June, July and August. The reports have been collected from various newspapers including Dawn, Daily Express Urdu, The News, Express Tribune, and Daily Kawish. There were a total of 66 cases of gender-based violence, the details of which are as follows:

Monitoring:

The Commission is a monitoring body, and as its position as such, following institutions have been monitored by it:

1. The Sindh Commission on the Status of Women conducted monitoring visits and made recommendations for developing redressal mechanisms
2. Visited Special Prison for Women, Hyderabad
3. A delegation of SCSW, along with the chairperson of the Commission went on a monitoring visit to Darul Aman, Hyderabad
4. Visit to Central Karachi Jail

5. Monitoring visit to Panah Shelter Home

6. Monitoring of Safehouses

The Commission is also preparing a paper on Safehouses. A large meeting with all Deputy Commissioners was organized in which the DCs gave their input and made the Commission aware of the issues with safehouses in their districts. The Commission is developing redressal mechanism for improving safehouses in Sindh for survivors of Gender Based Violence.

About the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women

The PSCSW Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Bill, 2015 was passed by the Sindh Assembly on April 6, 2015 and assented to by the Governor of Sindh on 12th May, 2015 and published as an Act of the Legislature of Sindh. The Commission consisted of twenty-one members including one Chairperson.

Aims and Objectives of the Commission

- To Examine policies, programs and other measures taken by the Government for Women's development and gender equality;
- Review laws, rules and regulations affecting the status of women; Monitor Mechanism and institutional procedures for redress of violation of women's rights and individual grievances;
- Encourage and sponsor research to generate information, analysis and studies relating to women and gender issues;
- Develop and maintain interaction and dialogue with NGOs experts and individual in society at the national, regional and international level; any other function assigned to it by the provincial Government.

The commission will examine the policies, programs and other measures taken and to be taken by Government for gender equality, women's empowerment, political participation and representation and monitor current policy frameworks with a focus on gender. In government institutions, make sure higher representation of women. Empower women through awareness raising and capacity building on women's rights, develop a data base management system on gender issues on district and provincial level.

The commission will be help of implementation of women friendly legislation and also monitor and improve existing setup of Government Institutions. Review all provincial laws and amendments or legislation required fields or issues. Make sure easy access to justice; strengthen support system and rehabilitation process for women. A network system will be established between government departments and civil society organizations for betterment of women.

Powers and Functions of the Commission:

Chapter III described the powers and Functions of the Commission in its article 12 as: The commission authorized to examine the policy, programs and other measures taken or to be taken by Government for gender equality, women's empowerment, political participation, representation, assess, implementation and make suitable recommendations to the concerned authorities.

Review all Provincial laws, rules and regulations prejudicial to the legitimate interest and rights of women and suggest accordingly in term of replacement, amendment, addition or legislation afresh essentially needed to eliminate discrimination, safeguard and promote the interest of women and achieve gender equality before law in accordance with the Constitution and obligations under international covenants and commitments.

Sponsor, steer, encourage research to generate information, analysis and studies and maintain a database relating to women and gender issues to provide knowledge and awareness for Government policy and strategic action for women empowerment.

Develop and maintain interaction and dialogue with non-governmental organizations, experts and individuals in society and an active association with similar commissions and institutions in other provinces for collaboration and action to achieve gender equality in the province. Mobilize grants from domestic sources and international sources in order to meet any of its obligation or for the performing of its functions.

Mobilize grant from domestic sources and international sources in order to meet any of its obligation or for the performing of its functions;

Facilitate and monitor implementation of international instruments and obligations affecting women and girl advice to Government in providing opinions and inputs to the Federal Government before accession to any such proposed international instrument, protocol or treat by Federal Government.

Seek and receive information, data and documents from any Provincial or Federal sources or entity in the course of performance of its functions.

Inspect any jail, sub-jail or other places of custody where women and girls are kept and to make appropriate recommendations to the authorities concerned.

Act for advocacy, lobbying, coalition building, and networking and as a catalyst for promotion of cause of women to facilitate their participation in all spheres of life including legal, economic, social and political empowerment.

Liaise with the National Commission on the Status of Women and other Provincial Commissions or any other relevant body.

Monitor mechanism and institutional procedure for redressed of violation of women's rights; and perform any other functions which may be assigned to it by Government.

The Commission shall consider, approve and monitor implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Annual Budget.



Members of the Commission:

According to the Chapter II, Article 3 section 2 "The commission shall consist of twenty- one (21) members and shall include one Chairperson and twenty members. While section 4 described the appointment and other criteria. The members (2018-2019) included Chairperson are:

Members of the Sindh Commission on Status of Women

2017-2018



Ms. Farhat Parveen



Ms. Malka Khan



Ms. Rubina Brohi



Ms. Shireen Ijaz



Ms. Humaira Sheraz



Ms. Sheema Arif



Ms. Mussarat Jabeen



Ms. Darakhshan Sualeh



Ms. Mangla Sharma



Mr. Shahab Ansari



Mr. Ganwer Leghari



Ms. Rahila Raheem

Key Issues Identified the Commission

The Sindh Commission on the Status of Women aims to work towards the betterment of the life of the common woman of Sindh. To this end the Commission has a multifaceted agenda to erase gender-based discrimination, end violence, improve opportunities for the woman of Sindh to grow and nurture herself, and aid the government in the creation of a woman friendly Sindh. As per its mandate the commission will review laws and regulations regarding the key identified issues, as well as others pertaining to gender. It will monitor the capacity and performance of government departments and bodies to strengthen them by giving guidelines. This will better enable the institutions to fulfil the national and international commitments made by them. As a start, the following 5 issues have been identified as key areas worthy of the Commission's focus:

Women & Girls Education

The commission has identified lack of quality education as a key factor behind discriminatory attitude towards women in Sindh. We also believe that gender-based violence at its roots is a symptom of an uneducated society. Education will enable women to stand for their economic, health, and political rights. As such, addressing it on an emergency basis is a priority of the Commission and it will give recommendations to improve the situation. Educational reforms and their implementation is the number one goal towards which the Commission will conduct researches, maintain databases, and lobby for greater allocation of government resources.

The situation is dire in Sindh. 24% of Sindh's children aged between 6 and 16 are out of school; of the remaining 76%, 55% of Class-V students can't read Class-II level Urdu text and only 24% can comprehend written English. Even more abysmal is the state of female education. Within the rural population of Sindh, the female literacy rate is just 22%.

In this context, the commission will monitor the implementation of existing legislations on education. It will report on the budget allocation and the use of that budget by public schools and government bodies responsible for improving education in the province. A few of the Commission's key recommendations includes the improvement of school infrastructure (52% public and 40% private primary schools of rural Sindh still do not have functional washrooms; 41% government primary schools and 33% private primary schools do not have boundary walls); the encouragement of qualified female teachers to teach in underdeveloped areas for which hostels needs to be developed and maintained; increase in budget allocated towards female education; and close monitoring of the usage of budget allocated by the provincial government.

Women's Health

The Commission has made women's health a priority because of the high maternal death rates, among other factors. In Sindh, 1 in every 700 births results in a death. This is much lower than the 2013 rate of 1 death in every 360 births, but it is still high enough to be a cause of alarm for the government. Reproductive rights are not in the picture and child marriages make births even more difficult and dangerous. Lack of on par health facilities results in complications in obstetrical issues. Women neglect their health and patriarchal oppression exacerbates the problem.

It is the belief of the Commission that a strong and healthy woman is the key to a strong and healthy family. Good health facilities are needed to ensure quality healthcare for the women of Sindh. A

second tandem is awareness regarding the importance of women's health. The Commission aims to spread awareness so that female health becomes a priority for the families in Sindh. This will enable the women of Sindh to demand better healthcare. Having the support of their menfolk will greatly increase the chances of them reaching health care clinics. It is also our contention that gender-based violence will also decrease if women become strong in and of themselves. It will greatly improve their lifestyle, enable them to make better decisions for themselves, and stand up to violence.

The Commission will closely monitor the Basic Health Units and other health facilities set up by the government. This is necessary in order to check that the allocated budget and existing infrastructure is being used efficiently. Governmental legislation already exists regarding the provision of healthcare to women, but implementation is lacking. Redressed mechanisms for this will be formulated by the Commission. It plans on identifying areas of weaknesses and suggesting guidelines for improvement.

Economic Empowerment of Women

Poverty is debilitating the province of Sindh as of now. In this regard, female poverty and economic dependence has sustained many other social ills such as gender-based violence. This is a direct correlation as economically dependent women are forced to bear with physical and mental abuse at the hands of their bread earning men. The state of Pakistan does not put up with such injustices and its Constitution grants full protection to every citizen's life and liberty, irrespective of gender. As such the Commission will aid the government by examining the status of labor laws and skill centers. Government departments dedicated to economic empowerment of women will be examined in order to identify weaknesses and get their issues across to the relevant departments. This will help to bring about more informed redress mechanisms and improve the economic status of women.

Certain issues such as minimum wage labor, abuse of labor laws, and injustice in inheritance have cropped up in our preliminary research. The commission recommends that issue-based policies should be employed so that contextualized solutions can be found. An economically strong woman strengthens her country's economy and gives rise to confident young women. Economic empowerment leads to social empowerment and increases women's self-esteem. The commission aims to work in collaboration with government programs such as the Women Entrepreneurship Training Project, and non-governmental initiatives to provide backend research, solution oriented guidance, and institutional support and advice.

Political Participation

The commission deems it of the utmost importance that the women of Sindh become visible members of the political landscape. This is imperative as by making themselves a part of the political decision making, women will learn more about female as well as larger national and international issues. With this exposure will come awareness of policy making, the work involved to bring about a change, and a conscience of female empowerment.

The Commission is committed to increasing political participation by women in Sindh. An aware and politically active woman is strong and can work against violence directed both towards herself and towards other women. The Commission plans on working together with the Women's Parliamentary Caucus and other bodies such as Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO), Aurat foundation, Shirkatgah and others to increase political participation of women in Sindh. It will research whether any amendments need to be made in the Political Parties Act and

other acts that specify quotas for women. It will keep in touch with the women's wing of political parties to monitor and make sure to implement them to fulfil the 5% ticket for women in General seats that must be allocated to women.

Violence Against Women

Gender based violence is a grave issue plaguing Sindh. Domestic abuse is horrifyingly common and due to economic and social factors most cases do not even get reported. The Commission thinks it is a priority that awareness must be created, the law must be implemented, and gender based violence must be discouraged and acted against strongly by the state. Laws already exist but their implementation is shaky. This is why strong monitoring is needed so that the Constitutional promises made to the women of Sindh may be fulfilled.

