

Human Rights Observer

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Dear readers,

We are pleased to introduce the 4th Issue of the HRO in a new online format which hopefully you will enjoy reading.

We take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in receiving **Human Rights Observer**. Please continue to send your feedback on developments and insights for this initiative to support the **Human Rights Institutions** in Pakistan.

HRO Editorial Team

Developments in Brief

Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights established the 4 digit **(1099)** 24 hours Toll Free helpline, to provide legal advice for remedy to the victims of human rights violations, their families and for legal advice and referrals.



Free Helpline for
Legal Advice on
Human Rights Violations

**TOLL FREE
1099**

Ministry of Law
Justice and Human Rights
Helpline for Legal Advice on Human Rights Violations
Federal Services Tribunal Building 5th Floor
G-5/2 Islamabad

According to the ministry's website helpline will provide free of cost legal advice, refer matters to proper authorities and follow up on the cases. A referral system involving Mohtasib (Ombudsperson), police and health related institutions will be introduced for swift response. [Read more:](#)

In the Inter-Ministerial and Inter-Provincial meeting of the relevant stakeholders on 14th July, 2016, Mr. Kamran Michael, Minister for Human Rights said that implementation of Human Rights Conventions is priority of the Government not only due to GSP Plus status but in pursuance to Constitutional guarantees and provisions. [Read more](#)



1. National Commission for Human Rights – NCHR

- * CSJ along with DCHD and Awami Workers Party briefed NCHR before a fact finding mission to Okara Military Farms. After a fact-finding visit the NCHR submitted an Interim report along with observations and interim recommendations to the Senate's Committee on Human Rights on June 26, 2016. CSJ also worked together with the commission's recommendation. The report calls upon the police and administration of Okara to observe restraint regarding the cases constituted against the framers and their leadership, moreover to respect the rights of the locals concerning right to assembly and organization, freedom of speech, and life, liberty and wellbeing. NCHR Interim report is available on CSJ website. Please follow the link: http://csjpak.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Okara_Interim_report_3.pdf
- * NCHR, member Chaudhry Mohammad Shafique briefed the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights on June 26, 2016. The Standing Committee expressed concerns regarding the plight of the Okara farms tenants, and recommended that cases against them should be withdrawn. The NCHR mission consisted of the NCHR Members, Ms. Kishwer Shaheen Awan, Chaudhry Muhammad Shafique and Mr. Ishaq Masih Advocate. The NCHR will further investigate into the revenue status of ownership claim of the parties. [Read more](#)
- * NCHR have started functioning for KP & FATA at first floor, Benevolent Fund Building, Peshawar Sadar.



2. National Commission on the Status of the Women - NCSW

- * A DAWN newspaper's editorial stated "the NCSW has been a headless Commission for the past six months. The three-year tenure of the last chair Khawar Mumtaz expired in December 2015, PML-N minister Saira Afzal Tarar briefly took over as acting head.
- * Deprived of a chair, the NCSW was able to spend only a part of its annual budgetary allocation of Rs78m. The government must appoint a new chairperson — an independent, apolitical woman's rights champion for the NCSW affectively functioning of NCSW." [Read more](#)

3. Punjab Commission on the Status of Women – PCSW

- * The PCSW launched the Gender Management Information System (GMIS in Health, Education, Economic participation& opportunities, Justice, Governance and special initiatives.
- * This web-based GMIS aims to provide data on approximately 300 indicators covering all key areas of women's lives that have implications on the formulation of provincial policy and strategic action for women's empowerment. Kindly follow the link below to access the system. follow Link: <http://irispunjab.gov.pk/GMIS.aspx>



According to sources 'DAWN' The Punjab commission, or PCSW, has already set the right tone by coming up with the first Gender Parity Report based on gender equality data identifying areas of focus and possible government interventions.

While the progress of the Punjab commission on advocacy for women's rights is praiseworthy, some other provincial governments, notably Sindh and Balochistan, must begin by prioritizing the formation of functional women's commissions. . [Read more](#)

Human Rights Institutions in News

The Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) rejected the Council of Islamic Ideology's (CII) proposed 'model' bill for the "protection of women" and condemned the body's move as unconstitutional, illegal and in complete violation of fundamental human rights.

Read more: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1261766>

The Chairman National Commission for Human Rights Ali Nawaz Chauhan has said that HRCP would soon establish its regional office in Balochistan to report the violation of human rights

Read more: <http://www.bexpress.com.pk/2016/05/human-rights-to-establish-office-in-balochistan/>

The Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) has launched a campaign to spread awareness about women's rights related to issues of child marriage, birth registration, inheritance, and domestic violence.

Read more: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1124813/awareness-raising-pcsw-campaign-womens-rights/>

The PCSW chief said the commission had prepared a draft bill "Comprehensive Acid and Burn Crime Bill" which was pending with the Law Department. She said the PCSW was going to launch a campaign to seek clearance of the Domestic Violence Bill from the Council of Islamic Ideology.

Read more: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/132673-PCSW-without-proper-office-for-five-months>

"Optimizing Institutional protection for Human Rights" Project in brief

CSJ is conducting an "assessment of complaint mechanism for human rights protection" to assess the challenges and effectiveness of RTI and selected complain mechanism used moreover, the complications / hitches faced by the complainant in filing complains. This assessment will be completed in the month of August. Aurat Foundation, Strengthening Participatory Organization, South Asia Partnership —Pakistan are supporting this assessment.

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