



Sindh Human Rights Commission

Government of Sindh



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2021-2022**



Sindh Human Rights Commission

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

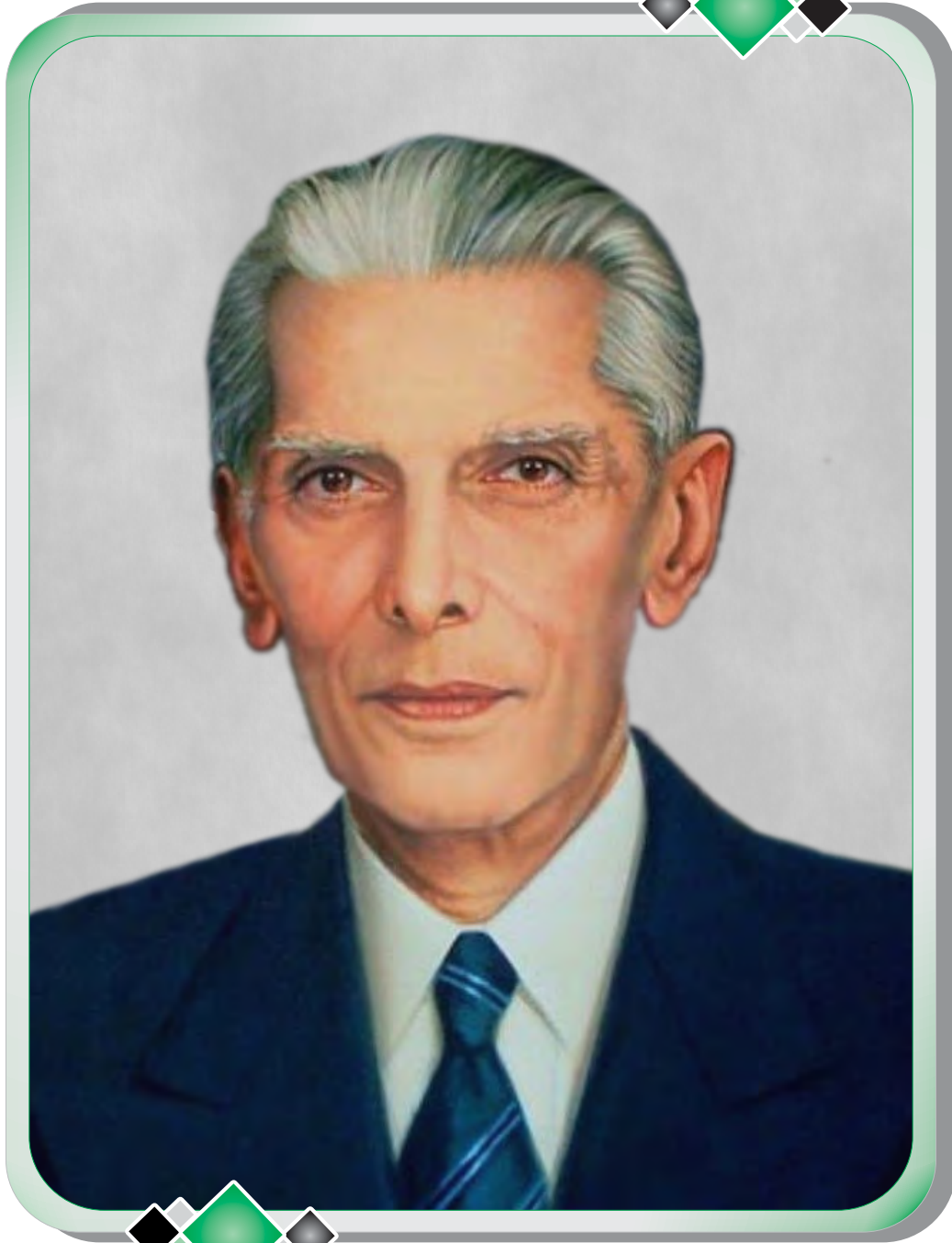
JANUARY 2021
TO JUNE 2022

Government of Sindh

Map of Sindh



Founder of Pakistan



Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah



Syed Murad Ali Shah
Chief Minister, Sindh



Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi
Chairperson, Sindh Human Rights Commission



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Abbreviations

AC	Assistant Commissioner
ADC	Assistant Deputy Commissioner
ASI	Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police
CM	Chief Minister
CPO	Central Police Office
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
DC	Deputy Commissioner
FIR	First Information Report
GOS	Government of Sindh
GSP	Generalised System of Preferences
IG	Inspector General Police
MPA	Member Provincial Assembly
NAP	National Action Plan
NCHR	National Commission for Human Rights
PS	Police Station
PRO	Public Relations Officer
Retd	Retired
SCSW	Sindh Commission on the Status of Women
SHRC	Sindh Human Rights Commission
SSP	Senior Superintended Police
TIC	Treaty Implementation Cell
UN	United Nations



MESSAGE

Syed Murad Ali Shah Chief Minister, Sindh



The Province of Sindh, since a decade, has seen rapid urbanization and infrastructure development. In order for these developments to benefit the citizens, there is a need for a responsive governance structure in tune with public's challenges and aspirations.

A governance system informed by human rights fundamentals is critical to the success of our endeavours for a prosperous Sindh.

In recent years, the Sindh Government has focused on poverty reduction and legislative as well as institutional measures to strengthen social service delivery.

Alongside this, we are promoting digitization, advanced communication networks and monitoring of governance.

We believe that human rights institutions such as the Sindh Human Rights Commission have a vital role in monitoring service delivery institutions. SHRC's rights violation complaint system enables the citizens to highlight the areas that require government intervention so that the public can access their human rights. At the same time, the Commission's visits to government-run facilities such as hospitals and Darul Amans also help take note of services that require improvement.

We continue to place importance on the role of the Sindh Human Rights Commission as an independent commission to protect the public when their rights are at risk.

SHRC should continue to use its mandate to create openings for effective implementation of rights-related laws enacted by the provincial legislature.



MESSAGE

Barrister Murtaza Wahab

Advisor to Chief Minister Sindh for Law and
Spokesperson for Sindh Government



The Sindh Government has taken a number of measures to reform the social service delivery systems in the province. Healthcare, education, transport, and infrastructure development and maintenance have been the center of the government's attention. Our service delivery agenda is premised on the fundamentals of accessibility and quality. Public communication and redressal systems are important to ensuring people are benefitting from the services designed by the government.

In the past decade, the Sindh Government has established a number of human rights institutions and special commissions to protect the rights of the citizens. These institutions have a critical role in ensuring that citizens' voice reaches the government. The Sindh Human Rights Commission's mandate covering a rights violation complaint system, legislation review, and public education and awareness of human rights is important to promote an informed citizenry and responsive governance.

We believe all components of the government need to work in coordination with each other so that resource use is optimised and duplication is avoided. The Sindh Government shall continue to extend its support to strengthen human rights institutions in accordance with its constitutional obligations toward dignity, equality, and fundamental freedoms of citizens.



MESSAGE



Dr. Sohail Rajput
Chief Secretary, Government of Sindh

The province of Sindh has a unique political and social landscape, characterised by political diversity and a complex development picture. Emerging issues such as climate change are compounding the challenges of the population of the province.

The administration and management of Sindh, therefore, require an approach that is embedded with the fundamentals of equality and justice, with emphasis on the accountability of public service entities.

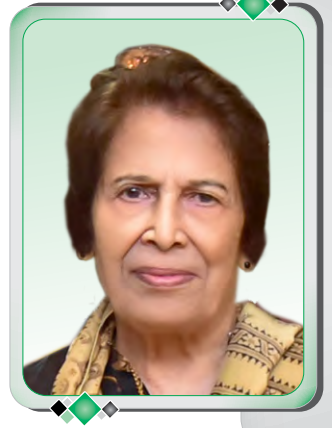
The Sindh Human Rights Commission's mandate has a crucial role in guiding the actions of the government from a human rights perspective. As the Commission expands its uptake of rights violation cases and other activities outlined in its functions, it creates the space for the public to voice their concerns and highlight their aspirations for effective governance.

Addressing the challenges of the Sindh province requires a multitude of governance arrangements. A human rights-based governance approach is the way forward for Sindh. This is particularly important in the backdrop of a series of progressive legislation passed by the Sindh Assembly. We look forward to an active role by the Sindh Human Rights Commission to contribute to the efforts for the promotion and protection of the rights of the people of the province.



MESSAGE

Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi Chairperson, Sindh Human Rights Commission



I am writing this text at the end of what I could proudly describe as a fulfilling period. The reporting period marks an important chapter for the Sindh Human Rights Commission as we move from a foundational phase - in which most of our efforts were directed at operationalising and sustaining our structures - to a phase where we have adequate capacities and infrastructure to optimise the scope of our mandate.

In the ongoing year, we have pursued a number of important initiatives that allow us to deliver on our mandate. Our work on legislative amendments for The Sindh Civilian Victims of Terrorism (Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2022 and The Sindh Commission for Protection of Rights of Minorities Bill, 2022 have received a positive response from the government that has agreed to pursue the legislation in the Sindh Assembly. We made major advancements in community outreach, connecting with public in all major areas of Sindh, both for human rights sensitisation and awareness about our work. We dealt with over 700 cases in the reporting period. Our continuous collaboration with stakeholders has resulted in strengthening our complaints response system and capacities on policy review.

The ongoing year's major challenges on human rights violations also provide a glimpse of the areas where our attention is required. While the Covid pandemic may have taken a trajectory where it is not seen as an emergency anymore, the new variants and the impact of Covid on the health, well-being and the economies at the household level requires a comprehensive response from the government. It should not be forgotten that at its peak, the pandemic-related restrictions led to massive layoffs, shutting down of businesses, particularly small businesses, and accumulation of debt for the low-income community. This not only fortified economic insecurity at the household level, it also had an impact on people's health and mental welling. The rise in suicide cases in the past two years, in urban areas, where Covid suspended life for months, need to be seen in this context. In addition, the rising inflation and political uncertainty have also led to frustration and conflicts. We see a rise in the number of human rights cases related to economic distress.



As we move in the post-Covid world, we need to look beyond medical solutions to the pandemic. There is a need for a detailed assessment of the impact of Covid on human rights, economic and social well-being, and most importantly mental health of the population. Women and children in particular need serious attention. While applauding the efforts of the Sindh Government in managing the Covid crisis, we would call on the government to undertake measures - particularly in the area of mental health counselling - to address the long-term impacts of the pandemic.

Another issue we continue to notice is dysfunctional systems in social services such as healthcare, education, labour inspection, and civic management. In health and education, the Sindh Government has undertaken massive investments to upgrade the services and address deficits in buildings and equipment. Yet, we see poor human resource practices such as non-attendance of staff or skill deficits at the institutional level, that fail these systems.

Climate change is another area that needs urgent attention and a large-scale holistic response. Its grave impact on livelihoods, rural-urban migration, social relations, and even food consumption choices and the resultant nutritional crisis cannot be ignored. The recently launched climate change policy of Sindh notes the province as the “most affected region” with the possibility of an extremely high increase in mean temperature, and erratic climate patterns such as droughts, heatwaves, air pollution and water insecurity in coming years. The recent events confirm that these predictions are likely to come true. Urgent action towards mitigation and adaptation is therefore critical to protect the human rights of the vulnerable population.

Our experience of working on a day-to-day basis addressing human rights violations through a diverse range of activities, brings new lessons for us every day. We feel that problems are beyond just the popular consensus on governance. There are complex social and economic factors that inform the actions of common citizens, service delivery institutions, and law and order and justice structures. Now religion too is becoming a part of the social and hierarchical interactions in the province. We have to keep up with the trends in these challenges and develop our response accordingly.

I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Sindh Human Rights Commissions to use all its resources and capacities to secure the human rights of the citizens of the province. Additionally, we shall do all to find the means and solutions for the government to strengthen critical institutions so that the progressive rights-based legislation passed by the Sindh Assembly is realised at the grassroots level.



MESSAGE

Justice (F) Arshad Noor Khan

District and Sessions Judge (Retd)
Member Judicial-I, Sindh Human Rights Commission



The aim and objective of every law is to enhance the welfare of the society. It is the obligation of the state to bring justice at the doorstep of the poor. It is the well worded principle of our Islamic Law to keep peace and harmony among the citizens without any discrimination.

Globally, dispensing of meaningful and speedy justice for citizens from all walks of life is considered to be a critical component of the social wellbeing of a society. The Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act, 2011 has been promulgated by the Government of Sindh to provide a forum to all citizens of the province to have access to speedy disposal/orders for redress of their grievances.

This Commission, by applying the provision of the Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act, 2011 has provided inexpensive and efficacious remedy to citizens' seeking redressal of their grievances. Because of SHRC's consistent efforts to provide speedy response to complainants, the number of complaints filed with this Commission has seen a steady rise. This reflects the confidence reposed by the citizens on this Commission.

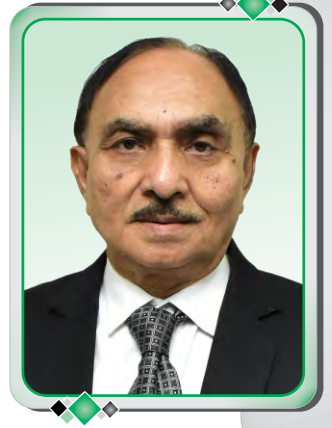
The Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act, 2011 also provides the mandate to the Commission to visit jails, shelter homes, and hospitals to assess the working of these institutions and to ensure that the rights of the citizens are not violated or minimised by the public functionaries. This, along with other provisions of the Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act, 2011, allows space to SHRC to serve the citizens. However, there is need for strengthening the powers of the Commission so that it is able to play its role of safeguarding the rights of the public more effectively.



MESSAGE

Muhammad Aslam Shaikh

Additional District and Sessions Judge (Retd)
Member Judicial-II, Sindh Human Rights Commission



The population of Sindh lives in a challenging socio-economic environment. These challenges are reinforced by political polarisation and capacity deficits of service delivery institutions. In this background, a functional, effective, and accessible human rights complaint system is of critical importance.

The Sindh Human Rights Commission dedicatedly works on an effective complaint system; one that not only addresses human rights violations of the complainants but also inspires confidence in the community to report any violation that they see around them. The SHRC has installed every possible means of communication to invite complaints. Citizens can contact through SMS, complaint portal, WhatsApp or a plain letter in English, Urdu or Sindhi languages. Additionally, focal persons of SHRC present in all major districts also reach out to the community to check for human rights protection. In the reporting year (2021-2022), SHRC introduced a digitized system of complaint management to ensure a quick response, data protection and accountability of the stakeholders.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the cases of rights violations against women. Women are frequently subjected to domestic violence. There has also been an increase in the cases of usurping of women's properties by male family members. Women experience an attack on the most fundamental of their rights, i.e. the right to life and dignity. The SHRC takes extra measures to ensure quick response and employ all means to address the cases. While reprimand is an important instrument, hence achieved counselling yielding positive results in rights violation cases, SHRC takes every possible measure to ensure women get justice and a sense of security that is their right.



Another trend that is emerging in Sindh is the case of “missing persons”. It causes much distress to the family left behind. Moreover, the absence of basic facilities such as clean drinking water and healthcare has been crushing the population. Another grave concern is climate change which has deep links to human rights. Sindh being highly affected by extreme weather patterns, especially heat and rains, has seen a steep decline in the quality of life of the people. Electricity outages running for over 12 hours a day have eroded the capacity of the people to cope with the heat. We urge the government to launch revolutionary measures such as affordable and accessible solar electricity system for households. The public needs every possible assistance to deal with the climate emergency.

The SHRC's mandate is to submit recommendations to the Government for any human rights violation complaint, suo moto notice or enquiry. While submitting the same, we also understand the importance of a dedicated follow-up to ensure the recommendations are taken up. The SHRC is now working on a system of engaging government officials to find a way forward for a speedy response to public's grievances on human rights violations, to make things easy for the public.



Introduction

The Sindh Human Rights Commission's annual report covers its journey of progress in year 2021 to 2022.

The report has been designed incorporating details of activities undertaken and presents an explanation of the rationale behind the decision to pursue certain set of actions. This may help readers draw clarity on the work and performance of the Commission, alongside the scope of its powerful mandate to protect and promote human rights in the province of Sindh.

The past year has seen the Commission making important strides into developing its structure and strength. The SHRC team took up over 700 cases of rights violations, visited major districts of Sindh, reviewed conditions of jails and safe houses for women, and presented timely recommendations to the concerned departments.

This year also sets the Commission on solid foundations where its efforts are yielding significant outcomes. SHRC collaborated with major civil society organisations to push for legislation on countering violent extremism (CVE) through the Sindh Civilian Victims of Terrorism (Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill 2022 and the Sindh Commission for Protection of Right of Minorities Bill, 2022. SHRC also undertook extensive stakeholder outreach for effective implementation of the Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018. The Commission received positive response for its efforts on legislative reforms. The bills undertaken by SHRC for review are being finalised and shall be presented to the Assembly soon.

On the eve of the completion of the first decade of its establishment, the Sindh Human Rights Commission has witnessed significant progress. In 2022, SHRC forayed into a number critical ventures on a self-help basis. The Commission initiated a major human rights education drive by designing a series of workshops for government departments at the forefront of human rights provision. The departments were engaged in extensive trainings and outreach on the basic concepts, policies and legislation aimed at addressing violent extremism, in addition to the significance of compliance with the human rights and labour rights conventions attached to GSP+.



Furthermore, the Commission continued its efforts to bring together major human rights institutions of Sindh for the purpose of exploring coordination and collaboration opportunities to promote efficient delivery of their respective mandates. In the post-Covid environment, SHRC assumed a leadership role, finding new ways of working around the challenges pertaining to the pandemic. The Commission also organised an experience-sharing session with human rights advocacy organisations to exchange notes on best practices and navigating unprecedented emergencies.

Externally and internally, there have been a number of new developments. The province of Sindh has a new Chief Secretary Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput. SHRC has also been joined by new member District and Sessions Judge (Retd) Mr Arshad Noor Khan. He has joined the Commission as Member Judicial I. Ms Abida Lodhi continues to serve as the Secretary SHRC.

This year, the Commission undertook a series of capacity building measures aimed at strengthening the institution. A digitised complaint response system titled "Human Rights Management Information System" has been initiated to allow prompt response and efficient follow up of the rights violations complaints taken up by SHRC. The Commission also pursued the process of developing its next Strategic Plan, following the completion of the term of the Strategic Plan 2017-2021. The latest plan, built on extensive internal and external consultation exercises, outlines four Strategic Pillars covering human rights policy design and delivery in Sindh. Each Strategic Pillar has been marked by a set of objectives followed by a listing of the "strategic action" to follow through the objectives.

Each annual report of SHRC seeks to give a fair picture of its standing in the long journey of protecting and promoting human rights in a province that has its unique dynamics.

As the Sindh Human Rights Commission moves forward into a new decade, the growth from modest beginnings to a formidable institution that is looked up to by the citizens of Sindh to address their grievances on violation of human rights has been humbling.



Sindh Human Rights Commission Members



Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi
Chairperson, Sindh Human Rights Commission



Abida Lodhi
Secretary, Sindh Human Rights Commission



Arshad Noor Khan
Member Judicial-I, Sindh Human Rights Commission.



Muhammad Aslam Shaikh
Member Judicial-II, Sindh Human Rights Commission



Kulsoom Akhtar Chandio
Member Provincial Assembly Sindh



Farhat Seemen
Member Provincial Assembly Sindh



Zulfiqar Shah
Human Rights and Civil Society Activist



Pushpa Kumari
Civil Society and Minorities Rights Activist



PART

1

**Human
Rights Violation
Cases**



Human Rights Violation Complaints and Suo Moto Notices

Under the Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act 2011, the Sindh Human Rights Commission has the powers to take suo moto notices or receive written complaints about human rights violations in the province. The Commission follows all the cases received from either source by a thorough inquiry process and filing of recommendations with the concerned departments of the Government of Sindh for redressal.

People's confidence in the Commission has increased with time as more complaints are filed with the Commission through its offices in Karachi and Sukkur. The Commission has also made efforts to create awareness among people about their human rights through seminars, awareness campaigns and open *Kacheris*.

In the period between January 2021 to March 2022, the Commission dealt with a total of 738 complaints of human rights violations from all districts of Sindh. Karachi remained on top with 221 (30%) cases, followed by 49 cases from Hyderabad (7%) and 46 from Sukkur (6%). The number of cases from other districts was: Badin (29), Dadu (33), Ghotki (23), Jacobabad (9), Jamshoro (22), Kashmore (12), Khairpur (43), Larkana (26), Matiari (6), Mirpurkhas (34), Naushahro Feroze (10), Qambar Shahdadkot (19), Sanghar (16), Shikarpur (12), Shaheed Benazirabad (17), Sujawal (15), Tando Allahyar (23), Tando Muhammad Khan (26), Tharparkar (17), Thatta (11) and Umarmkot (19).

Trends noted:

Out of 738 cases, 251 were suo moto cases and 487 were written complaints filed by individuals. The Commission also took up 103 cases in the public interest.

In terms of gender as the subject of the cases, 387 complaints pertained to males and 248 cases concerned females.

Out of 248 cases concerning women, 21 cases of domestic violence were noted. Compared to last year when 17 such cases were registered, the year 2021-2022 registered a rise of 19% in cases of domestic violence against women.



Cases of rape/gang rape (22), sexual harassment (17), inhuman treatment (13), kidnapping (11), illegal occupation of properties of women (24), murder (16), honor killing (5) child custody (2), seeking financial assistance (8), salary/pension/non-clearance of dues (8), domestic violence (21), missing (7), protection (27), false cases (3), death due to negligence of doctor (4) and others (60) were reported in Sindh during 2021-22.

A quick overview of rights violation cases against women indicates a rise in the reporting of cases of illegal occupation on properties (from 14 cases in 2020 to 24 cases in 2021) and a slight decline in the reporting of kidnapping cases (18 in 2020 compared to 11 cases in 2021) and that of sexual harassment (from 20 in the earlier year to 17 in the reporting period)

Reviewing human rights violation cases covering male complainants/victims, 387 complaints in 2021-22 were reported as against 330 in 2019-2021. Compared to the previous period, the cases of illegal occupancy on property increased from 30 to 37 in 2021-22. There was a steep rise in the complaints of life threats in the 2021-22 period, which were 37 as against 13 in the last reporting period. Similarly, a rise in the reports of robberies was noted too.

A decline in the complaints of harassment was observed, which were 17 in 2019-20 as against 8 in the period from January 2021 to March 2022. Similarly, the cases of illegal police custody were 7 in 2019-20 against 3 in 2021-22.

Department-wise, as in the past years, majority of the complaints involved the response of the Police Department. These stood at 477 as against 440 in the previous reporting period. There was a steep rise in the complaints against the Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal/Zakat and Usher Department as a total of 23 complaints were received in 2021-22 against only two in the previous year. There was also a rise in the cases against K-Electric/HESCO, which were five in 2019-20 and nine in 2021-22. Complaints against the Irrigation Department also increased from 4 to 6.

However, complaints against Deputy Commissioner offices and health and education departments were fewer in number when compared with the previous period.

During the current reporting period, complaints against certain federal and provincial governments were noted for the first time. These include the federal government's National Data Registration Authority (NADRA) and Employees Old-age Benefits Institution (EOBI).

There has been a steep rise in the reporting of cases of illegal occupation on properties, both from male and female complainants.



