



# NEWSLETTER

OCT 2024 - MAR 2025



# About The SHRC

**T**he Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) is dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights across the Sindh province. The SHRC's mission is to ensure the implementation of human rights standards, provide redressal mechanisms for violations, and foster an environment where every individual's dignity is respected. The SHRC envisions a society where justice, equality, and respect for human rights are the foundation of a prosperous and inclusive community.

This newsletter aims to raise awareness about the training programs conducted by the SHRC. By highlighting these initiatives, we intend to engage our audience, report on our activities, and encourage collaborative efforts to enhance human rights protections in Sindh. The training programs are crucial for equipping various stakeholders with the knowledge and skills necessary to safeguard and promote human rights effectively.

## MESSAGE FROM: THE CHAIRPERSON



**Dear Readers,**

From countering extremism and protecting minority rights, to enhancing women's access to justice, and safeguarding labor rights amid climate and industrial shifts, SHRC has remained proactive in addressing both emerging and systemic challenges. Whether it was our public hearings on Business and Human Rights, prison inspections, or training programs for law enforcement and the judiciary, each effort was grounded in the belief that human dignity must never be compromised.

A key highlight of the last six months has been our continued work on gender equality and social inclusion. Through participation in provincial and national consultations, such as the GBV policy dialogues, the USAID Justuju initiative, and our strategic input into the Sindh Human Rights Policy, SHRC has consistently emphasized the need for survivor-centric, rights-based governance that protects the most vulnerable—women, children, religious minorities, persons with different abilities, and the poor.

We also deepened our focus on youth empowerment and the right to education, collaborating with organizations like the Thar Education Alliance to elevate children's voices through initiatives like Child Parliament and build a generation that understands and advocates for their rights. Equally important has been our commitment to community engagement in energy transition projects, where we pushed for greater corporate accountability and the protection of local communities' rights in the face of rapid industrialization.

Throughout this journey, we've recognized that human rights cannot be safeguarded by institutions alone—they require collective will. Civil society, state institutions, media, and citizens all have a vital role to play. I invite all our partners, stakeholders, and citizens to walk this path with us—to challenge injustice, advocate for the voiceless, and uphold the principles of equity and human rights in every sphere of life.

Warm regards,  
**Iqbal Ahmed Detho,**  
Chairperson,  
Sindh Human Rights Commission



# October 2024

## SHRC's October 2024 Activities

The month of October was marked by strategic collaborations, advocacy initiatives, and direct interventions aimed at strengthening human rights protections across Sindh. From addressing trafficking in persons (TIP) and bonded labor, enhancing human rights education, advocating for gender justice, and ensuring prisoner welfare, SHRC remained steadfast in its commitment to promoting and safeguarding human rights.

### 2nd October:

#### Combatting Trafficking in Persons and Bonded Labor

The Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO Pakistan), in collaboration with SHRC, hosted an orientation session for Sindh Assembly Parliamentarians on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Bonded Labor.

SHRC Chairperson, Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, emphasized the Bonded Labour Abolition Act of 2015, calling for the reactivation of District Vigilance Committees to combat labor exploitation.

SSDO Executive Director, Syed Kausar Abbas, shed light on human trafficking trends and federal laws, urging stronger legislative action to protect vulnerable groups, especially women and children.

This session reinforced SHRC's legislative engagement and underscored the urgent need for policy implementation to combat human trafficking and forced labor.



# 3rd October:

## Strengthening Local Government Training & Human Rights Integration

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Syed Khalid Hyder Shah, Additional Chief Secretary of the Local Government & Housing Town Planning Department SHRC participated in a high-level meeting on training programs for newly appointed SCUG officers at the Sindh Civil Services & Local Government Academy (SCSLGA), Tando Jam.

- Chairperson Mr. Detho and experts emphasized the importance of mainstreaming human rights education into local government training.
- The discussion focused on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), particularly Birth and Marriage Registration, and the role of municipal authorities in ensuring legal protections for marginalized communities.

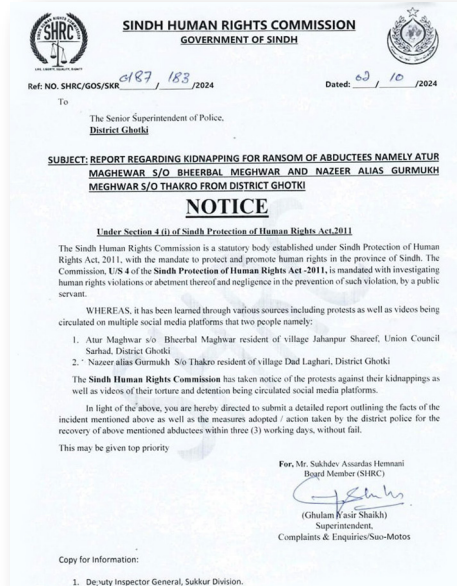
By ensuring that government officers are trained in human rights, SHRC continues to advocate for a more informed and rights-oriented administration.



## Follow-Up on Abductions in Ghotki

Board Member Sukhdev Assardas Hemnani of the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) issued a notice regarding the abduction of two individuals from District Ghotki:

- Atur Maghwar (resident of Jahanpur Shareef village, UC Sarhad)
- Nazeer alias Gurmukh (resident of Dad Lashari village, Ghotki)



A formal letter was sent to the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ghotki, seeking a detailed report on the progress of investigations and police efforts to recover the abducted individuals.

# 4th October:

## Partnership for Human Rights Education in Training Institutes

Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho met with Mr. Abdul Waheed Shaikh, Secretary of the Training Management & Research Wing (TMR), SGA&CD, to explore human rights integration into professional training curricula.

### Key areas discussed:

- Partnering with training institutes to incorporate fundamental human rights principles.
- Developing customized human rights modules for public sector officials.
- Providing training support to ensure practical applications of human rights in governance.



This initiative seeks to institutionalize human rights education in professional training programs, enhancing legal literacy among public servants.



## 9th October:

### Addressing Environmental and Social Issues in Tharparkar

On October 9, SHRC engaged with the Thar Citizen's Forum (TCF) to address pressing environmental and labor rights issues in Tharparkar. The discussions centered on land rights disputes, rising suicide rates, unsafe working conditions, and child labor in the China clay industry. In response, SHRC issued formal letters to the IG Sindh requesting the establishment of a local driving license office in Tharparkar and to the Managing Director of STEVTA, urging the launch of technical training programs to increase employment opportunities for local workers. These measures are aimed at strengthening labor rights enforcement and economic opportunities in Tharparkar.



## 12th October:

### SHRC's Inspection and Legal Aid for Prisoners in Dadu District Jail

On October 12, SHRC took a proactive step in prison reform, with Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho leading a visit to the District Jail in Dadu. The team inspected inmate facilities, assessed prisoners' legal needs, and issued directives for legal assistance to those in need.

Key observations and directives:

- Identified urgent cases requiring legal assistance.
- Announced plans to convert Dadu District Jail into a Central Jail.
- Highlighted the importance of keeping sentenced prisoners close to their families, ensuring easier access to legal proceedings and visitations.



### Standing Against Extremism - SHRC Calls for Justice and Institutional Accountability

At a critical dialogue held at Karachi Press Club, SHRC Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho addressed the murder of Dr. Shahnawaz Kumbhar, presenting SHRC's investigation report and highlighting police violations throughout the incident. He distributed copies of the official inquiry report, outlining recommendations submitted to the Government of Sindh to prevent similar extremist acts in the future. The event was organized by Sindh Women Lawyers Alliance and Sindh Association of North America to discuss the growing extremism in Sindh and strategies for combating hate-fueled violence.



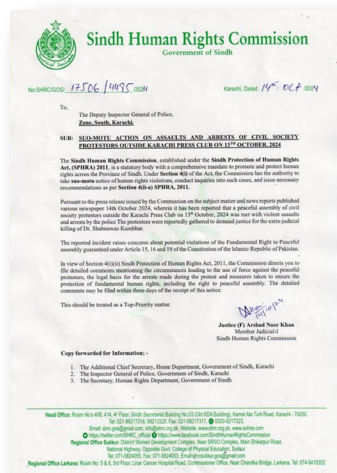
# 13th October:

## Strengthening Law Enforcement - SHRC Trains Police on Preventing Child Marriages

To combat child marriages in flood-affected areas of Dadu, SHRC conducted a specialized training session for investigative officers on the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act. The session aimed to enhance police awareness on the legal frameworks protecting children, emphasizing the importance of timely intervention, case documentation, and victim support mechanisms. Officers were also guided through key sections of the law, ensuring that cases of early and forced marriages are reported, investigated, and prosecuted efficiently. The session concluded with a Q&A segment, allowing officers to clarify procedural concerns, ensuring a stronger legal response against child marriages.



# 14th October:



## Protecting the Right to Protest - SHRC Takes Suo-Motu Notice on Arrests Outside Karachi Press Club

SHRC took suo-motu action after reports surfaced of violent assaults and mass arrests of peaceful protestors outside Karachi Press Club on October 13.

The protestors were demanding justice for Dr. Shahnawaz Kumbhar, exercising their constitutional right to peaceful assembly.

The Commission has directed the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Police, Zone South, Karachi, to submit a detailed report within three days, outlining the use of force, legal grounds for the arrests, and measures taken to prevent violations of fundamental rights.

# 15th October:

## UNDP Strategic Consultation - SHRC Pushes for Data-Driven Policies and Healthcare Reforms

Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho participated in UNDP Pakistan's Key Stakeholders Consultation, contributing to the development of its Strategic Plan (2026-2029). He emphasized the need for policies backed by data, action, and implementation, particularly in healthcare, social welfare, and economic development. Mr. Detho highlighted Sindh's urgent healthcare challenges, advocating for more District Health Units and Mobile Clinics to reach underserved communities.





## 17th October:



### Ensuring Prisoners' Rights - SHRC Inspects Shikarpur Jail to Address Inmate Concerns

Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho, accompanied by SHRC Member Ayub Khosa and the legal team, conducted an inspection of District Jail Shikarpur, reviewing prison conditions and inmate welfare. During the visit, prisoners raised concerns about inadequate legal aid, lack of books in the library, poor medical facilities, and the absence of mosquito nets. One prisoner requested a transfer to Karachi for specialized medical treatment, prompting SHRC to initiate legal discussions on his case. Mr. Detho also visited the rehabilitation center, where he recommended introducing sports activities to promote inmates' physical and mental well-being.



### Advocating for Humane Prison Conditions - SHRC Reviews Facilities at Khairpur Central Prison

SHRC Member Sukhdev Assardas Hemnani led an inspection of Central Prison & Correctional Facility Khairpur, where over 1,000 inmates are housed. He assessed medical provisions, basic necessities, and legal aid support available to prisoners. Several grievances were addressed on the spot, while SHRC also recommended that eight inmates be transferred to Karachi's correctional facility to receive specialized care.



### Protecting Minority Rights - SHRC Strengthens Implementation of the Sindh Hindu Marriage Act

District Ghotki, a sensitive region for minority rights violations, requires effective implementation of progressive legislation such as the Sindh Hindu Marriage Act. SHRC Member Sukhdev Assardas Hemnani convened a high-level meeting with government departments, local administration, and Hindu and Sikh community leaders to devise a strategy for ensuring the legal registration of minority marriages.

## 19th October:

### Advancing Social Welfare - SHRC Calls for Child and Elderly Support Centers in Larkana

Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho, alongside SHRC Member Ayub Khosa, met with Deputy Commissioner Larkana, Mr. Sharjeel Noor Channa, to discuss urgent social welfare concerns. SHRC proposed the establishment of a Darul Itfal (children's shelter) and a center for the elderly, addressing the need for safe spaces for vulnerable populations. Mr. Detho also announced the formation of a committee to resolve issues related to Darul Aman (women's shelter) and emphasized the legal challenges hindering women's protection. Another key discussion point was the reinstatement of a women's jail and juvenile prison in Larkana, as recent relocations have restricted women's access to justice and legal proceedings.



## 20th October:

### Strengthening Women's Safety - SHRC Inspects Women Police Station in Khairpur Mir's

Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho, along with SSP Khairpur Mir's Dr. Samiullah Soomro, conducted a detailed inspection of the Women Police Station in Khairpur Mir's. The visit highlighted women's safety initiatives, legal counseling services, and helpline facilities aimed at providing a more accessible and protective environment for women. The SHRC team appreciated the progressive steps taken by Khairpur Police and recommended replicating this model across other districts in Sindh. Additionally, the Commission explored child protection, anti-human trafficking, and gender-based violence units, offering to enhance the capacity of women police officers in handling workplace harassment cases, community policing, and human rights protection.