The Commission will follow through with awareness raising campaigns through the media, public services notices, and official documents. Budgetary allocations will also be checked up by the Commission as will the grievances of the department working towards reducing violence against women. Strong research and maintenance of a database of cases will greatly aid the governmental system to eradicate gender based violence from Sindh. Safe houses such as dar ul Amaan will be visited and monitored. Guidelines will be presented to governmental bodies so that efficient implementation of laws for the protection against harassment, honor killing, discrimination etc. can be achieved.

The Commission will work on these issues on priority by monitoring of the existing laws, review of the laws and recommendation through effective redress mechanism. The main obstacle for the empowerment of women are:

- Different types of Violence against women and honor killing
- Health and Reproductive rights not in reach
- Education
- Empowerment in Political participation
- Economic dependency (minimum wages, unskilled workers) etc.

Action Plan of Commission

The commission will establish an advisory committee which consist of experts of different field of women related issues and perspectives. The members of commission will be part of committees and work in supervision of advisory committee. All of them with consultation and advices will finalize the action plan for the smooth running.

Monitoring

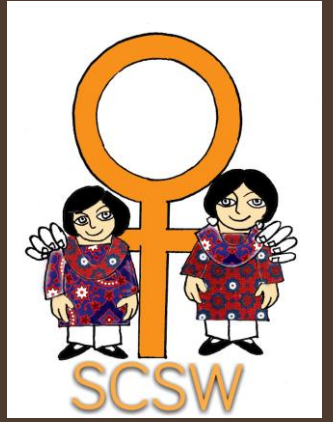
Commission is designing a monitoring mechanism for strengthening the policies, implementation of laws in government and non-governmental institutions such as:

- Monthly inspections of police stations and other relevant departments
- Consolidated database for tracking and helpline
- Development of Reports
- others

Preventive Mechanism

1. Gender-sensitive Curriculum/Counter-narrative
 - I. Include Chapters about prominent women in syllabus
 - II. Voices against Violence (International Commitments)
 - III. Health information for women and girls
 - IV. University Volunteer Program (academic credit/extra credit)
2. To increase of female staff in all areas such as Government departments and institutions schools, hospitals and police stations etc.
3. Gender-sensitization workshops for police force, teachers, lawyers and government officials etc. (development of guidebook, SOPs) awareness raising campaigns for gender sensitization through all means
4. Gender-responsive budgeting or expenditure
5. Better environment and Infrastructure for women & girls in educational institutions and at work place i.e. bath rooms/ rest areas/playground/clean drinking water/hostels, safe houses, women friendly spaces etc.
6. Advocacy & Awareness
 - I. Research and Publications (Data collection, Experts/consultants, Data Management System)
7. The Commission will hold minimum two monitoring visits every month such as visit police stations to check on the functioning of women-friendly desks
8. Yearly Gender Audit in government offices
9. Enhance network of government institutions and civil society organizations
10. Host and participate on conferences and seminars to further discuss the following:
 - I. One-stop centers at district level
 - II. Key research agendas on women issues
 - III. Advocacy of current laws/need amendment in laws
 - IV. Revision of current school curriculum to make it more gender sensitive
 - V. Increasing female staff in remote area's schools
11. Monitor government policies and laws such as Female job quota 15% and develop implementation plan in all departments.

LAW REVIEW



LAW REVIEW

Chapter III, Section 12 (b) of the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Act 2015, states that the Commission shall “review all Provincial laws, rules and regulations prejudicial to the legitimate interest and rights of women and suggest accordingly in term of replacement, amendment, addition or legislation afresh essentially needed to eliminate discrimination, safeguard and promote the interest of women and achieve gender equality before law in accordance with the Constitution and obligations under international covenants and commitments”. Under this mandate, the Commission has reviewed and proposed amendments to the following laws:

1. The Divorce Act No. IV of 1869
2. The Christian Marriage Act, 1872
3. Sindh Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2016
4. Sindh Registration of Dowry Act, 2017
5. The Sindh Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2018
6. The Sindh Home Based Workers Act, 2018 (ongoing)
7. The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2013 (ongoing)

Mechanism

In the beginning, the Commission had to write letters and ask for proposed bills to be sent to our office so that we can review it. Now, however, we have been established as a significant and relevant entity in the legislative process, so the law department and other relevant bodies send copies of proposed bills to the Sindh Commission without prompting required from us.

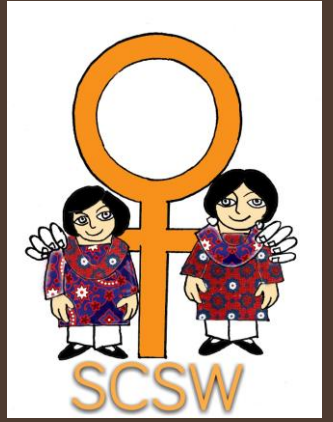
The Sindh Commission on the Status of Women has developed a mechanism whereby it deals with all legislation that is forwarded to it by the relevant departments for reviewing through a gender lens. The Commission has established committees of relevant members and civil society activists for dealing with particular issues. First, we hold a larger consultation with the law committee of the SCSW and relevant stakeholders, such as lawyers who fought cases of survivors of acid attack for reviewing the Acid Crime Prevention Bill. Keeping the minutes of the consultation in mind, we then hold smaller discussions with our legal experts who advise us on how to incorporate the recommendations from the consultation into the law. The Commission then incorporates the amendments as per the directions of its legal experts such as Justice Majida Razvi and Justice Shaiq Usmani, into the law and forwards the amended bill/Act to the relevant department.

The Commission has used this mechanism for effectively improving legislation in Sindh for a year now as it has proved to be the most thorough and efficient practice. The Commission plans on also holding consultations to review and make rules for the Anti-street Harassment Bill 2018 and push for legislation in Sindh for a Bill of Rights and Protection for Transgenders.





INCREASING POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN SINDH



IN
ve
utu
cat
e w

the political life of the country. In accordance with its mandate, the Commission took several steps to bolster the political participation of women in Sindh, specially in light of the General Elections 2018.

The Commission organized meetings with women candidates who were contesting on general seats.

On 10th July 2018, a meeting was held with female candidates from minority communities who were contesting on general seats in Sindh to discuss the challenges that they were facing, their motivation for contesting and how they were running their campaigns. Civil Society was also invited to facilitate the building of networks between them and female political actors. Inter-faith Harmony forum supported the SCSW in reaching out to these independent candidates from minority communities in Karachi, Thar, and Umerkot.

Another large-scale awareness raising dialogue was organized with the support of UN Women on 13th July in Hotel Marriott with women candidates from all political parties and independent female candidates. The women candidates were given information regarding ECP mandate to make elections more inclusive, their rights as candidates, as well as data from FAFEN. Ms Mahnaz Rahman gave a historical overview of political participation of women in Pakistan in a well-researched speech, which was highly appreciated. In the panel that followed, the women candidates shared the electoral violence they face while contesting in Sindh. It was a fruitful dialogue with women candidates from all parties coming together to discuss women's rights. It was an important event as through it the Commission iterated to the women candidates that as parliamentarians, they must be flag bearers of women's rights in the assembly. It was gut-wrenching to hear the level of violence women candidates face at every stage of contesting for elections, but the event highlighted the importance of raising women's issues irrespective of party politics.

Over the last three decades, a global movement of nonpartisan citizen election monitoring has collectively mobilized millions of citizens around the world to participate in their countries' democratic processes as election observers. Citizen election observation helps ensure electoral integrity, and strengthens civil society's capacity to promote citizen participation, engage in policy advocacy and foster governmental accountability within and well beyond the election cycle. Government of Pakistan welcomes election observation. In these elections as well, many organizations served as non-partisan observers. Sindh Commission on the Status of Women also felt the need to do its part and observe the elections from a gender lens.

In accordance with its mandate, the Commission arranged for the observation of the election process of General Elections 2018. The observation took place in two phases. First observation took place before the day of the polling. In the pre-polling phase, corner meetings, election posters, speeches, and training sessions were observed. A record was also maintained of the women candidates who contested in the general elections. The second phase was observation done on the day of the voting. Members and staff of the SCSW along with the chairperson visited different polling stations and observed the voter turnout of women, facilitation provided to women at polling stations, and the general process of voting.

The chairperson and members of the Commission visited the provincial election commissioner for Sindh, Yusuf Khan Khatak to suggest appointment of a focal person to deal with issues faced by women in the General Elections 2018. The Chairperson also stressed that the political parties must follow the 5% quota on general seats for women in addition to giving tickets for the reserved seats to women who are politically active and involved in the problems of the woman in Sindh. Mr. Khatak agreed with the assertions of the chairperson and assured her and the members of the Commission that the Election Commission will follow through on the advice of the Sindh

Commission on the Status of Women. He also appointed a focal person to facilitate the participation of women in the General Elections 2018.

The Commission issued several press releases to urge women to participate in the General Elections, and to highlight the problems that women faced as observed by the Commission.

The Commission organized a luncheon to welcome and honor all women who entered the parliament in Sindh in 2018. It was the first reception given to honor the women parliamentarians and provided an opportunity for parliamentarians from all parties to mingle and network in an informal environment. The mandate of the Commission was introduced to the parliamentarians. The Luncheon served to build a network for the Commission to lobby more effectively for pro-women legislation in Sindh. Minister WDD. Honorable minister Ms. Shehla Raza also took part in honoring and welcoming the women parliamentarians at the luncheon.







CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT



) to
l in
rov

The Commission nurtured a strong alliance with international non-governmental organizations including Trocaire, Australian Aid, UN Women, GIZ, UNFPA, and Heinrich Boll. Through its networking, the Commission obtained facilitation to strengthen the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women from these gracious agencies.

Trocaire, Australian Aid supported the Commission by providing necessary resources for the office to operationalize including cutlery, ACs, furniture and other amenities, a car and chauffeur to conduct monitoring visits and office business, and two months salaries for two staff members of the Commission.

UN Women provided logistical support to SCSW for organizing a Dialogue on Political Participation and Electoral Violence in General Elections 2018, and 16 days activism seminar. It also hired an expert consultant to develop the Strategic Plan of SCSW with consultative process of all stakeholders. The Commission has also obtained UN Women's support for conducting gender sensitization trainings of Nikah Registrars all over Sindh to increase their legal literacy for implementation of pro-women legislation such as the Early Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2013.

GIZ has hired a consultant for SCSW for preparing a paper on safehouses with redressal mechanism to draft the Commission's stance on safehouses in Sindh based on research and consultations organized by the Commission.

The Commission also fostered strong ties with Pakistan based NGOs for institutional strengthening of the Commission, especially in light of the teething problems faced by SCSW in its first year.