District Data of Human Rights Violation Complaints and Suo Moto Notices

District	Total Cases
Badin	29
Dadu	33
Ghotki	23
Hyderabad	49
Jacobabad	9
Jamshoro	22
Karachi	221
Kashmore	12
Khairpur	43
Larkana	26
Matiari	6
Mirpurkhas	34
Naushahro Feroze	10
Qambar Shahdadkot	19
Sanghar	16
Shikarpur	12
Shaheed Benazirabad	17
Sujawal	15
Sukkur	46
Tando Allahyar	23
Tando Muhammad Khan	26
Tharparkar	17
Thatta	11
Umarkot	19
Total	738



Human Rights Violation Cases Pertaining to Women

Nature of Complaints	Total Cases
Sexual Harassment	17
Child Custody	2
Seeking financial assistance	8
Salary/Pension/Clearance of Dues	8
Domestic Violence	21
Honor Killing	5
Inhuman Treatment	13
Kidnapping	11
Missing	7
Murder	16
Illegal Occupation on Property	24
Protection	27
Rape/Gang rape	22
False Cases	3
Death due to negligence of doctor	4
Others	60
Total	248



Human Rights Violation Cases Pertaining to Males

Nature of Compalints	Total Cases
Harassment	8
Salary/Pension/Clearance of Dues	26
Illegal Police Custody	3
Death in Police Custody	2
Death Incident	4
Illegal Occupation on Property	37
Inhuman Treatment	15
Job Provision	6
Promotion/transfer in position	8
Extrajudicial Killing	2
Suicide	2
Financial Help	10
Rape	11
Honor Killing	2
Fake FIR	11
Fraud	4
Domestic Violence	3
Selling Gutka	2
Encroachment	3
Corruption	4
Education Facility	4
Health Facility	5
Kidnapping	11
Robbery	10
Life Threats	37
Missing	5
Murder	18
Others	134
Total	387



Departments Nominated in Complaints

Department	Total Cases
D.C Office	72
Education Department	31
Sindh Govt	10
NADRA	5
EOBI	5
Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal/Zakat o Usher	23
Local Government	13
K-Electric/HESCO	9
Health Department	36
Irrigation Department	6
Police Department	477
Others	51
Total	738



Nature of Cases

Cases	Total Cases
Suo moto note taken by SHRC	251
Complaints filed with SHRC	487
Total	738

Gender Wise Representation of Cases

Gender	Total Cases
Male	387
Female	248
In Public Interest	103
Total	738



PART

2

**Consultations
and Outreach**



Consultations

The Sindh Human Rights Commission organizes consultations, dialogues and awareness sessions every year to facilitate a review of the human rights situation in the province and generate awareness of the existing legislation and implementation mechanisms. These sessions not only serve the purpose of public education and awareness on important legislation and human rights situations, they also generate expert opinions and lead to a dialogue and insights on the way forward for effective human rights interventions to rights violation cases.

In 2021 and 2022, SHRC conducted a series of conferences, dialogue sessions and awareness workshops as a part of its partnership projects on specific laws such as the legislation to address violent extremism and the Sindh Hindus Marriage Act. The SHRC also organised the second round of inter-commission dialogue to foster cooperation and coordination among multiple commissions established by the Sindh Government. Details are presented in this section.

Inter-Provincial Commissions Dialogue Series

January 25, 2022; Karachi

Since 2020, SHRC has taken a special initiative to start an inter-provincial commission dialogue series in the backdrop of the establishment of successive commissions and statutory bodies by the Sindh government. These commissions and departments are designed to serve special areas of human rights such as the right to health, protection of women, or general human rights.



Representatives of Healthcare Commission, Mental Health Authority, Communicable Disease Control Commission, Sindh Public Safety and Police Complaint Commission, Office of Provincial Ombudsman Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace, Sindh Occupational Health and Safety Council, Child Protection Authority and the National Commission on the Rights of Child participated in the Inter-Provincial Commissions Dialogue Series organised by SHRC.



While these commissions are fundamental to the Sindh Government's efforts to advance a pro-rights agenda in the province and realise rights-based legislations, SHRC's experience and observation have been that there are similarities in the mandates of the various commissions, which are both complementing and competing in nature. There is, therefore, a need for exploring space for coordination and collaboration for promoting efficient delivery of the respective mandates of the authorities/commissions and to avoid duplications.

The first dialogue of the series, held in February 2020 sought to focus on structures, systems, opportunities, and challenges to gain greater insights into these commissions' work and identify areas for collaboration.

Due to the continuous surge in Covid cases throughout 2020 and 2021, the Sindh Human Rights Commission was unable to follow up on the organising of these consultations. With the Covid situation easing up, the Commission held the second part of the dialogue series on January 25, 2022, in Karachi.

The consultation invited representatives from each commission, councils and authorities in the province as well as provincial members of national commissions to discuss the challenges being faced them.

The consultation invited heads and representatives from each commission, councils and authorities in the province as well as provincial members of national commissions to discuss the challenges being faced by them. Nine different commissions were in attendance during the meeting including the Sindh Human Rights Commission, Healthcare Commission, Mental Health Authority, Communicable Disease Control Commission (HIV/AIDS), Sindh Public Safety and Police Complaint Commission, Office of Provincial Ombudsman Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace, Sindh Occupational Health and Safety Council, Child Protection Authority and the National Commission on the Rights of Child.

The second part of the inter-provincial commissions' dialogue series started with a two-part agenda focusing on highlighting challenges, followed by drawing up of a set of consolidated recommendations, which could be presented before the competent authority for a follow-up.

The dialogue on the challenges focused on the following key concerns:

Overlapping mandate:

Chairperson Sindh Human Rights Commission Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi raised the issue of the overlapping of the human rights cases among commissions and other bodies which tend



to create confusion over their mandates and areas of intervention. "When SHRC intervenes in a case, we learn that another commission has also taken up the same case. Then the question about who will tackle the cases arises. This is a serious concern as it affects relief to the victims of human rights violation," SHRC Chairperson observed.

The need for demarcation of the mandate was also highlighted by Dr Ahsan Qavi Siddiqui, Chief Executive Officer of the Sindh Healthcare Commission. He observed that the commissions came into the picture after several years of similar complaints and policy work by other departments. "When work was being assigned to commissions, no demarcation was done regarding their mandates. This is the root cause of all the challenges," he noted

Financial autonomy:

There was a debate about the financial autonomy of commissions. Laeeq Ahmed who represented the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Council in Sindh noted that in his view, in terms of councils, financial and administrative autonomy comes embedded with the mandate. The Chief Executive Officer Sindh Healthcare Commission, however, believed that lack of clarity on financial autonomy (in the laws under which commissions are established) leaves room for ambiguity as commissions are reluctant to proceed when certain big decisions are to be taken.

Iqbal Detho, a provincial member of the National Commission on the Rights of Child also pointed out limitations posed by the absence of financial autonomy. "As a result of its dependence on the administrative Ministry of Human Rights which also controls budget allocation, the NCRC finds its role and effectiveness limited," he highlighted.

Budget systems:

The majority of the Commissions receive a single-line grant-in-aid, which is either released regularly or on demand. In the case of a few departments, a single-line budget system requires the approval of nominated committees for the disbursement of funds. This also causes delays in implementing actions on the ground, as was observed by Dr Syed Irshaad Hussain Kazmi, the Additional Director and Deputy Director General of Communicable Disease Control Commission and Secretary of the Sindh Health Commission.

Budget constraints:

Lack of financial resources and low priority in budget allocation were repeatedly flagged by two institutions, both addressing women's access to rights and protection. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson of the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women highlighted that the commission's budget was made way before it started working. "Despite repeated reminders to the concerned departments to streamline a financial system under the mandate and scope of work of the Commission, there has been no response."



Justice (Retd) Shahnawaz Tariq, the Provincial Ombudsman, Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Sindh, pointed to the inability of his institution, which despite being independent and quasi-judicial, struggles with a functional setup in rural Sindh in the absence of secure office space. He also pointed out that currently, there are two lady prosecutors working pro bono with the Provincial Ombudsman.

Resource constraints:

Dr Syed Irshaad Hussain Kazmi, the Additional Director and Deputy Director General of Communicable Disease Control Commission and Secretary of the Sindh Health Commission, spoke about the challenges faced due to resource limitations. "I am heading the HIV/AIDs programme for the Sindh Health Commission. We have been facing some challenges in the smooth functioning of the commission due to the lack of human resources and a secretariat."

Assistant Secretary of the Provincial Sindh Police Complaint Commission Hafeezullah Abbasi similarly noted the lack of human resource and working space as a major block in advancing the agenda of the Commission.

Participants observed that Covid also proved to be a setback for commissions, hindering the smooth execution of the day-to-day operations and adding to delays on important actions.

Job security for the staff:

Several commission heads pointed to contractual employment of their staff. The government has, so far, refrained from regulating the employment of the staff, which leads to job insecurity and demotivation.

The SCSW likewise complained about asymmetrical wage structures of the contractual employees. "Since their positions and salaries are not in line with the government scale of employment benefits, contract employees neither get promotions nor do they get paid fairly," observed Nuzhat Shirin of SCSW.

It was also noted that using the Sindh Government system for hiring of special human resources such as medical professionals, leads to delays due to lengthy bureaucratic procedures.

Covid:

Participants observed that Covid also proved to be a setback for commissions hindering the smooth execution of the day-to-day functions and adding to delays in important actions. Irshad Khokhar, a representative of the Sindh Mental Health Authority, noted how his organisation was unable to appoint human resource due to the uncertain environment created by the Covid pandemic. "The head of the Authority Senator Karim Ahmed Khawaja has



requested the Chief Secretary to induct doctors and other relevant staff approved by the Board of Governors so that we can proceed with our work," he said.

Recommendations:

A dedicated session for gathering recommendations to address the challenges highlighted in the dialogue was conducted. A committee was established to coordinate key tasks outlined by participants, which included: identifying international reporting requirements, engaging relevant quarters to strengthen the system of complaints redressal, and building capacities to collectively raise the common issues faced by the commissions.

Briefing and Advocacy Retreat on CVE Draft Legislation

14-15 May 2022; Bhurban Murree

A two-day residential consultation was organised by SHRC as a part of the partnership with Aurat Foundation under the project "Strengthening the Sindh Human Rights Commission for Countering Violent Extremism Oversight and Peace Building".

The consultation was designed as a briefing and advocacy retreat on the two pieces of legislation: the Sindh Civilian Victims of Terrorism (Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill 2022 and the Sindh Commission for Protection of Rights of Minorities Bill, 2022.



Members Provincial

Assembly, government officials from the Home Department, Minority Affairs Department and Law Department attended the consultation.

The two-day programme agenda included extensive presentations by the Sindh Human Rights Commission on the Sindh Civilian Victims of Terrorism (Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill 2022 and the Sindh Commission for Protection of Rights of Minorities Bill, 2022. The participants were informed of the SHRC's efforts on the legislation and invited to provide their valuable input on the drafted bills. The participating MPAs and government officials identified areas that needed clarity and strengthening in the draft bill. Their suggestions were duly noted and added to the draft bill.



Provincial Conference: Pathways between CVE and Human Rights

May 27, 2022; Karachi

The provincial conference “Pathways between CVE and Human Rights” was organised under the Aurat Foundation-led programme on CVE.

The conference followed a series of activities geared towards two critical pieces of legislation outlined by the Commission to address countering violent extremism. This was the last of the activity series organised by the SHRC and Aurat Foundation following a round of consultations, research, input and feedback-gathering processes through special committees for this legislation.

Taking the input-gathering process forward, the conference on “Pathways between CVE and Human Rights” brought together government authorities and elected representatives. The purpose of the conference was to share the findings of the research titled “Pathways between CVE and Human Rights” with actors who influence policy.

The research conducted by senior researcher Nazish Brohi sought to identify how SHRC can best engage laws and mechanisms for countering violent extremism for the protection and promotion of human rights in the province.

The findings of the research were presented before the audience. The participants were invited to provide recommendations so that SHRC can effectively use its mandate to respond to the cases of violent extremism on the ground.

The conference also included presentations by project consultant Syed Mohsin Abbas, who as a legal expert, provided a critical analysis of the existing CVE-related laws and shared suggestions with stakeholders for policy and legal reforms.

Over 62 participants attended the programme including parliamentarians, government officials, and activists working on minorities rights and human rights. Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Advisor to Sindh Chief Minister on Law, who was present at the conference announced that the government is reviewing the Sindh Civilian Victims of Terrorism (Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill 2022 and the Sindh Commission for Protection of Right of Minorities Bill, 2022 being proposed by SHRC. He assured that these would be presented to the Sindh Assembly soon.



Awareness Sessions on Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018

As a part of its partnership with the Community World Service Asia, the Sindh Human Rights Commission organised a series of awareness sessions/workshops on the Sindh Hindus Marriage Amendment Act, 2018 in different cities.

Karachi

An awareness workshop on the Sindh Hindus Marriage Amendment Act, 2018 was organized in Karachi on June 29, 2021. The session was attended by two Assistant Commissioners from Karachi, government officials, members from the National Lobbying Delegation - a civil society coalition to lobby on rights-related laws, civil society members from the religious minority communities, and media persons.

“It is based on the strength of our outreach and connection with the public that we feel there is much scope to educate the public on important pieces of legislation.” - Chairperson SHRC Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi

The workshop was a part of SHRC's efforts to initiate a dialogue on the Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018 to find a way forward for the Hindu community to engage the law and for related institutions to respond effectively to any violation of the law.

In her opening remarks, SHRC Chairperson Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi shared the details of the SHRC's work. She highlighted the strong inroads built by the Commission in various stakeholders communities due to its human rights violation complaint system and also its successive visits and outreach in all districts of Sindh. “It is based on the strength of

this outreach and connection with the public that we feel there is much scope to educate the public on important legislation. We also feel it is critical to gather public feedback on legislative areas that need improvement so that human rights-centric legislation can be modified to serve the public interest.”

Krishan Sharma, a Member of the National Lobbying Delegation touched upon the efforts of lobbying and



Workshops on the Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018 organised in Karachi, Hyderabad and Mirpurkhas sought to initiate a dialogue for effective implementation of the law.



advocacy for the Sindh Hindus Marriage Act. He was of the view that apart from lack of political will there was much resistance from parliamentarians from the Hindu community who argued that the practices of widow remarriage and divorce - addressed in the bill - are against the tenants of their religious faith. "In reality, there is no religious bar that prevents a widow from remarrying," Sharma observed.

Human rights and minority rights expert Kapil Dev gave a detailed presentation on the background and major highlights of the Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018 and presented recommendations. In his view, it was the landmark judgment by the then Chief Justice Supreme Court of Pakistan Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani in June 2014 that created the grounds for informed legislation on issues related to religious minorities. The SC judgment mandated the government to constitute a task force at the federal level to develop a strategy to promote religious tolerance. The government was also asked to set up a National Council of Minorities Rights to monitor the "practical realisation of the rights and safeguards provided to the minorities under the Constitution". The Supreme Court asked the government to frame policy recommendations for safeguarding and protecting minorities' rights.

The workshop was also attended by the leadership of various government departments including the Chairperson of the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women, Ms Nuzhat Shirin, politician and former Additional Advocate General of Sindh High Court Kalpana Devi, and human rights activists M. Parkash, and Sarah Javed. The participants emphasised their expectations from the Sindh Human Rights Commission to create awareness about the legislation on minorities' rights. "Apart from public awareness, concerted advocacy on laws from SHRC will create an environment for pro-rights legislation and motivate action from the lawmakers."

Hyderabad

A workshop under the partnership programme with the Community World Services Asia on the Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018 was held in Hyderabad on July 7, 2021.

Additional Commissioner Tahir Ali Memon and representatives from the Local Government Department, civil society, academia, and press representatives participated in the consultation.

The Chairperson SHRC Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi gave an introductory remark followed by a presentation on the details of the legislation on the Sindh Hindus Marriage by Mr. Kapil Dev, a minorities rights expert. Additional Commissioner Tahir Ali Memon underlined the need for regular training and sensitisation sessions over legislation on minority rights since these are critical for government functionaries to engage the law and respond to complaints.



Awareness workshop on the Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018 in Hyderabad led by SHRC.

The Additional Director Local Government Department also highlighted the need for publication and dissemination of the information and awareness material so that the public can identify the course of action in case of any violations of the law.

The workshop was also attended by Member Sindh Assembly Ms Kulsoom Chandio, civil society members Amar Sindhu, Noor Ahmed Narejo, Sabir Micheal, Rajesh Hardasani and others.

Mirpurkhas

An awareness workshop was organised under the Community World Services Asia partnership in Mirpurkhas on August 11, 2021. The workshop was facilitated by Pushpa Kumari, a member of the Sindh Human Rights Commission. SHRC Member Judicial II Mr Aslam Shaikh welcomed the participants. Minorities rights activist Kapil Dev gave a presentation on the Sindh Hindus Marriage



Awareness workshop on the Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018 in Mirpurkhas.



(Amendment) Act, which was followed by an in-depth discussion on the challenges of the Hindu community in engaging the law.

During the discussion, the participants highlighted various challenges in the implementation of the Act. One key issue pointed out during the discussion was the non-availability of computerised national identity cards (CNICs) to women and men belonging to Hindu community, especially those coming from scheduled castes. As the law outlines the registration of marriage, participants pointed out that the absence of CNICs will prove a significant setback to the implementation of the legislation. The Sindh Human Rights Commission was asked to intervene for special measures for access to CNIC for the marginalized scheduled caste community.

During the discussion, the participants highlighted the issue of the non-availability of computerised national identity cards (CNICs) to women and men belonging to the Hindu community, especially those coming from scheduled castes. This will prove to be a significant setback to the implementation of the legislation on Hindus Marriage that requires registration of marriage.

It was also pointed out that Hindu pundits, solemnising marriages, are yet to be registered with the Local Government Department. The Commission was asked to intervene on the same as well. The participants also asked SHRC to fill in the deficit on the need for capacity development of the local government employees on human rights legislation so that the implementation of legislation can be made more effective. The Sindh Human Rights Commission is undertaking a plan to respond to the community and stakeholders' demands for law education.



Outreach and Exchanges

The powerful mandate of SHRC provides for extensive space to lead, participate in and support activities directed at strengthening human rights in the province. The Commission has a dedicated system under which expert input is provided to legislative work undertaken by Sindh Government departments and civil society organisations to expand the scope of human rights in the province. An important part of SHRC's outreach agenda also pertains to dedicated communication with provincial ministries and departments so that internal collaboration can be strengthened.

A brief round-up of major external outreach activities routinely pursued by SHRC in 2021-2022 is summed up in this section.

Providing Expert Input

Meeting with Legal Aid Society on “Small Claims and Minor Offences Ordinance 2002”; August 30, 2022; SHRC Office, Karachi

The Legal Aid Society reached out to Chairperson SHRC Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi to provide expert opinion on the “Small Claims and Minor Offences Ordinance 2002”. While reviewing the said ordinance, LAS was exploring necessary amendments so that more cases would be resolved under the ordinance. The SHRC Chairperson held a detailed discussion with the LAS team and proposed amendments. Among other areas, SHRC's inputs covered Section 5 (A) pertaining to the value of the claim; Section 15 (1) of the Ordinance to include women in the list of persons to act as a *Salis* for effecting amicable settlement; and Section 20, pertaining to the fees for the *Salis*.



SHRC supported Legal Aid Society to review the “Small Claims and Minor Offences Ordinance 2002”.



Meeting with Human Rights and Social Welfare Department, Government of Balochistan; December 8, 2021; SHRC Office, Karachi

The Human Rights and Social Welfare Department of the province of Balochistan paid a visit to the Sindh Human Rights Commission Office. This was a part of their educational visit organised under a European Union-supported project Huqooq-e-Pakistan, which also had a partnership with the Human Rights Department of Sindh.

The Department of Human Rights in Balochistan is merged with the provincial Social Welfare Department, making it as one single entity. Mr. Abdul Ali, Ms. Roqya Taj, Deputy Directors Human Rights Department Balochistan; Mr. Muhammad Jahanzaib, Social Welfare Officer; Mr. Sher Ahmed, Assistant Director; Mr. Muhammad Jalal, Assistant Director; Mr. Sultan, Project Coordinator; Ms. Tooba Masood, from Huqooq-e-Pakistan project, and Mr. Hakeem from the Sindh Human Rights Department participated in the meeting.

SHRC shared the details of the Commission's functions and experience of working in the provincial context of Sindh. The representatives from Balochistan highlighted the challenges of working in a merged set-up that often leads to overlapping of functions. SHRC advised the visiting delegation to establish a coordination mechanism with the intent of harmonising operations and providing effective services to the people of the province. The two teams also exchanged notes on possible areas of collaboration.

Meeting Regarding Transport and Traffic Issues at District Korangi, Karachi; February 28, 2022; SHRC Office, Karachi

SHRC organised a meeting to follow up on the visit of the Member Judicial II Muhammad Aslam Shaikh to Korangi District, Karachi. The visit was undertaken to respond to repeated complaints being received by the Commission on civic and traffic issues in the area. The



SHRC undertook a comprehensive strategy of outreach and dialogue to respond to repeated complaints about civic and traffic issues in the Korangi, Karachi area.

meeting was organised with the local administration, regulators and stakeholders. Participants included Mr. Mushtaq Shaikh, Additional Secretary, Transport & Mass Transit Department; Mr Nawaz Kalwar, Additional Deputy Commissioner, District Korangi, Karachi; Mir Oshaq Ali Mirani, President, Korangi Press Club; Allama Jameel Amini, Member District Peace Committee, Korangi; Advocate Syed Usman-ul-Hassan, Justice of Peace, Korangi; Mr. Ayub Usman, Activist, Korangi; Mr. Malik Akhtar, DSP, Traffic Police,



Korangi; and Mr. Shahid Kaim Khaini, Coordinator, District Peace Committee, Korangi.

SHRC had remained engaged with the above-mentioned stakeholders during its visits and outreach to resolve the challenges of the industrial area, which reportedly, is the eighth largest industrial district in the world. However, the area residents and commuters suffer much due to civic and traffic mismanagement that frequently leads to road mishaps which have also resulted in the loss of life. Moreover, congestion and noise pollution also cause much distress to the residents.

SHRC remained engaged with stakeholders in the Korangi industrial area, where area residents and commuters complained of civic and traffic mismanagement.

A detailed discussion was held on the need for increasing the capacity of traffic management personnel and the police force.

Stakeholders also exchanged notes on the necessary rules and equipment for traffic management, data gathering to document accidents and road mishaps to develop an effective plan of action for traffic regulation, and regulating of heavy vehicles in the area. SHRC announced to turn this into a series of engagement and consultation sessions to ensure the designing and implementation of a plan of action to protect Korangi's citizens.

Engagement with Treaty Implementation Cell

SHRC is a member of the Treaty Implementation Cell. The Cells have been established at the federal and provincial levels for the purpose of supervising, coordinating, monitoring and implementing treaties outlined in GSP+ (that covers major human rights conventions). In Sindh, the provincial Human Rights Department hosts the Treaty Implementation Cell. SHRC member Zulfiqar Shah who is also an expert on GSP+ mechanisms has been providing technical support to TIC.

In 2022, Pakistan has been required to submit a state report for the 4th Universal Periodic Review of the country. In technical terms, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. Under the process, each state shares the list of actions taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations.

Responding to the TIC's call to submit a report as per the matrix designed for Pakistan's submission on UPR, SHRC made a timely submission to the Department of Human Rights. The Commission has been actively taking part in all follow-ups to ensure a solid contribution to the picture of the implementation of human rights treaties in the province of Sindh.



Capacity Building Workshop for Establishment of Human Rights Coordination and Monitoring Unit; October 11, 2021; Karachi

SHRC was invited for a capacity building workshop for the establishment of a Human Rights Coordination and Monitoring Unit by the Federal Ministry of Human Rights. The workshop was a part of the mandate of the Federal Ministry of Human Rights to coordinate the activities of ministries, divisions and provincial governments in respect of human rights and take initiatives for harmonization of legislation, regulations and practices with the international human rights convention and agreements to which Pakistan is a party. The key human rights data collection mechanisms pursued by the Government of Pakistan include SDGs Human Rights Indicators, Draft National Human Rights Indicators, HRIMS, and Universal Periodic Review. The planned process seeks to feed into the said mechanisms for harmonised and institutionalised data management on developments in human rights. SHRC staff took part in the sessions and also provided feedback on relevant mechanisms.