## 21st October:

### SHRC Advocates for Institutional Child Protection at SOS Village Khairpur Mir's

Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho, District & Sessions Judge Khairpur Mir's Mrs. Munawar Sultana, and a delegation of legal and government officials visited SOS Village Khairpur Mir's to assess child welfare facilities and explore ways to strengthen support services for marginalized children. Mr. Detho emphasized the importance of academic institutions and public welfare organizations working together to ensure that child protection centers effectively serve vulnerable populations. The delegation engaged with children through interactive activities, fostering an environment of encouragement and community support.





## 22nd October:

### Empowering Women - SHRC at Stakeholder Forum on Property Rights and Police Inclusion

Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho attended a Stakeholder Forum on Women's Property Rights and Inclusion in the Police Force, organized by Women Development Foundation Pakistan (WDFP). As Guest of Honor, he stressed SHRC's unwavering commitment to protecting women, children, and minorities, citing constitutional guarantees (Articles 23, 24, 25(2), 35, and 38) that safeguard women's property and marital rights. Mr. Detho also emphasized the critical need to increase women's representation in the police force, ensuring a safer reporting environment for female victims of abuse.

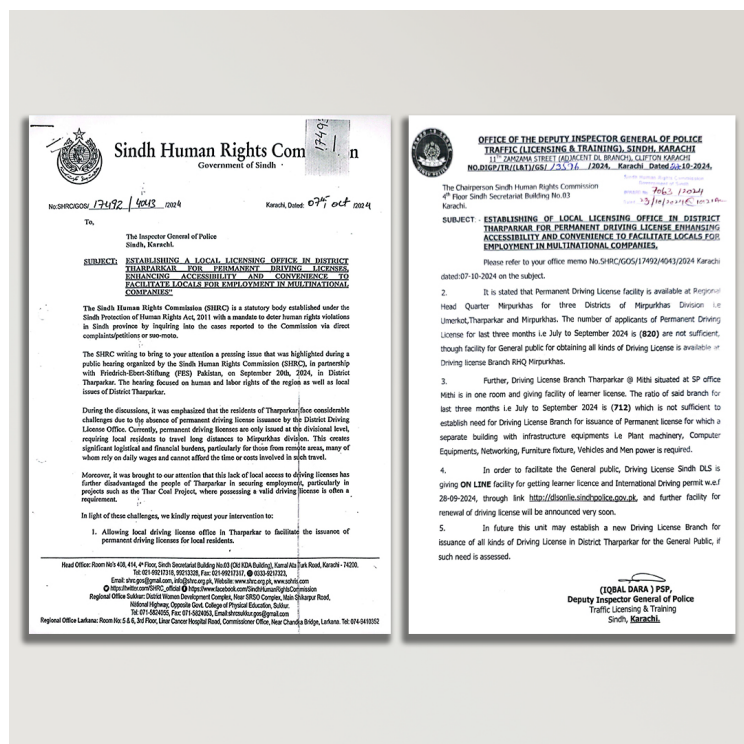


## 23rd October:

### Ensuring Employment Rights - SHRC Secures Driving License Facility for Tharparkar Residents

Following public concerns raised during a stakeholder meeting in Tharparkar, the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) officially communicated with the Inspector General (IG) of Sindh Police regarding the absence of a driving license branch in the district. The lack of this essential service has long been a challenge for residents, prompting SHRC to take formal action to ensure the matter is addressed.

In response, the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Traffic (Driving License Branch), Sindh Police, acknowledged the issue and confirmed that online licensing services are already in place for public use. Furthermore, he assured that efforts are currently underway to establish a fully functional driving license facility in Tharparkar, which will significantly improve access and convenience for the local population.



## 29th October:

### Advancing Labor Rights - SHRC Pushes for Provincial Law Enforcement at PSA Meeting

At the fourth Provincial Stakeholders Alliance (PSA) meeting, Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho underscored the need for strict enforcement of provincial labor laws in alignment with constitutional provisions and ILO Conventions (138 and 182). He called for non-discrimination, equal pay, gender equality, freedom of association, and workplace social security to be fully realized across labor sectors. Reejhu Mal, Law Officer (Labour & Resource Department, Government of Sindh), discussed the Sindh Women Agriculture Workers Act 2019 and its transformation into a broader labor code covering gig economy workers such as FoodPanda and Uber drivers. Ms. Tahseen Fatima, Secretary (Human Rights Department, Sindh), concluded the session by emphasizing the importance of breaking exploitative labor monopolies, stressing that the Sindh Women Agriculture Workers Act can serve as a powerful tool for labor empowerment and equality.



## 31st October:



### Combating Extremism - SHRC's Dialogue on Resistance to Radicalization in Sindh

At an Impactful Discussion on Societal Resistance to Extremism and Radicalization in Sindh, organized by Sindh Women Lawyers Alliance in collaboration with SZABIST Karachi, Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho delivered the keynote speech. He delved into the rise of extremism, citing the case of Dr. Shahnawaz, who was extrajudicially killed in police custody under blasphemy charges. To counter violent ideologies, Mr. Detho presented SHRC's Training Manual on Peace-building and Countering Violent Extremism, equipping communities and institutions with strategies to promote peace and resilience.





# November 2024

## SHRC's November 2024 Activities

### 1st November:

#### Countering Extremism Through Social Inclusion - SHRC at Shaikh Ayaz University, Shikarpur

At Shaikh Ayaz University, Shikarpur, a major seminar on preventing extremism and fostering social inclusion was held, featuring SHRC Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho, renowned writer Jami Chandio, and other scholars. Addressing the audience, Mr. Detho emphasized that religious extremism is on the rise and underscored the need for unity, tolerance, and respect among communities to counter violence. The discussion highlighted social inclusion as a crucial tool in reducing radicalization and ensuring a peaceful Sindh.



### 2nd November:

#### SHRC Assesses Judicial Lockup Conditions in Kambar Shahdadkot

Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho, accompanied by SSP M. Kaleem, ADC Zuhaib Kamber, and AC Imran Soomro, conducted a detailed inspection of the Judicial Lockup in Kambar Shahdadkot. With 29 inmates managed by 11 police personnel, the visit identified serious gaps in medical care, legal aid, and living conditions. SHRC recommended the establishment of a medical unit, enhanced sanitation, improved legal assistance, and better staff support, ensuring that inmates' basic rights and dignity are upheld.



## 3rd November:

### SHRC Trains Officials on Minority Rights and Legal Protections

In collaboration with Bhattai Social Watch & Advocacy (BSWA), SHRC conducted a Two-Day Training Workshop on Law and Policies for Religious Minorities. Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho highlighted SHRC's critical role in advocating for the protection of religious minorities, while Superintendent SHRC, Sarfraz Ahmed Jamali, provided insights into the commission's formation and functions. Discussions led by Zulfiqar Meerani focused on fostering tolerance and safeguarding minority rights through stronger legal frameworks and governmental support structures. This initiative successfully equipped government officials with essential knowledge and tools to better serve minority communities.



### Human Rights Seminar in Kambar Shahdadt

A major human rights seminar in District Kambar Shahdadt brought together civil society members, activists, and community leaders for discussions led by SHRC Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho. Topics included gender equality, child rights, and access to justice, with emphasis on the role of advocacy and community involvement in promoting human rights. Participants stressed the need for greater awareness campaigns, enhanced legal protections, and the use of social media to amplify human rights issues. The event reaffirmed SHRC's commitment to empowering local communities and bridging gaps in justice accessibility.



## 4th November:

### Promotion of Youth Education Through Library Assessments in Kambar Shahdadt

Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho, alongside ADC-1 Zuhaib, AC Imran Soomro, and SSP M. Kaleem, visited Bhau Dur Muhammad Government Library and Sir Shahnawaz Library in Kambar Shahdadt. This initiative aligns with the Sindh Youth Policy's goal of empowering youth through education and community engagement. SHRC emphasized the need for improved access to knowledge resources, ensuring that libraries serve as hubs for learning and skill development for young people in Sindh.



### Strengthening Human Rights Advocacy in Larkana

SHRC hosted a high-impact seminar in District Larkana, where Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho engaged with advocates, social workers, and community leaders on justice, legal rights, and protecting vulnerable communities. The discussions focused on advocacy for marginalized groups, strengthening legal protections, and enhancing community awareness. The event concluded with a call to action, urging greater collaboration between civil society and government institutions to promote human rights protections across Sindh.





## 9th November:

### SHRC Advocates for Community Rights in Energy Transition Dialogue

Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho was the key speaker at the “Community Dialogue on Energy Transition and Community Rights in Sindh,” organized by The Knowledge Forum. The discussion focused on challenges faced by local communities due to coal mining, coal-powered plants in Thar, and extensive gas production operations. Mr. Detho underscored the responsibility of corporations in mitigating social and environmental harm, emphasizing that SHRC has already mapped five districts for public hearings on these issues. He further announced that SHRC will be reviewing the Land Acquisition Act to protect communities from displacement and loss of livelihood. SHRC Member Zulfiqar Shah also participated, offering valuable insights on business and human rights.



## 12th November:

### Strengthening Children’s Right to Education - SHRC Collaborates with Thar Education Alliance

A delegation from Thar Education Alliance, including CEO Partab Shivani, Program Manager Qurat Mudasar, and Prinka Ashok, met with Chairperson SHRC, Iqbal Ahmed Detho, to discuss the Children Parliament on Right to Education (RTE) project. This initiative will empower 64 young advocates across Sindh through training and exposure visits, enabling them to become champions for education rights. Mr. Detho recommended integrating electoral school activities into the selection process and offered guidance on relevant education laws to enhance the project's impact.



## 13th November:

### SHRC Contributes to Sindh Human Rights Policy Action Plan

At the second introductory meeting of the Provincial Steering Committee on the Sindh Human Rights Policy, chaired by Ms. Tahseen Fatima, Secretary Human Rights Department, stakeholders reviewed the policy's pending action plan. Chairperson SHRC, Iqbal Ahmed Detho, highlighted constitutional and international obligations, including GSP+, SDGs, and global human rights frameworks. He also presented detailed reports on pressing human rights issues, such as transgender rights, the rights of persons with different abilities, child protection, and minority rights, emphasizing SHRC's role in policy dissemination and legal reforms.



# 14th November:

## SHRC Joins USAID Justuju Initiative for Social Cohesion

SHRC Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho participated in the launch ceremony of the USAID Pakistan Justuju initiative, organized by Chanan Development Association (CDA) Pakistan in Karachi. The three-year project, implemented in partnership with SSDO Pakistan and other stakeholders, aims to strengthen social harmony and peaceful coexistence.



# 16th November:

## Climate Resilience & Labor Rights at SDPI Conference

Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho represented SHRC as a distinguished panelist at the 27th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) and the 2nd Sustainability Investment Expo (SIE), held at the Pakistan-China Friendship Centre in Islamabad. The event, organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Ministry of Climate Change, and the International Labour Organization (ILO), focused on building resilience in fragile economies. Mr. Detho emphasized the importance of socio-climate compliance in labor rights and industry sustainability, urging for inclusive strategies to protect human rights while tackling climate challenges. The session, chaired by Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, underscored the need for labor protections in the face of environmental changes.



# 26th November:

## National Consultation on Male Involvement to Address GBV

The Ministry of Human Rights hosted a Provincial Consultation on the National Strategy for Male Involvement to Address Gender-Based Violence (GBV) at Marriott Hotel, Karachi. Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho joined policymakers, experts, and advocates to discuss solutions for protecting women's and children's rights. In his address, he stressed the importance of understanding cultural and religious dynamics in combating GBV and called for a unified national policy on women's rights. Despite resource constraints, he reaffirmed that SHRC remains committed to addressing these critical human rights issues.



# 30th November:

## SHRC Trains Judges on Human Rights and Judicial Interventions

The Chairperson delivered a lecture at the Sindh Judicial Academy during the Two-Week Training Program for Newly Promoted District & Sessions Judges (Batch-72). The session focused on human trafficking and bonded labor, highlighting the judiciary's role in protecting marginalized communities. Mr. Detho emphasized that judicial intervention is crucial in ensuring justice for victims of exploitation and aligned his message with the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, reinforcing the global movement for gender equality and justice.