SPO has been a major supporter of SCSW in this regard. It held orientation sessions of SCSW with civil society and relevant government departments in Karachi and in Hyderabad. The first newsletter of SCSW has been published by SPO and it has also printed booklets of the Commission's Act and translated versions of the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Act (2015) along with important pro-women legislations such as the Early Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013. SPO also provided logistical support for a consultation with DCs from all over Sindh on safehouses.

The Sindh Commission on the Status of Women also linked itself to the Sindh Agricultural Forestry Workers & Coordinating Organization (SAFWCO). As an old and well-established organization for the vulnerable persons in Sindh, SAFWCO was an important link. SAFWCO organized an orientation of Sindh Commission on the Status of Women with civil society in Hyderabad which helped SCSW in building linkages with networks of lawyers, activists, and government officials in Hyderabad division.

Consultations on law and other issues are held with relevant legal and gender experts from civil society. SCSW holds regular meetings with Civil Society officials from many organisations such as Aurat Foundation, Heinrich Boll, EVAW/G Alliance, Individual Land, Khwendo Kor, Legal Rights Forum, Justice Helpline, NOWCommunities, HANDS, Childs Rights Movements, Inter-faith Peace & Harmony Forum, Handicapped International, Legal Aid Society, Collective for Social Science Research as well as universities such as SZABIST, IBA Karachi, Habib University, and AKU.

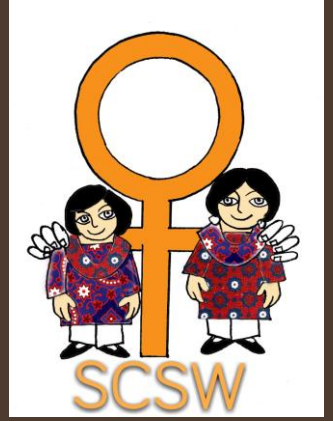
The SCSW's Chairperson, members and staff regularly attend events by NGOs and other government Commissions on Gender Based Issues e.g.

1. Day of Tolerance & Women Peace Table Conference 2018 by Tehrik- Niswan

2. Attended several Press Conferences on Women's Issues with Civil Society
3. Contingency Planning for Gender Based violence SOPs in Emergency Status by National Disaster Management Authority
4. Meeting at American Consulate on Forced Child Labor
5. Conference on Gender Action Manifesto by Heinrich Boll
6. Fundraising for Education of Underprivileged Children by Behbud
7. Celebration of Rural Women Day in Thatta by HomeNet Pakistan
8. Conference on issue of Missing Persons by National Commission on Human Rights
9. Conference on Annual Report of Sindh Human Rights Commission
10. Workshop on Developing & Using Indicators for Measuring & Implementation of Human Rights in Pakistan, by UNDP and UN Office of the High Commission on Human Rights
11. Event on Consultation on Missing Persons by NCHR
12. Meeting on People's Resistance to the Asia Bibi Case
13. EVAW/G Delegation Visit
14. Individual Land Meeting
15. Seminar on World Contraception Day by Pathfinder International (October 10, 2018)
16. Capacity Building Training Workshop on Reporting to International Human Rights Mechanisms by UNDP and OHCHR (22-25 October, 2018)
17. Event on Engagement with Employers for Working Women by NOWCommunities (04th Oct 2018)
18. Press Briefing to Announce NCSW Literary Award 2018 (October 1, 2018)
19. Ending Impunity for Child Marriage in Pakistan: Normative and Implementation Gaps by National Commission on Human Rights and the Center for Reproductive Rights (September 25, 2018)
20. 11th Annual Conference on Rural Women day by Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (16th October 2018)
21. Project advisory committee of the Addressing Root Cause Project by SAFWCO (16th August 2018)
22. Consultation on the Rights and Wellbeing of Women Agricultural Workers in Pakistan by National Commission on the Status of Women and Collective for Social Science Research
23. Convention on Minorities Rights: Moving Beyond Promises and Assurance by Peace and Development Organization
24. A Dialogue on "Is Activism an Alternative to Water Policy" by Hisaar Foundation (19th August 2018)



MONITORING VISITS



The Commission conducted several field visits to monitor the operations and functions of various jails, police stations, Dar ul Aman, and hostels in Sindh. The monitoring visits are detailed as follows:

1. Visit to Women's Jail on International Women's Day 7th March 2018

A delegation of SCSW, along with the chairperson of the Commission went on a monitoring visit to the Special Prison for Women, Hyderabad. The objective was to review the functioning of the jail and to provide a set of recommendation to the Home Department as well as the Prison Department, Government of Sindh for the uplifting of the Special Prison for Women Hyderabad



2. Visit to Dar ul Aman and Women's Jail, Hyderabad 12th April 2018

A delegation of SCSW, along with the chairperson of the Commission went on a monitoring visit to Darul Aman, Hyderabad. The objective was to review the functioning of the Darul Aman and to provide a set of recommendation to the Social Welfare Department, Government of Sindh for the uplifting of the Darul Aman.

Zubaida Thaeme, Deputy Director of SWD In-charge of Darul Aman informed the Commission that there are at that time 15 women victims along with 2 children. She said that these women are involved in different criminal cases. As per the law and policy only those women are sent here through court order. Darul Aman has its own building and has the capacity to manage more than 50 women victims. Its monthly budget is Rs. 2000,000/.

25 Staff members and 2 lady Inspectors are posted here but at the time of the monitoring visit only 2-3 staff members were present.

There is no psychosocial support for the women victims. The ambulance was also not in proper working condition at the time of the visit. The official representative admitted that no meeting of Darul-Aman, Hyderabad has been called since 2014.

3. Visit to Police Station

Chairperson of Sindh Commission on Status of Women Ms. Nuzhat Shirin along with Ms. Fouzia Khan, incharge complaint cell Hyderabad Region Women Development Department, Government of Sindh, visited the Jhanghara police station of Dadu district on a fact finding mission to collect information regarding the incident of violence against Tania Khaskheli.

The mission visited Tania Khaskheli's home and offered their condolences to the parents of Tania. Her family gave details of their impoverished living condition and also talked about the brutal killing of their daughter. The mother said that they got a small amount of income from Benazir income support program and her husband does not work regularly. They have

3 more daughters and 2 young sons who need financial support for their education. They feel threatened by the wadera's accomplices and therefore have withdrawn the girls from school.



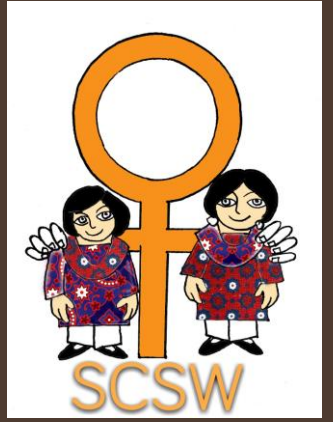
4. Visit to Sindh University

The Chairperson along with members of SCSW met with the Vice Chancellor of Sindh University Jamshoro on 21st October 2017 in connection with the implementation of harassment at workplace Act 2010. The delegation discussed the reported cases with students in the university. The chairperson brought up the issue of harassment with the Vice Chancellor, and he assured that the university administration will look in to the matter with fairness and transparency. The Commission also urged the vice chancellor to display the code of conduct in five main places of the University, and to send letters to all department heads to constitute departmental committees. The administration promised to send the list of the committees to the commission soon. The Commission also sent letters to 22 government departments, asking about the implementation of the Act, the details about their harassment committees, and reminded them to display the code of conduct in their offices according to the Act 2010.





CASES



CASES

Cases of Violence Against Women in Sindh Scanned from Newspapers

Case Type	Total Cases	Districts
Sexual Assault	23	Daharki, Karachi, Khairpur, Khanpur, Larkana, Mirpurkhas-Mathelo, Nawabshah, New Saidabad, Shahdadkot
Physical Assault	2	Mehar
Kidnapping	11	DG Khan, Hyderabad, Karachi
Murder	20	Ghotki, Wada Mahesar, Thari Mirwah, Ghospur, Wagan, Chak, Rohri, Daharki
Honor Killing	16	Sukkur, Karachi, Sheikhpura, DG Khan, Khipri, Hyderabad
Harassment	6	Nawabshah, Sukkur, Hyderabad
Child Marriage	4	Sanghar, Sukkur, Shaikh Bharkio and Thari Mirwah
Enforced Disappearance	11	DG Khan, Karachi, Hyderabad, Daharki

Cases forwarded to IG Sindh by the Commission Chairperson

Name	Date	Case Type	Action
Lady Inspector Rubina Baloch	13 th November 2018	Sexual Harassment by the Police	Forwarded to IG Sindh
Soha	22 nd October 2018	Forced Marriage	Forwarded to IG Sindh
Mazari Sisters		Extortion, Jirga	Forwarded to IG Sindh
Meher un Nisa Selro	10 th October 2018	Domestic Dispute	Forwarded to IG Sindh

Intervention by the Commission in Cases of Violence Against Women

Title	Case	Action
Tania Khaskhali	Murder	Intervention by the Chairperson
Ibrahim Hyderi	Honor Killing	Intervention by the Chairperson
Mominabad	Honor Killing	Intervention by the Chairperson
Ibrahim Hyderi	Child Abuse	Intervention by the Chairperson
Karachi University	Harassment at Work Place	Intervention by the Chairperson
Sindh University	Harassment at Work Place	Intervention by the Chairperson
Komal Muzammil	Honor Killing	Intervention by the Chairperson

Hyderabad	Harassment	Intervention by the Chairperson
Farzana Jamali Case (Shaheed Benazirabad)	Sexual Harassment	Intervention by Commission Member Meeting with Ms. Zaib un Nisa (Incharge WCC) and Ms. Naseem Mastoi (Manager SBBWC Benazirabad)
Two Daughters Murdered (Shaheed Benazirabad)	Murder	Intervention by Commission Member
Khairan Bagri (Shaheed Benazirabad)	Rape of Minor Girl	Intervention by Commission Member
Najma Siyal (Khairpur)	Gang Rape	Intervention by Commission Member
Maryam (Daur)	Murder	Intervention by Commission Member
Zeenat Khokhar (Shahdadt Kot)	Domestic Violence	Intervention by Commission Member
Reema & Seema (Nawabshah)	Rape	Referred to Manager SBBWC Benazirabad
Leela (Dahirki)	Gang rape	Referred to Mr. Abdul Ghafar Thahim DWDO Sukkur
L.H.V Rehana (Shahpur Jahaniya)	Blackmailing	Referred to Ms. Naseem Mastoi (Manager SBBWC Benazirabad), Chairperson visit to Shaheed Benazirabad
Kinza Memon (Nawabshah)	Harassment	Referred to Ms. Naseem Mastoi (Manager SBBWC Benazirabad)
Shakeela (Wagan)	Murder	Referred to Women Complaint Center, Larkana
Maryam (Khairpur)	Rape	Referred to Women Complaint Center, Khairpur
Mahek Mughal (Nawabshah)	Violence	Referred to Contact Complaint Center incharge WDD
Khanzadi (Thari Mirwah, Khairpur)	Murder	Referred to Complaint Center incharge WDD Khairpur
Safia Khatoon (Sukkar)	Early Child Marriage	Referred to Complaint Center Incharge, Sukkur