Orientation Meetings

Another part of SHRC's routine is internal outreach to government ministries and departments relevant to the human rights context. These departments selected for outreach are mainly those whose role has been marked in resolving human rights violation complaints filed with SHRC. SHRC regularly communicates with these departments to seek their response to address those complaints.



SHRC team held an orientation meeting with Mr. Ali Ahmed Baloch, Secretary Law, Parliamentary Affairs & Criminal Prosecution Department along with his team members namely Dr. Liaquat Ali Abro, Law Officer, Mr. Nadeem Ahmed Qureshi, Law Officer and Mr. Farooq in May, 2021 at his office.



Meeting with Deputy Secretary Mines & Minerals Department Mr. Ghulam Abbas Jhatial in April, 2021 at his office.

SHRC has therefore undertaken an active process of outreach to nominate departmental focal persons for coordination and quick response to SHRC's communication so that complaints are closed on time. For this purpose, exclusive meetings are sought with department secretaries to orient them with SHRC's mandate, operations, and process and stress the importance of their cooperation. These meetings are led by SHRC PRO and Superintendent Complaints Inquires and Suo-Moto.



In 2021-22, the following departments were reached out for orientation and appointment of focal persons:

1. School Education & Literacy Department, Government of Sindh. Meeting held with Secretary, Ghulam Akbar Laghari
2. Human Rights Department Government of Sindh. Meeting held with Secretary Mr. Jawed Sibghatullah Mahar.
3. Environment, Climate Change & Costal Development Department, Government of Sindh. Meeting held with Secretary Mr. Abdul Rahim Shaikh.
4. Mines & Minerals Department, Government Of Sindh. Meeting held with Deputy Secretary Mr. Ghulam Abbas Jhatial.
5. Provincial Assembly of Sindh. Meeting held with Secretary Assembly Mr. G.M. Umer Farooq.
6. Law, Parliamentary Affairs & Criminal Prosecution Department, Government of Sindh. Meeting held with Secretary Department Mr. Ali Ahmed Balouch.
7. Meeting with Ms. Tanzila Umi Habiba, Special Assistant to CM on Information Science & Technology, Government of Sindh, Karachi



PART

3

Visits



Visits Undertaken by SHRC

According to the mandate underlined in Section 4(iv) and (ix) of the powers of the Commission, SHRC is empowered to “visit, under intimation to Government, any jail or institution under the control of Government where persons are kept or detained or admitted for purpose of treatment, re-formation or protection to see the living conditions of the inmates and make recommendations thereon.”

As a part of this mandate, SHRC organises periodic visits to various parts of Sindh. These visits are led by the Chairperson and members of SHRC. The itinerary is designed to cover an in-depth review of government facilities such as hospitals, jails, and Dar-ul-Amaan, where applicable, a public meeting or *Khulli Kachehri*, a meeting with government officials including district administration, education, health and police officials, bar associations and civil society activists. For all these visits, the Commission is assisted by local focal persons who facilitated meetings and discussions and assist in highlighting the critical issues of the district.

These meetings help in drawing a clearer picture of the local context of the region and facilitate an assessment of the challenges to human rights.

A pertinent feature of these visits is public meetings, titled *Khulli Kachehri* which gives an opportunity to the Commission to meet members public and note their complaints from the region under visit. Police, district and other concerned officials are engaged to resolve complaints either at that very point by issuing necessary letters and orders, or at the earliest. The Commission maintains a follow up of cases upon return to Karachi. These meetings assist the Commission in gaining insights into the human rights challenges on the ground and also establish direct relations and outreach with the public, thereby creating awareness about the Commission's work and mandate.

Moreover, as a key requirement of the mandate of the Commission, the report of the visit and

These visits are led by the Chairperson and members of SHRC. The itinerary is designed to cover an in-depth review of government facilities, and meetings with public, government officials and civil society activists.



the recommendations are formulated by the Commission. These are shared with the departmental secretaries, the office of the Chief Minister of Sindh, and the office of the Chief Secretary. The Commission also maintains a follow-up with the focal persons and local NGOs with regard to independent information on progress in the cases inquired at the district level.

Over the years, the visits have helped build connections with the local stakeholders from the district administrations that pursue swift action in case of complaints about human rights violations. The entire process has assisted in promoting a human rights-centric approach toward public issues at the district level.

From January 2021 to June 2022, the SHRC undertook visits to several districts. The visits were mostly led by Chairperson SHRC Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi, and Judicial-II Muhammad Aslam Shaikh. They were assisted by Superintendents Complaints, Enquiries and Suo Moto Adnan Ali Khaskhely, Zaheer Ahmed and Sarfraz Ahmed Jamali.

The visits can be categorised into three categories:

- I. Periodic visits to the Sukkur office for follow-ups of complaints filed;
- II. Regional visits covering major regions of Sindh;
- III. Special visit to Hyderabad, Larkana and Sukkur to review the conditions and facilities at the Darul Amans and prisons.

Following are the details of the visits organised by SHRC. Recommendations filed by the Commission are presented in a separate section.

I. Periodic Visits to SHRC Sukkur Office

The Sukkur office of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, established in January 2021 has been functional for 1.5 years now. The office was established to respond to a continuous increase in the number of rights violation complaints from the region. Moreover, there was a demand from the local civil society and the general public to open sub-offices in other districts of the province so that complaints can be addressed without delay.



Member Judicial-II Muhammad Aslam Shaikh and SHRC staff with complainants from Sukkur during periodic visit to the regional office for complaint handling and follow ups.



The Sukkur office of the Commission is managed by the local staff that has been trained to file and handle complaints. A system of communication and check-in has been established between the Sukkur office and the SHRC headquarters in Karachi. The cases are transferred to the Karachi office for examination and investigation. The complaints that do not require a hearing are handled at the Sukkur office in accordance with the Commission's protocols.

The Commission leadership in Karachi, including Chairperson SHRC and Members Judicial, make periodic visits to the Sukkur sub-office to manage the hearings and follow through on area-specific complaints filed with the Commission.

SHRC's visits to the Sukkur office mostly led by Member Judicial II Muhammad Aslam Shaikh, took place in the month of February, April, September, and December 2021. These visits have been organised around four key agenda items:

1. Meeting with staff and conducting inquiries and follow-up of earlier cases;
2. Meetings with government officials, police, media, civil society/human rights activists, and other stakeholders. (SHRC uses this opportunity for awareness raising and also for sharing relevant information and educational material on human rights, periodically produced by the Commission)
3. Visits to important institutions such as Dar-ul-Aman and Civil Hospital of district Sukkur to inspect the living conditions and draw follow-up recommendations.
4. Meetings with Deputy Commissioner Sukkur and Larkana to assist with the allotment of office space for SHRC in Larkana.

Sukkur Region's key issues and complaints:

Sukkur is a hot and dry region, divided into five tehsils, namely: Sukkur City, New Sukkur, Rohri, Saleh Pat and Pano Aqil. Ninety six percent of the population is Muslim. The rest of the population is from religious minority communities including the Hindu community.

The total population of the region is 1,487,903 with an almost equal gender balance. According to the census, the urban population is 720,115 while the rural population stands slightly higher at 767,788.

Key issues of the region, that keep appearing in complaints filed and suo moto notices taken by SHRC include violence against women and child abuse. The local civil society also complains of rising poverty and issues of civic management.



Meeting with staff and inquiries and follow-up of earlier cases: In the course of his successive visits to Sukkur in 2021, Member Judicial II SHRC Muhammad Aslam Shaikh conducted hearings with complainants, an arrangement under which the complainants appear before the Commission and submit a statement about their cases. The follow-ups of the earlier pending cases and suo moto notices of fresh cases were also undertaken. Staff meetings are an integral part of these visits whereby administrative and human resource concerns are addressed. Moreover, necessary instructions regarding registration and follow-up of human rights violation complaints and suo motu notices are issued.

Meetings with government officials, police, media, civil society/human rights activists, and other stakeholders

Meetings with government officials: During successive visits, the SHRC team met Rana Adeel, Deputy Commissioner Sukkur, Bushra Manzoor, Assistant Deputy Commissioner-II Sukkur, and Sonia Memon Assistant Deputy Commissioner-I, Larkana. The Deputy Commissioner and assistant commissioners assured SHRC of



Mr. Aslam Shaikh, Judicial Member-II, SHRC had a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Sukkur.

their continued support and coordination to resolve human rights violation complaints in their respective regions. SHRC has also been pursuing the establishment of a zonal office in Larkana. A follow-up with Assistant Deputy Commissioner Larkana has been maintained for this purpose.



Meeting with government officials and civil society in Sukkur.

Meetings with civil society: In the course of successive visits to Sukkur in the reporting period, SHRC organised meetings with members of civil society and local media to assess the situation of human rights in the region.

SHRC also visited community organisations Marvi Rural Development Organization (MRDO), Hope for All (Women Development Centre), and Dar-



ul-Atfal (a safe house for children) during these visits. Apart from exploring possibilities for capacity building and collaboration, SHRC also sought to use these meetings to identify key challenges in Sukkur and a way forward to resolve them.

Human rights challenges in Sukkur:

Key issues highlighted in successive meetings and awareness sessions with local stakeholders (members public, activists, representatives of NGOs, and media) in the Sukkur and Larkana regions are listed below:

1. Cases of physical and sexual violence against women and children are increasing day by day.
2. Child abuse in schools and hostels is increasing.
3. Child begging is also increasing with little implementation of anti-begging laws
4. There is rising insecurity and cases of threats against the business community.
5. Harassment of women in the markets is common. However, no action is being taken by the authorities.
6. Child marriage is common in the region and implementation of The Sindh Child Marriages Restraint Act, 2013, is hardly followed up.
7. There is limited awareness among the public and government officials regarding basic laws of human rights. The police and other government departments also refrain from playing a proactive role in resolving public issues. There is a strong need for training and awareness programmes at the UC level for members public, government officials, and special actors such as Nikkah Khanwans and other stakeholders.

Issues in Larkana:

During outreach sessions, civil society in Larkana raised the following concerns:

1. Similar to Sukkur, child abuse cases are registering an increase in Larkana.
2. There is an increase in the number of unattended dog bite cases. Due to the unavailability of rabies vaccines, affected citizens have to go to Karachi to seek medical help.

SHRC took note of the issues and devised recommendations accordingly.



Visit to Dar-ul-Aman and Civil Hospital, Sukkur

Dar-ul-Aman Sukkur

This visit was made on September 8, 2021. SHRC's team included Member Judicial II Muhammad Aslam Shaikh, Farzana Khoso, Member Gender Based Violence Sub Committee SHRC, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Superintendent Complaints, Karachi, and Yasir Shaikh Superintendent Complaints, Sukkur.



SHRC Member Judicial-II Muhammad Aslam Shaikh, along with the Commission team visited Darul Aman Sukkur and reviewed the status of facilities at the shelter home for women.

The Dar-ul-Aman team highlighted that the shelter for women receives very limited budget allocation which impacts the provision of basic facilities. This adds much distress to the women seeking recourse in the facility.

The team met Assistant Director Dar-ul-Aman, Ghaffar Taheem, who briefed the Commission on the background and conditions at the Dar-ul Aman.

It was observed by the Commission that the facility remains under-resourced with poor furniture and daily use items. The Darul Aman team highlighted that the shelter for women receives very limited budget allocation which impacts the provision of basic facilities. This adds much distress to the women seeking recourse in the facility who are already affected by violence and trauma.

Member Judicial-II SHRC Muhammad Aslam Shaikh, filed recommendations that the budget of Dar-ul-Aman Sukkur be enhanced and the facility be equipped with good furniture and other facilities.

Ghulam Muhammad Mahar Hospital, District Sukkur:

The visit was organised on December 10, 2021. Member Judicial-II Muhammad Aslam Shaikh along with his team comprising with Sarfraz Ahmed, Superintendent, Complaints & Inquiries Suo-Motu, Dr. Aisha Dharejo, and Advocate Farzana Khoso, Members Gender Based Violence Committee, SHRC led the visit.

The Ghulam Muhammad Mahar Hospital comprises 800 beds. Select services of the hospital



such as gynaecology and child emergency sections are being run under the public-private partnership. The team met Dr. Farooq Channa, Chief Operating Officer of the hospital. He apprised the team of the key issues:

1. The post of Medical Superintendent has been lying vacant for two months.
2. There are no funds available for the purchase of medicines.
3. There is an acute shortage of doctors, paramedics, and specialists in the hospital.
4. There is sizeable traffic at the main gate of the hospital which has been obstructing the movement of the patients and ambulances.

II. Regional Visits

SHRC undertook regional visits, covering major districts of Sindh. Details of the visits are presented below:

North Region

Chairperson Sindh Human Rights Commission Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi undertook a visit to the districts of Dadu and Qambar Shahdadkot. In 2021, SHRC had received frequent complaints of violence against women, compromised civic amenities, and poor education and health facilities in the region. The visit was undertaken from April 6 to 12, 2021. Apart from following the traditional itinerary of meeting with government officials, civil society, District and Session Judge, civil judges & Judicial Magistrate, Chairperson SHRC also conducted public hearings with the local civil society in both the districts. On her way back, she and her team participated in consultations on forced conversion, and the rights of peasants and rural workers organised by civil society in Hyderabad.

District Dadu

At Dadu, Chairperson SHRC Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi held a public hearing in Darbar Hall at the Deputy Commissioner Dadu, Sami Nisar Shaikh's office. MPA Kulsoom Chandio, DC Sami Nisar Shaikh, SSP Aijaz Ahmed Shaikh, officials of various departments, representatives of civic and utility agencies as well as civil society activists attended the public hearing.

Key issues highlighted by the local stakeholders in the public hearing are summed up below:



Violence against women:

In terms of violence against women, Senior Superintendent Police Aijaz Ahmed Shaikh shared that the cases of honour killing, though frequent in the past, have not been reported this year. In 2020, fifteen cases of honour killings were reported in the district. He did,

however, emphasise that reporting of cases of sexual violence against women is on the rise. A total of eight such cases were registered last year and another four by April 2021, at various police stations in the district. SHRC was informed that all the accused nominated in these cases have been arrested and produced in courts. It was also informed that the district has a Women Complaint Cell due to which reporting of the cases of violence against women has increased. While 500 cases were registered last year, the first quarter of 2021 (ongoing then) had seen 70 cases registered.

Participants in the meeting also stressed that due to serious security threats faced by women, the deployment of women constables, and female medico-legal officers is critical in Dadu. They also emphasised the need for shelter homes for women in the region to ensure women's protection and recourse against violence.

Civic amenities:

The district suffers from a number of civic issues including poor access to safe drinking water, which is provided to citizens only after midnight. Participants stressed that it is very difficult, especially for women, to get water from the locally installed pumps as there is no proper security arrangement for their protection at late night.

MPA Kulsoom Chandio who represents the district in the provincial assembly informed that electricity load-shedding of 10-12 hours a day was being conducted in the district, paralysing citizens' routine life. This was in addition to frequent gas load-shedding in the region. It was demanded that the government should launch a special scheme for access to solar electricity systems for common citizens so that they can deal with increasing load-shedding and rising temperature levels.



Chairperson SHRC conducted a public hearing with the local civil society in Dadu.

Participants stressed that due to serious security threats faced by women in Dadu, there is critical need for the deployment of women constables and female medico-legal officers.



Child labour:

Child protection is a critical concern in district Dadu as stakeholders note serious deficits in access to functional educational facilities. As a result, children are joining the workforce as child labour which is further compromising their future.

Participants at the public hearing drew the attention of Chairperson SHRC to the high rate of child labour in the district. Currently, over 400 schools are lying closed in the district. The schools that are open do not have functional amenities which is discouraging enrolment. It was also shared that a number of seminaries have been operating in the region. Only a few of these seminaries are registered with the government, while a large number remain unregistered.

There is also a need for staff recruitment at the Social Welfare Department in the region.

Participants also complained about the absence of labour officers in the district. In the absence of a labour officer, it is impossible to initiate any action to curb child labour.

Healthcare facilities:

The healthcare facilities in the district are similarly compromised, comprising dysfunctional hospitals, and the absence of basic machinery such as digital X-ray or PCR machines.

Participants complained that a 430-bed hospital, under work for eight years, has still not been completed.

Poor healthcare facilities are adding to the distress of the local citizens.

Qambar Shahdadkot

Similar to Dadu, Chairperson SHRC also conducted a public meeting/*Khulli Kachehri* in Qambar Shahdadkot. The meeting was held at Town Hall, Shahdadkot. The following key issues were highlighted by the local civil society and members community.



Khulli Kachehri in Qambar Shahdadkot.





Healthcare facilities:

Healthcare in the district remains acutely compromised with the lack of basic facilities, shortage of medicines and absence of female doctors in the Taluka Hospital. There is no local ambulance available. The district needs specialised facilities such as a blood bank for Thalassaemia and HIV patients, and a cardiovascular hospital among other facilities. SHRC was informed that all equipment in the local Trauma Centre have been stolen.

Education facilities:

Local schools lack washrooms and security for students, while BSC classes have remained suspended at district degree colleges for long. SHRC was informed that a number of public schools have been under construction for ten years, yet remain dysfunctional.

Qambar Shahdadkot also struggles with electricity and drinking water shortage. Illegal occupation of land is reported to be common. Locals also flagged the need for a Lady Police Station and a safe house for women to provide security to female survivors of violence and threats.

Peasants rights:

Chairperson SHRC, along with Sindh Assembly member and Chairman of Public Accounts Committee, Ghulam Qadir Chandio, also attended a seminar organised by Hari Welfare Association (HWA) in Nawabshah during the visit to the region. Discussing the condition of peasants, speakers observed lack of registration as per Sindh Tenancy Act of 1950. This leads to a fundamental restriction against agriculture workers' right to claim their share in the harvest. HWA President Akram Ali Khaskheli also pointed to the lack of accountability of the landlords who openly practice bonded labour. While peasants are released from the custody of the landlords under judicial orders, no cases are lodged against the landlords, nor does the police take any initiative on behalf of the state (under Section 491 of the Criminal Procedure Code of 1898).

Chairperson SHRC observed that this matter needs a coordinated strategy as there is a need for amendments in the bonded labour legislation to improve the implementation mechanism of the law. As a follow-up, the Commission has decided to take this as an agenda item in accordance with its power and functions to review the safeguards provided under the Constitution or any law for the protection of human rights.

Kahsmore and Jacobabad

SHRC visited Kashmore and Jacobabad in December 2021. The visits were led by Member



Judicial II, Muhammad Aslam Shaikh. The visits included meeting with district officials and local civil society. SHRC team also took up complaints from the public. Details of the visits are as follows:

District Kashmore

District Kashmore-Kandhkot was created in 2004, by way of the bifurcation of district Jacobabad. The headquarter of district Kashmore is situated at Kandhkot. Kashmore is a border district, surrounded by the provinces of Punjab and Balochistan. The district has a population of 1,089,169, with women comprising 48% of the population. Seventy six percent of the population lives in the rural areas.

The Sindh Human Rights Commission team visited Kashmore on December 8, 2021. The visit started with a meeting with government officials, local police, media and other stakeholders at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner, Kashmore-Kandhkot office. Participants from civil society included President Bar Association, Syed Sikandar Ali, and social activists Advocate Zahid Ali, Naseebullah Khoso, and Mohammad Ibrahim Kishori, among others.

Key issues of the district shared by the participants are listed as:

1. There is an acute shortage of female doctors/staff in the Civil Hospital.
2. There is similarly a shortage of female police constables, which impacts response to crimes against women as male police avoid intervention in cases related to women. Women litigants feel unsafe as no female police constables are deployed in the courts of Kashmore and Kandhkot.
3. Follow-up of development work is severely inadequate. Tenders for infrastructure work are frequently passed, however, no work in progress is seen.
4. The district has no facility for safe drinking water.
5. The inadequate performance of the Revenue Department has been affecting the registration of property documents.

District Kashmore is plagued by cases of violence against women, enforced disappearances and poor follow up of development work.



SHRC Member Judicial-II and team held a meeting with government officials, local police, media and other stakeholders at the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Kashmore-Kandhkot.



6. A growing human rights violation challenge in the region is enforced disappearances. Social activist Naseebullah Khoso raised the issue of the enforced disappearance of his father. He shared that despite repeated complaints, the police have not taken any action.
7. The issue of ghost recruitment in local schools is also common.

District Jacobabad

District Jacobabad is divided into three Talukas namely: Garhi Khairo, Jacobabad and Thul. The total population of the district is 1,006,297, out of which only 490,778 are females and 39 are transgenders. The district is mostly rural as 70% of the population is living in the rural areas of the district.

The absence of safe spaces is encouraging crimes against women in Jacobabad.

SHRC team led by Member Judicial-II Muhammad Aslam Shaikh met local stakeholders including district officials, police and civil society at Deputy Commissioner Jacobabad's office on December 9, 2021.

Key issues highlighted by participants included:

1. There is a shortage of sanitary staff in Jacobabad. Only 150 sanitary workers have been working as permanent employees. This is inadequate for a population of one million.
2. There is a shortage of drinking water in the region.
3. There has been an increase in cases of honour killing in the region. The Dar-ul-Aman building has been under construction in Jacobabad for the past five years. The absence of safe spaces is encouraging crimes against women.
4. Activist Jan Odhano pointed to the lack of coordination between government officials in responding to the cases of human rights violations in the district.

Member Judicial II Muhammad Aslam Shaikh took note of the complaints shared by the local community and assured of filing recommendations and following through with concerned officials.

South Region:

Karachi

This year, SHRC undertook a special purpose visit to Korangi, Karachi responding to growing complaints of the absence of civic facilities in the area and the need for mobilisation of



relevant stakeholders to address the problems of the industrial hub of the city.

The day-long visit to Korangi on February 3, 2022 was arranged around a two-point agenda:

1. *Khulli Kachehri* /public meeting in the office of the Deputy Commissioner at District Korangi, Karachi.
2. Visit to Indus Hospital and the Korangi Press Club to assess service delivery issues at the local level and devise interventions accordingly.



Meeting with the leadership of the Korangi Press Club in Karachi.



Member Judicial-II Muhammad Aslam Shaikh held a meeting with government officials and civil society in Korangi, Karachi.

1. *Khulli Kachehri*

Khulli Kachehri was organised at the office of ADC-II Korangi, Nawaz Kalwar. Apart from community members, participants also included Nazir Fatima, Additional Director and Kaleemullah, representing the Social Welfare Department; Advocate Nauman Hassan from Justice and Peace Organisation; and Dr Naeem, Medical Superintendent Saudabad Hospital, among others.

Judicial Member II SHRC Muhammad Aslam Shaikh gave a briefing on SHRC's mandate and powers. During the discussion, key issues of the Korangi Industrial Area, that had a bearing on the safety and rights of the public, were discussed. These can be summed up as:

1. There are no traffic signals installed at the main crossings and roundabouts in Korangi. Traffic signals are also needed around the local educational institutions as traffic load increases during the opening and closing time of the local schools, leading to accidents and safety risks to students commuting to schools. There is heavy traffic on the road towards Defence and Korangi. According to the local community, there has been no response from related

The poor state of public transport in Korangi results in distress for the large number of daily wage workers that provide labour to the factories in the zone.



departments to several correspondences made to address the issue of traffic regulation. SHRC was urged by the community to use its offices to organise a special meeting with DIG Traffic, the Deputy Commissioner, Korangi, Karachi, and stakeholders to devise an intervention.

2. There is a need for public transport on important routes in the area. The absence of public transport in the industrial zone results in distress for the large number of daily wage workers that provide labour to the factories in the region.
3. The local community also highlighted frequent challans of local rickshaws over baseless pretexts. It was stressed that checks on local traffic police be maintained so that the public and transport providers can find relief.