# December 2024

## SHRC's December 2024 Activities

### 2nd December:

#### SHRC Leads Stakeholder Meeting to Advance Implementation of Sindh Hindu Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018

The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) continues its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Sindh Hindu Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018. In its latest initiative, a meeting was convened for the Karachi division, chaired by Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of SHRC, and Co-Chaired by Mr. Sukhdev Assardas Hemnani, Board Member - SHRC.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders, including representatives from the Local Government Department, Social Welfare Department, Government of Sindh, Minorities Affairs Department, Women Development Department Sindh, and NADRA.

Together, they discussed strategies and plans to ensure the registration of Hindu and Sikh marriages, a critical step in protecting the rights of minority communities.

SHRC is actively sensitizing communities and urging authorities to implement this law effectively. Proper marriage registration under the Act will not only uphold human rights but also help address the grave issue of forced conversions and protect minority women from being remarried into another faith against their will.



## Launch of the Roadmap for Addressing Domestic Violence in Sindh

The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA Pakistan) and Pathfinder International, and with support from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) under the AWAAZ II Program, officially launched:

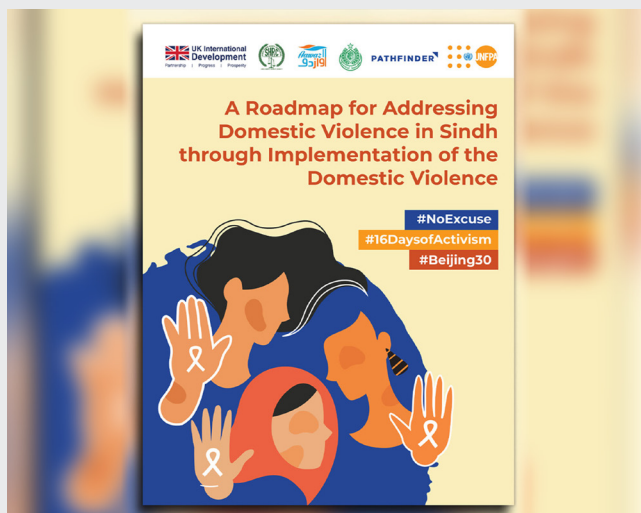
"A Roadmap for Addressing Domestic Violence in Sindh Through Implementation of the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2013 and Rules 2016."

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of SHRC, emphasized the urgent need for stronger implementation of domestic violence laws and enhanced inter-agency coordination.

**"We face issues with the implementation of laws due to a lack of cooperation and coordination. All departments must share their good practices to create a unified approach,"** he stated.

Mr. Detho highlighted the need to focus on underserved districts such as Umarkot, Qambar Shahdadkot, and Mirpurkhas, where systemic challenges are more severe. He stressed the importance of increasing female representation in the police force to more effectively address cases of domestic violence and child marriage, and emphasized the need for police capacity-building and sensitization.

He also shared SHRC's plan to develop a reformed Nikkahnama for Sindh to curb underage marriages, marking a significant move to uphold the rights of women and children.



Barrister Rida Tahir, the author of the roadmap, delivered a comprehensive presentation highlighting:

- The prevalence of domestic violence and child marriage in Sindh;
- Key reforms in the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2013, especially regarding the Protection Committees;
- Implementation challenges in law enforcement and survivor protection.

Madiha Latif, Country Director, Pathfinder International, acknowledged the vital contributions of the Multi-Sectoral Coordination Committee (MSCC) in the roadmap's development. She noted MSCC's landmark contributions, including the passage of the Medico Legal Act 2013. MSCC includes representatives from the Government of Sindh, Pathfinder International, UNFPA Pakistan, SHRC, and the Legal Aid Society.

Mr. Muqaddar Shah, Head of UNFPA Pakistan - Sindh Sub-Office, underscored the importance of collective efforts and government ownership in effectively addressing domestic violence.

"Our overall objective is to uplift society, especially underprivileged communities. Without government involvement, we cannot succeed," he emphasized.

He also commended Sindh for its progressive legislation on child marriage and women's rights but noted that implementation remains a challenge unless institutional capacities are reinforced.

As part of the event, SHRC in collaboration with Musawi also organized a legal aid camp on **"Women's Marriage Rights"** to provide community-based legal support.



# 6th December:

## Stakeholders Unite to Tackle Hazardous Child Labour in Sindh: SHRC and SJA Lead Reform Dialogue

a consultation organized by the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) in collaboration with the Sindh Judicial Academy (SJA), SHRC Chairman Mr. Iqbal Detho and Secretary of the Human Rights Department, Government of Sindh Ms. Tahseen Fatima led critical discussions on eliminating hazardous child labour in Sindh.

**Mr. Iqbal Detho** emphasized a proposed amendment to the Pakistan Penal Code to ban domestic work for children under 18, aligning with international commitments to protect children from the worst forms of labour. He also called for stringent criminal liability provisions for employers exploiting child workers. **Ms. Tahseen Fatima** highlighted challenges in implementing labour laws, particularly in special economic and export processing zones, and stressed the urgent need for better resources and recruitment of labour inspectors.

Participants called for systemic reforms, including addressing poverty and ensuring education for child workers, while recognizing a new shelter home in Malir Saudabad as a critical resource for rehabilitation.



## Experts Advocate Legal Reforms to Strengthen Child Labour Protections in Sindh

Child rights experts and activists have called for amendments to Sindh's labour and child protection laws to eliminate child labour and prioritise the well-being of children.

The call came during a consultation session on the Sindh Prohibition of Employment of Children Act 2017, organised by the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) in collaboration with the Sindh Judicial Academy (SJA) at the SJA office.

Attendees included a wide range of stakeholders, including SHRC Chairman Iqbal Detho, Sindh Human Rights Department (SHRD) Secretary Tahseen Fatima, officials from various government departments, representatives of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), members of the judiciary, legal experts, and civil social activists.

Detho spoke about the proposed Criminal Laws (Sindh Amendment) 2024, which seeks to introduce Section 374-A into the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). This amendment aims to ensure that no child under the age of 18 is employed as a domestic worker, aligning with Pakistan's commitment to ILO Convention 182, which prohibits the worst forms of child labour and sets the minimum age for hazardous work at 18.

Detho also pointed out the lack of effective criminal liability for employers who exploit child labour, urging reforms to address these gaps in the law.



# 7th December:

## Special Assistant to CM Sindh Visits SHRC, Pledges Support for Human Rights Initiatives

Mr. Rajvir Singh Sodha, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Sindh on Human Rights, visited the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) office. He held a detailed meeting with the Chairperson, Judicial Member-I Mr. Arshad Noor Khan, and the staff of the Commission to discuss the Commission's work and the challenges it faces.

The Chairperson Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho briefed Mr. Sodha on the Commission's powers, functions, and mandate, emphasizing its critical role in safeguarding human rights across Sindh. He outlined the Commission's ongoing activities and its day-to-day operations. The Chairperson also highlighted significant challenges faced by the Commission.

Mr. Sodha appreciated the Commission's efforts and expressed keen interest in understanding its challenges. He assured the Chairperson and the staff of his full support on the issues raised by the Commission.



## SHRC and UNICEF Train Local Government Officers on Strengthening Birth Registration and CRVS Systems

Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, conducted a training session at the PC Hotel, Karachi, for newly recruited Assistant Directors of the Local Government Department. Organized in collaboration with UNICEF Pakistan, this session aimed to strengthen participants' understanding of the birth certificate registration process, the role of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), and the Civil Registration Management System (CRMS).

Mr. Detho emphasized the critical role of CRVS in ensuring every citizen's right to identity and access to essential services. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of effective leadership and communication skills in implementing CRVS initiatives.

Mr. Sukhdev Assardas Hemnani, Member (Minority) of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, provided an insightful briefing on the CRVS laws, rules, and regulations currently in effect. The session focused on enhancing the participants' capacity to improve service delivery through efficient registration processes.





# 10th December:

## SHRC Marks Human Rights Day with Renewed Commitment and Key Achievements in 2024

During the International Human Rights Day 2024 celebration organized by the Human Rights Department, Government of Sindh, Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), reaffirmed the Commission's unwavering commitment to its mandate. This includes addressing human rights complaints, reviewing laws and conducting research to advance the protection and promotion of human rights in Sindh. He emphasized that human rights are not abstract ideals but living principles that demand consistent action and dedication.

Since January 2024, the SHRC has taken significant strides by addressing 710 complaints across key areas such as child protection, women's empowerment, minority rights, labor advocacy, and climate justice. Among its notable achievements are proposing critical reforms to the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2014, holding consultations on the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 2015 and ensuring the enforcement of minimum wage laws for brick kiln, sanitary workers and other laborer.

The Commission has also developed a manual for the effective implementation of the Sindh Hindu Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018, accompanied by training workshops for stakeholders.



# 11th December:

## SHRC Chairperson Champions Gender Equity in Health at WHO Advocacy Meeting in Karachi

Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, participated as the Chief Guest at an Advocacy and Consultation meeting held at Karachi. The event, aimed at advancing gender rights and equity mainstreaming across the health sector in Sindh Province through multi-sectoral engagement, was organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) Pakistan in partnership with the Health & Population Welfare Department, Sindh.

The purpose of the event was to develop a strategic action plan to ensure equitable health services for all and to address the challenges faced in the sector. During his address, Mr. Detho discussed various laws concerning health rights, including the Medico-Legal Act 2023 and the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013. He also highlighted the efforts of the Sindh Human Rights Commission in addressing health-related complaints through hospital inspections and reviews of relevant laws.

Mr. Detho emphasized the importance of policies outlined in the Commission's recent report, discussed the detrimental effects of child marriage, and shared the positive impact of similar laws implemented globally.



# 13th December:

## SHRC Highlights Inclusive Reforms and Support for Persons with Different abilities on International Day

Iqbal Ahmed Detho participated as the guest speaker at Empowering Inclusion, an event organized by Bedari to celebrate the International Day of Persons with different abilities.

### During his address, Mr. Detho emphasized:

**Sindh Government's Commitment:** A grant of 2 billion PKR has been allocated to multiple departments for the welfare of Persons with different abilities (PwDs).

**Inclusive Planning:** The Sindh Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan 2025-2027 now includes a dedicated focus on enhancing the rights and welfare of PwDs.

### Addressing Challenges:

- Activation of the PwDs Authority and Council, along with its endowment fund.
- Urgent need for data collection and segregation to identify and support PwDs effectively.

**Vocational Training:** Partnerships with institutions like STEVETA can enhance skill development for PwDs.

In conclusion, Mr. Detho shared success stories, including SHRC's assistance in helping a one-eyed individual obtain a driver's license, highlighting the need to challenge societal stigmas and end taboos against PwDs.

**Way Forward:** Mr. Iqbal urged local governments to play an active role in data collection and support mechanisms, ensuring no one is left behind.



## SHRC, UNDP & Denning Law College Spotlight Climate Change as a Human Rights Crisis in Landmark Seminar

The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), in collaboration with Denning Law College and UNDP Pakistan, hosted a seminar titled "Climate Change & Human Rights: Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now." The event focused on the impact of climate-induced disasters on fundamental rights and the urgent need for climate-resilient development in Pakistan.

SHRC Chairperson Iqbal Detho emphasized the link between human rights and sustainable development, highlighting SHRC's post-2022 flood interventions in Sindh. He underscored the right to rehabilitation under Pakistan's Constitution and UN guidelines, calling for access to education, healthcare, and clean water for climate victims.

A panel discussion, moderated by Denning Law School's Huzaifa Muqaddam, featured experts including Afia Salam, Zofeen Ibrahim, Zeenia Shaukat, and Imdad Siddiqui. They discussed the 2022 floods as a human rights issue, calling for better preparedness, inclusive policies, and integration of climate resilience into development.



Chief Guest Rajvir Singh Sodha, Special Assistant to the Sindh CM on Human Rights, stressed the government's duty to protect citizens' rights amid climate crises and called for collaborative, urgent action.

# 18th December:

## U.S. Ambassador Visits SHRC Karachi Office

The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) welcomed a high-level diplomatic delegation led by U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Donald Blome, along with Acting Consul General Amy Hood, Political Officer Elijah Jatovsky, Principal Officer Amanda Salazar, and Political Specialist Sanam Noor.