Farhana Saharan (Sann)	Domestic violence	Referred to S.H.O Sann Police Station
3-year-old girl case (Dahirki)	Jirga	Referred to Women Development Department
Rehmana Sidra (Karachi)	Life & Property	Referred to Women Development Department
Safia Bibi (Hyderabad)	Domestic Violence	Referred to Women Development Department
Fozia (Karachi)	Gender Base Violence against a Transgender Woman	Referred to Women Development Department
Rija (Karachi)	Harassment Referred to Women Development Department	Referred to Women Development Department



Government of Sindh

The Sindh Commission on the Status of Women

Cases Report Gender Based Violence Cases in
Sindh as Reported in the Newspapers



SINDH COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Cases Report Gender Based Violence Cases in Sindh as Reported in the Newspapers

Months: July, August and September

The Sindh Commission on the Status of Women (SCSW), Government of Sindh was established as an autonomous body under the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Act (2015). Under Chapter III, Section 12 (c), the Commission shall maintain a database relating to women and gender issues to provide knowledge and awareness for Government policy and strategic action for women empowerment.

The Commission also provides recommendations to bodies dealing with women's issues to ensure that women's issues are dealt with effectively, for prevention, and an ultimate end to gender-based violence against women in Sindh.

SCSW is a monitoring body responsible for overseeing institutions which are working on issues of women's rights, health education, gender-based violence and any other issues pertaining to women. The Commission is responsible for monitoring these institutions and deciding whether these institutions are carrying out their responsibilities effectively or not. The Commission also provides situational analyses about women's issues and monitors whether the relevant authorities are taking appropriate actions or not, and to inform them of instances where they should be taking action.

Following these mandates, the Commission has compiled a report of 66 cases of gender-based violence in Sindh in the months of June, July and August. The reports have been collected from various newspapers including Dawn, Daily Express Urdu, The News, Express Tribune, and Daily Kawish.

Following are the details of the cases that have been collected by the Commission for this report.

Rape

In July, there were 3 reported cases of rape, from Karachi and Faisalabad. In August, the number of reported rape cases was 6, with 2 of the cases also being of murder from Karachi, Hyderabad and Mardan. In September, there were 5 reported cases of rape from Karachi, Nawabshah, Khairpur and Daharki.

Total number of cases: 14

Sexual Assault

In August, there were 2 reported cases of sexual assault from Khanpur and Larkana, and in September there was 1 reported case.

Total number of cases: 3

Honor Killing

In August there were 8 cases of honor killing from Jhang, Sukkur, Karachi, Sheikhpura and DG Khan. In September, there were 2 cases of honor killing from Khupri and Hyderabad.

Total number of cases: 10

Murder

In July there were 3 reported cases of murders, one of which was due to a domestic dispute. In August, there were 11 cases of murder, out of which two were preceded by rape, and one was due to property dispute. In September, 6 cases of murder were reported from Ghotki, Wada Mahesar, Thari Mirwah, Ghospur and Wagan.

Total number of cases: 20

Harassment

In July, August and September, there were 2 total reported cases of harassment from Sukkur and Karachi. In September, there were 3 cases of harassment from Nawabshah, Sukkur and Hyderabad.

Total number of cases: 5

Domestic Dispute

In July, there was one reported case of domestic dispute which culminated in the murder of a woman. In September there was 1 reported case of domestic violence from Nawabshah.

Total number of cases: 2

Property Dispute

In August, there was one reported case of property dispute which culminated in the murder of a woman.

Total number of cases: 1

Gender Based Violence

There were miscellaneous reported cases of gender-based violence from Sindh in July, August and September. In July, women in Mohri Pur were yet again not allowed to vote, following ancient traditions. In August, there were reported cases of domestic violence, kidnapping and torture from Sukkur and Karachi. There were also 3 cases of missing persons from Karachi and DG Khan. In September, there was 1 reported case of violence against a couple who had a free will marriage. There were also 3 cases of violence against women from Badin and Sann. A woman was also kidnapped from Hyderabad in September.

Total number of cases: 8

Child Marriage

There were 3 reported cases of child marriage in September from Sanghar, Sukkur and Shaikh Bharkhio.

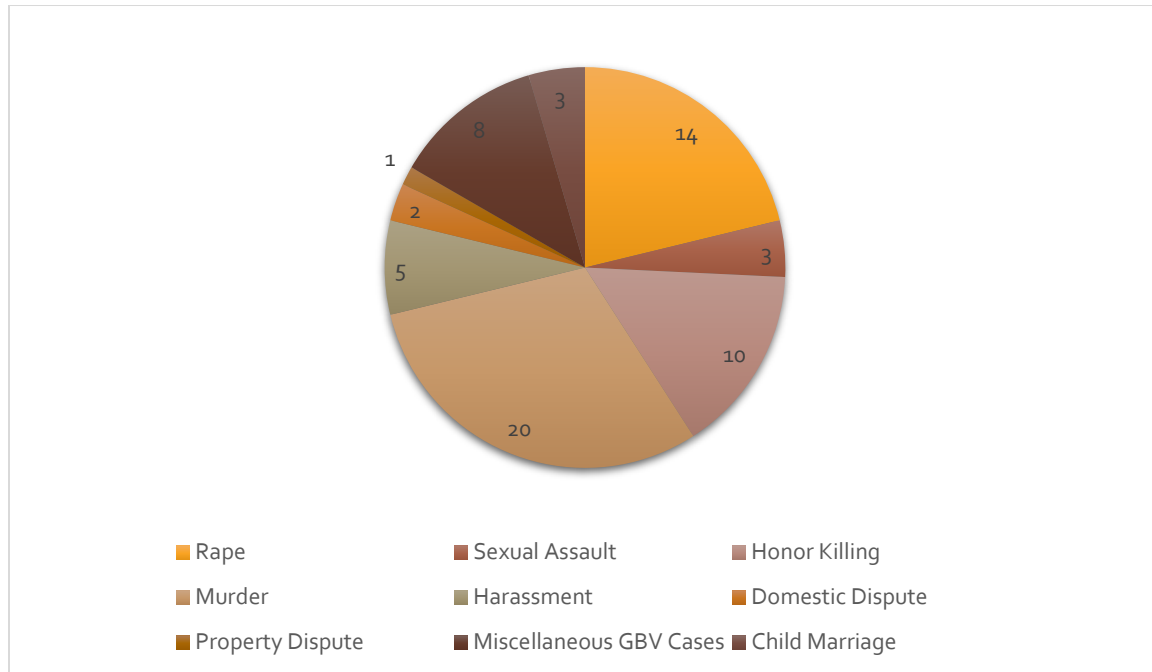
Total number of cases: 3

Missing Children

In September, there were 3 cases of missing children.

Education

There was a report of disrupted education of over 300 girls in Newdera due to a lack of teachers.



Issues and challenges

- Lack of Human resources and not appropriate posts (Appointment of secretary and staff)
- Travelling of chairperson and members in districts of Sindh
- Rules of Business for the Commission
- No travelling, boarding lodging allowance and honoraria for members
- Inappropriate budgetary allocation
- Slow process of official procedures
- Lowest budget allocation for office premises
- Furniture, fixtures and equipment's in budget allocation are missing
- No specific budget for contingent & contract employees, technical expert, consultation meetings and research /publication
- No heads for media campaigns
- Hiring fee of consultants is missing
- Lack of budget to celebration of National and International days etc.
- Lack of budget to organize conference and seminars.

Future Plans

- Strengthen the existing redress mechanisms for eradicate gender-based violence with the support of government and non- governmental organizations/ departments who works for protection of women in Sindh.
- Develop implementation plan for women friendly Laws/Polices with the help of stake holders
- Print poster/flyers and documentaries for media campaigns on different issues which will be use in awareness raising, prepare and publish reports on emerging issues & translate/collect the women friendly legislation/policies in local languages.
- Review and consultation the existing laws and policies identify the gender gaps and suggest amendments
- Used qualitative researches, Identify the issues which women suffer in different fields and give plan of action with time limit for resolving the issues. Also books on women issues and by writers/poets, blogs, articles and research papers.
- We are willing to recognized women Right defender each year through award.
- Participate and organize different meetings/consultations on women's Rights issues (on-going)
- Develop GMIS System which will cover and represent the commission
- Continuation of monitoring visits
- Actions on special cases
- Develop monitoring mechanism
- Establishment of offices on divisional level

Priorities/ Significances

- Hiring of staff
- Consultation and finalize rules of Business for the commission
- Develop quarterly work plan
- hold meetings with DCs, civil society, local police officials and other government department personal in different districts and line departments such as for Safe houses, darul amaan (shelter homes) women prisons and police stations.
- Identify the supporters of the commission
- Process to start for develop database system
- Organize seminars, dialogues, walks, trainings and conferences
- Celebration of international days such as HR day, Women Day National days etc.

Recommendations by the Commission:

Visit to Jhanghara Police Station, Dadu and Meeting with Tania Khaskheli's Parents

Date: 16 September 2017

Recommendations:

1. There is an immediate need to equip the police station with adequate resources and a gender-sensitization training to take place
2. Security of the family should be ensured from the threat to their lives
3. Education of the children should not be impeded due to security or financial constraints
4. Justice should be served as per the law
5. Financial needs should be addressed through Bait-ul-Maal or Act 2011 for women in distress

Meeting with the Intelligence officer of Mominabad Police Station regarding the killing of Hadi and Hussaini Bibi

Date: 29th November 2017

Place: Mominabad Police Station

Recommendation:

1. The Commission observed that the police stationed at remote areas such as Mominabad does not have the training to talk to women. Gender sensitization training is very crucial and must be done for police.