In view of the widespread traffic-related complaints, Member Judicial-II constituted a committee to reach out to relevant stakeholders to formulate solutions for the problems of traffic regulation. The committee comprises local activists, Deputy Commissioner, and SSP Traffic Korangi.

Other issues pointed out in the *kachehri* included:

1. The cultivation of vegetables in the area is almost entirely done using industrial and drainage water. The poisonous water leads to several health hazards for the city residents as these products are transported to the city for sale. There is a serious need for the installation and regulation of treatment plants in the Korangi industrial zone so that the waste emanating from the industry can be addressed.
2. Adding to the distress of the community is the growing shortage of safe drinking water for the area residents.
3. The issue of street crimes, snatching, and kidnapping in District Korangi is a serious threat to the safety of the local residents as well as the business community and the staff of factories that commute to the area every day.
4. Basic facilities such as street lights are also absent on the streets.
5. Garbage collection remains a pertinent issue. Even local hospitals and schools struggle to manage waste disposal in the absence of relevant facilities. It was stressed that Korangi needs a functional garbage disposal system owing to the high population and industrial activity in the zone.
6. Local stakeholders informed that the industrial hub of Korangi provides employment to close to 0.7 million workers. However, there is no system to ensure that these workers - the majority being informal contractual employees - receive the minimum wage



announced by the government. There needs to be a stronger mechanism and presence of regulatory authority on the ground to ensure workers receive their wages and access to occupational health and safety measures, medical facilities, and social protection, as stipulated in the constitution as well as provided for in the law.

Medical Director Indus Hospital emphasised the need for the establishment of "Acute Emergency Services" so that the uptake of emergency cases is improved.

2. Visit to Indus Hospital and the Korangi Press Club:

On the sideline of the Korangi visit, Member Judicial II Muhammad Aslam Shaikh also visited Indus Hospital Korangi, Karachi. The Indus Hospital is a tertiary care multidisciplinary hospital that is providing free-of-cost services to patients.

Medical Director Indus Hospital Dr. Ashar Alam briefed the Commission on the facilities provided by the hospital. He highlighted that the hospital deals with 600 emergency patients per day despite having limited capacity. He stressed the need for expanding the capacity of other government hospitals with "Acute Emergency Service" so that the uptake of emergency cases is improved. Member Judicial committed to taking up this matter with the Health Department, Government of Sindh.

Member Judicial-II, SHRC also visited District Press Club Korangi, Karachi, and met with Oshaq Ali Meerani, President, District Press Club Korangi and other media representatives. He noted the complaints of the local media regarding facilities in the area and assured them of SHRC's role in recommending relevant actions.

Central and South Region

Towards the year-end, the SHRC team, led by Chairperson Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi, visited Tando Allahyar, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, and Hyderabad. During the course of the visit, meetings were conducted with government officials, judiciary and civil society in the district.

Tando Allahyar

In the first stop of the week-long journey, SHRC team visited Tando Allahyar on November 30, 2021. The team held meetings with Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar, Wali Mohammad Baloch, Senior Superintendent of Police,

Key issues highlighted in TAY include the prevalence of child labour, poor working conditions for workers in the industrial and mining sectors, water and sanitation deficits, poor facilities at educational institutions and healthcare facilities, and the need for special focus on immunization coverage and HIV screening.



Rukhsar Khuhawar, Additional Deputy Commissioner and assistant commissioners of Tando Allahyar, along with officers representing various government departments in the district.

Chairperson SHRC presented a briefing on SHRC's work and the need for a human rights-centric approach in the public departments in line with the human rights obligations of the state.



Chairperson SHRC was given a roundup on key human rights challenges including child rights, protection of women, labour rights, and the prevailing law and order situation in the district. Issues highlighted include the prevalence of child labour, the poor state of working conditions for workers employed in the industrial and mining sectors, water and sanitation deficits, poor facilities at the primary and secondary educational institutions, poor healthcare infrastructure in the district, and the need for special focus on immunization coverage and HIV/Hepatitis screening in the district. Small landowners and farmers also complained of agriculture water theft in the district.

Chairperson SHRC issued instructions to the provincial Labour Department to address child labour through regular inspections at local brick kilns, sugar mills and workshops.

A separate meeting was also organized with the judges of the District and Sessions Court in Tando Allahyar. The District and Sessions Judge Ambreen Shaikh gave a presentation on the trends in human rights violation cases addressed by the court. She also shared the details of the recently installed special facilities such as drinking water stations, benches and toilets installed for prisoners and litigants.

Sanghar

SHRC organised a *khulli kachehri* in Sanghar on December 1, 2021. The public meeting was attended by more than 150 community members. A series of complaints were noted.

The team also visited a pre-partition church at Padri Jo Goth. The church officials and



community discussed various issues being faced by the residents of the locality. Chairperson SHRC directed the accompanying government officials to establish a hotline with the church administration so that the problems of the local community are addressed on a priority basis.

Mirpurkhas

Chairperson SHRC visited district Mirpurkhas on December 2, 2021. The SHRC team met Deputy Commissioner Salamat Ali Memon, SSP Captain Mohammad Asad Chaudhry, Additional Deputy Commissioner, and Senior Superintended Police, along with representatives of various government departments, police, civil society activists, and the media. In addition, representatives of the local trade and business community also participated in a meeting held at Darbar Hall in Mirpurkhas.

Key issues pointed out by the participants include shortage of teaching staff in schools and doctors in the local hospitals, low salaries in private educational institutions, absence of a proper system for clean drinking water, water shortage, water theft, and cases of bonded labour and child labour. The local community also highlighted the deplorable environmental conditions of the district, compounded by the lack of solid waste management and sewage water treatment facilities. The district needs landfill sites to address the growing sanitation issues. The district also has a serious problem of narcotics use. The local community informed that there have been over 40 deaths owing to drug addiction in recent months.

Recommendations

As a matter of practice, SHRC prepares a set of recommendations following the visits.

These recommendations are then shared with the concerned departments of the Sindh government. SHRC Chairperson and Members Judicial also personally follow up on the recommendations by making calls and organising meetings. The focal persons nominated by respective departments are also approached for periodic updates.

The recommendations filed following successive visits in the reporting period are presented in this section.

Sukkur

- ◆ A district-level engagement plan needs to be devised to organise human rights awareness sessions directed at community activists, government officials, police, religious scholars and other stake-holders.



- ◆ Special trainings for the police department need to be initiated covering human rights laws.
- ◆ A training programme for government officials, Nikkah Khanwans and other stakeholders regard-ing The Sindh Child Marriages Restraint Act, 2013 needs to be designed for effective implemen-tation of the law.
- ◆ Community centers need to be built at every union council.
- ◆ Business community in Sukkur should be provided special security for protection from harassment and threats during their work.
- ◆ Special efforts need to be undertaken to activate child protection units in every district of the province.
- ◆ District Legal Committee may be established in every district.

Larkana

- ◆ There is a need to revisit the penalties of the laws relating to kidnapping, rape, and child abuse.
- ◆ The government must undertake an assessment of the availability of rabies vaccines in gov-ernment hospitals all across the province. Humane solutions such as a Trap Neuter Vaccine and Release (TNVR) campaign need to be launched to control the dog population and elim-inate disease risk.

Jacobabad

- ◆ Violence against women is a major problem in the north/Kaccho region of Sindh. There is a need to launch a human rights awareness campaign in district Jacobabad and its surrounding areas on special themes such as honour killing, child marriage, and human rights.
- ◆ There is an urgent need for completion of the Darul Aman building in Jacobabad.
- ◆ The government should take special measures to improve the water supply and infrastructure sys-tem in the area.
- ◆ The local government should recruit sanitary workers as permanent workers to address the sanitary and municipal issues of Jacobabad.



Kashmore

- ◆ Registration of false FIRs needs to be controlled and monitored.
- ◆ Monitoring of ghost teachers is required.
- ◆ Lady police constables need to be deployed in courts of district Kashmore.
- ◆ Lady doctors need to be appointed in the Civil Hospital of Kashmore.

Karachi

- ◆ There is needed a committee to address the traffic regulation challenges and frequent road accidents in the Korangi area, Karachi.
- ◆ There is an urgent need for installation of traffic signals at major roundabouts of the Korangi zone.
- ◆ SHRC shall reach out to the Environmental Department and related authorities to discuss the need for directing owners of factories in Korangi to install waste treatment plants, so that the pollutant waste does not poison ground water in the area.
- ◆ Street lights need to be installed in entire district Korangi.
- ◆ SHRC shall work with the Labour Department and other stakeholders to highlight the concerns of the workers employed in the Korangi area. There is need for implementation of labour laws and ensure access to minimum wage and other protections to workers in accordance with the law.
- ◆ There is needed for a comprehensive system of garbage disposal from schools, medical facilities and government buildings across the Korangi area. Garbage points need to be installed at designated spots for this purpose.
- ◆ The Health Department should establish a well-equipped "Acute Emergency Service" in every government hospital and healthcare centers to deal with emergency cases.



III. Chairperson SHRC's Special visit to Districts Hyderabad, Larkana and Sukkur

March 9-12, 2022

In addition to regional visits undertaken at different points in the reporting period, the Sindh Human Rights Commission also led three division-level visits with the special purpose to follow up on reports of deteriorating law and order conditions and oversee safety and quality standards in Dar-ul-Amans and jails. This is in line with SHRC's mandate to "visit institutions under the control of Government where persons are kept or detained or admitted for purpose of treatment, reformation or protection to see the living conditions of the inmates and make recommendations thereon".

The visit undertaken in Hyderabad, Larkana and Sukkur, included an inspection of Dar-ul-Aman at Hyderabad and Larkana, and Central Prison Larkana.

In Larkana and Sukkur divisions, the Commission focused on intensive outreach and deliberations on the deteriorating law and order situation due to tribal clashes frequently reported from the two divisions. Apart from taking suo moto notices on the rising cases of human rights violations due to tribal clashes in Kashmore, Jacobabad and Kandhkot, the Commission has been maintaining concerted outreach to develop interventions to address rights violations resulting from lawlessness in the region. Earlier in 2019, the Commission had conducted an inquiry in district Shikarpur over a complaint about tribal clashes over a minor dispute leading to loss of lives and properties of the members of both tribes.

In Larkana and Sukkur divisions, the Commission focused on intensive outreach and deliberations on the deteriorating law and order situation due to tribal clashes frequently reported from the two regions.

Following up on multiple cases from the region, SHRC has identified a systemic trend of human rights violations including the prevalence of the jirga system, and violence against women (specifically trafficking of young girls, honour violence and domestic violence). Moreover, there is a lack of education and health facilities, an absence of infrastructure and a severe electricity crisis.

All these issues of rights violations and poor development come together to create extreme vulnerability for the local population, particularly the marginalised segments such as women and children. At the community level, the loss of lives and livelihood increases social distress leading to conflicts.



The Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi, along with her team initiated a visit to Hyderabad, Larkana and Sukkur. Details of the visit are shared below:

Visit to Dar-ul-Aman, Hyderabad

The Sindh Human Rights Commission team led by Chairperson SHRC conducted a visit to Dar-ul-Aman on March 9, 2022, and inspected the facility. In-Charge Dar-ul-Aman Hyderabad, Ms. Zubaida Thaheem briefed the Chairperson on the details of the facilities and conditions at the government-run shelter for women.

At the time of the visit, Dar-ul-Aman Hyderabad was home to 15 women and six children, against the capacity of 15.

While inspecting the centre which included two rooms, two washrooms, one kitchen and a small beauty parlour run by the residents, the Commission observed the space to be inadequate to house around two dozen people currently using the facility. The Commission found the cleanliness and maintenance to be up to standard. The facility also offered basic education and vocational training to the inmates.



Chairperson SHRC was informed about the financial challenges at Dar-ul-Aman Hyderabad.

However, there is no basic staff such as a housekeeper. The Commission was informed that two women staffers stay at night for vigilance and protection purposes. Mandatory services, as enshrined in the Guidelines for Dar-ul-Amans Sindh (formulated by the Government of Sindh), such as emergency medical care, psychological counselling, and security through police guards or private guards were also not provided. There was also a need for the installation of an Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) to deal with the prolonged load-shedding in summer.

Another problem identified by the In Charge Darul Aman was the legal cases of the inmates which had been pending for years following initial proceedings. The legal limbo is not only a source of mental distress for women staying at Darul Aman, it is also preventing the women to move on to the next phase of their lives as they await the court ruling. Moreover, it is also a stretch on the resources of the Darul Aman.



Chairperson SHRC instructed the In-Charge to maintain a record of the visits of the residents to the courts, and communicate required interventions to the relevant departments. She was advised to contact SHRC for a follow-up.

The Commission was informed of the financial challenges of Darul Aman. This was not only resulting in restricting access to day-to-day items, it was also preventing the completion of an under-constructed building aimed at expanding the facility. SHRC was requested to take up the matter of funds release with the Women Development Department that oversees the shelter homes for women.

Visit to Dar-ul-Aman, Larkana

SHRC team, led by Chairperson Sindh Human Rights Commission, conducted a visit to Dar-ul-Aman Larkana on March 10, 2022.

Shamim Ara Abro, In-Charge Dar-ul-Aman Larkana briefed the Chairperson on the conditions and facilities at the shelter home for women.

At the time of the visit, the shelter housed 16 residents 14 women and two children. The inmates belonged to different districts of the Larkana division and surrounding districts such as Dadu.



Chairperson SHRC Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi met the administration of the Dar-ul-Aman Larkana.

The facility included a well-maintained dispensary equipped with first aid and medical emergency facilities and a doctor deputed by the provincial health department.

SHRC was informed that apart from seasonal allergies, cases of scabies are frequently reported at the center. The affected inmates are kept separate in order to contain the spread of the disease.

Similar to Hyderabad, basic informal education and vocational training, focusing on arts and crafts, had also been arranged at the shelter house. SHRC was informed that periodic exhibitions are organised to market the work of the residents in collaboration with different NGOs.



While Darul Aman Larkana presented a satisfactory picture in terms of access to basic amenities, security was one of the major concerns at the facility. The shelter does not have any female staff or female police officers at night time to ensure security. Only one security guard is present in the daytime. Chairperson SHRC directed the In-Charge to write to the concerned department to request security.

Visit to the Central Prison and Correctional Facility, Larkana

The SHRC team visited Central Prison and Correctional Facility at Larkana on March 10, 2022. The visit was an effort to follow up on consistent news reports about clashes and unruly behaviour by the inmates leading to serious security breaches. The Jail Correctional Facility has recently been accorded the status of a central prison.

The visit commenced with a briefing by Superintendent of Police Central Prison, Ashfaque Ahmed Kalwar who shared key recent developments at the prison. The Sindh Human Rights Commission team, led by Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi then went on to conduct an inspection of the jail facility.

The key issues of the prison are overcrowding and poor security situation.



Larkana Jail Correctional Facility has recently been accorded the status of a central prison.



Chairperson SHRC Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi was informed that the key issues of the Larkana prison were overcrowding and poor security situation.

At the time of SHRC's visit, the prison was housing 1,539 inmates against the total authorized capacity of 650. The building structure of the jail had significantly deteriorated due to poor maintenance. The judicial complex at the facility was also found to be non-functional. However, SHRC was informed that there are plans to renovate it to make it functional in the next budget cycle. Waste bins were also required to manage sanitation at the premises. The Commission was informed that the inmates have been actively involved in criminal activities inside the facility due to a lack of control by the prison administration.



There was no segregation of prisoners on the basis of condemned, convicted; lifer or under-trial prisoners. This has been posing a risk to the security situation at the prison. A new set of watch towers had been installed. Other security equipment and procedures to check criminal activities were being planned by the jail authorities.

In terms of care facilities, the prison had a reasonably functioning healthcare structure managed by two doctors on deputation. Patients requiring special care in lieu of medical conditions such as diabetes etc were provided with the required diet. The Commission did note the absence of facilities to cater for the mentally unsound prisoners.

Responding to requests for intervention to improve facilities at the Central Jail, Larkana, SHRC Chairperson assured that the Commission will follow up for arranging the required assistance.

Responding to requests for intervention to improve facilities at the Central Jail, Larkana, SHRC Chairperson assured that the Commission will follow up for arranging the required assistance.

Reviewing Law and Order in Larkana and Sukkur

A key agenda of the Larkana and Sukkur visit was to acquire an assessment of the law and order situation in the two divisions where some regions are hotbeds of tribal conflict. The warring parties still turn to the jirga system for the settlement of their disputes. The parallel justice system promotes major violations of human rights such as honour killing, forced marriage, child marriage, sang chati and other such outlawed practices.

The Sindh Human Rights Commission seeks to develop a plan of action for intervention to protect human rights in conflict-marred regions. Visits to Larkana and Sukkur to acquire a first-hand assessment of the state of conflicts and the resultant human rights implications were undertaken for this purpose.



In Larkana, a meeting between SHRC and SSP Larkana Zone presented an opportunity to discuss the law and order challenges of the region.



Meeting in Larkana

In Larkana, a meeting between SHRC and SSP Larkana zone Sarfraz Nawaz Shaikh took place on March 11, 2022. Chairperson SHRC Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi chaired the meeting that also had participation from police officials, including four women police officers. Member Sindh Assembly and member SHRC Ms Farhat Seemen also attended the meeting.

Tribal clashes

Responding to SHRC's concerns over human rights violations, violence against women and the jirga system in the Larkana division, a briefing by senior police officials was made. The police officials pointed to the documented causes of the clashes that range from land disputes, theft of livestock, accusations of adultery and dispute over money lending.

Highlighting the rise in the reported cases of honour killings, SHRC was informed that in 2021, over seventy cases of honour killings were reported from Larkana alone. SHRC attributes it to the gap in the implementation of the legislation and a weak prosecution in the court. Moreover, the police's tendency to rely mainly on ocular evidence instead of forensic evidence compromises conviction, since witness protection is a pressing issue in honour-related crimes.

The jirga system which is akin to a parallel justice system is known to pass anti-women and regressive penalties promoting human rights violations. The system, prevalent for years, has now been declared illegal and a formal law on alternate dispute resolution has been introduced. However, reports and eyewitnesses suggest that not only this system continues unabated, police officials also participate and support the implementation of the jirga ruling.

SHRC took issue on the subject with the police officials that participated in the meeting. The police officials denied the impression, stressing that the department has pursued several FIRs against some of the decisions made by the jirgas. The Commission was also apprised that preemptive measures are taken at times to prevent jirgas but the police face opposition from the conflicting parties. Police authorities admitted that while alternate dispute resolution is one useful alternative, however, neither any rules have been formulated nor efforts have been made to make it an acceptable medium for the resolution of issues.

The jirga system, which is akin to a parallel justice system, is known to pass anti-women and regressive penalties promoting human rights violations.



Sensing the issue as alarming, SHRC is working on establishing a committee with the provincial police. The committee shall work on pressing the concerned authorities to chalk out the Rules of Business of the ADR legislation and devise a plan of action for the community leaders to switch to ADR mechanisms.

Meetings with police officials in Sukkur

SHRC team led by the Chairperson visited district Sukkur from March 11 to 14, 2022. The Chairperson was joined by SHRC Member/MPA Ms. Kulsoom Chandio, Member/MPA Ms. Farhat Seemen and Member Ms. Pushpa Kumari. SHRC had scheduled a special meeting with government officials of Sukkur, Ghotki and Khairpur at the regional office of the Commission at Sukkur. The agenda of the meeting was to discuss the human rights issues of the region including the rights violations resulting from tribal clashes and gender-based violence. The meeting was attended by Deputy Superintendent of Police of Sukkur City, Ilahi Bux Soomro; Assistant Mukhtiarkar Sukkur, Shahmir Bhelan; DSP Ubaro (Ghotki), Rana Nasrullah; DSP Khairpur, Mehdi Raza; and ADC-I Ghotki, Shahid Ali Shah.

Officials of all three districts made separate presentations on tribal clashes and cases of violence against women in their respective regions.

According to the report submitted by DSP Ubaro, in district Ghotki there are seven major tribes engaged in multiple feuds. There have been dozens of casualties in the aforementioned rivalries. Most of the reasons that led to these bloody feuds include theft and abduction. According to police, FIRs have been registered and action taken to contain violence resulting from these clashes.

In district Khairpur, three main tribal conflicts had claimed 25 lives in the last year alone.

Sharing the status of the tribal conflicts in Sukkur, ADC-I informed that most of the tribal conflicts in the region are related to properties that fall under the Revenue Department. He added that in the past, revenue issues were resolved by the Revenue Department. However, now most of the conflicting parties acquire stay orders from the court. As a result, the department is barred from any further action to proceed with a case.

Regarding violence against women, in the Ghotki region, the police representatives informed the police department's efforts of taking prompt action against the perpetrators of honour crimes. According to the details shared by the concerned officials, out of 18 cases reported

In district Khairpur, three major tribal conflicts had claimed 25 lives in the last one year alone.



last year, 40 accused have been booked. Seventeen arrests have been made. Ninety percent of all honour crimes are directed at women, while three men have also been murdered for similar reasons last year.

The police and government officials also shared updates on the prevalence of the jirga system, in Khairpur and Ghotki. It was reported that there has been a reasonable success in containing the practice of jirga in Khairpur. The police take preemptive measures and register cases against those organising jirgas. It was reported that no jirga has been held in Khairpur in the past two years.

The case is, however, different in Ghotki, where jirgas are considered a more accessible, reliable and swift institution of justice. The officials from district Ghotki termed jirgas as effective for conflict resolution but also agreed that the system causes human rights violations.

Recommendations

The purpose of holding deliberations with government officials and undertaking visits to the government facilities in Hyderabad, Larkana and Sukkur was to assess the general human rights challenges and identify areas of intervention for the protection of human rights. The engagement and deliberations indicate that there exists a fair degree of risk to the fundamental rights of vulnerable communities due to a lack of awareness, and non-implementation of laws and rules.

Based on these observations, SHRC drafted a set of recommendations that were shared with the concerned departments following the conclusion of the visits. These recommendations include:

- ◆ The Women Development Department may urgently resolve all the issues including those of overcrowding at the facility and delays in the timely issuance of adequate funds by the district administrations to Dar-ul-Amans.
- ◆ Resources must be made available and adequate measures such as an investigation be conducted, for the Central Prison and Corrections Facility Larkana to address security issues.
- ◆ Any jail in the province including the Central Prison Larkana should not be filled beyond capacity. Efforts must be taken to provide all facilities to the prisoners, as per the Sindh Prisons and Corrections Services Rules, 2019.
- ◆ The prisoners must be kept in different categories in separate barracks. Priority must be



given to supporting prisoners with mental health issues.

- ◆ The Commission shall work in close coordination with the police department of Larkana and Sukkur to arrange advocacy and awareness sessions for greater sensitisation on the issues of gender-based violence, and also other areas identified by the police.
- ◆ The district authorities may work out liaison among the administration, political leaders and tribal elders to persuade them to avoid the jirga system and opt for legitimised dispute resolution institutions. The police authorities may be more vigilant in volatile areas, especially in assessing brewing conditions which may lead to unrest.



PART

4

Special Initiatives



Special Initiatives

As a part of its mandate, SHRC works closely with civil society and NGOs. One of SHRC's powers includes "encourage the efforts of non-governmental organizations and institutions working in the field of human rights." Additionally, the Commission's powers of legislation review from a human rights-centric prism offers an important opportunity for civil society organisations to advance their strategic goals in collaboration with the Commission. SHRC also partners with civil society organisations for research and awareness-raising programmes.

In the past, the Commission has worked with the Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research, Strengthening Participatory Organisation, Democracy Reporting International, Aurat Foundation and Asia Foundation, among others. Important outcomes of these partnerships include institutional capacity-building, research on a variety of human rights themes, promoting UN guiding principles on business and human rights, engagement on GSP+, and designing of a strategic plan for SHRC.