During the visit, Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho briefed the delegation on critical human rights concerns in Sindh. Key areas discussed included:

- \* Rights of religious minorities
- \* Protection of the transgender community
- \* Child marriages and child rights
- \* Gender-based violence

Mr. Detho outlined SHRC's proactive, multi-pronged approach to addressing violations—ranging from legal aid and counseling services to inter-agency case referrals.

He also emphasized the Commission's ongoing efforts to promote dignity, inclusion, and equal rights for all.

Ambassador Blome appreciated SHRC's work and reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to supporting civil rights and religious freedoms in Pakistan, noting:

**"The United States stands with Pakistan in its pursuit to safeguard the rights of all citizens."**

The meeting also featured remarks from Rajvir Singh Sodha, Special Assistant to the Sindh Chief Minister on Human Rights, who welcomed the delegation and highlighted Sindh's initiatives for minority empowerment and inclusive governance.

This important engagement reflects SHRC's growing role as a platform for policy dialogue and international human rights cooperation, reinforcing shared values and mutual advocacy goals.



# 19th December:

## SHRC Reaffirms Commitment to Interfaith Harmony and Minority Rights at Karachi Justuju Forum

Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission attended the "Karachi Justuju Interfaith Forum" organized by SSDO Pakistan at the Marriott Hotel in Karachi. Speaking to representatives of various religions and sects, he emphasized the growing extremism in society and the efforts of the Sindh Human Rights Commission to combat it.

He highlighted the Commission's initiatives, including the policy and workshops developed in light of the report issued by Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jillani on June 19, 2014, the inclusion of human rights as a subject in educational curricula to promote interfaith harmony, and the publication of a report on hate speech and violations of the Sound System Act following the tragic murder of Dr. Shahnawaz Kumbhar.

Detho also discussed the protection of minority rights, legislative measures in Sindh, and the need for stronger communication between religious scholars of different faiths. He assured the participants of the Commission's continued support in promoting interfaith harmony.



# 21th December:

## SHRC Chairperson Leads Critical Training on Human Trafficking and Bonded Labor for Newly Promoted Judges

The Sindh Judicial Academy is conducting a One-Week Training Program for newly promoted Additional District & Sessions Judges. On Thursday, 19th December 2024 (Day 04), included the topics on Human Trafficking & Bonded Labor by Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, focusing on protecting and prosecuting the offenders human trafficking and smuggling and providing victim support.

The session covers important legislations, including the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018, the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Rules, 2020, the Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants Act, 2018, and the Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants Rules, 2020. Sindh Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act 2015 & Rules 2020.

Additionally, the program emphasizes the important role of District & Sessions Judges in upholding justice. This training aims to equip judicial officers with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate complex areas of law and effectively fulfill their responsibilities, reinforcing their commitment to delivering justice and safeguarding human rights.





# 21st December:



## Thar Citizen Forum Seeks SHRC Support for Sustainable Solutions to Tharparkar's Environmental and Labor Challenges

a delegation from the "Thar Citizen Forum" visited the Sindh Human Rights Commission to meet Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho. The meeting focused on securing support for addressing the environmental challenges facing Tharparkar and finding equitable and sustainable solutions to improve the region's conditions.

Key discussion topics included:

- Water Extraction & Contamination due to salt mines
- Registration of Salt Mines
- Unregistered Labor & Harmful Chemicals in salt mines
- Health & Safety of Workers at salt mines and brick kilns
- 85 Unregistered Brick Kilns & 10,000 unregistered workers
- Eco-friendly Zigzag Kiln Technology
- Technical Education for youth in Tharparkar

Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho provided an update on actions taken, including improvements in technical education, addressing labor rights, and the opening of technical education institutes. Additionally, efforts were made to enhance health and safety standards in salt mines and brick kilns.

Following the meeting, the Chairperson arranged a session with Mr. Tahir Hussain Sangi, Secretary of the Mines and Mineral Department. He briefed the delegation on the cancellation of 29 and ongoing 41 leases after the Rules-2023 in the salt mines. He also highlighted the recruitment of new inspectors tasked with enforcing health and safety regulations for miners.

Chairperson Detho recommended training newly recruited inspectors on relevant laws and offered to facilitate their training at NILAT.

## 24th December:

### SHRC Leads Collaborative Effort to Improve Hindu Marriage Registration and Awareness in Umerkot

On Tuesday, December 24, 2024, a meeting was held in the District Council Hall, Umerkot, under the auspices of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, in collaboration with Local Government Department and Musawi. The meeting was attended by representatives from various departments including NADRA, Social Welfare Department, Election Commission Of Pakistan - ECP, Women Development Department Sindh, Minority Affairs, Sindh Information Department, Municipal Committee, Civil Society Support Programme (CSSP), CWSA, AWARE and UCF, along with civil society and media representatives.

Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, Iqbal Ahmed Detho, commended the efforts of Deputy Director Local Government, Harish Chander, in ensuring the record registration of Hindu marriages (365% increase in November 2024 in Umerkot District) and Pandits under the Hindu Marriage Act-2018. He extended his full support in making Umerkot a model district for implementing the Act.

Participants discussed challenges in the registration process, including the registration fees for both pandits and marriages, standardized pandit license, awareness campaign in UC level and training for pandits. Issues related to the availability of copies of ID cards were also thoroughly debated.



## 29th December:

### SHRC Seminar in Jacobabad Tackles Human Rights Challenges and Advocates for Community Welfare

The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) organized a seminar on December 29, 2024, at Jacobabad, to address critical human rights issues in the district. The event was led by the Chairperson SHRC, Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, and Member SHRC, Mr. Ayub Khosa, and brought together civil society members, advocates, and local participants. In his address, Iqbal Ahmed Detho discussed initiatives of the ongoing construction of a women police station in Jacobabad, which is 60-70% progress reported, and emphasized the need for improved conditions at the District Prison Jacobabad, particularly the provision of solar energy and a water supply line. Mr. Detho also stressed the importance of encouraging women to join the police force, with plans for awareness sessions in local schools and colleges. Additionally, he called for police.

Mr. Ayub Khoso (Member-SHRC) shed light on the deteriorating public infrastructure in Jacobabad, pointing out the dire need for a trauma and emergency hospital in the district. He also highlighted concerns about inadequate sewerage systems and the poor state of basic facilities such as hospitals, schools, and police stations.

Participants from civil society voiced pressing concerns, including political victimization, police high-handedness, law and order challenges, and the prevalence of child labor. In response, SHRC recommended using social media as a tool to raise awareness, encouraged advocates to file public interest litigation, and announced plans to create and train a Human Rights Defenders Team.

The seminar served as an important platform for addressing these challenges, with SHRC reaffirming its dedication to improving human rights through advocacy, public awareness, and collaboration with civil society and government authorities.

In a show of solidarity with the Christian community, the Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) also cut a cake on Christmas Eve.





# January 2025

## SHRC's January 2025 Activities

### 1st January:

#### SHRC Shares Domestic Violence Roadmap at ToT Workshop on Gender Justice for Legal Professionals

Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, attended and addressed the Closing Ceremony of the Training of Trainers Workshop for prosecutors and lawyers.

During his address, Mr. Detho shared the SHRC's Roadmap for Addressing Domestic Violence in Sindh through Implementation of the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2013 and Rules 2016." The roadmap, authored by Barrister Rida Tahir, offers critical insights and actionable recommendations for the effective implementation of domestic violence laws in Sindh.

The workshop, organized by the Islamic Research Institute, International Islamic University Islamabad (IRI) of the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) in collaboration with the The Asia Foundation, focused on "Gender-Based Violence Reduction in Pakistan through Increased Justice System Capacity". It brought together prosecutors, lawyers, legal experts, to address gender-based violence and enhance justice system effectiveness



## District Assembly Explores Impact of Tribal and Sectarian Conflict on Women and Marginalized Communities

A public hearing held by the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has suggested regularization of district peace and interfaith harmony committees to ensure sustainable peace in Shikarpur.

Presided over the SHRC Chairman Iqbal Ahmed Detho, the hearing was held in the deputy commissioner's office and aimed at addressing impacts of tribal and sectarian conflicts on women and vulnerable communities.

Significant suggestions given by people included organizing orientation peace sessions at the taluka level, conducting research on tribal conflicts at the university level and strengthening intelligence-sharing mechanisms among law-enforcement agencies.

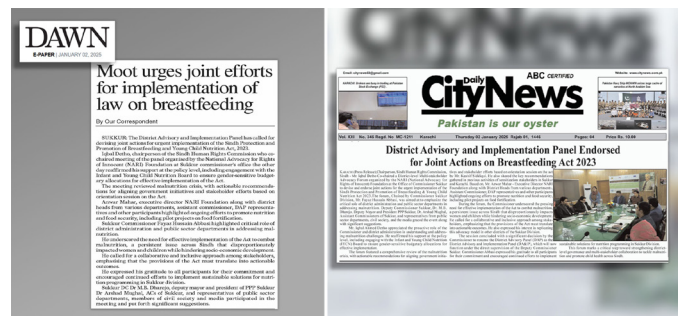


## 3rd January:

### Moot Calls for Collaborative Action to Enforce Breastfeeding Legislation

SUKKUR: The District Advisory and Implementation Panel has called for devising joint actions for urgent implementation of the Sindh Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding and Young Child Nutrition Act, 2023. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission who co-chaired meeting of the panel organised by the National Advocacy For Rights of Innocent-NARI Foundation at Sukkur commissioner's office the other day reaffirmed his support at the policy level, including engagement with the Infant and Young Child Nutrition Board to ensure gender-sensitive budgetary allocations for effective implementation of the Act.

The meeting reviewed malnutrition crisis, with actionable recommendations for aligning government initiatives and stakeholder efforts based on orientation session on the Act.



## CPDI Workshop Promotes Inclusive Local Governance and Human Rights in Sindh

The Two-Day Workshop on the organized by Citizens for the Center for Peace and Development Initiatives CPDI Pakistan in collaboration with the Sindh Local Government Department, concluded successfully with enlightening discussions and engaging sessions.

The workshop aimed to enhance the understanding of local government officials and civil society members about the Sindh Local Government Act, 2013, focusing on its significance, evolution, and practical implementation. The event concluded with Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, delivering the closing remarks. He emphasized the importance of inclusive and transparent governance at the local level and highlighted the critical linkages between human rights and effective service delivery.

Certificates were distributed to participants, acknowledging their commitment to strengthening the local governance framework in Sindh.





## 4th January:

### Core Committee Reviews CRVS By-Laws with Focus on Inclusive Registration and Governance

The Core Committee, formed by the Local Government Department, convened under the leadership of Syed Khalid Hyder Shah, Additional Chief Secretary of the Local Government & Housing Town Planning Department, Ms. Kanwal Bhutto Additional Secretary, Local Government of Sindh, to review and finalize by-laws concerning birth, marriage, divorce, and death. The session was co-chaired by Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission. Notable participants included representatives from the Local Government Department, NADRA, Health & Population Welfare Department, Sindh, Law Department, and representatives of National Commission on the Rights of Child - NCRC Pakistan, UNICEF Pakistan, UNFPA Pakistan, and the World Health Organization (WHO) Pakistan.

The meeting's key points of discussion included the following:

- Discussion on the inception plan shared by NADRA.
- Review of the tri-lateral CRVS agreement shared by NADRA (Local Government Department, Health Department, and NADRA).
- Deliberation on including adoption in CRVS registration/by-laws.



## 5th January:

### SHRC Hosts Training in Larkana to Empower Human Rights Defenders and Tackle Local Challenges

The Sindh Human Rights Commission, in partnership with partners successfully conducted a one-day training "Capacity Building of Human Rights Defenders" in Larkana.

The program brought together activists, legal professionals, and community workers to address local issues such as forced conversions, child marriages, honor killings.

Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of SHRC, emphasized reforming Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems and strengthening district-level human rights mechanisms. The training also featured sessions on Pakistan's human rights frameworks, the Human Rights Policy 2023-2028, and strategies for combating hate speech, addressing missing persons cases, and promoting interfaith harmony.

Chief Guest Mr. Mir Ruhail Khan Khoso, SSP Larkana, distributed certificates and encouraged extending such initiatives to rural areas. SHRC reaffirmed its commitment to empowering marginalized communities and advancing human rights protections across Sindh.