Visit to Ibrahim Hyderi regarding attempted rape of a school girl

Date: 12th January 2018

Recommendations:

1. School administration should first and foremost take responsibility for any form of sexual misconduct instead of brushing it away.
2. The educational institutions which don't agree to the training and sensitization of their staff should be strongly reprimanded.
3. Schools should inculcate awareness regarding child abuse amongst their students.
4. The appointment of the staff should be based on sensitization towards child sex education.
5. Female teachers' employment should be encouraged in educational institutions at all levels.
6. The implementation of the awareness raising programs should be made mandatory on a regular basis specially in remote areas of the province.
7. Public service messages should be transmitted and telecasted on national and private channels

Training sessions for officers of Child Protection Unit Sindh on Child Sexual Abuse

Organized by: Sindh Commission on Status of Women with Support of Aahung

Date: 30th -31st January 2018

Recommendations:

In order to increase the effectiveness of CPU, the following must be done

1. To keep CPU active, budgetary allocation should be improved
2. They must be provided with good Human Resource

3. The office premises should be improved, and awareness must be made amongst the public, so they are able to easily access the CPU offices
4. There must be regular trainings for officers
5. There should be shelters where CPU can accommodate victims. This can also be done by strengthening and coordinating with the Darul Aman
6. The CPU needs equipment on urgent basis such as vehicles, etc.
7. The recommendations of the CPU must be kept in mind. The government needs to pay attention to their needs so that the CPU can better serve the public.

Honor Killing Case of Komal and Muzammil

Date: 20th March 2018

Recommendation:

1. There should be safe houses built across Sindh where persecuted couples can take shelter. These safe spaces must be advertised so the public knows where to go for help.

Visit to Women's Jail in Hyderabad

Date: April 12, 2018

Recommendations:

1. There is a need to appoint female Psychologists to the Special Prison for women
2. Allocate funds and give support of CSO/govt department to start skill trainings;
3. There is also a need for a teacher for basic education;
4. An RO plant must be installed for clean drinking water.
5. Women under trial should not kept in Jail till they are convicted.
6. Need to strengthen more linkages with Civil Society
7. Referral Resource Directory must be developed.

Visit to Darul Aman, Hyderabad

Date: April 12, 2018

Recommendations:

1. Appoint women lawyers and Psychologist to Darul Aman;
2. There should be van for transportation of women survivors with maintenance in new budgetary allocation
3. There is an urgent need of a new Ambulance or repairing of the ambulance as soon as possible (within three month)
4. Provide generator with petrol to Darul Aman
5. Provide sufficient (Rs. 500,000) fixed bond.
6. There is a space of two three vacant rooms and Darul Aman should use these room as a safe house for victims or couple to take shelter in in emergency before appearing in court.
7. Darul Aman Committee must be called on quarterly basis as per SOPs.
8. There is a need for Civil Society linkages to be strengthened
9. There is a need for Referral Resource Directory to be developed.

Review of Sindh Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act (2016)

Date: 7th May 2018

Recommendations:

1. There should be an ATC trial for acid crimes. This can be made a part of the schedule instead of the law to allow flexibility. The clause of "speedy trial" may be added to improve efficiency.
2. Penalty should be increased to that of rs.2.5 million
3. Imprisonment must be extended to a life sentence at least.
4. Corrosive substances should include battery water as it doesn't come under the ambit of defined substances. According to the representative of Shirkat Gah, most crimes are done using battery acid and the defense uses this loophole to save perpetrators from being persecuted.
5. The concept of rehabilitation should be elaborated. E.g. is plastic surgery included?
6. There should not be a limit on the amount of expenses the state can release per victim
7. This should be made an unbailable crime
8. This bill should be abridged to make it more effective and efficient.

Meeting with Nurses on Harassment Case in Hyderabad

Date: May 10, 2018

Recommendations:

1. Underaged, young females should not be made to stay for duty in unsafe hours such as for night shifts. Hospitals must be careful in appointing nurses of appropriate ages.
2. Proper lighting should be put up in the hospital
3. The staff must be given basic facilities such as separate bathrooms for females to use

A Dialogue on Political Participation of Women and Electoral Violence

Date: 13th July, 2018

Recommendations:

1. Voters should be educated to make informed decisions and to eradicate biases towards minority and female candidates.
2. Election should be free of such biases and candidates must be judged on the basis of their character, motivations, and political prowess.
3. ECP must give some financial leeway to independent candidates as they find it very difficult to pay for the nomination papers fee as well as other campaign expenses.
4. Political parties must be incentivised and pressurised to support the election campaigns of their female candidates so that they have a better chance of entering the parliament.
5. Media must give equal coverage to female candidates as it does to male candidates.
6. Candidates are not well informed of their own rights. Political parties should try to disseminate literature that educates the public about the rights of a political candidate and the facilities provided to women and other disenfranchised members who want to contest elections. This will encourage women to participate in elections.

Observation of General Elections 2018

Date & Time: pre-poll, and election Day :25th July 2018, 7 am – 8 pm

Recommendations:

1. Political parties must be incentivized and pressurized to support the election campaigns of their female candidates so that they have a better chance of entering the parliament.
2. Political parties need to strengthen their women's wings and make them more organized and active. This includes educating their female candidates about the election campaign processes so that they are more politically savvy and able to run successful election campaigns and improve their chances of reaching the assemblies.

3. Political parties do not have substantial voters education programs. This needs to be rectified and political parties must be more active in this.
4. Candidates are not well informed of their own rights. Political parties should try to disseminate literature that educates the public about the rights of a political candidate and the facilities provided to women and other disenfranchised members who want to contest elections. This will encourage women to participate in elections.
5. Female polling agents need to be trained better as in these elections most were not able to participate as strong agents of the election process.
6. ECP must give some financial leeway to independent candidates as they find it very difficult to pay for the nomination papers fee as well as other campaign expenses.
7. Female Presiding Officers must also be appointed for female polling stations.
8. Media must give equal coverage to female candidates as it does to male candidates.

Visit to Nawabshah, for Case of Harassment in Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University of Ms. Farzana Jamali

Date: 9th September 2018

Complaint Cell WDD Nawabshah; Shaheed Benazir University; Police Station; Home of the affected person, Farzana.

Recommendations

1. There is a severe lack of awareness regarding law. The family did not know about anti-harassment laws such as Workplace Harassment Act. People also did not know about ombudsperson who are available in every district in Sindh where complaints can be registered regarding harassment cases if they are not resolved by the anti-harassment committee in university.
2. The university staff such as the Vice Chancellor was not aware of the legal obligations under the anti-harassment law such as displaying Code of Conduct in all notice board and other such places. He also did not know that accused person should be suspended until anti-harassment committee has completed its investigation and reached a conclusion.
3. Media should be more responsible when reporting such cases. It needs to play a positive role. Government needs to admonish media persons who are using such cases just to sell their papers and becoming a tool for people who want to sabotage the education of girls.
4. We are afraid that Farzana's life might be in danger. When we went to meet her, her family had her locked up and did not let us see her. Her father also said things like he is very ashamed now because of this case. They were being very negative and also said that no other girl from their family will study.
5. Right now, we need active ombudspersons to be appointed for implementation of Workplace Harassment Act. Sensitized persons should be appointed in offices all over Sindh.

Consultative Meeting on Safehouses with District Administration & other Stakeholders

Date: 5th October, 2018

Recommendations:

1. The need for legislation on the issue of safehouses and Dar ul Amans and subsequent working on legal aspects to define the controlling authority, SOPs for custody issues, length of stay of

admitted person, rights of the admitted person availing the facility of safehouses, role of police, role of Women development and social welfare department, and security.

2. Structure of safehouses are not defined. Those who are held responsible i.e. the district authority are themselves unclear on the mechanisms. Therefore, there is an urgent need for developing simple and clear mechanisms for the working of safehouses in Sindh
3. Defining the ownership of safehouses. The district administration including commissioners and DCs expressed concerned over the ambiguity in terms of ownership. Parallels were seen between the controlling authority of safehouses and Committees set up against under age marriages in that both lack ownership by a government department.
4. It was also discussed that safehouses are currently under Social Welfare Department but since the affected persons in Sindh are mostly women suffering from Gender Based Violence, therefore the Women Development Department needs to have controlling authority over safehouses and women shelter homes. This transfer of authority also needs to be discussed and mechanism needs to be developed for that.
5. There is a need for mapping out the existing shelter homes available. For this there is a need for surveys to take place.
6. Transparency was a key issue. This concerned was expressed from both government and civil society officials that the running of safehouses must be on transparent basis so that responsible budgetary allocation and use of resources takes place such that the woman of Sindh benefits from it.
7. There is a severe lack of awareness in women who need access to safehouses. Publications need to be disseminated and public service messages need to be run on all media specially in remote location of Sindh which have high rates of gender-based violence. Civil society such as HANDS offered to use its district offices to disseminate the awareness raising literature.
8. There is a problem in communication due to language gap. Notices regarding safehouses and their boards are posted in English and messages are also not in regional languages. It was therefore suggested that messages and literature on raising awareness regarding safehouses should be in Sindhi and Urdu and other local languages so that the common woman of Sindh has access to knowledge regarding services available to her.

Annexes

Annexure 1:

THE SINDH COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN ACT, 2015

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF SINDH NOTIFICATION

KARACHI, THE 18TH MAY, 2015

NO.PAS/Legis-B-07/2015- The Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Bill, 2015 having been passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 06th April, 2015 and assented to by the Governor of Sindh on 12th May, 2015 is hereby published as an Act of the Legislature of Sindh.

THE SINDH COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN ACT, 2015.

SINDH ACT NO. XX OF 2015.

AN ACT

to provide for the setting up Provincial Commission on the Status of Women.

WHEREAS it is expedient to set up Provincial Commission on the Status of Women for promotion of social, economic, political and legal rights of women, as provided in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973, and in accordance with international declarations, Conventions, treaties, Covenants and agreements relating to women, including Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto;

Preamble.

CHAPTER-I PRELIMINARY

It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. (1) This Act may be called the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2015.
(2) It extends to the whole of the Province of Sindh.
(3) It shall come into force at once.
2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context;—
 - (a) “Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Commission as appointed under section 6, and includes acting chairperson appointed under section 10;
 - (b) “Commission” means the Sindh Commission on the status of Women established under section 3;
 - (b) “Girl” means a female child under the age of eighteen years;

Short title, extent and commencement.

Definitions.

- (d) “Government” means the Government of Sindh;
- (e) “Member” means the Member of the Commission;
- (f) “Prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (g) “regulations” means a regulations made under this Act;
- (h) “rules” means rules made under this Act;

- (i) “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Commission appointed under section 3 of this Act;
- (j) “Women” means a female of eighteen years or above;
- (k) “District, means a district as defined in the Sindh Land Revenue Act, 1967.

CHAPTER-II ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION

3. (1) Government shall constitute a Commission to be known as the Sindh **Establishment of Commission on the Status of Women (SPCSW)**, to exercise the powers **the Commission**, conferred upon, and to perform the functions assigned to it, under this Act.