In 2021-2022, the Sindh Human Rights Commission partnered with Aurat Foundation, Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability, and Community World Services Asia for a series of initiatives covering human rights education, legislative amendments, research, and internal capacity-building. A brief overview of these partnership projects is given below.

Partnership with Aurat Foundation

The year-long partnership - spanning June 2021 to May 2022 - between SHRC and Aurat Foundation was titled "Strengthening the Sindh Human Rights Commission for Countering Violent Extremism Oversight and Peace Building".

Directed at developing policy recommendations for elected representatives and the government on countering violent extremism, the legislative area outlined for interventions included civilian victims of terrorism and religious minorities. The policy recommendations were drawn from information collected through a series of activities designed around the components of training, research, and engagement with stakeholders and communities.

The final outcome of the partnership was the draft of two pieces of legislation namely (i) The Sindh Civilian Victims of Terrorism (Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill 2022 (ii) The Sindh



Commission for Protection of Rights of Minorities Bill, 2022. SHRC undertook a thorough review of the two bills to identify gaps and reforms needed while using the knowledge generated from community and stakeholder engagement to strengthen the content of the bills. Following the finalisation of the two bills through a consensus-driven process, the bill on Civilian Victims of Terrorism - Relief and Rehabilitation have been sent to the Law Department and the Finance Department, Government of Sindh for due process. A brief overview of the two legislation shall assist the readers with SHRC's journey in leading the amendments.

About The Civilian Sindh Civilian Victims of Terrorism (Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill:

This bill has been drafted to support the victims of terrorism given the spate of terrorism related cases in the last two decades. Estimates suggest 80,000 citizens have lost their lives in various acts of terrorism since 2001. Given the importance of compensating the victims in case of terrorism related injuries, and their families in case of civilian death, an administrative policy was designed under which the victims are compensated. However, inequitable compensations are given under the policy. The Civilian Victims of Terrorism (Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill has been already enacted in the provinces of Balochistan and Punjab. The bill drafted by SHRC seeks to reduce hardships faced by the civilian victims of terrorism in accessing compensation. As it has been drafted incorporating research, community input, and also recommendations from experts, civil society organisations, and parliamentarians, the bill drafted by SHRC offers strong protections and considerations for terrorism victims.

Under the partnership titled "Strengthening the Sindh Human Rights Commission for Countering Violent Extremism....." SHRC undertook a thorough review of the bills on civilian victims of terrorism and that on minorities commission to identify gaps and reforms needed.

About the Sindh Commission for Protection of Rights of Minorities Act 2022:

The Sindh Assembly had unanimously passed the Sindh Minorities' Rights Commission Bill-2015, in the private resolutions presented by opposition lawmaker Nand Kumar Goklani, an MPA of the Pakistan Muslim League-Functional. However, the bill was later returned by the then governor to the Assembly for reconsideration on the advice of the cabinet and Chief Minister Sindh.

The Sindh Human Rights Commission worked on reviewing the drafted bill and made amendments on the basis of inputs from stakeholders.

The two draft legislation were finalised following a number of intensive activities directed at internal capacity building of SHRC, research, and consultations and outreach with multiple



stakeholders. A brief round up of these activities is given in this section.

Capacity development: SHRC members and staff were given a two-day training incorporating orientation of the concepts, definitions, policies, and laws related to countering violent extremism (hereby referred as CVE).

Manuals: For the purpose of the training, manuals were produced covering two areas: (i) Countering Violent Extremism and Peace Building in the Context of Human Rights; (ii) and Training on Peace Building, National Action Plan, and Countering Violent Extremism Laws.

1. The manual on "Countering Violent Extremism and Peace Building in the Context of Human Rights" focused on human rights and its relevance to countering violent extremism. Its content included key concepts of CVE, federal and provincial level CVE policies and legislations, community engagement on CVE, avenues for the government to play its role in countering violent extremism, the process of formulating a Local Action Plan, and case studies on government-led institutional actions on countering violent extremism through the strategy of engagement facilitated by Aurat Foundation.
2. The manual "Training on Peace building, National Action Plan and CVE Laws" was prepared to enable stakeholders directly or indirectly responsible for human rights in Sindh province. The manual was therefore designed to cover themes beyond the key concepts of CVE, incorporating de-radicalization, strategic peace building, National Counter Extremism Policy Guidelines 2018, Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP+), and critical federal and provincial level legislation related to CVE focusing on communities. Examples of legislation covered include the Properties of Minorities Act, 2013; Sindh Witness Protection Act, 2013; Sindh Sound Systems (Regulations) Act, 2015 and Sindh Charities and Regulation Act, 2019.

Development of Peace Messages:

Under the project, information education and communication material covering the themes of CVE was developed. Extremism is not only a sensitive subject, it is also a subjective matter with varying perceptions by different groups of society. Care was therefore employed in developing messages that could resonate with the public and placed in areas such as markets, residential zones, prayer houses, healthcare facilities, beauty salons, and tea cafés; places frequented by the general public.

These messages were posted with the help of local communities.

SHRC provided its input in developing the text of the messages. SHRC's members and community focal persons also provided assistance in engaging the community for the development and dissemination of the said messages.



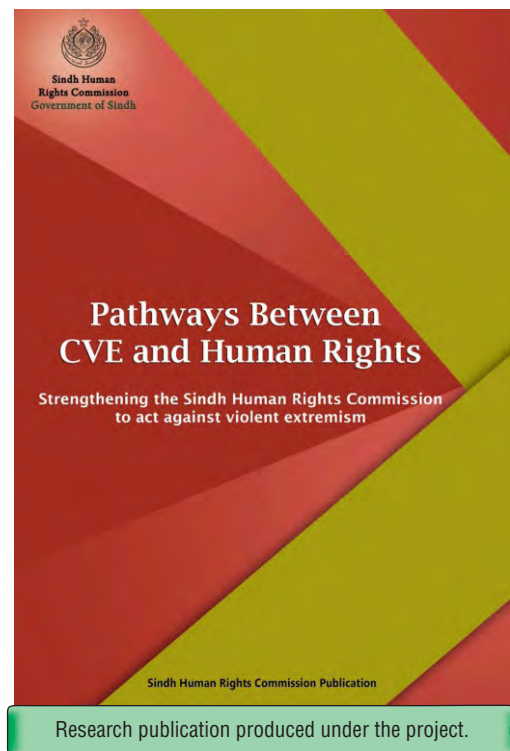
Stakeholder Outreach:

The Sindh Human Rights Commission dedicatedly worked on stakeholder outreach engaging local community and stakeholders with specialised backgrounds such as religious leaders, minorities, community influentials and community elders. Ten community meetings were conducted in low-income areas of Karachi including Nawabad, Paposh Nagar, Chakra Goth, Saeedabad and Shireen Jinnah Colony. Members from local peace committees were oriented on laws related to violent extremism and entryways for intervention. SHRC also reached out to religious leaders, religious minorities, and community leaders from the target areas to partner with SHRC in promoting peace-building at the community level.

Research:

Under the project, a report titled Pathways Between CVE and Human Rights was produced. The report attempted to explore opportunities for SHRC to play a role for the human rights of minorities and redressing violations employing the laws pertaining to violent extremism. The research, led by senior researcher Nazish Brohi, assisted by SHRC's Maleeha Manzoor, was driven by two primary research questions:

- ◆ Can the violation of human rights of religious minorities in Sindh be redressed through the implementation of laws that focus on countering violent extremism?
- ◆ Given its mandate, how can the Sindh Human Rights Commission best engage laws and mechanisms for countering violent extremism and protection and promotion of human rights?



The research methodology included a literature review, and focus group discussions with Christian and Muslim community members from Karachi and Hindu community members from Ghotki. In addition, key respondent interviews were held with state officials, minority representatives, social analysts, and observers for insight into particular aspects of the issue.

The research also included a case study on the attack on the Sant Satram Dham temple to illustrate the interplay of various factors that influence the quest for justice for minorities seeking violation of their rights.

Key findings of the study revolved around extremism and the links to poverty, exploring the



roots of radicalism vs violent extremism, and factors promoting mobilisation against the vulnerable minorities in fragile times.

An important observation of the case study - which was led by SHRC - is the absence of mechanisms for providing compensation to the victims of violent extremism. The rehabilitation of Sant Satram Dham temple was taken care of by the provincial government in a timely manner. However, individual losses incurred by the Hindu community in the mob attack were not compensated. Institutionalizing of such a system would prevent an arbitrary approach and create new entitlements for citizens, affirming a stronger claim of protective citizenship. SHRC adopted this as a key takeaway from the study. The insights gained from the research were channeled into the development of the two legislations: (i) Civilian Victims of Terrorism - Relief and Rehabilitation Act and (ii) The Sindh Commission for Protection of Rights of Minorities Act, 2022.

Engagement for legislation intervention

The key milestone of the project was drafting of the Civilian Victims of Terrorism - Relief and Re-habilitation Act and The Sindh Commission for Protection of Rights of Minorities Act, 2022. SHRC carried out the drafting process through focusing on two critical areas:

Gathering inputs for legislation content: SHRC reached out to parliamentarians, relevant government departments, organizations working on minority rights, and community members from religious minorities through consultations held across different points in the project period.

Sub Committee for review of the content of the legislation:

SHRC notified a special sub-committee on December 30, 2021 to provide input and finalise the draft of the two legislations prepared under the programme by the SHRC. The Committee included: Member Sindh National Commission for Human Rights, Anis Haroon, Members SHRC Zulfiqar Shah and Pushpa Kumari, Krishan Sharma, legal expert and social activist Abira Ashfaq, and civil society activists Kashif Anthony, Saleem Micheal, and Sukhdev Hemnani.



A sub-committee comprising senior civil society leaders and legal experts was notified to review the two pieces of legislation namely Civilian Victims of Terrorism - Relief and Rehabilitation Act and The Sindh Commission for Protection of Rights of Minorities Act, 2022.



The first committee meeting on the draft bill of the Civilian Victims of Terrorism (Relief and Rehabilitation) was held on January 7, 2022 and the second meeting reviewing the draft of the Sindh Minority Rights Commission Bill in Karachi on January 28, 2022. Recommendations from the stakeholder consultations held on December 13-14 were shared with the committee members. The committee critiqued the bills and presented recommendations to ensure fundamental freedoms and protections for the stakeholders covered by the bill.

Engaging parliamentarians:

Select members of parliament who have already been leading policy initiatives in the Sindh Assembly were engaged in a retreat in Bhurban on May 14 and 15, 2022. The parliamentarians included: MPAs Ms Nusrat Seher Abbasi, Ms Farhat Seemen, Ms Mangla Sharma, Ms Shamim Mumtaz, Ms Shahana Ashar and Ms Sadia Javed. Male MPAs included Pir Mujib Ul Haq and Dr. Sanjay Gangwan.

Moreover, officials from the provincial Home Department, Minorities Affairs Department and Law Department also attended the retreat.

In the two-day advocacy retreat the parliamentarians were oriented on each amended clause of the draft legislations by the SHRC team. The feedback of the parliamentarians was incorporated in the final draft laws. Prior to the Bhurban retreat, another round of consultation was organised in December 2021 and in late May 2022 to involve parliamentarians in the drafting of the legislation.



Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Adviser to Sindh Chief Minister for Law, speaking at SHRC's consultation on "Pathways between CVE and Human Rights".

Following a range of steps, SHRC finalised the draft legislation on The Civilian Victims of Terrorism - Relief and Rehabilitation and The Sindh Commission for Protection of Rights of Minorities and proceeded with presentation to the Sindh Government. In the provincial conference on "Pathways between CVE and Human Rights" in Karachi on May 27, 2022, Barrister Murtaza Wahab informed SHRC that the bill will soon be taken up in the Cabinet and tabled in the Sindh Assembly immediately after the budget session. He also added that the "Sindh Commission for Protection of Minorities Bill 2022" is also under deliberation. He was of the view that the bill requires further revisit to avoid duplication with other bills covering minority rights. SHRC is committed to following through the process and ensuring its presentation in the assembly at the earliest.



Partnership with Community World Service Asia

SHRC entered into a partnership with the Community World Service Asia, an organisation that implements humanitarian, development, and capacity-building initiatives focusing on youth, and gender

The partnership was built around outreach and educational sessions on the Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018. SHRC has been keen to advance public awareness efforts on the Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018 owing to a large number of complaints received by the Commission. These complaints have pertained the enforcement of marital rights of women from the Hindu community in accordance with the Hindu religion. Many Hindu women have approached SHRC with complaints about their husbands entering into second marriages during the subsistence of an existing marriage. However, non-registration of marriage has meant that the wife has had no recourse against the husband. Furthermore, due to the absence of law, there was constant distress among Hindu women who feared being thrown out of their matrimonial homes with no assurance of maintenance and financial security.

The Sindh Assembly passed the Sindh Hindus Marriage Registration Act, 2016 while the Hindu Marriage Act, 2017 was passed by the National Assembly marking the first legislation dealing with the personal law of Pakistani Hindus. In 2018, the Sindh Assembly also passed the Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018. The rules of the Act were notified in the year 2019.

Before explaining SHRC's engagement on the bill with the Community World Service, Asia, it would be important to recall salient features of the Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018. The Act allows divorced or widowed Hindu women the right to marry six months after separation from spouse or his demise. Married Hindu women can also file for a separation. Moreover, the amendment also forbids entering another or multiple marriages while already staying in a marriage. Most importantly, the Act sets the minimum age of marriage at 18 years for both bride and the groom, an important step towards addressing the issue of early marriages and to some extent forced marriages.

The partnership with Community World Service Asia covered a series of educational workshops and community engagements in major districts and union councils of Sindh on the Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018 from April to August 2022.

Three sessions targeting government officials and civil society stakeholders were also organised in the divisional headquarters of Karachi, Hyderabad, and Mirpurkhas.



Awareness sessions with targeted groups

The awareness sessions were organised in Karachi (June 29, 2021), Hyderabad (July 7, 2021) and Mirpurkhas (on August 11, 2021). The session in Karachi was attended by around 35 participants including two Assistant Commissioners, government officials from relevant departments, SHRC members, members from the National Lobbying Delegation, civil society, key leadership of the religious minority community and media persons. The session presented remarks by Chairperson SHRC Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi, Mr. Krishan Sharma (Member, National Lobbying Delegation), human rights expert Kapil Dev, Chairperson Sindh Commission on the Status of Women, Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, politician Ms Kalpna Devi, and social activists M. Parkash and Ms Sarah Javed.



The second workshop in Hyderabad followed the same agenda as that of Karachi. Educational presentations by SHRC and project consultant Kapil Dev were followed by a dialogue session. The session was attended by Additional Commissioner Hyderabad Tahir Ali Memon, and representatives from the Local Government Department, civil society, academia and media.

The third workshop in Mirpurkhas was attended by representatives of civil society organizations, minority rights activists and others. Facilitated by SHRC member Pushpa Kumari, the workshop brought important insights from members civil society about issues with Hindu community that may further prevent the implementation of the Act.

Details of the sessions are covered in the Consultation section of the report.

Community sessions

As a part of the outreach campaign on the Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018 the Sindh Human Rights Commission arranged advocacy sessions with the Hindu community at various villages/union councils of District Matiari, Tando Allahyar, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, and Jamshoro in the months of July and August 2021. The sessions had participation from members of the Kohli, Bheel, Bagri and

The partnership with Community World Service Asia covered a series of educational workshops and community engagements in major districts and union councils of Sindh on the Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018.



Menghwar communities. In the community outreach sessions, a thorough educational presentation was made on the Sindh Hindus Marriage Act, 2016 in the local language. The community was informed on the process adopted in the law to get their marriages registered. Briefing was also presented about the powers and functions of the Sindh Human Rights Commission and the means to approach the Commission for human rights violations. Over 350 people attended the sessions.

Partnership with Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability

The Sindh Human Rights Commission addresses around a thousand cases of human rights violations across the province every year. Majority of these are filed with the Commission while the Commission also takes suo moto notice of cases reported in the media and by community members. Information management is a critical component of the entire operation and the Commission has a diligent system of filing and documenting the cases, managing regular updates and formal closures, where required. A major part of this system is manual. Only a small portion is digitised at the entry and exit level which enables the Commission to assess the status of the complaint through different points.



SHRC partnered with the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability that offered to build a digitised complaint response system for efficient handling of complaints filed with SHRC.

As the number of cases expands, SHRC is keen to organise a digital information system that could allow a prompt response and efficient follow up of the complaints taken up by the Commission.

As the number of cases expands, SHRC is keen to organise a digital information system that could allow a prompt response and efficient follow up to the complaints.

SHRC partnered with the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability that offered to build a digitised complaint response system while also facilitating capacity development of the SHRC staff so that they can lead the system effectively.

Titled "Human Rights Management Information System", the new comprehensive system caters to both internal users (i.e. SHRC staff and members) and external users (i.e. public and CPO office). For public users, it provides an accessible system of filing and tracking complaints. For SHRC staff dealing with complaints, it provides a system of complaint management,



updating, tracking and search filters, auto-generation of notices, and filing of response from the relevant authority (to whom the notice is addressed). The system also offers management of the post complaint hearing process. This shall allow SHRC to file updates on the recommendations that have been shared with relevant departments, and mark the conclusion of the complaint.

The system also includes data archiving to assist SHRC to generate automated reports based on the data available on the system. Additional functions such as filters and graphical representation to optimise data engagement and privacy features to protect the data and the confidentiality of the complaint has also been ensured in the system.

The system is immensely beneficial for SHRC as it strengthens oversight and monitoring, realises prompt availability of information, manages ease in regular reporting, reduces dependence on paper, creates a central repository of information and action, and makes way for smooth information flow.



Strategic Plan 2022-2024

Back in 2016, the Sindh Human Rights Commission formulated its very first five-year strategic plan broadly aimed to provide a roadmap for the Commission to fulfil its mandate in an organised manner. The plan was developed based on a comprehensive exercise of stakeholders' consultations across the province with a view to adopt a collective input to outline strategic guidelines for SHRC so that it can pursue its objective of promotion and protection of human rights for the people of Sindh.

In line with its Strategic Plan 2017-2021, the Sindh Human Rights Commission has remained focused on achieving the broader objectives of improving human rights policy design, delivery and oversight thereby ensuring rights protection of communities in Sindh. Following the institutional strategic directions, SHRC has shown significant progress towards institutional development, building partnerships as well as covering areas of human rights research, documentation, and advocacy. The following developments reflect SHRC's progress towards achieving its strategic objectives:



1. Establishment of sub-offices in Sukkur and Larkana; formation and operationalization of sub-committees on Human Rights, Gender Based Violence and Minority Rights; and capacity development of SHRC staff in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Human Rights and other partners. Significant progress has been made towards strengthening of the Commission's complaint management system;
2. Engagement and collaboration with national and provincial human rights institutions including the Federal Ministry of Human Rights, National Commission for Human Rights, National Commission on the Rights of Child, Sindh Human Rights Department, Sindh Commission on the Status of Women and Sindh Child Protection Authority. Engagement with relevant government bodies and civil society actors at the provincial and local levels across the province has continued;



- Promotion and protection of human rights in Sindh by dealing with human rights violation complaints; taking suo moto actions against gross rights violations such as child marriages, discrimination against minorities and honour crimes; carrying out legislative reviews to identify lacunas in order to present recommendations to the government to improve human rights policy design and delivery; and producing reports and information materials, organising and participating in seminars and workshops for sensitisation, awareness and capacity development of right holders and duty bearers.



The Strategic Plan 2022-24 incorporates intensive consultation and input from members and staff of the Commission.



As the time period covering the first strategic plan came to an end, SHRC, in collaboration with the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability, started the process of stakeholders' consultation to outline the Commission's strategic plan for the next term of 2022-2024. This exercise started with a capacity needs assessment and performance review of the Commission in relation to the overall situation of human rights vis-à-vis the status of human rights policy design and delivery in the province. TDEA experts carried out Political, Economic, Sociological, Technological, Legal and Environmental (PESTLE) analysis and SWOT analysis to assess the work environment and institutional position of SHRC to determine the future directions for the Commission.

Following the internal assessment exercise, a two-day planning workshop was organised with the members and staff of the Commission. The workshop also included the representatives of academia and civil society. This workshop was aimed at mapping the Commission's relations with stakeholders and to obtain their inputs to identify the way forward for SHRC.

In compliance with the mandate and vision of the Commission, four Strategic Pillars have been outlined under the newly developed Strategic Plan for SHRC covering human rights policy design and delivery in Sindh. Each Strategic Pillar has been marked by a set of objectives followed by a listing of the "strategic action" to follow through the objectives. Following is a brief description of SHRC's Strategic Plan 2022-2024:



- ◆ **Strategic Pillar 1:** People in Sindh have easy access to efficient mechanisms to seek redress in case any of their fundamental rights, liberties and freedoms are breached by either society or the state.
 - ◆ **Objective 1.1:** Information flow, system and procedures are improved for prompt redressal of rights, abuses and violations either through suo moto or petitions by the relevant laws.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 1.1.1: Develop Human Rights Information Management System for prompt reporting to the Commission on human rights violations.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 1.1.2: Establish an online complaint and case management system to efficiently deal with complaints and suo-moto and maintain a promptly accessible record.
 - ◆ **Objective 1.2:** Government mechanisms and protection structures are effectively dealing with cases of rights abuses and violations.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 1.2.1: Regularly monitor and release reports on the response of government institutions related to human rights abuses and violations.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 1.2.2: Establish a systematic coordination mechanism with Sindh Police, judiciary, prison department, and other concerned institutions for human rights protection and rehabilitation of victims of abuse and violence.
 - ◆ **Objective 1.3:** Due process is sensitive to the specific needs of parties involved in the cases of rights, abuses, and violations.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 1.3.1: Monitor and identify cases where due process was not followed.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 1.3.2: Sensitise the first responders, judiciary, and police department regarding due process.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 1.3.3: Furnish recommendations to improve due process in the Pakistan Criminal Procedure Code in light of identified cases where due process has not been followed.
- ◆ **Strategic Pillar 2:** People in Sindh are aware of their constitutional rights and legal entitlements and have easy access to information on redressal and protection mechanisms that deal with rights abuses and violations.



- ◆ **Objective 2.1:** A critical mass of human rights defenders, both individuals and organisations, is developed for greater outreach at the community level, particularly the most vulnerable groups.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 2.1.1: Identify civil society organisations and human rights defenders, especially those working for the most vulnerable groups in each district of Sindh.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 2.1.2: Develop a mechanism for regular reporting and updates from human rights defenders and organisations.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 2.1.3: Arrange periodic meetings of individuals and organisations of human rights defenders.
- ◆ **Objective 2.2:** Systematic engagement with media and strategic use of social media to advance rights education and awareness and encourage greater recourse to protection mechanisms.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 2.2.1: Conduct public events for raising awareness of constitutional and legal rights and entitlements of citizens, particularly the most vulnerable groups.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 2.2.2: Exploit the potential of social media for rights education and awareness.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 2.2.3: Build greater synergies with electronic, print, and online media for wider outreach and impact.
- ◆ **Objective 2.3:** Prejudices and biases that perpetuate and/or encourage discrimination on the basis of race, religion, caste, sex, residence or place of birth among others, are highlighted through research and reviews of curriculum, textbooks, social practices, and any other means.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 2.3.1: Review of the primary and secondary school curriculum for identification of biases and prejudices that promote discrimination on the basis of race, religion, caste, sex, residence or place of birth etc.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 2.3.2: Enrichment of curriculum with specific segments on human rights, inclusion, and tolerance.
- ◆ **Strategic Pillar 3:** Primary and secondary legislations in Sindh are consistent with the letter and spirit of fundamental rights as enshrined in the constitution and international conventions, covenants and treaties ratified by Pakistan.