## 6th January:

### SHRC Champions Women's Protection and Human Rights Advocacy in Jacobabad

The Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho and team along with SSP Captain (R) Saddam Hussain visited & inspected the work of the under-construction women's police station (one stop protection center) in the district. The Sindh Government's initiative for establishing centres through Home Dept (Sindh Police) and tireless efforts of other stakeholders for the establishment of such facility in Jacobabad is becoming a reality. Mr. Detho also highlighted the urgent need for a women's police station, citing the alarming prevalence of cases of harassment at public places, honor killings and domestic violence in the area.

The women's police station is expected to be completed by June 2025. SHRC urged concerned authorities including AIG Sindh Police, SSP Saddam Hussain for the timely completion of development work. Mr. Detho emphasized promoting participation and recruitment of women police constables to ensure their active participation in law enforcement and leadership and addressing the issues of GBVs.

In addition to the women's jail and police station, SHRC is committed for establishing /functioning of a Darul Aman (shelter home) in Jacobabad to provide protection and support for women facing violence. These initiatives mark a significant step toward ensuring safety, justice, and empowerment for women in Jacobabad by concerned departments.





## 8th January:

### SHRC Hosts Advisory Committee Meeting of Children's Parliament

The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), under the leadership of Chairperson Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, hosted the second Advisory Committee meeting of the Children's Parliament. Key stakeholders reviewed progress, addressed challenges, and charted a future roadmap for the initiative.

Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho (SHRC) highlighted the initiative's alignment with UNCRC Articles 12 and 13, stressing the activation of School Management Committees (SMCs) for child-centric governance.

Mr. Partab Shivani (Thar Education Alliance) called for active engagement from the technical committee to ensure success.

Ms. Qurat Mudasar (Program Manager) presented milestones achieved and the Parliament's impact in amplifying children's voices.

Mr. Asif Abrar (UNICEF) discussed implementation challenges, major achievements, and the need for a strong roadmap to sustain progress.

Mr. Prem Sagar (JICA) expressed support for refining and implementing children's innovative ideas.



## 9th January:

### SHRC Advocates for Nutrition Reforms and Human Rights Protections Across Sindh

Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), held a meeting with representatives of the National Advocacy For Rights of Innocent-NARI Foundation Sukkur and Strengthening Participatory Organization - SPO Sukkur, namely Mr. Anwar Mahar, Executive Director of NARI Foundation, Ms. Shazia Abbasi, Project Manager of NARI Foundation, and Mr. Irshad Soomro, Project Manager of SPO Sukkur at SHRC Regional office Sukkur.

The discussions focused on the urgent need to tackle malnutrition in Sindh and to ensure the effective implementation of the Breastfeeding Act 2023 and the Food Fortification Act 2021. The representatives also presented a letter to SHRC, urging the Commission to advocate for:

- Enhanced enforcement of the Breastfeeding Act and Food Fortification Act.
- Monitoring mechanisms to address gaps in nutrition-related initiatives.
- Stronger collaboration between government bodies and civil society organizations to combat malnutrition.



In conclusion, the meeting underscored the critical need for coordinated action to combat malnutrition in Sindh, with a strong emphasis on enforcing existing nutrition laws and fostering collaborative efforts between governmental and civil society stakeholders.

The SHRC's continued engagement on these issues signals a vital commitment to advancing both human rights and public health across the province.

## 11th January:

### SHRC Oversight Visit to Shaheed Benazirabad Jail Highlights Inmate Rights, Legal Aid, and Healthcare Reforms

The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), under the leadership of Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho, conducted an oversight visit to the District Jail in Shaheed Benazirabad. Accompanied by the Jail Oversight Committee and district administration officials, the visit focused on assessing the condition of the facility, safeguarding the rights of inmates, and recommending actionable improvements.

During the inspection, Chairperson Detho commended the Jail Superintendent for maintaining cleanliness and highlighted the importance of legal resources provided by the Sindh Government for the benefit of prisoners. Emphasizing access to legal aid /Justice as a fundamental right, the Chairperson recommended:

- Establishing a dedicated legal aid and registration window for prisoners.
- Activating the District Legal Empowerment Committee to assist inmates not covered under the Committee of Welfare of Prisoners (CWP).
- Addressing delays in police submissions of challans through the District Criminal Justice Coordination Committee asking the Senior Superintendent of Police and SP Investigation as Secretary.



Overcrowding was identified as a critical issue, prompting recommendations for temporary measures to reduce inmate numbers and mitigate the risk of disease outbreaks. Additionally, medical care was prioritized, with plans for organizing medical camps, routine check-ups, and referrals to People's Medical University for treating conditions such as scabies and skin diseases. Immediate referrals for orthopedic and cardiology cases to tertiary care centers were also suggested.



# 12th January:

## SHRC and BSWA Train Officials on Legal Protections and Inclusion for Marginalized Communities

The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), in partnership with Bhattai Social Watch & Advocacy (BSWA), concluded a two-day training workshop focused on empowering government officials to safeguard the rights of marginalized communities.

The workshop, held in Shaheed Benazir Abad Division, provided key insights into laws protecting marginalized groups, such as the Sindh Hindu Marriage Act and Sindh Local Government Act, while addressing issues like forced conversions and hate speech. SHRC Chairperson, Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, emphasized the importance of free marriage and birth registrations and the collective responsibility to uphold Pakistan's constitutional and international commitments to marginalized communities.

Officials from diverse departments, police, and legal experts participated in interactive sessions on legal enforcement, interfaith harmony, and practical solutions for district-specific challenges. Chief Guest, Additional Commissioner Syed Amar Hussain, distributed certificates, encouraging participants to continue promoting inclusivity.



# 15th January:

## SHRC Calls for Mental Health Support and Reforms for Death Row Inmates at Central Jail Hyderabad

The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), led by Chairman Iqbal Ahmed Detho, conducted an inspection of Central Jail Hyderabad, revealing concerning mental health issues among the 248 death row inmates. The SHRC emphasizes the need for improved psychological support, medical care, and systemic prison reforms to uphold human rights standards.

Key Highlights:

- 88 appeals of condemned prisoners await hearings in higher courts.
- SHRC urges regular assessments of prison facilities and upgrades in Mirpurkhas and Dadu.
- Completion of women and children's jail construction requested.

"Human rights must be upheld for all, even for those on death row," Chairman Detho reiterated.



## SHRC and BSWA Empower Government Officials to Champion Minority and Marginalized Rights Across Sindh

The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), in collaboration with Bhattai Social Watch & Advocacy (BSWA), successfully conducted a two-day training workshop on January 14, 2025, at Darbar Hall, Commissioner Office, Hyderabad. The workshop, aimed at strengthening the capacity of Sindh government officials, focused on safeguarding the rights of marginalized communities across nine districts.



Participants, including representatives from the Human Rights Department, Government of Sindh, Social Welfare Department, Government of Sindh, Local Government, Minority Affairs, Labour & Human Resources, Women Development Department Sindh, and police, gained insights into laws and policies such as the Sindh Hindu Marriage Act, Domestic Violence Act, and Sindh Child Marriages Restraint Act. SHRC Chairperson Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho emphasized the importance of free marriage and birth registrations under the CRVS system and addressed issues like forced conversions and hate speech. Trainer Mr. Kashif Siddiqi highlighted anti-discrimination laws and the role of District Peace Committees in promoting social cohesion.

Judicial Member SHRC, Justice (F) Arshad Noor, praised participants' dedication and called for stronger collaboration between government bodies, law enforcement, and civil society to foster inclusivity and justice.

The workshop concluded with Senior Superintendent of Police, Hyderabad, Mr. Farrakh Lanjar, commending the participants' efforts. Certificates were awarded to acknowledge their dedication to protecting minority rights.

## 20th January:

### A Story of Resilience, Collaboration, and Justice!

would you do if the system denied you critical financial aid simply because of a differently-abled?

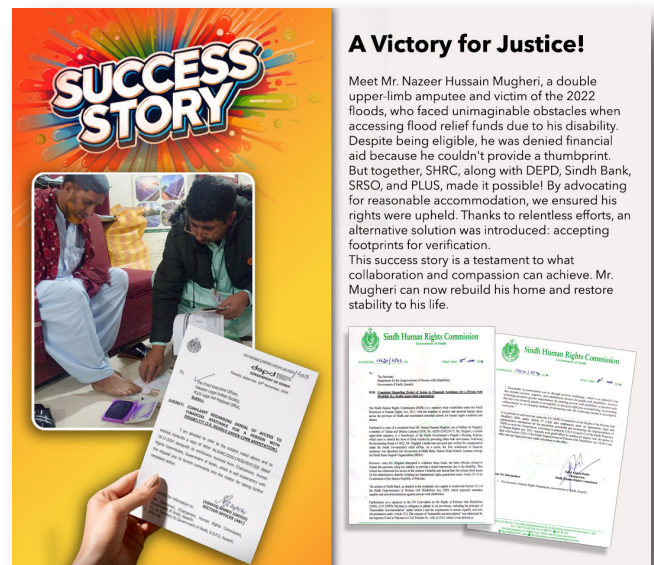
That's exactly what happened to Mr. Nazeer Hussain Mugheri, a double upper-limb amputee and 2022 flood victim from Larkana. Despite being eligible for relief funds under the Sindh People's Housing Scheme, he couldn't access the aid because Sindh Bank required a thumbprint—a requirement he couldn't fulfill.

Mr. Mugheri didn't give up, and neither did the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC)!

Here's how we turned things around:

- SHRC stepped in and highlighted how denying him aid violated constitutional rights and the Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018.
- We collaborated with key stakeholders—DEPD, PLUS, SRSO, and Sindh Bank—and advocated for reasonable accommodation to ensure accessibility for all.
- Together, we came up with an innovative solution: Mr. Mugheri's footprints were accepted for verification.

**The Result:** The funds were finally released, giving Mr. Mugheri the support he needed to rebuild his flood-damaged home and restore stability to his life.





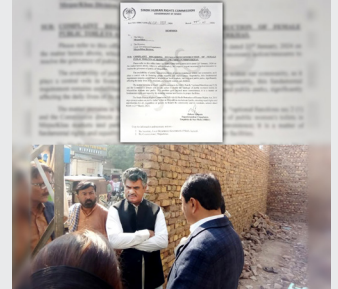
# 21st January:

## Improving Women's Access to Public Restrooms in Mirpurkhas

In a significant step towards gender inclusivity, it was brought to attention that public places in Mirpurkhas, such as family parks, markets, bus stops, and other public spaces, lacked proper restroom facilities for women. Responding to this concern, the Sindh Human Rights Commission took swift action by issuing a notice and directing the Local Government of Mirpurkhas to address the issue.

As a result, the local authorities have initiated the construction of women's restrooms at various public locations across the city, ensuring better accessibility and convenience for women in the community.

This is a small yet impactful victory in the ongoing effort to improve public facilities and ensure equal rights for all citizens.



## SSP Sukkur Briefs SHRC Chairperson on Human Rights Progress and Key Case Developments

SSP Sukkur Amjad Ahmed Shaikh met with Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, at the SHRC Regional Office Sukkur to discuss the overall human rights situation in Sukkur. He also apprised him of the progress in specific cases – the recovery of Priya Kumari and the arrest of the accused in the murder of journalist Jan Mohammed Mahar.



# 22nd January:

## SHRC and SJA Train Sukkur Judges on Human Rights Laws and Judicial Accountability

A workshop on human rights laws, organized by the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) in collaboration with the Sindh Judicial Academy (SJA), concluded with the participation of 23 judges and magistrates from Sukkur division.

The workshop aimed to enhance participants' understanding of laws related to consumer protection, human trafficking, gender-based violence, and juvenile justice. SHRC Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho, along with Mr. Naveed Soomro, Senior Faculty Member at the Sindh Judicial Academy, highlighted the judiciary's crucial role in implementing these laws and ensuring swift justice for victims. Mr. Soomro specifically discussed the Sindh Consumer Protection Act, 2014, and the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016, emphasizing their significance in safeguarding citizens' rights.

Experts, including Barristers Rida Tahir and Barrister Aashir Mahar, highlighted key legislations such as the Sindh Domestic Violence Act, 2013, the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018, and the Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018. Discussions addressed legal gaps and practical challenges in enforcement.