- (2) The Commission shall consist of twenty one members and shall include one Chairperson and twenty Members.

Provided that the Chairperson and Members shall be appointed within ninety days of the passage of this Act.

- (3) The Chairperson shall be appointed under Section 6 of this Act:

- (a) The Chairperson shall be a woman, not less than forty five years of age with experience of working on issues relating to women’s rights for more than fifteen years, and is committed to the cause of women’s empowerment;

- (4) A Member of the Commission shall be appointed under Section 7 of this Act.

- (a) The Commission shall include at least one women representative of the minority community and three male members.

- (b) A Member of the Commission shall not be less than thirty or thirty five years of age, of active experience of working on issues relating to women’s rights for more than 10 years and is committed to the cause of women’s empowerment.

- (c) The Members of the Commission shall include-

- (i) seven members representing each Division with at-least ten years experience in promoting women’s rights and empowerment;
- (ii) seven members with an expertise in gender and development, law and social sector and academia, one of whom shall be a male;
- (iii) five ex-officio members who shall be representatives of the Provincial Departments of Women, Law, Finance, Home and Social Welfare, not below BPS-19, and who shall have the right to vote;
- (iv) Secretary of the Commission, who shall not have the right to vote.

- (5) The headquarters of the Commission shall be at Karachi.

(6) The Commission shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal with powers, among others to acquire, hold and dispose of any property and shall sue and be sued by the said name.

4. (1) The Women Development Department (WDD) shall invite through public notice applications and recommendations for Chairperson and membership of the Commission. **Constitution of a Special Committee.**
- (2) The WDD shall set up a Special Committee which shall include:-
- (i) Minister, WDD, who shall head the Committee;
 - (ii) Convener Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPS);
 - (iii) Member, WPC;
 - (iv) Chairperson Sindh Human Rights Commission;
 - (v) Member, Sindh Human Rights Commission;
 - (vi) Secretary Social Welfare Department;
 - (vii) Secretary Law; and
 - (viii) secretary Women Development Department, who will be Secretary of the Committee.
- (3) The Special Committee shall vet, scrutinize and examine the nominations and applications for Chairperson and Members of the Commission to satisfy itself that the recommended names fulfill the qualifications and criteria as laid down by this law in Section 6 and Section 7.
- (4) The names identified by the Special Committee shall submit the final nominations:-
- (a) To the Chief Minister Sindh and Leader of the Opposition for the Chairperson to follow the procedures set out in Section 6; and
 - (b) To the Parliamentary Committee constituted under Section 7 for the Members of the Commission.
5. A Parliamentary Committee shall be constituted by the Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh and shall comprise fifty percent members from the treasury benches and fifty percent from the opposition parties, based on their strength in the Provincial Assembly, to be nominated by the respective Parliamentary Leaders. **Constitution of a Parliamentary Committee for the appointment of Commission.**
6. (1) Government, through the Women Development Department, shall through public notice, invite applications and recommendations for suitable persons for appointment as Chairperson and after proper scrutiny as set out in Section 4, shall submit a list of those persons to the Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in the Provincial Assembly of Sindh. **Appointment of Chairperson.**
- (2) The Chief Minister in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition in the Provincial Assembly of Sindh shall forward two names for Chairperson to the Parliamentary Committee for hearing and confirmation of any one person:

Provided that in case there is no consensus between the Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, each shall forward a separate list to the Parliamentary Committee who shall finalize the nomination on the basis of two-thirds majority.

(3) The Parliamentary Committee shall forward the name of the nominee confirmed by it, to the Chief Minister, who shall appoint the Chairperson accordingly.

7. (1) The ex-officio members, shall be appointed by the Chief Minister from amongst the names recommended by the relevant Minister. **Appointment of members.**
- (2) each Division Commissioner shall recommend four names from each Division to the WDD Special Committee, out of which one shall be a man and one shall be a minority.
- (3) The Minister for WDD shall appoint seven suitable members as per sub-section (2) of section 4.
- (4) A vacancy of a Member shall be filled as provided in sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) within thirty days of the occurrence of the vacancy.
8. (1) A person appointed as the Chairperson and Member shall hold office for a term of three years from the date on which he or she enters upon his or her office. The term of the office may be extended only once. **Term of Office of Chairperson and Members.**
- (2) The chairperson or a Member may resign his office in writing under his hand addressed to Chief Minister of the Sindh Province and on acceptance of such resignation; such vacancy shall be filled within thirty days for the unexpired term of the member.
9. The Chairperson or Members may be removed from office by the Government, if he- **Removal of Chairperson and Members.**
- (a) is, after proper inquiry, found guilty of misconduct;
- (b) is, adjudged an insolvent;
- (c) is, unfit to continue in office by reason of being mentally or physically challenged and stands so declared by a competent medical authority; and
- (d) has, on conviction of any offence involving moral turpitude been sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years, unless a period of five years has elapsed since his release.
10. By reason of a vacancy in the office of Chairperson due to death, illness, resignation or otherwise, Government shall appoint a woman from amongst members of the Commission to act as Chairperson for a period of not exceeding thirty days or until the appointment of a new Chairperson, whichever is earlier. **Acting Chairperson.**
11. (1) There shall be a Secretariat of the Commission headed by the Secretary with complement of officers and support staff as may be prescribed. **Secretariat of the Commission.**

- (2) The Secretary on the instructions of the Commission shall prepare a draft three year strategic plan, the Annual Work Plan and Budget.
- (3) The Secretary shall be appointed in the manner as may be prescribed.
- (4) The appointment and terms and conditions of the employees of the Commission shall be such as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER-III POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|--|
| 12. | The Commission shall- | Powers and Functions of the Commission. |
|-----|-----------------------|--|
- (a) examine the policy, programs and other measures taken or to be taken by Government for gender equality, women's empowerment, political participation, representation, assess, implementation and make suitable recommendations to the concerned authorities;
 - (b) review all Provincial laws, rules and regulations prejudicial to the legitimate interest and rights of women and suggest accordingly in term of replacement, amendment, addition or legislation afresh essentially needed to eliminate discrimination, safeguard and promote the interest of women and achieve gender equality before law in accordance with the Constitution and obligations under international covenants and commitments;
 - (c) sponsor, steer, encourage research to generate information, analysis and studies and maintain a database relating to women and gender issues to provide knowledge and awareness for Government policy and strategic action for women empowerment;
 - (d) develop and maintain interaction and dialogue with non-governmental organizations, experts and individuals in society and an active association with similar commissions and institutions in other provinces for collaboration and action to achieve gender equality in the province;
 - (e) mobilize grants from domestic sources and international sources in order to meet any of its obligation or for the performing of its functions;
 - (f) facilitate and monitor implementation of international instruments and obligations affecting women and girls advise to Government in providing opinions and inputs to the Federal Government before accession to any such proposed international instrument, protocol or treat by Federal Government;
 - (g) seek and receive information, data and documents from any Provincial or Federal sources or entity in the course of performance of its functions;
 - (h) inspect any jail, sub-jail or other places of custody where women and girls are kept and to make appropriate recommendations to the authorities concerned;

(i) act for advocacy, lobbying, coalition building, networking and as a catalyst for promotion of cause of women to facilitate their participation in all spheres of life including legal, economic, social and political empowerment;

(j) liaise with the National Commission on the Status of Women and other Provincial Commissions or any other relevant body;

(k) monitor mechanism and institutional procedure for redressal of violation of women's rights; and

(l) Perform any other functions which may be assigned to it by Government.

(m) the Commission shall, with the approval of Executive Committee as defined Section 14, fix an honorarium or remuneration of advisors, consultants and experts as may be prescribed.

(n) the Commission shall consider, approve and monitor implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Annual Budget.

13. (1) A meeting of the Commission shall be held in each quarter of the year at such times and at such place as the Chairperson may decide. The Chairperson may call additional meetings if and when required.

(2) All meetings shall be chaired by the Chairperson or in his absence the members present shall elect from amongst themselves a member to preside the meeting.

Meeting of the Commission.

(3) The meeting of the Commission shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure as may be prescribed.

(4) The quorum for the meeting of the Commission shall not be less than one half of the total strength of the Commission.

(5) The decisions of the Commission shall be taken by the majority of the members present. In case of a tie, the Chairperson of the meeting shall have the casting vote.

(6) No act or proceeding of the Commission shall be invalid on the ground merely of the existence of any vacancy in or defect in the constitution of the Commission.

14. (1) There shall be an Executive Committee of the Commission consisting of the Chairperson and two other members to be appointed by the Commission which shall be responsible to oversee the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Commission.

(2) The Commission may establish such other Committees from amongst its members as it deems fit and may refer to them any matter for consideration and report. The Commission may, if it considers necessary, co-opt to a Committee any person possessing special knowledge and expertise on the relevant subject.

Appointment of Committees of the Commission.

CHAPTER-IV
FUNDS, BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS

15. (1) There shall be established a Fund for the purposes of this Act which shall vest in, and be administered and controlled by the Commission. **Fund.**

(2) The Fund shall consist of-

- (a) such funds as Government may grant by way of seed money or otherwise;
- (b) donations from domestic and international donor agencies and other institutions;
- (c) grants of money and funds borrowed or raised by the Commission for the purposes of meeting any of its obligations or discharging any of its duties;
- (d) fees, penalties or other charges imposed under this Act; and
- (e) all other funds which may in any manner become payable to or vested in the Commission in respect of any matter incidental to the exercise of its powers and functions.

(3) The Fund shall be expended for the purpose of –

- (a) paying any expenditure lawfully incurred by the Commission, including remuneration of employees appointed by the Commission, their provident fund contributions, superannuating allowances or gratuities;
- (b) meeting the costs and charges of the contractors, inspection teams, advisors, consultants and agents hired by the Commission;
- (c) paying any other expenses, costs or expenditure properly incurred or accepted by the Commission in the performance of its functions or the exercise of its powers under this Act, including legal fees and costs;
- (d) purchasing or hiring equipment, machinery and any other materials, acquiring land and erecting buildings, and carrying out any other work and undertakings in the performance of its functions or the exercise of its powers under this Act;
- (e) repaying any financial accommodation received or moneys borrowed under this Act and the profit, return, mark-up or interest due thereon; and
- (f) generally paying any expenses for carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

16. (1) The Commission shall prepare and approve annual budget for a financial year in the prescribed manner.

(2) No expenditure shall be made for which provision has not been made in any approved budget except if made from any previously approved

Annual budget.

contingency funds, unless further approval is sought and obtained from the Board.