- ◆ **Objective 3.1:** Existing primary and secondary legislations, especially relevant to vulnerable groups, are reviewed and recommended for improvements to the government.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 3.1.1: Review of legislations regarding women, minorities and children including their inheritance and property rights.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 3.1.2: Review legislation related to political participation, particularly of marginalised groups.
- ◆ **Objective 3.2:** The government is assisted in developing legislative instruments to deal with rights abuses and violations that are not covered by existing legislation.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 3.2.1: Conduct research on legislative possibilities for transgender rights.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 3.2.2: Conduct research on legislative possibilities for forced conversions, and forced marriages.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 3.2.3: Prepare legislative recommendations for improvement in labour laws etc.
- ◆ **Objective 3.3:** Mechanism is developed to provide periodic feedback to the government on the state of enforcement of existing legislation subordinate to Articles 8 to 28 of the Constitution.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 1: Regularly monitor the implementation status of legislation related to fundamental rights.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 2: Release an annual report on the state of fundamental rights in Sindh.
- ◆ **Strategic Pillar 4:** The Commission enjoys administrative and financial autonomy and support for efficient implementation of its functions and mandate.
 - ◆ **Objective 4.1:** Rules, policies and procedures are developed for prudent management of the Commission's resources and functions.
 - ✧ Strategic Action 4.1.1: Develop and implement a human resource management system (HRMS).
 - ✧ Strategic Action 4.1.2: Develop performance-based ToRs for members of the Commission.



- ◆ **Objective 4.2:** Mechanism is developed for optimal utilisation of funding for the advancement of human rights.
 - ✦ Strategic Action 1: Development of institutional donor support group including Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds for resource mobilisation.

In follow-up of the newly proposed strategic plan, SHRC, in collaboration with TDEA, has started developing its Digital Action Plan and Human Rights Management Information System (HRMIS). The Digital Action Plan includes effective use of social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram to fulfil the Commission's mandate by creating awareness on human rights and improving outreach through increased digital presence and engagement with stakeholders. The HRMIS will enable the public to file and track their complaints. It shall also assist the Commission to efficiently operate and effectively deal with people's grievances.



Workshops for Human Right Education

Human rights education is a fundamental component of any human rights protection mechanism. This is also embedded in SHRC's mandate. SHRC follows this mandate by way of a two-pronged strategy: (i) education of stakeholders such as police, government officials and

district actors on legislation concerning human rights; (ii) awareness of civil society and community leadership on human rights legislation and their role in the practical implementation of existing legislation. Both strategies are implemented through intensive workshops undertaken at the division and district levels. SHRC designs these workshops incorporating inputs from experts and inducting subject specialists as resource persons. Resource material in



SHRC organised a series of workshops on countering violent extremism, and GSP+ across various parts of the province to strengthen the implementation of the CVE laws.

the form of manuals and multimedia presentations are also developed.

Apart from raising the level of understanding of human rights legislation and practices, workshops also generate stakeholder feedback on the challenges of implementing rights legislation at the grassroots level. The insights gained are channelled into SHRC's work on legislation review and drafting of recommendations.

In the reporting period, SHRC initiated, on a self-help basis, a training programme on legislation on countering violent extremism, and GSP+.

In the last decade, a growing trend of religious extremism, cultural intolerance and lack of sensitisation on the dignity of citizens has been observed in the majority of the human rights violation cases filed with the Commission. Violent extremism, in particular, appears to be a rising phenomenon in Sindh with an increase in the reports of forced conversions and attacks



on worship places and properties of religious minorities. These forms of rights violations are a major concern for Pakistan. By jeopardising security and law and order, such cases give rise to the threat of social and economic fallout and diplomatic isolation for Pakistan.

In the past two decades, there has been concrete policy action in Pakistan to address extremism. The National Action Plan 2014 and the National Counter Extremism Policy Guidelines, 2018 are two major policy and action documents directed at curbing extremist practices. The two documents seek to address macro and micro factors that lead to an environment promoting terrorism and violence. Pakistan's provinces, especially the Sindh province, have similarly undertaken legislation and policies directed at curbing terrorism.

The Sindh province, for example, has enacted legislation on the Sindh Protection of Communal Properties of Minorities Act, 2013, Sindh Witness Protection Act, 2013, Sindh Information of Temporary Residents Act, 2015 and Sindh Sound Systems (Regulation) Act, 2015 respectively.

It is also important to mention here that the enactment and implementation of the aforementioned laws are also part of Pakistan's international commitments under GSP+. Pakistan has been granted the GSP+ scheme by the European Union, which requires compliance with 27 conventions on human rights, labour rights, environment and good governance. In the past decade, the obligation to comply with GSP+ conventions has paved the way for rights-based legislation in Pakistan.

Designing workshop content

In the course of its operations over responding to rights violations cases, and stakeholder outreach and engagement, SHRC has noted the absence of mechanisms for the dissemination of information, guidelines, training support and feedback on rights-related legislation. This, in turn, blocks any exercise in studying the impact of legislation and making any amendments to strengthen it.

The training programme designed by SHRC focused on violent extremism, peace-building and compliance to GSP+ conventions. It was built around three major objectives:



Workshop on CVE laws and GSP+ with police officials in Larkana.



1. Enable stakeholders to grasp the basic concepts and forms of extremism, community peace, and peace-building exercises.
2. Enable stakeholders to closely interact with policy documents and legislation aimed at addressing violent extremism.
3. Localise the context and content of GSP+ and the significance of compliance with the conventions attached to the scheme.

SHRC has noted the absence of mechanisms for the dissemination of information, guidelines, training support and feedback on rights-related legislation.

Training content

The training programme was designed around the specific legislation and policies seeking to address violent extremism. A session on GSP+ was incorporated as an integral part of the programme. Broadly, the following thematic areas and legislation were focused on:

1. Key concepts of violent extremism and peace-building;
2. Federal-level CVE policies (National Action Plan 2014 and National Counter Extremism Policy Guidelines 2018);
3. Sindh provincial legislation related to countering violent extremism (covering Sindh Protection of Communal Properties of Minorities Act, 2013, Sindh Witness Protection Act, 2013, Sindh Sound Systems (Regulation) Act, 2015 and Sindh Charities Regulations and Registration Act, 2019);
4. Human rights and its relevance to CVE;
5. Community engagement: What role can the government play to address CVE;
6. Generalised System of Preferences and compliance.

Two kinds of resources were engaged for the training programme:

1. Two training manuals, one on "Peace Building, NAP and CVE Laws", and the other on "Countering Violent Extremism and Peace Building in the Context of Human Rights". These manuals covered concepts and examples of the themes of countering violent extremism; peace building and, details and analysis of national policies and legislation designed to address violent extremism and foster societal peace.
2. Resource person Mohsin Abbas Haider, who has worked as a senior legal consultant with a number of public institutions including the Ministry of Law and Justice, and the Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department in the federal and provincial governments.



In all the workshops, a session was dedicated to gathering feedback and experience of participating government officials on hindrances being faced in the implementation/ compliance with the CVE and human rights laws/policies

A brief overview of the content is presented below.

Compliance to GSP+

GSP+ is a special agreement by the European Union granting preferential trade access to the EU market for vulnerable countries. The concession is only granted to countries that ratify and undertake to comply with 27 international human rights, labour rights, sustainable development and good governance conventions, including agreeing with their monitoring requirements.

The GSP+ status was granted to Pakistan in 2014. The status has brought a range of benefits to Pakistan's trade economy, promoting textile exports and raising investment and employment. At the same time, there has been a consistent advancement in legislation and institutional frameworks concerning human rights and labour rights as a part of Pakistan's obligations toward compliance with treaties embedded in the GSP+ scheme.

The European Commission organises monitoring missions to conduct an evaluation of the compliance to treaties attached to GSP+. The mission produces a biannual report. The process undertaken for the evaluation report includes a review of reports of the implementation of all human rights conventions, and human rights dialogue with government, international organisations, civil society and the industry.

The last report on the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus, covering the period 2018-2019 highlighted concerns by the EU on shrinking civic spaces, the continuation of the death penalty, discrimination against women and minorities, and violation of labour rights violations. The EU monitoring report specifically outlined an inadequate labour inspection system, absence of Occupation Health and Safety mechanisms, ineffective labour courts, harassment and intimidation of trade union workers, and absence of tripartite mechanisms.

The GSP+ status was granted to Pakistan in 2014. The status has brought a range of benefits to Pakistan's trade economy. At the same time, there has been a consistent advancement in legislation and institutional frameworks concerning human rights.



National policies addressing violent extremism

National Action Plan

The National Action Plan evolved in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar in December 2014. As a policy statement, NAP covers broader objectives of controlling militancy, a crackdown on hate speech, choking finances for terrorist and terrorist organizations, establishing a dedicated counter-terrorism force, stopping religious extremism, protecting minorities, madrassas reforms, ban on the glorification of terrorism on media, prosecution of those who spread sectarian violence, and reforms in the criminal justice system.

SHRC's analysis of NAP

NAP is a critical document stating Pakistan's commitment to rooting out terrorism. However, there is a dearth of awareness of NAP among the stakeholders. There have not been any proper institutional guidelines for government officials to follow the National Action Plan in the disposal of their regular duties/business.

National Counter Extremism Policy Guidelines 2018

The document identifies resources, institutions, and initiatives in critical areas necessary for creating a conducive environment to nip extremism. Key areas identified for the action by way of formulation of projects include rule of law and service delivery; citizen engagement; media engagement; integrated education reform; a mechanism for reformation, rehabilitation, reintegration, and renunciation of violence by extremists; and promotion of culture.

SHRC's analysis of the National Counter Extremism Policy Guidelines 2018

It has been four years since the National Counter Extremism Policy Guidelines 2018 have been formulated. However, institutions such as local government, critical for the smooth functioning of districts have not been adequately pursued. The National Education Policy has yet to be announced for the provinces to draw a framework for establishing relevant structures to comply with the guidelines. Resource allocation to law enforcement agencies has not seen a progressive increase. Punitive actions such as the banning of media need to be replaced with more engagement and cooperation so that progressive values could be fostered.



Provincial legislation covering violent extremism

Sindh Protection of Communal Properties of Minorities Act, 2013:

The legislation addresses the concerns of the religious minority communities with regard to protection of their properties from unlawful occupation. According to this legislation, no property of a minority community meant for its communal use is to be bought, sold or transferred without a no-objection certificate from the provincial government. The Government cannot grant permission for transfer of a communal property of any religious minority community unless it is recommended by the Provincial Commission for Minorities. In case of violation, the law prescribes punishment of up to seven years of imprisonment and a fine.

SHRC's Analysis of the Sindh Protection of Communal Properties of Minorities Act, 2013:

The law prohibits the transfer of communal properties of religious minorities. Transfer of property is broadly defined under section 5 of the Transfer of Property Act 1882 as to convey property from one living being to another living being. License, lease and mortgage are also regarded as transfer of properties under the Transfer of Property Act 1882. This makes the law counterproductive as it totally prohibits licenses and leases of commercial parts of communal properties on whose income, communal property may have been maintained. Law makes it mandatory for the Provincial Government to issue a no-objection certificate only after obtaining the recommendation of the Provincial Commission for Minorities. There is no such Commission and the law becomes redundant in the absence of the Provincial Commission for Minorities.

The Sindh Witness Protection Act, 2013:

The objective of this law is to provide security to witnesses to enable them to give evidence in criminal proceedings and to allow witnesses to conceal their identities, testify over video conferencing, relocate to safer places and guarantee compensation for families in case a witness is killed during the trial.

SHRC's analysis of the Sindh Witness Protection Act, 2013:

The Act is on a concurrent subject of evidence. Federal laws override this act under Article 143 of the Constitution. The scope of the law is very broad. There are more than a thousand offences under general and special laws which fall within the scope of this law qualifying them



for the protection of witnesses. The protection of witnesses requires huge resources. Broadening the ambit of the law loses focus on serious offences such as violent extremism. It is not clear as to the number of Witness Protection Officers appointed under the Act, the number of witnesses protected under the Act and the type of protection provided to them.

The Sindh Sound System (Regulation) Act, 2015:

The Sindh Sound System (Regulation) Act, 2015 seeks to establish an effective system to regulate and control the use of sound systems in the public domain, prevent incitement to terrorism, and deter utterances of controversial nature that are likely to cause public disorder. VE groups usually use loud sound systems to disseminate their message and radicalize members to join their movement. This law is intended to help the authorities in placing a check on the extremist agenda. As per law, a Judicial Magistrate shall conduct a summary trial and the Court may order confiscation of the apparatus used in the commission of an offence. SHO of the local area is responsible for regular inspection of the worship places and maintenance of records. Violation of the law is liable to a punishment of up to 6 months imprisonment and a fine of Rs.25,000 to Rs.50,000.

SHRC's analysis of the Sindh Sound System (Regulation) Act, 2015:

There is no evidence or data to prove that the purpose of the law - i.e. to control hate speech and misuse of sound system apparatus by extremists - has been achieved. There is complete lack of parliamentary oversight as the provincial assembly is not being informed on the enforcement of this law. Similarly, there is no effort to find ways and means to reduce instances of abuse of this law. Lastly, in the backdrop of a slew of hate content directed at vulnerable communities such as women, transgender and others, it is important to incorporate hate speech against women and against the human rights of vulnerable communities into the law.

Sindh Charities and Registration and Regulation Act, 2019

The Sindh Charities and Registration and Regulation Act, 2019 is aimed at checking the illegal collection of funds and misuse of charitable funds for criminal activities or the promotion of violent extremism. The legislation has been drafted to comply with the requirements of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The law also calls for the establishment of a Charity Commission - headed by a Director General - which is empowered to register and regulate charities in the province. The Charity Commission has vast powers including appointing a trustee and administrator of a charity by replacing the delinquent trustee/office-bearer, directing inspection and special audit of a charity. There is an express prohibition of



misapplication of funds. The violation of any provision is liable to imprisonment from 6 months to one year and a fine of Rs.50,000 to Rs.100,000.

SHRC's analysis of the Sindh Charities and Registration and Regulation Act, 2019:

The law grants unbridled discretions to registering authority to refuse registration on the basis of "any reasonable cause". The grounds for cognisance of the Commission against a charity under the Act are also too wide and ambiguous. Charities are voluntary associations. If their management is superseded, the very purpose of the charities will be defeated. Management may only be superseded according to the law under which the charity is established. Most charities are bound by their own law to get their accounts audited. However, under this law, the Commission may be authorised to order a special audit of a charity. The expense of the special audit may be borne by the person who has applied for the special audit of the charity.

Finally, to ensure parliamentary oversight of the performance of the commission, a detailed annual report may be required to be submitted to the Assembly.

Details of the workshops

The workshops were organised across four weeks in the months of February to March 2022. SHRC planned the workshops at the division level covering the divisions of Mirpurkhas (February 10, 2022), Shaheed Benazirabad (February 11, 2022), Hyderabad (February 12, 2022), Larkana (March 10 and 11, 2022) and Sukkur Division (March 12 and 13, 2022) respectively.



Civil society members participated in the workshop held in Shaheed Benazirabad.

In terms of participants, top brass officers from the Revenue Department, Police Department, Women Development Department, Information Department and key civil society stakeholders from Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Shaheed Benazirabad, Larkana and Sukkur Divisions were invited. The purpose behind organising the participation of the top leadership

of the key departments was so that they could disseminate the learning from the workshop to their subordinates.

In the workshops in Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Shaheed Benazirabad, Member Judicial II Muhammad Aslam Shaikh represented the Sindh Human Rights Commission. Chairperson SHRC Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi led the workshops in Sukkur and Larkana divisions.



Each workshop was followed by a certificate distribution ceremony.

The programme design of the workshops included a welcome note by the SHRC representative, a detailed presentation on the content of the workshop by technical expert Mohsin Abbas, group work and a question and answer/feedback session. The workshops were designed as interactive to promote the interest and response of the participants. All workshops were concluded with certificate distribution by SHRC members, including Member SHRC/MPA Ms Kulsoom Chandio and Member Civil Society Ms Pushpa Kumari.

Legislation implementation: Key points highlighted by participants

One of the core objectives of the workshop series was the identification of the gaps in the implementation of GSP+, and the National Action Plan and related laws. In group presentations in the workshops, the participating government officials and civil society members identified major issues with regard to the implementation of the law at the community level. SHRC has made note of these and listed recommendations to be shared with the concerned departments. The areas pointed out in the sessions are listed below:

National Action Plan 2014 and the National Counter Violent Extremism Strategy 2018

- ◆ Since the approval of the National Action Plan and the National Counter Violent Extremism Strategy 2018, the document has been confined to the higher public offices. There is a need for training of the officials on the entirety of NAP as to how each policy directive is addressed in the legislative apparatus in order to ensure its better implementation.



- ◆ Middle and lower ranks of government officers are not provided with the environment, resources and support to ensure implementation.
- ◆ There is a need for ascertaining the 'impact' of the laws, especially the Sindh Sound System Act, 2015 and the Sindh Witness Protection Act, 2013. This shall help identify any hindrance in their effectiveness in deterring hate speech and protecting witness(es).
- ◆ There is a need for initiating a public sensitisation campaign of the Sindh Sound System Act, 2015.
- ◆ There is a need for intensive advocacy with the Home Department on the budget allocation for the implementation of the Sindh Witness Protection Act.

Effective implementation of conventions attached to GSP+

- ◆ Major issues existing at the grassroots pertain to violence against women and children, violation of the rights of religious minorities and violation of labour rights.
- ◆ With respect to the protection of religious persecution of the minorities, the participant government officials and civil society stakeholders were of the opinion that a speedy establishment of the Minority Commission being planned by the government is critical. The Sindh Human Rights Commission has already drafted, reviewed and recommended the Sindh Minority Commission Bill 2022 to the government, which has also been taken up by the Government for further process. In the absence of the Commission, an ad-hoc arrangement - such as the formation of district level committees - be made to address the issues of the minorities.
- ◆ Despite legislation, there has been limited success in addressing the rising cases of child marriage, and domestic and sexual violence, particularly targeting women. The majority of FIRs registered in such cases end up in the acquittal of the perpetrators due to the weaknesses in the investigation or due to compromise between the survivor/s and perpetrators.
- ◆ There is a need for an 'Impact Evaluation' on convictions under the pro-women laws legislated in the past two decades. This shall help analyse the efficiency of the implementation of laws. The Government, SHRC and other commissions can intervene to address any lacunas identified.
- ◆ With respect to labour laws, despite progressive legislation on the provincial front, district officials pointed out a severe lack of human resources and a strategic approach to implementing the laws.
- ◆ The Sindh Human Rights Commission needs to design a separate course of intervention to protect labour rights at the workplace, by engaging labour, mines and agriculture departments.



PART

5

Case Studies



A Glimpse into Human Rights Violation Complaints Addressed by SHRC in 2021-2022

This section presents select cases of human rights violations pursued by SHRC in 2021. Majority of these complaints have been filed by victims or their relatives. SHRC also takes suo moto notice of cases reported in the media or flagged by the community. In all cases, SHRC follows a detailed procedure of noting the complaint, issuing notices to the parties to appear before the Commission to record their statements, requesting police investigation where needed, making necessary interventions, and filing recommendations. The cases are closed only when the complainant or the victim expresses satisfaction with the proceedings or files a request to close the complaint.

In all cases, SHRC follows a detailed procedure of noting the complaint, issuing notices to the parties to appear before the Commission to record their statements, making necessary interventions, and filing recommendations.

Protection from harassment

The Sindh Human Rights Commission received a complaint from a male citizen through SHRC's online complaint portal in late December 2021.

The complainant explained that he has been receiving murder threats from a person and his accomplices. According to the complainant, he is being falsely linked with a local dispute between members of a religious minority community. He stated that he is a peace-loving citizen having no concern with the ongoing community clash. He requested protection from continuous harassment.

SHRC issued a notice to the SSP of the area for inquiry and report. In response, the local police registered an FIR against the culprits. However, the two parties voluntarily approached each other to explore reconciliation. With support from the local community, both parties agreed to patch up.

Throughout the process, SHRC kept a steady follow up with the complainant and told the



police to ensure his protection after the FIR had been filed. As has been witnessed, registering an FIR sometimes lead to threat to complainant's security. Following the reconciliation, the complainant appeared before SHRC and shared the details of the patch up. Following verification from the complainant, the case was closed by SHRC.

Dialysis facility in Taluka Hospital Shahdadkot

The Sindh Human Rights Commission received a petition from a male kidney patient who had been on dialysis for several years. In the complaint, the complainant highlighted the absence of specialized medical facilities for renal diseases in his hometown Shahdadkot. This was a source of great distress for renal patients who require prolonged treatment and healthcare. The complainant highlighted that the population of this taluka has to travel to Larkana or Sukkur for treatment, resulting in an increased financial cost burden. He demanded that specialised services such as dialysis and other facilities for kidney diseases be arranged in Shahdadkot.

The Sindh Human Rights Commission sent a strong note of recommendations to the Health Department of Sindh to equip the Taluka Hospital Shahdadkot with a dialysis facility to cater to the renal patients in the area.

Member Judicial-II SHRC Muhammad Aslam Shaikh organised a special trip to Taluka Shahdadkot to take note of the healthcare needs and facilities in the area. In a briefing by the administration of the Taluka Hospital, Shahdadkot, Member Judicial-II was informed about the delay in recruitment of specialist doctors in the hospital. SHRC wrote to the Health Department of Sindh again to reiterate the need for posting healthcare specialists in Shahdadkot. SHRC has been regularly following up on the case and has maintained contact with the complainant and the local community too.

This case remains open till SHRC's recommendations for appropriate healthcare infrastructure, particularly for patients requiring prolonged treatment and care are addressed.

Deteriorating law and order in Qambar Shahdadkot

The Sindh Human Rights Commission took suo moto notice of a news item, published in daily Kawish on January 5, 2021. The news report covered district Shahdadkot's citizens' distress owing to a rise in the rate of street crimes, and poor law and order condition. The local citizens had taken out a rally to protest the police's failure to curb the growing crime rate. Apparently, incidents of robbery and bike snatching had been increasing in the district day by day.

SHRC sent a notice to the Senior Superintendent of Police, district Qambar Shahdadkot. He was asked to present a report on the situation of law and order in the district and actions being



planned by the police to protect the citizens. SHRC kept in active communication with the police officials for over a year. Due to constant follow-up by the Commission, the police stepped up security measures in the district and recovered 125 bikes and 16 motorcycles. Police also made several arrests while patrolling was expanded in the district.

The Deputy Superintendent of Police Qambar submitted a report to SHRC updating the Commission about the reforms in the security measures undertaken in the district. While appreciating the police's response, SHRC continues to monitor the law and order situation through community reports and news updates.

Complaint of corruption at prison

SHRC took note of a Facebook post by the relative of a prisoner in one of Karachi's major prisons. The post mentioned the culture of bribery prevalent in the prison offices. It was alleged that visitors who refused to pay the bribe for seeing the inmates were also given threats.

The Commission immediately sent a notice to the city's DIG Prison to conduct an inquiry and submit a report to the Commission. The police high ups also changed the staff whose names were mentioned in the complaint. SHRC

Cases of domestic violence

In any given year, SHRC receives several complaints of domestic violence from women. SHRC follows its mandate of formally registering the complaint, ordering a police investigation, and proceeding to protection measures or calling for police action against the perpetrator of violence. Three complaints are being mentioned here which were followed up by SHRC in 2021.

Case I

The first complaint was lodged by a female complainant through the online portal of SHRC in August 2021. She reported that she has been continuously physically abused by her husband. She requested protection.

SHRC sent a notice to the Senior Superintendent of Police of the district for investigation of the matter demanding a detailed report. The SSP submitted a report stating that the police visited the couple and investigated the matter. However, the couple expressed a desire to resolve their differences and stay together. Member Judicial-II called up the complainant and verified the police's account of the case. She confirmed through a message saying she and her husband have decided to give their marriage another chance and there has been no torture incident since the police's intervention. SHRC asked her to contact the office in case of any issues. The case has now been closed.



advised them to keep a strict vigilance on the activities of the said staff and conduct an investigation.