Justice Mohammad Saleem Jessar of the Sindh High Court, Sukkur bench, distributed certificates, reaffirming the SHRC and SJA's commitment to strengthening the judicial system and promoting human rights awareness.



## 23rd January:

### SHRC and Sindh Judicial Academy Train Judges on Strengthening Child Protection Through Law

The Sindh Human Rights Commission, in collaboration with the Sindh Judicial Academy, organized a one-day training event for district judges on child protection laws to enhance their capacity in safeguarding children's welfare at the district level.



SHRC Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho, discussed key legal frameworks, including the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013, Prohibition of Employment of Children Act 2017, and Sindh Bonded Labour System Abolition Act 2015. He also stressed activating district vigilance committees.

District & Sessions Judge Naveed Ahmed Soomro addressed child trafficking under the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2018, while Barrister Rida Tahir emphasized the importance of specialized child courts. Barrister Aashir Masood Mahar discussed the Juvenile Justice System Act 2018, highlighting the judiciary's role in preventing illegal confinement of children.

District & Sessions Judge Sukkur, Ameer Ahmed Mahesar, as the chief guest, underscored the role of district committees in legal aid and human rights protection during the certificate distribution ceremony.

## 24th January:

### Strengthening Judicial Response to Gender-Based Violence Amid Climate Challenges

The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), in collaboration with the Sindh Judicial Academy, held a one-day training programme on January 24, 2025, to enhance the capacity of 29 district-level judges from Larkana division in handling women protection cases.

The training focused on addressing the challenges faced by women and girls due to climate-induced displacement and poverty.

SHRC Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho, alongside District & Sessions Judge Naveed Ahmed Soomro, discussed key legal frameworks, including the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013, Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2004, and the Prevention of Anti-Women Practices Act 2011.

They emphasized the link between climate change and gender-based violence.



Barrister Rida Tahir and Barrister Aashir Masood highlighted the increasing instances of domestic violence in displaced communities and stressed the need for effective implementation of laws like the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2013.

Mr. Justice Omar Siyal of the Sindh High Court, distributed certificates, reaffirming the SHRC and SJA's commitment to strengthening the judicial system and promoting human rights awareness.



## Judicial Training Highlights Legal and Environmental Protections for Women and Girls

The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), in collaboration with the Sindh Judicial Academy (SJA), organized a two-day training program for 60 district-level judges. This initiative aimed to emphasize the urgent need for adherence to the protection of women and girls, in light of Article 9A of the Constitution of Pakistan, which guarantees the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.





During the sessions, SHRC Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho, District & Sessions Judge Naveed Ahmed Soomro, and Barrister Rida Tahir provided insights into various laws enacted to safeguard the rights of women and girls. The discussions highlighted key protections under Pakistan's legal framework, including constitutional guarantees and legislative measures addressing gender-based violence and discrimination.

District & Sessions Judge Larkana, Mr. Simkan Mughal emphasized the judiciary's critical role in eliminating gender discrimination and fostering equality through judicial sensitization and awareness. He underscored the importance of upholding laws designed to protect women and girls and creating an environment that ensures justice and equity.



## 26th January:



### SHRC and SSDO Mentor Women in Policing

The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), in collaboration with the Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO Pakistan), organized a one-day mentoring session for 34 women who recently qualified as police constables.

This event was held in Larkana. The session aimed to enhance participants' skills and readiness for careers in law enforcement.

Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of SHRC, delivered a lecture, encouraging the participants to break barriers in the traditionally male-dominated field and contribute to creating a more inclusive and equitable policing environment. He emphasized the importance of women's leadership in shaping a fairer and more effective law enforcement system.

In addition, trainers Mr. Shoaib Ali and Mr. Qasim Ali Sheikh conducted engaging sessions on interview techniques and professional conduct. Barrister Rida discussed the challenges women face in policing, providing practical strategies for overcoming obstacles and highlighting the importance of resilience, teamwork, and collaboration in the profession.

The participants expressed gratitude for the initiative, noting that it greatly boosted their confidence and preparedness for the challenges of law enforcement.



# February 2025

## SHRC's February 2025 Activities

### 18th February

#### 3rd Pakistan Labour Academy Held in Karachi

The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), in collaboration with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Pakistan, successfully co-hosted the 3rd Pakistan Labour Academy (PLA) at NILAT, Karachi.

labour rights are universal but remain out of reach for many in Pakistan:

- 95% of workers lack union representation
- 23% are trapped in forced labour
- 12.5 million children work instead of learning
- Women face low wages & exclusion

Unsafe workplaces put lives at risk



Mr. Rajvir Singh Sodha called for a dedicated budget for labour training at NILAT to strengthen advocacy and policy implementation.

Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho emphasized the need for a living wage, legal aid, and better occupational rights for workers.

Mr. Zulfiqar Shah highlighted that 95% of the workforce lacks union representation and 23% are subjected to forced labour.

Mr. Abdullah Dayo stressed the role of the PLA in equipping labour representatives with advocacy skills for fair wages and improved conditions.

Ms. Zehra Khan emphasized engaging women and transgender individuals in the labour movement and addressing employment contract issues.

## 19th February:

### SHRC Chairperson Advocates for Child Welfare and Legal Identity at High-Level Consultative Sessions

Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, spoke at a consultative session on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), focusing on the importance of marriage registration. The program, organized by the Local Government Department, was chaired by Additional Chief Secretary Mr. Khalid Hyder Shah. The session emphasized the legal, social, and human rights aspects of CRVS, highlighting its role in ensuring legal identity, protecting rights, and strengthening governance. Experts from various sectors discussed policy reforms, challenges, and strategies for effective implementation.



Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, subject matter expert, delivered a compelling lecture on "Issues and Welfare of Children in Pakistan" to the participants of the 2nd Senior Management Course (SMC), which was a key part of the mandatory training program for senior management.

This session was organized by the Training Management and Research (TMR) Wing, Services, General Administration, and Coordination Department (SGA&CD), Government of Sindh (GoS).

During the lecture, participants gained invaluable insights into the current challenges surrounding children's rights and welfare in Pakistan. Iqbal Ahmed Detho provided a comprehensive overview of the state of children's issues in the country, shedding light on vital areas that require attention and action.

## 25th February:

### SHRC Highlights Support for Transgender Rights and Gender Justice at GBV Awareness Session

Ms. Fareeda Tahir, Public Relations Officer, Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), highlighted the Commission's dedicated efforts in supporting the transgender community—assisting them in obtaining their National Identity Cards and addressing other critical issues.



Speaking at the Awareness Raising Session on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Women's Rights, she emphasized that SHRC has full-time judges to resolve human rights violation cases and holds the authority to take suo-moto notices to ensure justice.

This impactful session was organized by the Women Development Department, Government of Sindh, in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Rights, GOP, FPCCI Central Standing Committee on Women Education & Training, and Sindh Regional Committee on Consumers & Public Services (FPCCI).





## 26th February:

### **Bridging Global Norms and Local Laws: SHRC Chairperson Iqbal Detho Highlights Impact of International Human Rights on Pakistani Legal System**

Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, delivered a lecture on the "Impact of International Human Rights Obligations Over Pakistani Law " at Ziauddin University Faculty of Law, Politics And Governance, Karachi.



The lecture focused on how international human rights treaties and conventions influence Pakistan's legal system and highlighted the country's commitments under various international human rights instruments, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). He explained how these global commitments shape domestic laws, policies, and judicial interpretations, ensuring that fundamental rights are upheld in Pakistan.

The session was part of the Two-Week Bar Vocational Course for Law Graduates, organized by the Sindh Judicial Academy and the Sindh Bar Council. This initiative aims to prepare law graduates for professional practice by strengthening their understanding of legal frameworks, courtroom advocacy, and the intersection of international human rights norms with Pakistani law.

## 27th February:

### **Championing Inclusion: SHRC Chairperson Iqbal Detho Addresses Welfare of Marginalized Communities at NIPA's Senior Management Course**

Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, Iqbal Ahmed Detho, as a subject matter expert, delivering a lecture on Issues and the Welfare of Marginalized Communities in at the National Institute of Public Administration - NIPA Karachi. This enlightening session was part of its 37th Senior Management Course. Senior Officers falling in the promotion zone of BS-20 from Federal and Provincial Governments attended the course, which focuses on public policy formulation and implementation at the strategic level.





The lecture covered a wide range of topics, including an overview of marginalized communities (Minorities, Transgender, Persons with Different abilities) the legal and institutional framework, at National and International challenges of inclusion and mainstreaming, and issues such as forced marriage, gender harassment, and abduction. Participants gave insights into the Constitutional and Legal Framework, as well as the Institutional Mechanism established for the protection and promotion of human rights in Pakistan. The lecture provided a comprehensive overview of these critical issues.

## 28th February:

### SHRC Chairperson Calls for Unified Child Rights Strategy at Consultative Session on CRC Reports

The Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) attended a Consultative Session on the List of Issues related to Pakistan's Combined 6th and 7th Periodic Reports under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, held at Mehran Hotel, Karachi.



Speaking at the session, the Chairperson highlighted the progress made by the Sindh Government in addressing key child rights issues. The Chairperson also stressed the urgent need for better coordination among government departments and called for the creation of a unified database to ensure accurate data collection and effective policy implementation.



# March 2025

## SHRC's March 2025 Activities

### 6th March

#### SHRC Leadership Meets Karachi Bar Association to Strengthen Human Rights Collaboration

Chairperson Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, and Judicial Member (SHRC), Mr. Arshad Noor Khan, held a productive meeting with the newly appointed Chairman of the Human Rights Committee, Karachi Bar Association, Mr. Muzzamil Qureshi.

Discussions focused on pressing human rights issues in Sindh and explored avenues for future collaboration to strengthen legal protections and advocacy efforts.



### 6th March

#### SHRC Visits Remand Home Karachi to Assess Child Welfare and Advocate for Probation Law Reforms

Chairperson Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, along with team visited the Remand Home & Certified School Karachi to evaluate the quality of educational, recreational, vocational training, and medical services provided to the children residing there. A thorough assessment of all sections was conducted to ensure effective management and child welfare and rehabilitation. Currently, 18 children are housed at the facility.

During the visit, a meeting was also held with Mr. Manzoor Hussain, Director - Reclamation and Probation, Home Department and his team. It was shared that the Draft Probation Rules 2024 have been vetted by Law Department and are under consideration by the Home Department Government of Sindh.



### Mr. Iqbal Detho emphasized:

The need to adopt after 18th CA, the Probation Law i.e Probation Offenders Ordinance 1960 and present it to the relevant Standing Committee and stakeholders for input.

The importance of establishing remand homes in every district, as mandated by law initially at Division Headquarters such as Larkana, Sukkur, Hyderabad and Mirpurkhas.

The strengthening of rehabilitation services to ensure the rights and well-being of children in state care in the best interests of children.

## 9th March:

### Visit of Chairperson, Sindh Human Rights Commission to Judicial Lockup Shahdadt

The visit aimed to assess the conditions of under-trial prisoners (UTPs), ensure the protection of human rights, evaluate compliance with legal standards, and address any grievances of the inmates.

#### Observations and Findings:

- Infrastructure & Living Conditions: Urgent maintenance and better sanitation facilities are needed.
- Legal Assistance: Two UTPs raised concerns over limited access to legal representation and timely legal aid.
- Health & Medical Facilities: Inadequate medical services were reported, highlighting the need for regular check-ups.
- Human Rights Violations & Complaints: Complaints of ill-treatment and delays in legal proceedings were noted, with assurance from the Chairperson to take up these issues with the authorities.



#### Recommendations:

- Immediate improvement of hygiene and sanitation.
- Strengthening of legal aid and consultation services.
- Ensuring regular medical check-ups and healthcare services.
- Establishing a mechanism for timely redressal of human rights violations.

### International Women's Day Event in Shahdadt

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), in collaboration with the Sindh Women Lawyers Alliance, organized an event in Shahdadt to address women's rights and empowerment.

#### Key Highlights:



#### Address by SHRC Chairperson:

Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho emphasized that societal structures still fail to fully recognize women's rights and highlighted the historical significance of Shahdadt, the constituency of the late Benazir Bhutto, in advancing gender equality.