17. (1) Within ninety days from the end of each financial year, the **Annual report,** Commission shall prepare a report on the activities and performance of the **Accounts and** Commission, including inspections carried out under this Act during the **Audit.** financial year and submit a copy of the report to Government.

(2) The Commission shall keep proper accounts and shall, as soon as practicable, after the end of each financial year, prepare a statement of accounts of the Commission for the financial year which shall include a balance sheet and accounts of income and expenditure.

(3) The Commission shall appoint a firm of chartered accountants for audit of the statement of accounts of the Commission.

- (4) The Board shall, within one hundred and twenty days of the end of each financial year, together with the annual report of the Commission under sub-section (2), send a copy of the statement of accounts of the Commission certified by the Auditors and the copy of the Auditor's report to Government.

18. (1) Subject to sub-section (2), the Commission may, in so far as its **Investments.** moneys are not required to be expended under this Act, invest the surplus moneys in such manner as may be prescribed.

- (2) The Commission shall not invest its money in listed securities or any derivative thereof whether listed or not.

CHAPTER-V MISCELLANEOUS

19. (1) The Commission shall prepare its Annual Report and shall be **Annual Report of** presented to the Chief Minister and Women Development Department. The **the Commission.** annual report shall include accounts of its performance and utilization of funds.

(2) The Annual Report of the Commission shall be laid and discussed in the Assembly.

20. All Government executive authorities shall assist the Commission in **Assistance to the** the performance of its functions. **Commission.**

21. No suit, prosecution or legal proceedings shall lie against the **Indemnity.** Commission, the Chairperson or any Member, officer, employees, advisors or consultants of the Commission in respect of anything done in good faith or intended to be done under this Act or the Rules made there under or order made, or publication by or under the authority of Government, Commission or any report, paper or proceedings.

22. Every member of the Commission and every officer appointed or **Members and** authorized by the Commission to exercise functions under this Act shall be **officers to be public** deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of section 21 of the **servants.** Pakistan Penal Code (Act XLV of 1860).

23. Government shall in consultation with the Commission and by **Power to make** notification in the official Gazette, make Rules for the purpose of giving **Rules.** effect to the provisions of this Act.

24. The Commission may subject to such conditions, as it may specify delegate any of its powers under this Act to the Executive Committee or member and to other such committees formed by the Commission.

25. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, Government may remove such difficulties.

**BY ORDER OF THE SPEAKER
PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF SINDH**

**G.M.UMAR FAROOOQ
SECRETARY
PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF SINDH**

Advisory Committee

1. Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson SCSW
2. Justice (R) Majida Razvi, Chairperson of SHRC
3. Dr. Khalda Memon, Expert in women Health
4. Ms. Anis Haroon, Member NCHR (Sindh)
5. Mr. Niaz Siddiqui, Ex IG Police
6. Mr. Mehmood Sham, Senior Journalist, Editor Jang
7. Ms. Mahtab Rashdi, President Sindh Graduate Association, Ex MPA
8. Ms. Mehnaz Rehman, Resident Director of Aurat Foundation
9. Dr. Huma Baqai, Educationist/ Media person
10. Ms. Shazia Marri, Political Activist
11. Dr. Afia Zia, Gender Expert
12. Barrister Shahida Jameel, Ex Minister Women Development Dept.
13. Mr. Zulfikar Shah, FM Radio
14. Mr. Wusat Ullah Khan, Media person
15. Mr. Tahir Hassan Khan, Media person

Executive Committee

1. Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson SCSW
2. Ms. Raheema Panhwar, Member of SCSW
3. Ms. Satram Das, Member SCSW
4. Ms. Malka Khan, Member SCSW

Finance Committee

1. Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson SCSW
2. Mr. Shahab Ansari, Ex- officio Member SCSW
3. Ms. Mussarat Jabeen, Ex- officio Member of SCSW
4. Mr. Nadeem Shaikh, Member of SCSW

Law Committee

1. Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson SCSW
2. Ms. Rubina Asif, Ex Officio Member of SCSW from Law Department
3. Ms. Rubina Brohi, Member of SCSW
4. Mr. Ghanwar Laghari / Najabuddin Sahto, Ex Officio Member of SCSW
5. Dr. Rana Advocate, Sindh high court Karachi.

6. Ms. Farieha Aziz, Lawyer/Women's right Activist
7. Ms. Maliha Zia, Legal Aid Society
8. Mr. Nadeem Shaikh, Advocate/Member of (SCSW)
9. Mr. Ali A. Palh, Lawyer
10. Ms. Nisha (Transgender), Lawyer
11. Ms. Seema Shaikh, Lawyer
12. Ms. Renuka Sawami, UNFPA
13. Ms. Madiha Latif, Shirkatgah
14. Ms. Bilquis Rehman
15. Mr. Naseer Hussain Jaffry
16. Mr Muhammad Shiraz, Member Executive Committee FPECI

Media Committee

1. Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson SCSW
2. Ms Shireen Ejaz , Member of SCSW
3. Ms. Muneeza Inam, Working Journalist
4. Ms. Ghazala Fasih, Media Women Nawa-e-Waqat
5. Ms. Omama Malik, Geo News
6. Ms. Shazia Hassan, Daily Dawn
7. Mr. Hasan Mansoor, Daily Dawn
8. Dr. Ayoub Shaikh, Free Lance Journalist
9. Mr. Anil Datta, The News
10. Mr. Salik Majeed, Daily Nawa-e-Waqat
11. Ms. Zoya Anwer, The News
12. Ms Uzma al Karim, Geo
13. Mr Haris Ameen Bhatti, Media consultant
14. Mr. Qazi Asad, Media Consultant
15. Mr. Mohammad Ali Noch, Roznama Awami Awaz
16. Ms Sehrish Khokar, Media person
17. Mr. Riaz Sohail, Media person

Women Health Committee

1. Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson SCSW
2. Ms. Azra Fazal Pehchuho, Minister for Health
3. Ms. Durakshan Suelah, Member of SCSW
4. Dr. Khalida Memon, Medical practitioner
5. Ms. Kausar S Khan, Member of WAF/NCSW

6. Dr. Yasmeen Kazi, Educationist
7. Dr. Sher Shah Syed, Expert of medicines
8. Ms. Aisha Bader, Psychiatrist
9. Ms. Sheema Ramza, ex-officio Member SCSW, SWD

Women and Education Committee

1. Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson SCSW
2. Ms. Darkshan Suelah, Member of SCSW
3. Ms. Humaira Sheraz, Member of SCSW
4. Ms. Sadiqa Salahuddin, CEO of IRC expert of women and girls' education
5. Dr. Fozia Khan, Additional Secretary, Education Department
6. Ms. Huma Bukhari, Educationist
7. Dr. Yasmeen Kazi, Educationist
8. Dr. Tahira Khan, Educationist
9. Ms. Seema Rana, Activist
10. Dr. Bilquees Rehman, Educationist
11. Ms. Sabeen Shah, Educationist
12. Ms. Naghma Iqtidar, Women activist / DRI
13. Ms. Mehwish Maria, UNICEF
14. Dr Irfana Mallah

Women and Economic Empowerment Committee

1. Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson SCSW
2. Ms. Farhat Parveen, Member of SCSW
3. Mr. Pirbhu Sityani, Labour's right activist
4. Mr. Satram Das, Member of SCSW
5. Ms. Humaira Sheraz, Member of SCSW
6. Ms. Mangla Sharma, Member of SCSW
7. Ms. Bushra Arain, Lady Health Worker Representative
8. Ms. Zehra Khan, Homebased Women Workers' Federation
9. Ms. Rahila Rahim, Educationist
10. Ms. Shaheen Zamir, Representative first women Bank
11. Ms. Shakeela Asghar, Trade union activist
12. Mr. Saeed Baloch, Fisher folk forum Representative
13. Ms. Sheema Asif, Ex-Officio Member of (SCSW)
14. Ms. Rubina Chandio, Women's right Activist/UN Women

Violence against Women Committee

1. Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson SCSW
2. Ms. Shireen Ejaz, Member of SCSW
3. Ms. Malka Khan, Member of SCSW
4. Mr Najabuddin sahto /Ghanwar Laghari, Ex-Officio Member of SCSW
5. Ms. Sheema Arif, Ex-Officio Member of SCSW from home department
6. Ms. Rahila Rahim, Member of SCSW
7. Ms. Qamar Dharma, Member of SCSW
8. Ms Renuka Sawami, Minority representative/ UNFPA
9. Mr. Rana Ansar, MPA/Secretary WPC Sindh
10. Ms Haeen Musarrat, WAF Hyderabad/Activist
11. Ms. Naghma Iqtidar, Women's right Activist
12. Ms. Kami sid (Transgender), Representative Transgender
13. Ms. Nusrat Miano
14. Mr. Farhan Imtiaz, Media
15. Incharge of complaint cell of WDD,
16. Incharge of Darul Amman
17. Women Police Official, From local police station
18. Ms. Mehwish Maria, UNICEF
19. Mr. Afzal Khan, Women Right Defender /GIZ
20. Mr.Kapil Dev, UN Women
21. Ms. Rubina Chandio, UN WOMEN

Political Participation Committee

1. Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson SCSW
2. Ms. Shahla Raza, Minister WDD, Govt. of Sindh
3. Ms. Rehana Leghari, deputy speaker, Sindh assembly
4. Ms. Mangla Sharma, MPA Member SCSW
5. Ms. Qamar Dhamra, Member SCSW
6. Ms. Raheema Panhwar, Member of SCSW
7. Ms. Farhat Seemi, MPA
8. Ms. Shagufta Jummani, MNA
9. Ms. Saira Shahliani, MPA
10. Ms. Nusrat Sehar Abbasi, MPA
11. Ms. Heer Soho, MPA
12. Ms. Naila Latif, MPA (PSP)
13. Ms. Qurat ul Ain, Senator PPP
14. Ms. Shahida Rehmani, MNA, PPP
15. Ms. Rana Ansar, MPA

16. Ms. Seemi Malik, Member of PML-N
17. Ms. Nusrat Sultana, ex MPA (PPPP)
18. Ms. Marium Palijo, Sindhyani Tehreek
19. Ms. Shaheena Ramzan, office bearer of ANP
20. Ms. Nuzhat Pathan, MNA
21. Ms. Asia Ishaque,
22. Tanzila Umme Habiba MPA
23. Sadia Jawaid
24. Ms. Nida Khohro, MPA

Research & Publication Committee

1. Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson SCSW
2. Ms. Farhat Parveen, Member of SCSW
3. Ms. Nazish Brohi, Expert
4. Ms. Amar Sindhu, Expert
5. Ms. Bilquees Rehman, Women Rights Activist
6. Ms. Sadia Baloch