As the post was made by an anonymous source, SHRC was unable to follow up with the writer of the post to verify if the complaint had been resolved. SHRC has scheduled a visit to the concerned prison to conduct an inquiry with the inmates. At the same time, DIG prison has also been asked to display a large-sized notice board outside the prison, mentioning the phone numbers of SSP Prison for any complaint regarding prison staff misusing their authority.

Harassment of couple for seeking free-will marriage

SHRC received a complaint from a male citizen about harassment and intimidation following his free will marriage. The complainant alleged that his in-laws, with the help of a lawyer, have booked him in a number of fake cases. Due to false indictments against him in the courts, he had lost his job, while his reputation and career prospects have suffered a serious damage. Furthermore, despite acquittal from all the cases, the complainant's name was not removed from the criminal records maintained at the Criminal Record Office. This has further restricted his job prospects.

The complainant requested SHRC to initiate an investigation into the role of the police that failed to provide him and his wife with

Case 2

SHRC took a suo moto notice of a news report published in a Sindhi language newspaper dated July 13, 2021. The news report pertained to violence on a woman from the north region of Sindh. The news report mentioned that the woman complained of being subjected to torture by her husband. She talked to the media requesting police intervention and protection.

SHRC sent a notice to the Senior Superintendent of Police of the concerned district to conduct an inquiry into the matter and submit a detailed report. A regular follow-up was maintained for the next three months during which the police kept visiting the couple and asked the woman to file a formal complaint for further action. With time, however, the couple decided to reconcile. The area police submitted a report to SHRC sharing their investigation and the couple's decision to continue to live together.

For verification of the information submitted by the police, SHRC called up the said woman. She personally appeared before the Commission in Karachi and recorded a statement on oath in which she confirmed that her issue has been resolved due to timely support of the SHRC and that she did not wish to pursue the matter further. The case was hence closed.



any protection and proceeded to book him under false cases. He also sought intervention to demand the Sindh Bar Council take cognisance of the role of the practicing lawyer and cancel his license for misusing his august profession.

SHRC wrote a letter to Additional IG of the city to investigate the case. Following weeks of follow-ups, the police reported to the Commission that the name of the complainant has been removed from Criminal Record Office and action has been taken against the lawyer. SHRC verified this information with the complainant. Upon satisfactory response from him, the Commission proceeded to close the complaint.

Over-charging of interest rate on borrowing

SHRC received an application from a female complainant regarding over-charging of interest rate by a local money lender.

The complainant reported that she had sought loan for a medical emergency in her family. The accused demanded signed cheques from her as collateral. Even though she had repaid the borrowed amount, the accused was still withdrawing the funds from her account by using her signed cheques.

Case 3

The Sindh Human Rights Commission received a complaint from a woman who belonged to the Hindu faith. The complainant filed a case of forced marriage and domestic violence concerning her daughter.

According to the complainant, her young daughter was forced to marry a Muslim man who also forced her to convert to Islam. The complainant later learnt that her daughter was also being subjected to domestic violence. She also complained that her daughter's husband is preventing her from meeting her family. She approached SHRC to address all the complaints.

SHRC held multiple outreach and dialogue sessions with the applicant and her family. It emerged that a number of litigations had already been filed in court. At the time of the filing of the application, the matter was pending before the Honorable Sindh High Court. After reviewing various documents, it was noted that the allegation of domestic violence with the daughter of the applicant was not the subject of any litigation. Therefore, the Commission accepted the petition.

SHRC issued a notice to the concerned AIG to produce the daughter of the complainant and her husband. The complainant was also called along with her family.

The SHRC team thoroughly heard the position of both the families. The daughter of the complainant denied being subjected to domestic violence. She said she married out of her own free will but she wishes to maintain



The applicant blocked her chequebook from the bank. Following this, the accused started harassing the applicant. The applicant then moved an application with the local Police Station. However, her complaint was not officially received.

The applicant then approached the SHRC seeking protection from harassment by the accused. The Commission wrote to the Deputy Inspector General of Police of the concerned district, directing an inquiry into the matter.

The police investigated the matter. Upon intervention, the two parties agreed to resolve the issue. SHRC followed up with the applicant and also called the accused party for inquiry. The applicant and the accused presented written statements about an amicable settlement of the matter. Being financially vulnerable, the applicant did not want to pursue the case of recovery of her money.

Case of enforced disappearance

The Sindh Human Rights Commission received an application from a female complainant. She filed a complaint about enforced disappearance of her husband who had been picked by plainclothes men citing interrogation. According to the complainant, her husband had not returned for weeks nor was there any official acknowledgement of his arrest.

The complainant wrote to the Sindh

Case 3: Continued...

regular contact with her parents and siblings.

The husband resisted the idea citing religious grounds. In the end, the complainant's daughter requested some time so that things cool off between the two families. The parties were given another date to appear before the SHRC to find an amicable solution. Unfortunately, the complainant's daughter and her husband failed to appear before the Commission on the next hearing.

Seeing non-appearance despite repeated reminders, the Commission was compelled to finalize its orders, based on the available record.

Accordingly, the allegations of domestic violence raised by the applicant against her daughter's husband stood rebutted as these were not proved. Therefore, the complaint was disposed of accordingly.

However, the Commission does not think that its responsibility ended with the closure of the case. Cases of these kinds present extremely complex dilemmas of human rights and human relations where victims and their families feel pressurized by sociological considerations. They are unable to proceed with stringent action against the perpetrators. According to the law, the complainant's daughter was an adult and free to live with her husband. The husband did not appear to be a sincere person who used religion to maintain control over his wife's autonomy. Unfortunately, failure on the part of the law to



Human Rights Commission for the recovery of her husband. SHRC pursued the matter with the Additional IG Police, Karachi. Upon repeated follow-ups, SHRC was informed that the complainant's husband has returned home safely. The applicant confirmed that news and said she did not want any further action on her application. Therefore, the case was closed.

Sanitation issues in Khairpur

The Sindh Human Rights Commission received a complaint by a male resident of district Khairpur through the online portal of SHRC. The complainant stated that the village of his residence has been lacking basic sanitation facilities including cleaning of drains and streets while sewerage water has been overflowing, entering into the houses of the villagers. The deteriorating sanitation conditions had been causing risk to the health and wellbeing of the locals. He requested the SHRC to resolve this issue.

The SHRC sent a notice to the Chairperson of the concerned town committee to look into the matter and send a detailed report. After a follow-up of several months, the Chairperson of the town committee sent a report stating that the sanitation staff has been strictly directed to conduct their duties and maintain the drainage system.

However, the Chairperson Town Committee flagged that the district administration is restricted due to the non-issuance of NOC by the Local Government Department, Sindh for the repair of the drains. SHRC is pursuing the matter with the Local Government Department while following up with the complainant about the status of sanitation in the district.

Case 3: Continued...

provide a provision to the Commission or the state in cases where there is an indication of suppression of will cripples any action to provide adequate protection to the vulnerable. Open use of violence which is common in society, the inability of the state to provide safety and protection at the grassroots level, and an inadequate domestic violence law all come together to fail complainants. SHRC finds itself much restricted from playing a role in ensuring the safety and protection of vulnerable women.



PART

6

**Media
Highlights**



SHRC in the Media

SHRC takes media engagement as a critical component of its objective of public outreach. Media engagement is divided into two major approaches: (i) mainstream media; (ii) social media.

Mainstream media is managed through press conferences, press release following all major activities such as seminars and visits; and one-on-one interviews with credible media outlets. Recently, SHRC has also consolidated its social media outreach. SHRC's facebook page titled "Sindh Human Rights Commission" and Twitter handle "@SHRC_official" are regularly updated with information on activities and meetings. Similarly the website is also updated with a dedicated page "Media Gallery" covering latest developments. The staff has also been given special training to manage the social media.

A brief list of media coverage of SHRC's activities in the reporting period is presented below:

Inauguration of SHRC Regional Office in Sukkur

The Sindh Human Rights Commission inaugurated its Regional Office in Sukkur on January 25, 2021. The opening ceremony was attended by local civil society and members media.

Chairperson SHRC Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi inaugurated the Sukkur office. She presented a welcome note and details of the objectives behind opening the Sukkur office. SHRC Member/MPA Ms. Kulsoom Chandio, Ms. Pushpa Kumari, and Zulifqar Shah also spoke. The then secretary SHRC Ms. Abida Lodhi presented a vote of thanks.

Answering questions from media persons, Chairperson SHRC explained the importance of the Sukkur region for SHRC's complaint mechanism. She highlighted the reports of rights violation cases from Sukkur and the surrounding areas that compelled SHRC to select it as a region for establishing an office. She said this is a part of SHRC's endeavour to make human rights complaint mechanisms easy and accessible for the public.



The event received positive media coverage, especially in the Sindhi and English press and electronic media.

Experience-Sharing session on human rights challenges during Covid-19

The Sindh Human Rights Commission organised an experience-sharing session on human rights situation during Covid-19 on February 10, 2021 in Karachi. Representatives from different institutions were invited to share their experiences and challenges in delivering their tasks during the pandemic.

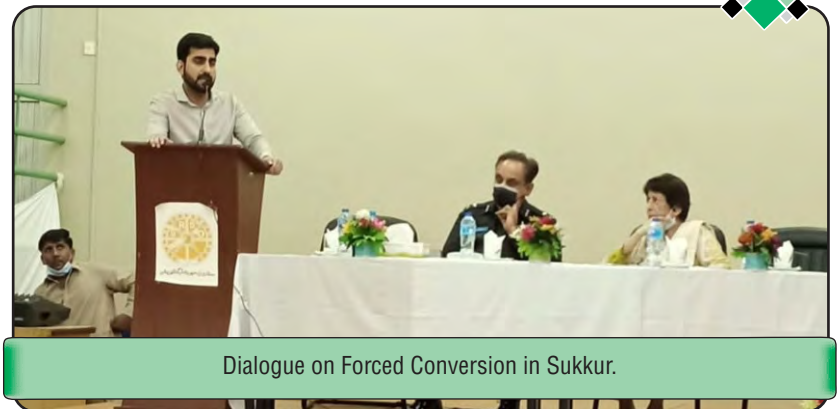
Apart from SHRC Chairperson Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi, and Member Judicial II, Muhammad Aslam Shaikh, a number of civil society representatives shared their views. These also include Karamat Ali, Executive Director, Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research and Ms. Anis Haroon, Member Sindh, National Commission for Human Rights.

Participants discussed challenges faced during the lockdown period soon after the global pandemic broke out. They shared their experiences of addressing the challenges of their respective constituencies and the lessons learnt. They highlighted the importance of functional human rights mechanisms and social security to cushion the vulnerable communities from the economic fallout of emergencies such as Covid-19.

SHRC issued a press release after the meeting. The session received media coverage in English and Urdu press.

Dialogue on the issue of forced conversion

The Sindh Human Rights Commission organised a dialogue on the issue of forced conversion. The dialogue was organised in Sukkur on March 9, 2021.



Dialogue on Forced Conversion in Sukkur.

The session was led by Chairperson SHRC Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi. It was attended by Additional Inspector General of Police Sukkur Dr. Kamran Fazal, and a large number of people from religious minorities communities. An extensive discussion on the issues being faced by the religious minorities came under discussion.

The session was widely reported in the local media.

Seminar on Peasants Rights

The Sindh Human Rights Commission and Hari Welfare Association jointly organized a seminar on the rights of peasants and rural workers in Sindh in Nawabshah on April 10, 2021.

Speakers at the seminar included SHRC Chairperson Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi, Member Provincial Assembly Ghulam Qadir Chandio, and President Hari Welfare Association Akram Ali Khaskheli.



Seminar on the rights of peasants and rural workers in Sindh.

In her address, SHRC Chairperson Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi observed that peasants and rural workers in the province are vulnerable and unprotected due to the non-implementation of the existing laws. She emphasised establishing of a monitoring mechanism to ensure implementation of rights legislation in Sindh. MPA Ghulam Qadir Chandio, who is also the chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee emphasised going beyond law making to ensure the implementation of the laws so that all

human rights can be protected. Hari Welfare Association President Akram Ali Khaskheli said that peasants across the province are not registered as peasants by the Revenue Department in accordance with the Sindh Tenancy Act of 1950. When landlords violate the rights of the peasants, they cannot claim their share and other rights.

SHRC Chairperson Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi expressed commitment of the Commission to develop a comprehensive strategy to work for the rights and welfare of the agriculture workers, particularly the vulnerable peasants. The event was widely reported in English and Urdu press.

Consultation on the Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018

The Sindh Human Rights Commission conducted a consultation on the Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018 in collaboration with Community World Service Asia on June 29, 2021 in Karachi.



The session was addressed by Chairperson SHRC Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi, Member Judicial II Muhammad Aslam Sheikh, SHRC Member and MPA Kulsoom Chandio, MPA Mangla Sharma, Member, National Lobbying Delegation, Krishan Sharma, and human rights expert Kapil Dev.

Speakers discussed the challenges in implementation of the Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018. The consultation received media coverage in English and Urdu press and electronic media.

SHRC also conducted community engagement sessions on the Sindh Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018. The sessions were organised in Tando Allahyar, Mirpurkhas and Umerkot. All the sessions were followed by a press release detailing the proceedings. The press statements received media coverage in the local media.

Stakeholder Consultation under Strengthening SHRC for Countering Violent Extremism project

The Sindh Human Rights Commission and Aurat Foundation organised a stakeholder consultation in Karachi on December 13 and 14, 2021 as part of the joint project "Strengthening Sindh Human Rights Commission for Countering Violent Extremism Oversight and Peace Building". The consultation was attended by experts, the leadership of SHRC and Aurat Foundation, and Sindh Assembly Members Syeda Marvi Rashid and Ms. Ghazala Sial, among others.

The proceedings of the consultation received wide media coverage. The media also highlighted the outcomes of the consultation focusing on analysis of the critical gaps covering minority issues and related laws, policy recommendations and SHRC's role in the entire process.

Round of deliberations with Commissions established by the Government of Sindh

The Sindh Human Rights Commission held a round of deliberations with all the Commissions established by the Government of Sindh. The session was held in Karachi on January 26, 2022.

The objective of the meeting was to develop information sharing and complaint referral mechanisms, and improve the efficacy of the Commissions' performance, as well as any other arena of cooperation deemed necessary to ensure effective service delivery.

The meeting had participation of the leadership of nine major commissions of Sindh. It was prominently featured in the media. SHRC's efforts for establishing a coordination mechanism between all major commissions received a positive review.



Khuli Kachehri (Public Hearings)

Chairperson Sindh Human Rights Commission Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi and Member Judicial II Muhammad Aslam Shaikh conducted a number of public hearings across different districts of Sindh in 2021. The public hearings titled “*Khuli Kachehri*” sought to receive direct complaints from people at a location of their convenience. Relevant district administration officers also attended these *kachehries* and took note of the complaints. Direct instructions were issued by SHRC to Deputy Commissioners and other relevant officers to readily resolve the rights violation complaints shared by the public. The *khulli kachehri*s were also attended by media members. A press release was issued after every public hearing. The *khulli kachehri*s that received media coverage are listed below:

Venue/District	Date	Attended by
Darbar Hall, Dadu	7-Apr-21	SHRC Chairperson Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi, Member SHRC and MPA Kulsoom Chandio, Deputy Commissioner Sami Nisar Shaikh, SSP Aijaz Ahmed Shaikh, officials of various departments, representatives of civic and utility agencies, and civil society activists.
Town Hall, Shahdadkot	7-Apr-21	SHRC Chairperson Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi, member sub-committee SHRC, Advocate Muzafar Brohi, government officers, and representatives of civil society organisations.
District Council Hall, Tando Allahyar	30-Nov-21	Chairperson SHRC Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi, SHRC Member Ms. Pushpa Kumari, and SHRC staff.
District Council Hall, Sanghar	1-Dec-21	SHRC Member Ms Pushpa Kumari, Adnan Khaskhaly, Superintendent Complaints and Inquiries, Member of Sindh Minorities Commission Mr. Rajesh Kumar, officers of the district and civil society representatives.
Darbar Hall, Mirpurkhas	2-Dec-21	Chairperson SHRC Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi, SHRC Member Ms. Pushpa Kumari, Deputy Commissioner Salamat Ali Memon, SSP Police Capt. (Retd) Asad Choudhry, civil society activists
Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Sukkur	7-Dec-21	Member Judicial II SHRC, Muhammad Aslam Shaikh, Deputy Commissioner of Sukkur Jawed Ahmed, officers of government departments, lawyers, representatives of the civil society.
Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Kashmore	8-Dec-21	Member Judicial II SHRC, Muhammad Aslam Shaikh, Deputy Commissioner Munawar Ali Mithiyani, officers of government departments, lawyers, journalists, traders, ulema, and representatives of civil society organisations.



Two Lifetime Achievement Awards for SHRC Chairperson

Chairperson Sindh Human Rights Commission Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi received two lifetime achievement awards in the reporting period. These awards namely, the HUM Women Leaders Award and the 13th Ladies Fund Women's Awards 2022 by the Dawood Global Foundation were presented in recognition of Chairperson SHRC's services in the fields of law, human rights and women development, among others.

The HUM Women Leaders Award was presented to Chairperson SHRC by the President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi at a special ceremony in Islamabad in March 2022. The 13th Ladies Fund Women's Awards 2022 was presented to the SHRC Chairperson Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi at a function at the Sindh Governor House Karachi in the same month. Both the events received wide media coverage, particularly in the English press.



Chairperson SHRC Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi was also presented the HUM Women Leaders Award by the President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi in March 2022.

Visit to burnt down village in Dadu

Following the breakout of fire and loss of life in Faiz Mohammad Daryani village in Dadu, Chairperson SHRC sent a team to the area to inquire about the relief work. SHRC Member Ms. Pushpa Kumari, and Superintendent Complaints Inquiries and Suo Moto Zaheer Hussain, visited the burnt down village on April 27, 2022 to enquire about the relief work.

The Assistant Commissioner, Khairpur Nathan Shah, Sona Khan Chandio welcomed and briefed SHRC team about the relief work. The report of the visit has been shared on SHRC's website.

Year in Pictures



SHRC Chairperson and office bearers, along with senior civil society leadership in the sub-committee meeting constituted by SHRC to review laws on countering violent extremism, in January 2022.



The Sindh Human Rights Commission organized a round of deliberations with all the stakeholders on experience sharing on human rights situation during COVID-19 on February 10, 2021



Mr. Ahsan Jatoi, Regional Commissioner, Federal Ombudsman Secretariat for Protection Against Harassment at Workplace (FOSPAH) visited SHRC in late December 2021, and met with Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi, Chairperson SHRC, and Mr. Aslam Shaikh, Judicial Member-II, SHRC.



Meeting with Ms. Ambreen Aslam Sheikh, District & Session Judge in District & Session Court, Tando Allayar during the region's visit on November 30, 2021



SHRC Chairperson at a Khulli Kachehri at District Hall, Sanghar on December 1, 2021.

Year in Pictures



◆ The Sindh Human Rights Commission and Aurat Foundation organized a Press Conference on the project titled “Strengthening the Sindh Human Rights Commission for CVE Oversight and Peace building” on May 30, 2022 at Karachi Press Club.



◆ SHRC with the support of Aurat Foundation held an Advocacy session with parliamentarians and government officials to deliberate upon the Sindh Minority Rights Commission Bill and the Sindh Compensation of Civilian Victims of Terrorism (Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill in May 2022 in Bhurban.



◆ Member SHRC Ms. Pushpa Kumari, and Superintendent Complaints Mr. Zaheer Hussain visited the burnt down village Faiz Muhammad Chandio, Taluka Mehar, District, Dadu on April 27, 2022 to inquire about relief work.



◆ The Sindh Human Rights Commission office in Sukkur is functional and open for public.



◆ Justice (Retd) Majida Razvi, Chairperson SHRC; Ms. Anis Haroon, Member National Commission for Human Rights; Mr. Karamat Ali, Executive Director, Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research; and Ms. Afsana, representative of International Labour Organization, among others at the launching ceremony of the annual report “The State of Peasants’ Rights in Sindh in 2021” organized by the Hari Welfare Association (HWA) in Karachi in June 2022. SHRC Chairperson committed to engage stakeholders for formulating the rules of business for the provincial laws aiming to cover the welfare of agriculture workers.



PART

7

**SHRC Law
and
Rules of
Business**



**PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF SINDH
NOTIFICATION
KARACHI, THE 9TH JUNE, 2011**

NO.PAS/Legis-B-8/2011-The Sindh Protection of Human Rights Bill, 2011 having been passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 16th May, 2011 and assented to by the Governor of Sindh on 9th June, 2011 is hereby published as an Act of the Legislature of Sindh.

THE SINDH PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACT, 2011.

SINDH ACT NO: XIII OF 2011

**AN
ACT**

to provide for protection of the human rights in the Province of Sindh.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for protection of the human rights in the Province of Sindh and to provide for matters connected therewith or ancillary thereto.

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

Preamble.

**PART-I
PRELIMINARY**

1. (1) This Act may be called the Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act, 2011.

(2) It shall extend to the whole Province of Sindh.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as Government may, by notification in the official gazette, specify.

Short title, extent and commencement.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context -

(i) "Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the Commission;

(ii) "Commission" means the Sindh Human Rights Commission constituted under section 3;

(iii) "Government" means the Government of Sindh;

Definitions.



- (iv) “human rights” means the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and enforceable by law;
- (v) “member” means the member of the Commission;
- (vi) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules;
- (vii) “rules” means the rules made under this Act; and
- (viii) “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Commission.

PART-II ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION

3. (1) As soon as may be, after the commencement of this Act, there shall be established a Commission to be known as the Sindh Human Rights Commission.

(2) The Commission shall consist of -

- (i) a person who has been a Judge of High Court, was or is qualified as such, to be appointed by Government; **Chairperson**
- (ii) two persons who have been District and Sessions Judges or Additional District and Sessions Judges to be appointed by Government; **Members**
- (iii) **four persons including two Members of Provincial Assembly to be nominated by the Speaker;** **Members**
- (iv) **Secretary of Commission to be appointed by Government.** **Secretary/Member**

(3) The Commission shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal with powers, subject to the provisions of this Act, to enter into agreements, contracts, acquire and hold property, both moveable and immovable, and to sue and be sued in its name.

Establishment
of the Commission.



(4) The headquarters of the Commission shall be at Karachi and the Commission may with the previous approval of Government, establish offices at district level.

(5) The Chairperson and member shall, unless resigned or removed earlier, hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for one similar term.

(6) In case of death, resignation or removal of such Chairperson or a member, another Chairperson or as the case may be, a member may be appointed in his place for the un-expired term of such Chairperson or member.

(7) The salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of Chairperson and Members shall be such as may be prescribed; provided that neither the salary and allowances nor the other terms and conditions of service of a Chairperson or Member shall be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

(8) There shall be a Secretary who shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission and shall exercise such powers and discharge such functions of the Commission as it may assign to him.

(9) The Chairperson or a member may, by writing under his hand, resign from his office but his resignation shall not take effect until it is accepted by Government.

(10) No act or proceedings of the Commission shall be invalid by reason only of existence of a vacancy in, or the Constitution of the Commission.