#### Major Initiatives Announced:

- A Women and Children's Police Station will be established in Shahdadt.
- A dedicated women's section in the local library will be created to encourage educational growth.
- Legal reforms will be pursued to eliminate barriers against justice in cases like honor killings.
- Collaboration with government institutions will be strengthened to improve women's rights across Sindh.



## Social Issues and Challenges:

- Limited access to modern facilities and social media hinders women's awareness and empowerment.
- Inappropriate behavior by police officials at stations often delays justice, requiring urgent reforms.
- Cultural references from Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai were highlighted, recognizing the evolving role of women as warriors and leaders.

## Women in Law Enforcement:

- One hundred and thirty-one vacancies for female police officers remain unfilled in the Larkana region; new policies will offer incentives for recruitment.
- A women's police station has already been established in Jacobabad, demonstrating progress.

## 2nd Event:

### SHRC and Partners Commemorate International Women's Day with Empowerment Event at Shah Abdul Latif University

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Sindh Human Rights Commission in collaboration with the Marvi Rural Development Organization, hosted a special event at Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, to highlight women's rights and empowerment.

Iqbal Ahmed Detho, the Chairperson of SHRC, addressed the gathering by emphasizing that despite progress, societal structures still fall short in fully recognizing and protecting women's rights. Detho pointed out that while Sindh has made strides in improving the legal framework for women's rights, much more needs to be done at the grassroots level. He stressed the need to tackle entrenched cultural and social norms that often undermine the full participation and freedom of women, especially in rural areas.

MPA Barrister Halaar Wasaan also spoke at the event, emphasizing the importance of legal reforms in protecting women's rights. She advocated for the inclusion of more women in decision-making processes and the need for stronger legal protections to ensure their safety and equality. Her remarks resonated with the audience, highlighting how law and justice play a crucial role in empowering women.

Vice Chancellor of Shah Abdul Latif University, Dr. Yousuf Khushk, also addressed the gathering, shedding light on the vital role women play in the advancement of society and the importance of education in empowering them. He spoke passionately about how the progress of women directly impacts the progress of the entire nation. He emphasized that women's empowerment is essential for a prosperous future, not only in Sindh but throughout Pakistan. His message of support for women's education and inclusion was a key takeaway from the event.



# 10th March:

## SHRC Chairperson Highlights Urgent Reforms Needed at Taluka Hospital Shahdadtal

The Chairperson of the SHRC Iqbal Ahmed Detho, along with Assistant Commissioner Shahdadtal, Mohsin Ali Shaikh, and other government stakeholders, conducted an official visit to Taluka Hospital Shahdadtal. The visit aimed to assess healthcare facilities, staff performance, and the overall condition of the hospital, revealing several critical issues requiring urgent attention.

Dr. Israr Lashari, Medical Superintendent of Taluka Hospital Shahdadtal, briefed the Chairperson on the hospital's current situation, highlighting key challenges and areas needing improvement.

### Observations:

- Staff shortage: The hospital is facing an acute shortage of medical and paramedical staff, with several key positions unfilled, affecting patient care.
- Lack of specialist doctors: The absence of specialists in general surgery, pediatrics, cardiology, and ophthalmology forces patients to travel long distances for treatment.
- Poor cleanliness and hygiene: Wards, corridors, and washrooms were found to be unhygienic, with ineffective waste disposal posing health risks.

### Recommendations:

- Immediate recruitment of essential staff.
- Deployment of specialist doctors to improve patient care.
- Strict cleanliness measures and proper waste management.
- Regular monitoring and inspections to maintain service quality.
- Addressing the shortage of essential medicines.



# 11th March:



## SHRC and SALU Collaborate to Promote Business and Human Rights Education, Launch Free Eye Screening Camp

On March 11, 2025, SHRC Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho met with Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Yousuf Khushk in Khairpur to discuss Business and Human Rights, a key focus under the Sindh Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2022.

The discussion emphasized integrating Business and Human Rights education into Sindh's business schools. Mr. Detho stressed the need for ethical business practices, social responsibility, and sustainability, highlighting SALU's role in shaping future business leaders.

Prof. Dr. Yousuf Khushk supported the initiative and reaffirmed the university's commitment to producing socially responsible graduates. Both parties explored potential collaborations between SHRC and SALU to promote human rights education.





Later, PPP MPA Halar Wassan, Prof. Dr. Khushk, and Mr. Detho inaugurated a Free Eye Screening Camp, organized with Vision for Education Foundation, IBA, and SALU's Student Societies Center. The camp provided free eye check-ups and promoted eye health awareness.

The event drew students, faculty, and community members. MPA Wassan emphasized the impact of such healthcare initiatives, while Prof. Dr. Khushk highlighted the university's commitment to community service in education and health.

## 15th March:



### SHRC Chairperson Conducts Oversight Visit to Central Jail Karachi, Urges Legal Aid and Reforms

Chairperson Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, conducted an oversight visit to Central Jail Karachi, accompanied by DIG Prisons & Correctional Facilities, Mr. Muhammad Hassan Sahto. The visit aimed to assess prison conditions, safeguard inmates' rights, and recommend actionable improvements.

Key concerns and recommendations highlighted during the visit:

- Legal Aid for Prisoners - Several inmates in urgent need of legal assistance were identified. Chairperson Detho emphasized the importance of activating the District Legal Empowerment Committee to provide legal support to those not covered under the Committee of Welfare of Prisoners (CWP).
- Cases of Wrongful Imprisonment - Instances of inmates wrongfully imprisoned under the blasphemy law were brought to attention, stressing the need for fair legal representation and review of unjust detentions.
- Addressing Overcrowding - With overpopulation a major concern, recommendations were made for temporary measures to reduce inmate numbers and prevent disease outbreaks.

## 16th March:

### SHRC Assesses Khairpur Prisons, Provides Legal Aid and Calls for Urgent Infrastructure Reforms

A delegation of the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), led by Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho, along with the SHRC team, visited the Central Prison and Correctional Facility in Khairpur and the District Jail to assess the living conditions of inmates and the overall facilities in the prisons.



The Khairpur facility, with a total authorized capacity of 1,175 inmates, currently holds 1,085 inmates. Taking cognizance of the need for legal assistance, the SHRC provided advocates/legal assistance to undertrial prisoners who could not afford legal representation due to their financial condition in Khairpur facilities.

Mr. Detho ordered the Superintendent/In-charge of the facilities to immediately process the transfer applications of convicts who had requested a transfer/shifting to other facilities on humanitarian and medical grounds during the inspection visit.

Taking notice of the frequent load-shedding of electricity and gas for 8-10 hours at night, the deplorable conditions of the washrooms at the District Prison and Correctional Facility in Khairpur, Mr. Detho stated that the Commission would write to the appropriate authorities for the immediate redressal of these issues, as they directly violate the fundamental rights and welfare of the inmates.

## 19th March:

### SHRC Chairperson Highlights Police Role in Gender-Based Violence Response at ToT Closing Ceremony



The closing ceremony of the Comprehensive Training of Trainers on Gender-Based Violence Management Course was attended by Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairman of the Sindh Human Rights Commission. He delivered an impactful lecture on "Gender-Based Violence and the Role of Police", emphasizing the importance of a victim-centric approach, effective legal implementation, and capacity-building within law enforcement to tackle gender-based violence. Held at the Training Hall of the Training Directorate, Central Police Office (CPO), Karachi, the session was part of a Five-Day Training of Trainers from 10th to 14th March 2025, covering key courses on Combatting Trafficking in Persons, Gender-Based Violence Management, and Crime Scene Investigation. Mr. Detho also appreciated DIG Training Faizullah Korejo for his leadership in making the training a success. This initiative plays a crucial role in enhancing the capacity of law enforcement to address critical issues and protect victims of violence.

## 20th March:

### SHRC Joins First Provincial Nutrition Network Event to Advocate for Health Rights and Policy Action

Under the SIGN Project, led by International Rescue Committee in collaboration with MERF-Medical Emergency Resilience Foundation and Strengthening Participatory Organization - SPO, the National Advocacy For Rights of Innocent-NARI Foundation proudly hosted Sindh's first provincial-level network engagement! This milestone event brought together key stakeholders to strengthen collaboration, address challenges, and develop actionable advocacy strategies to improve nutrition outcomes across the province.



Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), highlighted the crucial role of civil society in advancing nutrition initiatives. He reaffirmed SHRC's commitment to health and nutrition as fundamental human rights, ensuring equitable access to adequate food, maternal care, and essential health services for all.

With the pre-budget session in the Sindh Assembly underway, he emphasized the need to prioritize nutrition and budget allocations, urging civil society to engage with parliamentarians. He also reiterated SHRC's role as a bridge between the government and civil society, fostering collaboration for impactful policy implementation.

A key outcome of the previous event was the formation of the District Advisory & Implementation Panel (DA&IP), jointly supervised by SHRC & the Deputy Commissioner, Sukkur.



## 22nd March:

### SHRC Collaborates with UNFPA to Validate Strategic Framework for GBV Prevention and Response in Sindh

Sindh Human Rights Commission in mandate of implementation of laws on Human Rights Promotion & Protection in Sindh collaborate with partners i.e UNFPA Pakistan Validation Session on GBV Prevention & Response in Sindh Province.

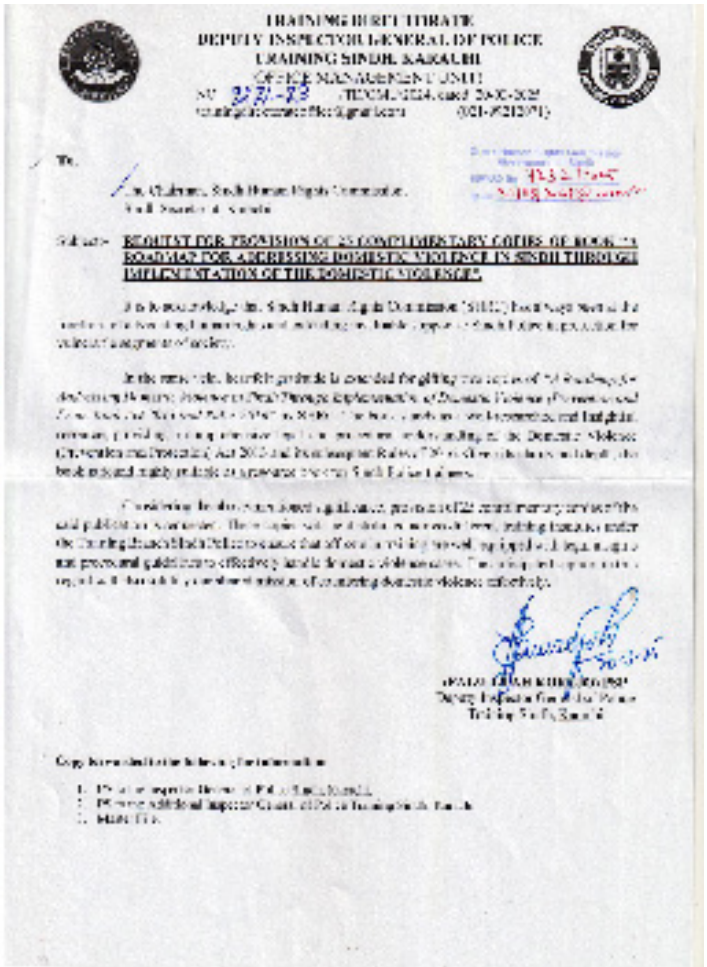
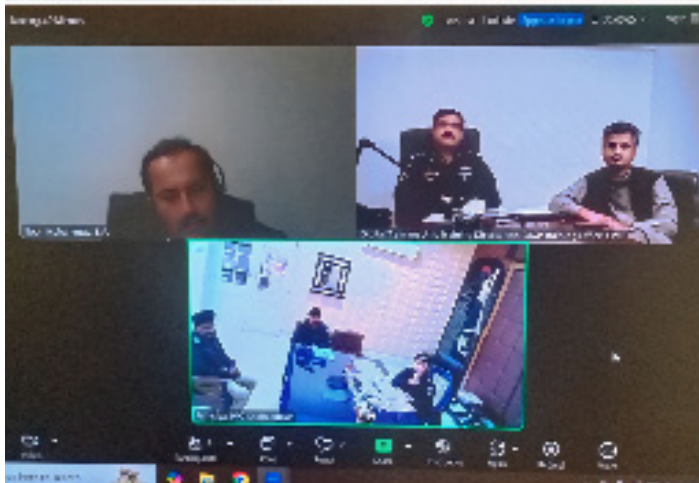
Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson SHRC, along with his team, attended the UNFPA Validation Session on the Provincial Strategic Framework for GBV Prevention & Response in Sindh.