Legal Expert Committee

1. Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson SCSW
2. Justice (R) Majida Rizvi, Chairperson SHRC
3. Justice (R). Shaiq Usmani, ex high court judge
4. Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Advisor for Law to CM
5. Advocate Malik Tahir Iqbal, Executive Director LRF
6. Justice (R) Rasheed Ahmed Rizvi
7. Ms. Kalpna Devi, Asst. Advocate General, Sindh
8. Ms. Sara Malkani, Advocate High Court

Activities of the Commission as per its Powers and Functions

Law Review

Mandate: 12. (b) review all Provincial laws, rules and regulations prejudicial to the legitimate interest and rights of women and suggest accordingly in term of replacement, amendment, addition or legislation afresh essentially needed to eliminate discrimination, safeguard and promote the interest of women and achieve gender equality before law in accordance with the Constitution and obligations under international covenants and commitments;

S. No	Title	Date	Place
1.	The Divorce Act No. IV of 1869	12 th January, 2018	Karachi
2.	The Christian Marriage Act, 1872	12 th January, 2018	Karachi
3.	Sindh Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2016	7 th May 2018	Karachi
4.	Sindh Registration of Dowry Act, 2017	28 th May 2018	Karachi
5.	The Sindh Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2018	31 st October 2018	NCHR Office, Karachi
6.	The Sindh Home Based Workers Act, 2018 with the support of Homenet Pakistan	7 th November 2018	SHRC Committee Room

Research

Mandate: 12. (c) sponsor, steer, encourage research to generate information, analysis and studies and maintain a database relating to women and gender issues to provide knowledge and awareness for Government policy and strategic action for women empowerment;

S. No	Title	Date
1.	Database of Gender Based Violence Cases in Sindh as Reported in the Newspapers	18 th October 2018

Engagement with the Civil Society

Mandate: 12. (d) develop and maintain interaction and dialogue with nongovernmental organizations, experts and individuals in society and an active association with similar commissions and institutions in other provinces for collaboration and action to achieve gender equality in the province;

S. No	Title	Date	Place
1.	Exposure visit organized by UN Women to Provincial Commission Lahore & GBV Center Multan	1 st to 5 th October 2017	
2.	Visit Aurat Foundation		Aurat Foundation Office
3.	Visit HRCP		HRCP Office
4.	Visit NOWCommunities		NOWCommunities Office
5.	Visit SPO		SPO Office
6.	Visit WAF		WAF Office
7.	Meeting with INGO, Care International	10 th November 2017	SCSW Office
8.	Meeting with IRC	14 th November 2017	IRC Office
9.	Meeting with Maliha Husain from Mehergarh	1st November 2018	Mehran Hotel
10.	Hi Tea Organized by Behbud	3rd November 2018	

Mobilization of Grants

Mandate: 12. (e) mobilize grants from domestic sources and international sources in order to meet any of its obligation or for the performing of its functions;

S. No	Title	Date	Place
1.	Meeting with DAI (Donor agency)	21 st September 2017	Avari Towers, Karachi

Implementation of International Instruments

Mandate: 12. (f) facilitate and monitor implementation of international instruments and obligations affecting women and girls advise to Government in providing opinions and inputs to the Federal Government before accession to any such proposed international instrument, protocol or treat by Federal Government;

S. No	Title	Date	Place
1.	International Rural Women's Day Event	15 th October 2017	Thatta
2.	International Women's Day Celebration	8 th March 2018	
3.	International Day of Tolerance	14 th November 2018	
4.	Day of German Unity	3rd October 2018	German Consulate
5.	International Rural Women's and Eradication of Poverty Day Event	17th October 2018	Poto Burfat Village, Tando Allahyar

Jail Inspection

Mandate: 12. (h) inspect any jail, sub-jail or other places of custody where women and girls are kept and to make appropriate recommendations to the authorities concerned;

S. No	Title	Date	Place
1.	Visit to Women's Jail on International Women's day	7 th March 2018	
2.	Monitoring Visit to Dar ul Aman Hyderabad and Jail	10 th April 2018	
3.	Meeting on Safe Houses with DCs	5th October 2018	Movenpick Hotel
4.	Meeting with Legal Experts on Safe Houses	10th October 2018	SCSW Office

Participation

Mandate: 12. (i) act for advocacy, lobbying, coalition building, networking and as a catalyst for promotion of cause of women to facilitate their participation in all spheres of life including legal, economic, social and political empowerment;

S. No	Title	Date	Place
1.	Visit to Provincial Election Commissioner for Women's participation in Elections in Sindh	6 th June 2018	
2.	Meeting with Women candidates from minority Communities contesting in Elections 2018 on general Seats	10 th July 2018	
3.	Dialogue on Political Participation and Electoral Violence in General Elections 2018	13 th July 2018	
4.	Observation of Elections on pre-poll and election day	25 th July 2018	
5.	Training for Observation of Elections	23 rd July 2018	
6.	Post Election Press Statement	3rd August 2018	
7.	Lunch with Parliamentarians	3rd September 2018	Marriott Hotel
8.	Event with Election Commission	11th October 2018	

Liaison with National and Provincial Commissions

Mandate: 12. (j) liaise with the National Commission on the Status of Women and other Provincial Commissions or any other relevant body;

S. No	Title	Date	Place
1.	One-day Consultation on strengthening PCSW Khyber Pakhtoonkhuwah	19 th and 20 th September 2017	PC Hotel Peshawar
2.	NCSW Program Women in Agriculture	29th August 2018	Beach Luxury
3.	NCSW Meeting	1st and 2nd October 2018	Islamabad

Institutional Monitoring

Mandate: 12. (k) monitor mechanism and institutional procedure for redressal of violation of women's rights;

S. No	Title	Date	Place

Meetings and Programs

Mandate: 13. (1) A meeting of the Commission shall be held in each quarter of the year at such times and at such place as the Chairperson may decide. The Chairperson may call additional meetings if and when required.

S. No	Title	Date	Place
1.	First Quarterly Meeting	22 nd November 2017	
2.	Second Quarterly Meeting	26 th February 2018	
3.	Strategic Plan Meeting with Members	June 2018	

4.	Meeting with Experts on Draft of Strategic Plan	8 th August 2018	
5.	Action Plan for Elections Meeting with Members	2 nd July 2018	
6.	Meeting with Secretary Women Development Department	11 th September 2017	Office of Women Development Karachi
7.	Meeting with Special assistant to C.M on Women Development	12 th September 2017	Sindh Secretariat
8.	Meeting with advisor to CM	13 th September 2017	Office of Social Welfare Department
9.	Meeting with IG Police Sindh	15 th September 2017	IG Office Karachi
10.	Meeting with Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly	16 th September 2017	Deputy Speaker Chambers
11.	Meeting at American Consulate on Forced Child Labor	18 th September 2017	American Conuslate
12.	Meeting with Secretary Women Development Department	22 nd September 2017	Sindh Secretariat
13.	Coordination with SPO on reporting of different cases	22 nd September 2017	SCSW Office

14.	Meeting with Shazia Rizvi (S&GAD)	22 nd September 2017	Sindh Secretariat
15.	Meeting with Director Women Development	22 nd September 2017	Directorate
16.	Meeting with Manager SPO		
17.	Meeting on Legal Issues with LRF and GIZ	15 th November 2017	SCSW Office
18.	Meeting with UNFPA Delegation	7th August 2018	SCSW Office
19.	SAFWCO Delegation Visit	9th August 2018	SCSW Office
20.	3rd Quarterly Meeting with Members	28th August 2018	SCSW Office
21.	Meeting with Bilqees Rehman	30th August 2018	SCSW Office
22.	Meeting on Dowry Act with Experts	5th September 2018	SCSW Office
23.	Meeting with UN Women Country Representative	5th September 2018	SCSW Office
24.	Contingency Planning Consultation on Mainstreaming Minimum Initial Service Package	5th September 2018	NDMA Office Karachi
25.	SPO Visit	11th September 2018	SCSW Office

26.	UN Women visit	11th September 2018	SCSW Office
27.	Meeting with CRM Head Kashir Bajeer	17th September 2018	SCSW Office
28.	Australian Ambassador Women's Rights Visit with Trocaire	19th September 2018	SCSW Office
29.	Meeting with Ministry of Human Rights	26th September 2018	Islamabad
30.	Meeting with Khwendokor	3rd October 2018	SCSW Office
31.	Meeting with Sartaj Abbasi of Women Protection Cell	4th October 2018	SCSW Office
32.	Consultation on GBV SoPs with NDMA and UNFPA	30th October 2018	Regent Plaza
33.	Event on Consultation on Missing Persons	1st November 2018	PC Hotel
34.	Meeting on People's Resistance to the Asia Bibi Case	4th November 2018	NCHR Office
35.	EVAW/G Delegation Visit	5th November 2018	SCSW Office
36.	Individual Land Meeting	12th November 2018	SCSW Office
37.	Assembly Meeting	13th November 2018	Sindh Assembly

Intervention in Cases of Violence Against Women

S. No	Title	Case	Date	Place
1.	Tania Khaskhali	Murder		
2.	Ibrahim Hyderi	Honor Killing		
3.	Mominabad	Honor Killing		
4.	Ibrahim Hyderi	Child Abuse		
5.	Karachi University	Harassment at Work Place		
6.	Sindh University	Harassment at Work Place		
7.	Komal Muzammil	Honor Killing		
8.	Hyderabad	Harassment Case		
9.	Farzana Jamali Case Nawabshah		7th September 2018	
10.	Meeting with the Minister for Sundus Case	Murder	11th September 2018	Minister WDD Office
11.	Strategic Consultation of ERAW/G Alliance		6th November 2018	

Conferences

S. No	Title	Date	Place
1.	Participated in a program organized by NCHR ON Child Labour	25 th to 27 th October 2017	PC Bhurban
2.	Hanjj Wall conference	8 th November 2017	Hotel Movenpick, Karachi

3.	Participated in Police Conference	9 th November 2017	Hotel Mehran
4.	Conference on Gender Action Manifesto	13 th November 2017	Hotel Movenpick

Trainings

S. No	Title	Date	Place
1.	Seminar on Gender based Violence in connection to 16 days of Activism	9 th December 2017	
2.	Sensitization Training on Child Sexual Abuse	29 th & 30 th January 2018	
3.	National Women's Day	12 th February 2018	Arts Council, Karachi
4.	Training for Observation of Elections	23 rd July 2018	
5.	Members Training for Capacity Building for Pro Women Legislation	17th and 18th August 2018	Regent Plaza
6.	Workshop on Measuring and Using Human Rights Indicators for Implementation of Human Rights in Pakistan	15th to 18th October 2018	Islamabad