PART-III POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

4. The Commission shall –

- (i) inquire, suo moto or on a petition presented to it by a victim or any person on his behalf, into complaint of –
 - (a) violation of human rights or abetment thereof;
 - (b) negligence in the prevention of such violation, by a public servant;

**Powers and
Functions of the
Commission.**



- (ii) recommend to Government the remedial measures including action to be taken against the persons involved in violation of human rights;
- (iii) formulate, implement and regularly update policies with a view to protect human rights;
- (iv) visit, under intimation to Government, any jail or institution under the control of Government where persons are kept or detained or admitted for purpose of treatment, reformation or protection to see the living conditions of the inmates and make recommendations thereon;
- (v) review the safeguards provided by or under the Constitution or any law for the time being in force for protection of human rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation;
- (vi) study treaties and other international instruments on human rights and make recommendations for their effective implementation;
- (vii) undertake and promote research in the field of human rights;
- (viii) spread human rights literacy among various sections of society;
- (ix) promote awareness of the safeguards available for protection of human rights through print and electronic media, seminars and other available means;
- (x) encourage the efforts of non-governmental organizations and institutions working in the field of human rights;
- (xi) publish or cause to be published the various policies, details, data and information relevant to the affairs of the Commission on a regular basis and ensure reasonable access of the public to the same;
- (xii) appoint such officers and staff as may be necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act, subject to the approval of Government; and
- (xiii) shall perform such other functions necessary for protection of human rights, as may be prescribed.



**PART-IV
MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION**

5. (1) There shall be at least one meeting of the Commission in each quarter of a year.

(2) The meetings of the Commission shall be held at such time and at such places and in such manner as may be prescribed by rules or, until rules are made in this behalf, as and when convened by the Chairperson.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-section (1), the Chairperson shall convene a meeting of the Commission if three or more members request him in writing and such meeting shall be convened after giving at least seven days notice within a period of not exceeding fifteen days of receipt of such requisition.

(4) The quorum for a meeting of the Commission shall be four members.

(5) The Chairperson or, in his absence, a member elected by the members present in a meeting of the Commission shall preside at such meeting of the Commission.

(6) In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson or the member presiding a meeting shall have a casting vote.

6. Government may by notification remove the Chairperson or a member, if he –

- (a) is incapable of discharging his responsibilities under this Act;
- (b) has been declared insolvent; or
- (c) has been declared to be disqualified for employment, or has been dismissed from the service of Government, or has been convicted for an offence involving moral turpitude; or
- (d) has knowingly acquired or has continued to hold without the permission, in writing, of Government, directly or indirectly or through a partner, any share or interest in any, contract or employment with or on behalf of the Commission or in any land or property which, to his knowledge, is likely to benefit or has benefited as a result of the operations of the Commission:

Meetings of the Commission.

Removal of Chairperson or member.



Provided always that no action shall be taken under this section against the Chairperson or a member without affording him an opportunity of being heard.

7. The Secretary shall be responsible for -
- (i) all correspondence on behalf of the Commission, subject to this Act, and directions from time to time, issued by the Commission or the Chairperson;
 - (ii) the maintenance and safety of the records and all other property of the Commission; and
 - (iii) general supervision, control and administration of the office and staff.

**Powers and
Functions of the
Secretary.**

PART-V FUND, ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

8. (1) There shall be a Fund known as the Sindh Human Rights Commission Fund.

Fund.

- (2) The Fund shall consist of -
- (i) grant-in-aid from Government;
 - (ii) endowments, donations and contributions from public;
 - (iii) contributions from District Governments and other institutions;
 - (iv) sale proceeds of the publication and any bonafide income-generating means undertaken by the Commission.
- (3) (i) The Fund of the Commission shall be deposited in a scheduled Bank under such head of accounts as may be determined by the Commission.
- (ii) The account of the Fund shall be audited once in every financial year by the Director General Audit Sindh or his nominee.
- (iii) The audited annual statements of receipts and expenditure shall cover the period of the proceedings of financial year ending on 30th June and shall be submitted to the Commission by the Secretary for approval.



- (iv) In the Budget Meeting of the Commission, the Secretary shall submit the budget of the Commission for the financial year. The Commission shall approve the budget with such modifications, if any, as it may deem necessary.
- (v) A qualified auditor shall be appointed by the Commission to authenticate and audit the accounts of the Commission.

**PART-VI
MISCELLANEOUS**

9. Government may require the Commission to furnish to it any document, return, statement statistics or any other information regarding any matter pertaining to the Commission and the Commission shall comply with such requisition.

Returns, statement etc.

10. The Commission may, by general or special order and subject to such conditions as it may impose, delegate to the Chairperson, members or its Officers, any of its powers, duties or functions under this Act or the rules made thereunder.

Delegation of Powers.

11. The Chairperson, members and employees of the Commission shall, while acting or purporting to act under this Act or rules, be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Public Servant.

12. Government may make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Rules.

13. No court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any proceedings or make any order in relation to anything done or purported to be done under this Act.

Jurisdiction of courts barred.

14. No suit or legal proceedings shall lie against Government, the Commission or officer and servant in respect of anything done or purported to be done in good faith under this Act.

Indemnity.

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

**HADI BUX BURIRO
SECRETARY
PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF SINDH**



EXTRAORDINARY

Registered No.M324



The Sindh Government Gazette

Published by Authority

KARACHI FRIDAY MAY 30, 2014

PART-I

GOVERNEMENT OF SINDH
LAW, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND
HUMAN RIGHTS DEPARTMENT
Karachi dated the May, 2014

NOTIFICATION

NO.S. Reg.4(12)2013:- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 12 read with sub-section (7) of Section 3 of the Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act, 2011, the Government of Sindh are pleased to make the following rules:-

1. (1) These rules may be called the Sindh Human Rights Commission (Chairperson and Members) Condition of Service Rules, 2014. Short title and commencement.
- (2) They shall come into force at once.
2. In these rules, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:- Definitions.
 - (a) "Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the Commission:
 - (b) "Full time Member" means Members appointed by Government who have been District and Sessions Judges or Additional District and Sessions Judges:
 - (c) "Members" includes full time and honorary Member of the Commission:
 - (d) "Schedule" means Schedule to these rules.
3. (1) The Chairperson and full-time/Members shall be entitled to pay, allowances and perquisites as specified in the Schedule: Pay, allowances and perquisites of Chairperson and Members.
 - (2) The honorary Members of the Commission shall be entitled to received rupees forty thousand per month as honorarium and the expenditures which may include travelling, boarding and lodging costs, their rates may be determined by the Commission.



3. The service as Chairperson or Members shall not, except where he was immediately before his appointment as such in the service of Pakistan, qualify for pension. Pension.
4. The Chairperson or full time Member shall be entitled to leave as admissible to the civil servants under the Sindh Civil Servants (Leave) Rules, 1986 as amended from time to time. Leave.
5. The Chairperson or full time Members shall be entitled to the medical facilities admissible under the Sindh Civil Servants (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1993 as amended from time to time. Medical facilities.

GOVERNMENT OF SINDH
LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT

Karachi, dated the 11th May, 2018.

NOTIFICATION

NO.S.REGA(12)/2213:- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 12 read with sub-section (7) of section 3 of the Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act, 2011, the Government of Sindh are pleased to make the following amendment in the Sindh Human Rights Commission (Chairperson and Members) Conditions of Service Rules 2014:-

AMENDMENT

For the, existing Schedule, the following Schedule shall be substituted:-

"SCHEDULE"
(see rule 2 (d))

SALARY, ALLOWANCES & UTILITIES OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND FULL-TIME MEMBERS

Sr.No.	Items	Chairperson	Full-time Member
1.	Pay	The Chairman shall be entitled to receive pay, allowances and perquisites as admissible to a Judge of High Court, on the same terms and conditions as determined by the President's Order issued from time to time.	The Member shall be entitled to receive, pay allowances and perquisites to the maximum of BS-21 or BS-20 officer, as the case may be.
2.	House Rent Allowance	The Chairman shall be entitled to free unfurnished residential accommodation for the terms of his office and fifteen (15) days after ceasing to hold his office, and in case accommodation is not provided he/she shall be allowed house rent at such rate as admissible to a serving Judge of the High Court of Sindh.	The Member shall be entitled to free unfurnished residential accommodation for the terms of his office and fifteen (15) days after ceasing to hold his office and in case accommodation is not provided, he /she shall be allowed house rent of such rate as admissible to an office of BPS-21 or BPS-20 as the case may be.
3.	Utilities	Twenty thousand rupees per month	Ten thousand rupees.



FACILITES			
1	One chauffeur drive car maintained at the Government expense for official and private use	The Chairman shall be entitled to the use of official car on such conditions as applicable to the Judge of High Court.	The Member shall be entitled use the official car as admissible to the Secretary to Government of Sindh.
2	Petrol Limit	300 liters per month	300 liter per month
3	TA/DA	As admissible to civil servants of highest grades	As admissible to civil servants of highest grades
4	TA/DA on official duty abroad	As admissible to civil servants of highest grades	As admissible to civil servants of highest grades
5	Medical facilities	In respective of leave, medical attendance and other matters, the Chairman shall be governed by the Rules of the time being applicable to the Judge of High Court or as the case may be.	In respective of leave, medical attendance and other matters, the Member shall be governed by the Rules at the time being applicable to the civil servant of BPS-21 or BPS-20, as the case may be.

SHARIQ AHMED
SECRETARY. TO GOVERNMENT OF SINDH

NO.S.REG:4(12)/2013/70

Karachi, dated the 11th May, 2018.

1. The Principal Secretary .to Governor, Sindh, Karachi.
2. The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Sindh, Karachi.
3. The Secretary to Government of Sindh, Finance Department, Karachi.
4. The Secretary to Government of Sindh, Human Rights Department, Karachi.
5. The Chairman/Members, Sindh Human Commission; Karachi.
6. The Accountant General, Sindh, Karachi.
7. The Superintendent Sindh Government Press with a request to iSue the draft notification in extra-ordinary issue and supply 200 copies.
- 8, The Private Sedetary to Chief Secretary, Sindh, Karachi.
- 9 The Private Secretary to Minister for Law & Prisons, Sindh, Karachi.

(SHAFQUAT ALI LARIK)
SECTION OEFICER(LEGISLATION)
FOR SECRETARY TO GOVT. OF SINDH
LAW DEPARTMENT



Rules of Business
**GOVERNMENT OF SINDH LAW, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEPARTMENT**
Karachi Dated the 20th December, 2013

NOTIFICATION

<p>NO. S.Reg:4(11) 2013/83:- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 12 of the Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act, 2011, the Government of Sindh are pleased to make the following rules to regulate the conduct of its business:-</p>	
<p>1. (1) These rules may be called the Sindh Human Rights Commission Rules, 2013. (2) They shall come into force at once.</p>	Short title and commencement
<p>2. (1) In these rules, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context. (a) "Act" means the Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act, 2011; (b) "agenda" means list of business to be disposed of in a meeting; (c) "business" means the business of the Commission under the Act; (d) "Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the Commission; (e) "Commission" means the Sindh Human Rights Commission constituted under section 3 of Act; (f) "Committee" means a committee or sub-committee appointed by the Commission for a particular matter; (g) "Government" means the Government of Sindh; (h) "human rights" means the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973 and enforceable by law; (i) "meeting" means a meeting of the Commission; (j) "member" means a member of the Commission; (k) "Registrar" means the Registrar of the Commission; (l) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Commission; (m) "section" means a section of the Act. 2. (2) The words and expressions used but not defined in these rules shall have the same meaning as assigned to them under the Act.</p>	Definitions
<p>3. The headquarter of the Commission shall be at Karachi and the Commission may, with the previous approval of Government, establish offices at District level.</p>	Headquarters
<p>4. Subject to the provisions of the Act, the Commission shall (i) sponsor, steer, encourage research to generate information, analysis and studies and maintain a database relating to human rights issues; (ii) develop and maintain interaction and dialogue with non - governmental organizations, experts and individuals, association in society with similar commissions and institutions in other countries for collaboration and action to achieve the maximum target to stop violation of human rights at the national, regional and international level of training standards;</p>	Powers and Functions of the Commission



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (iii) mobilize grants from domestic and international, including multi and bilateral agencies approved by Government for meeting any of its obligations or performing its functions; (iv) seek and receive information, data and documents from any provincial source or entity in the course of performance of its functions; (v) call for information or report from Provincial or District Government, civil society organization and autonomous body concerned while inquiring into complaints of violations of human rights; inspect or visit under intimation to Government and in accordance with (vi) the relevant laws and rules, any jail, sub-jail or other places of custody where innocent citizens are kept, detained and admitted for treatment, reformation or protection, and to see the living conditions of the inmates and to make appropriate recommendations to the authorities concerned; (vii) appoint advisors, consultants and experts, if necessary, with the approval of Government. 	
<p>5. All business of the Commission shall be disposed of in a meeting which may be held in accordance with the provisions here in contained.</p>	Transaction of meeting Business
<p>6. (1) There shall be held ordinary meetings and special meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (2) An ordinary meeting shall be held as often as may be necessary but at least once in three months.. (3) A special meeting shall be convened as soon as may be on receipt of requisition in writing by at least three or more members and such meeting shall be convened after giving at least three days' notice within a period of not exceeding fifteen days of receipt of such requisition. (4) The Secretary under the instructions of the Chairperson shall convene meetings on such date and time as fixed by the Chairperson. (5) A special meeting shall have priority over an ordinary meeting. 	Meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. (1) Seven days clear notice shall be given for an ordinary meeting and three days clear notice for a special meeting. (2) The Secretary shall cause a notice with a copy of agenda to be served on the members and a copy thereof be pasted at the office of the Commission. . (3) The notice shall inter alia specify the place, date and time of the meeting and be accompanied by an agenda. 	Notice of meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8. (1) The agenda for a meeting shall be prepared by the Secretary with the approval of the Chairperson. (2) The agenda for an ordinary meeting shall be prepared in the following order:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting; (b) all matters deferred in previous meeting including directions of Government, if any; (c) reports of the committee or subcommittee; (d) any other business with the permission of the Chair. (3) The agenda for special meeting shall be prepared in the following order:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) consideration of the matter for which the meeting has been convened; (b) any other business approved by the Chairperson; (4) Subject to the availability and the orders of the Chairperson, the members shall be provided copies of documents or information relating to the matters on agenda 	Agenda



<p>9. No meeting may be adjourned until the agenda thereof is disposed of or a resolution of adjournment is passed or the Chairperson for any reason to be recorded in writing.</p>	<p>Adjournment of meeting</p>
<p>10. The business shall be considered in the order prepared under rule 8 but the Chairperson on its own or on the motion of at least three members may change the order.</p>	<p>Consideration of business</p>
<p>11. (1) The Chairperson shall be the Chief Executive of the Commission and also shall act as Principal Accounting Officer and shall have inter-alia following functions and powers:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) to coordinate, supervise and manage the work of the Commission and exercise general supervision and control the affairs of the Commission;(ii) to preside over every meeting of the Commission and in his or her absence, by the member elected by the members present in the meeting from amongst themselves and the person so elected shall exercise all the powers of the Chairperson under these rules during a meeting;(iii) to interact closely with all Ministries and Departments at Federal and Provincial level with regard to the affairs of the Commission;(iv) to delegate by general or special order, the powers and functions of the Chairperson to any member, officer or Secretary of the Commission.	<p>Powers and Functions of the Chairperson</p>
<p>12. The Members of the Commission shall have following powers and functions:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) to assist the Chairperson to coordinate and support the work of Commission;(ii) to assist the Commission in its mandate and functions particularly in the planning, implementation, monitoring and networking roles with all stakeholders including Government, civil society and the international community;(iii) to liaise with members of other similar Commissions, Provincial Secretariat and regional offices;(iv) to perform such other duties and functions as may be assigned by the Chairperson.	<p>Functions of the Members</p>
<p>13. Subject to the provisions of the Act, the Secretary shall have the following powers and functions:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) to prepare, under the directions of the Commission or Chairperson, three years strategic plan, annual work plan and annual budget for the approval of the Commission and forward to the concerned authority.(ii) to carry out administrative orders and decisions of the Commission;(iii) to perform such other duties and functions as may be assigned to him by the Commission or Chairperson.	<p>Functions of the Secretary of the Commission</p>
<p>14. The Commission may co-opt any person expert or advisor to attend a meeting, if need be, but he shall not be entitled to vote.</p>	<p>Commission to co-opt expert or advisor</p>



<p>15.(1) The quorum for a meeting of the Commission shall be four members.</p> <p>(2) A meeting shall be adjourned for want of a quorum but no quorum shall be necessary at a meeting held after the meeting which was adjourned for want of quorum.</p> <p>(3) The members shall inform in writing to the Chairperson in advance with regard to their absence from Commission's meetings.</p> <p>(4) Any member of the Commission who is absent from the Commission's three consecutive meetings without giving cogent reasons shall be issued notice and his absence would be reported to Government for action.</p>	<p>Quorum</p>
<p>16.(1) All matters in the agenda shall be decided by the majority of votes of the members present in the meeting.</p> <p>(2) The voting shall be by show of hands.</p> <p>(3) The result of the voting shall be declared after the voting by the Chairperson and such declaration shall be final and conclusive .</p> <p>(4) In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairperson or member presiding a meeting shall have a casting vote.</p>	<p>Decision</p>
<p>17.(1) Minutes of the proceedings of each meeting shall be drawn up by the Secretary.</p> <p>(2) The minutes shall comprise of, the names of members present at the meeting and the number of items, brief notes and decisions taken.</p>	<p>Minutes of the Proceedings</p>
<p>(3) The minutes shall be submitted to the Chairperson for approval and signed by the Chairperson or the Presiding Member and circulated amongst the members within two weeks after the meeting.</p> <p>(4) A copy of the minutes of the proceedings of each meeting duly confirmed shall be recorded in a minute's book maintained for the purpose.</p>	
<p>18. (1) The Commission may appoint such number of committees and sub-committees as may appear to it, to be necessary for technical and other advice on matters referred to it, such as –</p> <p>(a) experts on human rights;</p> <p>(b) liaising and networking between Commission, Government Departments and stakeholders;</p> <p>(c) budget and finance.</p> <p>(2) The business of every committee and sub-committee shall be conducted in such manner as it may decide.</p> <p>(3) Every committee or sub-committee shall be headed by one of the Members appointed by the Chairperson.</p> <p>(4) The Member, so appointed shall preside the meeting of the committee.</p> <p>(5) The proceedings or report of the committee or sub- committee shall be submitted to the Chairperson as early as possible for placing it before the Commission.</p> <p>(6) Any member who is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Committee and Sub-Committee without showing sufficient cause, he or she shall cease to be a member of the Committee and in his or her place another member shall be appointed.</p>	<p>Appointment of Committees and Sub-committees</p>



<p>19. (1) All correspondence of the Commission with Government or any authority or person shall be conducted by the Chairperson through Secretary.</p> <p>(2) The Secretary shall be responsible for day to day affairs of the Commission and shall perform such functions as may be assigned to him by the Commission or Chairperson</p>	<p>Correspondence to be conducted by the Chairperson through Secretary</p>
<p>20. The members of the committee or sub-committee shall be honorary members and shall not be paid any remuneration except the expenditures which may include travelling, boarding and lodging costs, their rates may be determined by the Commission.</p>	<p>Remuneration for committee or sub committee.</p>
<p>21.(1) All petitions, applications, emails, faxes, suo-moto notice or telephonic information addressed or communicated made to the Commission, its Chairperson, members or Secretary either by name or designation shall be entertained and registered by the Commission in the register meant for the purpose.</p> <p>(2) A register shall be maintained by the Commission for entering in, serial wise, the petition, application, communication and suo-moto notice and shall be placed before the Chairperson or Members for preliminary consideration, as expeditiously as possible but not later than three days from the date of its receipt. Provided that the petition, application, communication or suo-moto notice which requires urgent consideration shall be placed before the Chairperson as for as possible within twenty four hours of its receipt.</p> <p>(3) No fee shall be chargeable on such petitions, applications, or other communications.</p> <p>(4) The petition, application or other communication shall disclose the facts leading to the violation of human rights.</p> <p>(5) The Chairperson or Members may issue notice to victim, applicant or petitioner for personal hearing or to any other person who in the opinion of the Chairperson or Members should be heard for appropriate disposal of the matter.</p> <p>(6) The Commission may seek further information or affidavit as may be considered necessary.</p> <p>(7) The Commission upon consideration of the report and personal hearing of applicant, petitioner and victim shall call comments from the concerned authority, institution or department and thereafter recommend the Government remedial measures including action to be taken against the person involved in the violation of human rights.</p>	<p>Petitions, applications and other communications.</p>
<p>22. The Commission may dismiss in-limine the petition, application or other communication of the following nature:-</p> <p>(i) illegal</p> <p>(ii) vague, anonymous, pseudonymous;</p> <p>(iii) allegations do not make out any specific violation of human rights;</p> <p>(iv) matter is sub-judice before court or tribunal;</p> <p>(v) the matter is outside the purview of the Commission on any other grounds.</p>	<p>Dismissal of petition, application or other communication</p>



<p>23. (1) Each member shall be assisted by the Registrar or any officer authorized in this behalf, when member takes up for consideration the case assigned to him or her for final disposal. It shall be the duty of the Registrar or authorized officer to study and present the cases and render such other assistance as may be required for consideration and disposal of the cases.</p> <p>(2) If on consideration of the petition or application, the Commission dismisses the petition or application in-limine, the said order shall be communicated to the petitioner or applicant and the case shall be treated as closed.</p> <p>(3) If on consideration of the petition, application, other communication or suo-moto notice, the Commission admits and directs issuance of notice to any authority calling upon it to furnish information or report or comments, a notice shall be issued enclosing copy of the application, petition or other communication and notice shall be signed by the Registrar.</p> <p>(4) On receipt of the information or report or comments called for, a detailed note in the form of a synopsis shall be prepared or caused to be prepared by the Registrar or authorized officer, whereupon the case shall be treated as ready for being placed before the Commission for final disposal.</p> <p>(5) When the Commission upon consideration of the information, report or comments finally disposes of the case without any recommendation, the case shall be treated as closed.</p> <p>(6) If the report, information or comments is not received from the concerned authority within the given time, the case shall be placed before the Commission for further directions.</p>	<p>Disposal of petitions, other applications and suo-moto actions</p>
<p>24. (1) The records of all cases finally disposed of shall be transmitted to the Record Section after completing the entries in the register with regard to each such case.</p> <p>(2) Unless otherwise directed by the Chairperson, the entire records of disposed of cases shall be destroyed after the expiry of a period of two years from the date of final disposal. However, register containing detailed information regarding such cases shall be retained permanently.</p>	<p>Transmission of records</p>

MIR MUHAMMAD SHAIKH
LAW SECRETARY

No.S.Reg: 4(11)2013/ Karachi, dated the 20th December, 2013. A copy is forwarded for information to:-

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of Sindh, Karachi.
2. The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Sindh, Karachi.
3. The Advocate General Sindh, Karachi.
4. The Solicitor, Government of Sindh, Karachi.
5. The Official Assignee, Karachi.
6. The Director, Human Rights, Government of Sindh, Karachi.
7. P.S. to Minister, Law & Parliamentary Affairs, Sindh, Karachi.
8. P.S. to Minister for Human Rights, Sindh, Karachi.
9. P.S. to Secretary, Law Department, Government of Sindh, Karachi.
10. P.S. to Secretary (Services), SGA & C Department, Govt. of Sindh, Karachi.
11. The Director (Press), Information Department, Govt. of Sindh, Karachi.

(BASHIR AHMED MEMON)
DEPUTY SECRETARY (REGULATION)
FOR SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF SINDH
LAW DEPARTMENT



Sindh Human Rights Commission

Government of Sindh

Head Office: Room No's 408, 414, 4th Floor, Sindh Secretariat Building No.03 (Old KDA Building), Kamal Ata Turk Road, Karachi - 74200.
Tel: 021-99217318, 021-99213328, Fax: 021-99217317, ☎ 0333-9217323, Email: shrc.gos@gmail.com, Website: www.shrc.org.pk
📧 https://twitter.com/SHRC_official 📘 <https://www.facebook.com/SindhHumanRightsCommission>
Regional Office Sukkur: District Women Development Complex, Near SRSO Complex, Main Shikarpur Road,
National Highway, Opposite Govt. College of Physical Education, Sukkur.
Tel: 071-5824055, Fax: 071-5824053, Email: shrcsukkur.gos@gmail.com