Superintendent Complaints SHRC, Mr. Sarfraz Ahmed, Mr. Adnan stressed the need for a strong complaint mechanism and better coordination between Government & civil society for effective GBV case redressal.

Ms. Fareeda Tahir, P.R.O. SHRC highlighted the importance of centralized data collection and shared that the Treaty Implementation Cell, Human Rights Department is already collecting data to ensure compliance with international treaties, so it can serve as the central data hub.



## 22nd March:



### Enhancing Justice: Sindh Police Launches Certification Program for Investigation Officers

Police investigation plays a important role in the Criminal Justice System. A single misstep by an investigator can undermine the entire justice process. Recognizing this, the superior judiciary of Pakistan has consistently emphasized the need to enhance the quality of police investigations.

To address this need, the Training Branch of Sindh Police launched the "Certification of Investigation Officers of Sindh Police with the Use of Modern Technology."

This three-week certification program aims to equip investigating officers with modern techniques, foster professional acumen, instill technological proficiency, and ensure compliance with legal procedures.

On March 14, 2025, DIGP Training Sindh, Mr. Faizullah Korejo, and DSP/Training Directorate, Mr. Muhammad Junaid conducted interviews for the program at PTC Shahdampur, joined via Zoom by SSP Zahida Parveen.

Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson, Sindh Human Rights Commission, commended the DIGP Training Sindh for this initiative, recognizing its role in strengthening the Criminal Justice System.

This training program is being conducted in collaboration with the Sindh Judicial Academy.







## More News Clippings:

THE EXPRESS  
TODAY'S PAPER | JANUARY 15, 2025 | TRIBUNE

### Death row prisoners suffer from mental health issues: SHRC

Commission calls for improvement in healthcare services in Central Jail Hyderabad

● OUR CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

The death row prisoners in Central Jail Hyderabad are encountering mental health issues which necessitate improved healthcare services for them in the prison, Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has disclosed. The commission's Chairperson Iqbal Ahmed Detho and his legal team member barrister Raza Tahir visited the prison on Monday to assess the living conditions of the inmates serving the death sentence. According to the SHRC, on condemned with the Mirpurkhas division, the capital punishment are the central jail Hyderabad and prisoners living in that jail have been sentenced to death. But, among them, national standards while commission has requested the superior judiciary. Disturbingly, several of these inmates are reported to be experiencing mental health issues, highlighting the urgent need for improved medical and psychological support systems within the prison as well as legal and human rights and women in the prison. The SHRC also stressed that the prison authorities for every competent of the commission to ensure that the rights of those living in Pakistan. The SHRC also stressed that the prison authorities for every competent of the commission to ensure that the rights of those living in Pakistan. The SHRC also stressed that the prison authorities for every competent of the commission to ensure that the rights of those living in Pakistan.

### Blome reiterates support for religious freedoms, civil rights in Pakistan

SHRC chief briefs US envoy on critical human rights issues in Sindh

Dawn Report

KARACHI: US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome has reiterated Washington's support for advancing religious freedoms and civil rights of those living in Pakistan. The SHRC also stressed that the prison authorities for every competent of the commission to ensure that the rights of those living in Pakistan. The SHRC also stressed that the prison authorities for every competent of the commission to ensure that the rights of those living in Pakistan. The SHRC also stressed that the prison authorities for every competent of the commission to ensure that the rights of those living in Pakistan.

visit to the Clifton urban forest, where he plant a sapling. While the US consulate general in Karachi shared a brief statement regarding the ambassador's visit to SHRC, the commission stated in a press release that the envoy came to their Karachi office along with acting Consul General Amy Hood, Principal Officer to the Ambassador Amanda Salazar and Political Specialist Saman Noor.



US Ambassador Donald Blome looks at children's work at a NOWPOD centre - Dawn

SHRC's multi-pronged approach, which includes providing legal consultancy, counselling and referring cases to relevant government departments when necessary. On the occasion, SHRC minority member Sukhdev Hemrani shared his experiences handling cases involving religious minorities, offering a deeper understanding of

the commission's work at the grassroots level.

Earlier, Special Assistant to the Sindh Chief Minister on Human Rights Rajiv Singh Sodha welcomed the delegates. He underscored the provincial government's initiatives to empower individuals from religious minority groups, including their representation in political positions.

The visit highlighted SHRC's commitment to promoting and protecting human rights in Sindh while fostering international collaboration for advancing shared goals," the press release concluded.

Reinforces trade, investment partnership

Ambassador Blome reaffirmed the US commitment to strengthening bilateral ties in business, trade, jobs and education, said a statement issued by the US consulate in Karachi on Wednesday.

It said Ambassador Blome emphasised shared goals of economic growth, opportunity and respect for human dignity.

At a dinner with business leaders, he said: "The United States is committed to supporting Pakistan's economic development. Our mutual prosperity depends on free, open, competitive markets where trade and investment can thrive."

Ambassador Blome also visited the Clifton Urban Forest and the US-Pakistan Friendship Garden, where he planted a neem and a morning glory tree.

At the Network of Organisations Working for People with Disabilities Pakistan (NOWPDP), a US-supported programme, he said, "Education transforms lives, and we are proud to support educational and professional programs that promote freedom, dignity, and equality for all."

In his separate meetings with CM Shah and Governor Torzari, the ambassador discussed enhanced trade, economic relations and US investment in the province.

THE EXPRESS  
TODAY'S PAPER | JANUARY 23, 2025 | TRIBUNE

### Functioning, challenges of SHRC discussed

● OUR CORRESPONDENT KARACHI

Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Sindh on Human Rights Rajiv Singh Sodha paid an official visit to the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) of operations, emphasising its critical role in upholding human rights in the province. He elaborated the commission's daily work, shedding light on its proactive approach to addressing human rights violations, conducting awareness campaigns, and engaging with stakeholders to ensure accountability and justice. Chairperson Detho also highlighted the significant challenges it faces in promoting and protecting human rights across Sindh.

The chairperson provided an in-depth briefing on the commission's powers, functions, and mandates, and the staff of his full support on the issues raised by the commission. The visit reflects provincial government's dedication to fostering a robust human rights infrastructure and ensuring the effective implementation of rights-based policies. It is anticipated that this renewed focus will significantly enhance the commission's ability to deliver on its mandate.

briefing and commended the SHRC's dedication and tireless efforts in advocating for human rights. Expressing his concern over the highlighted challenges, he assured Detho and the staff of his full support on the issues raised by the commission. The visit reflects provincial government's dedication to fostering a robust human rights infrastructure and ensuring the effective implementation of rights-based policies. It is anticipated that this renewed focus will significantly enhance the commission's ability to deliver on its mandate.

### SHRC hosts '3rd Pakistan Labor Academy' in Karachi

By Aziz Khatri

KARACHI: The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), in collaboration with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Pakistan, has successfully hosted the 3rd Pakistan Labor Academy (PLA) at the National Institute of Labor, Administration, and Training (NILAT) in Karachi. The event gathered a diverse group of stakeholders, including human rights organizations, labor unions, activists, civil society members, and youth representatives from across Pakistan to discuss critical issues surrounding labor rights, legal advocacy, and policy reforms. In his opening address, Rajiv Singh Sodha, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Human Rights, reaffirmed the Sindh Government's commitment to enhancing labor conditions. He called for the allocation of a dedicated budget for labor training at NILAT to provide much-needed support for advocacy and policy implementation. He emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts between government, civil society, and labor organizations to address gaps in labor protections. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of SHRC, shed light on key issues, including the establishment of a living wage, legal aid for workers, occupational rights and maternity benefits. Under Detho's leadership, SHRC has spearheaded initiatives pushing for legal reforms and increased cooperation among stakeholders in the labor sector.



Fate Khabiz, Country Director of FES Pakistan, praised the collaborative efforts of NILAT, SHRC, and FES in advancing the cause of labor rights. He reiterated that labor rights are fundamental human rights, and by strengthening unions and improving working conditions, Pakistan can create a more equitable society for all workers. The Pakistan Labor Academy remains a vital resource in the ongoing fight for fair wages, safer workplaces, and improved legal protections for workers in Sindh and across Pakistan.

### Judges briefed on GBV, other laws

HYDERABAD. A workshop to brief the judges of Sukkur division about consumer protection, gender-based violence, human trafficking and juvenile justice system was organised in Sukkur on Tuesday. Some 23 additional district and session judges and civil judges and judicial magistrates participated. District and Sessions Judge and Faculty Member of the Sindh Judicial Academy Naveed Ahmed Soomro dwelt at length on the Consumer Protection Act, 2014, and the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2018. He highlighted the legal gaps that result in lack of implementation of the laws and convictions of the accused. Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Barrister Tahir Rida and Barrister Aashir Mahar also expressed views on different laws while also pointing out stumbling blocks. OUR CORRESPONDENT

THE EXPRESS  
TODAY'S PAPER | JANUARY 23, 2025 | TRIBUNE

### Roadmap to implement law against domestic violence unveiled

● OUR CORRESPONDENT KARACHI

The Sindh government has unveiled a roadmap to implement the Domestic Violence Act, 2013 revealing jarring statistics that warrant systemic change. While speaking at the roadmap launch ceremony on Monday, AIC Khadim Rind spoke about the state of women's safety in Pakistan, saying that the world data about gender-based violence is alarming. About 90% of women in the world have experienced violence in some form. In Pakistan, he said, about 6% of adult women are subjected to rape, whereas about 34% married women faced domestic violence. The situation in rural Sindh is even grave, he said, adding that implementation of the laws is lacking in the province. The launch ceremony was jointly organised by the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Pathfinder International.

and Development Office (PCDO), aims to strengthen implementation of the Domestic Violence Act passed in 2013. The roadmap underscores the importance of collaboration among government bodies, civil society, and international partners to combat gender-based violence. Key initiatives include establishing one-stop protection centres, with the first model centre to be operational in Hyderabad soon. SHRC Chairperson Iqbal Detho stressed the need for better coordination among the provincial government departments involved in addressing domestic violence. The commission has adopted a Human Rights Policy in 2023 and is prioritising implementation of the roadmap, he added. Detho said that Sindh government is establishing three centres of excellence in human rights education at three women universities in the province. These centres aim to enhance the scope and quality of human rights education, empowering women to take leadership roles in this critical field.

### SHRC workshop on human rights laws concludes

By Our Correspondent

SUKKUR: As many as 23 judges of the lower judiciary and magistrates from Sukkur division attended a workshop organised by the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) in collaboration with the Sindh Judicial Academy (SJA), according to a press release issued by the commission on Tuesday. The aim of holding the workshop was to enhance the lower judiciary judges' awareness and understanding of human rights laws, with focus on the laws pertaining to consumer protection, human trafficking, gender-based violence and juvenile justice system, besides discussing judicial role in their implementation. SHRC Chairperson Iqbal Detho said, "He shed light on the role of judiciary in enforcing the laws and ensuring dispensation of speedy justice to victims. He also highlighted the concept and principles of human rights, and called for simple and comprehensive interpretation of the relevant laws to create awareness among people and guide them on seeking justice. At the outset, JAC faculty members and a District & Sessions Judge Naveed Ahmed Soomro highlighted legal gaps affecting the implementation of the laws and foiling conviction of the

guilty. He also explained different aspects of the Sindh Consumer Protection Act, 2014 and the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018. Barrister Rida Tahir discussed the Sindh Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2013, and informed the participating judges that since 2013, around 320 cases of domestic violence were filed before the judiciary. She noted that police would not easily oblige an aggrieved party seeking to lodge an FIR. She said in such cases, the aggrieved could directly approach the court of a first class judicial magistrate. Barrister Rida also explained the Sindh Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 2015, and the Prohibition of Employment of Children Act, 2017. Barrister Aashir Mahar shed light on the Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018. Justice Mohammad Saleem Jassar of Sindh High Court Sukkur bench distributed certificates among the participating judges and magistrates. The SHRC press release said that this workshop reflected the commission's and SJA's commitment to strengthen the judicial system and enhance competence of judges, besides increasing awareness of human rights and ensuring effective implementation of all relevant laws.





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