



NATIONAL COMMISSION  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

# GSP+ & Human Rights in Pakistan

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*National Commission for Human Rights*





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## **GSP+ & Human Rights in Pakistan**

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### ***Design and Layout***

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### ***Acknowledgements:***

*National Commission for Human Rights,  
Pakistan*

*Published Nov 2022*







# INSTITUTIONS

After achieving GSP+ Status in 2014, Pakistan witnessed a remarkable increase in the establishment of human rights institutions tasked with protecting and bolstering the rights of citizens of Pakistan. State bodies with legislative mandates to protect and promote human rights, such as the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), are playing a vital role in protecting and endorsing the fundamental rights of the people of Pakistan.





# HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES

Before GSP+ status was achieved, the Pakistani human rights landscape observed a lack of detailed action plans, monitoring tools, and information portals. Pakistan has now enhanced its responses to human rights violations through institutional development and capacity building.

**2014**  
Pakistan  
Attains  
GSP+

*Human Rights Initiatives*

National Action Plan  
for Human Rights

**2016**

*Human Rights Initiatives*

- > Human Rights Information Resource Portal
- > Complaint Cell – Ministry of Human Rights

**2020**

**2017**

Human Rights Information Management System (HRIMS)

*Human Rights Initiatives*

**2021**

National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights

*Human Rights Initiatives*





# LEGISLATION

Achieving GSP+ status resulted in a stunning increase in legislation supporting the human rights of Pakistani citizens. Considerable developments have been made in the Human and Labor rights ecosystem through legislative interventions at the Federal and Provincial levels. Post 2014, Pakistan observed 16 instances of human rights related legislative activity at the Federal level, 7 in Sindh, 6 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 11 in Punjab, 2 in Balochistan, and 1 in Azad Kashmir and Jammu.

*Legislation*

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2004 (Federal)

**2005**

*Legislation*

The Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010 (Federal)

**2010**

*Legislation*

The Domestic Violence (and Protection) Act 2012 (Federal)

**2012**

*Legislation*

Acid and Burn Crime Bill, 2014 (Federal)

**2014**

**2014**  
Pakistan Attains GSP+

**2006**

The Protection of Women (Criminal Laws Amendment) Act, 2006 (Federal)

*Legislation*

**2011**

The Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act, 2011 (Federal)

*Legislation*

**2013**

- > Reproductive Healthcare and Rights Act 2013 (Federal)
- > Sindh Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2013
- > The Sindh Child Marriages Restraint Bill 2013 (CRC)

*Legislation*





- > Punjab Child Marriage Restraint Act (2015) (CRC)
- > KP Prohibition of Employment of Children Act, 2015
- > Punjab Social Protection Authority Act, 2015
- > Punjab Muslim Family Laws (Amendment) Act 2015

Legislation

- > KP Protection of Breast-Feeding and Child Nutrition Act, 2015
- > Sindh Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 2015

- > Electoral Reform Act in 2017 (Federal)
- > Alternate Dispute Resolution Bill 2017 (Federal)
- > Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 (Federal)
- > NCRC ACT 2017 (Federal)
- > Sindh Prohibition of Employment of Children Act, 2017

Legislation

- > Provincial Bonded Labour Abolition Act 2017 in KP and Sindh
- > Sindh Home-Based Workers Policy, 2017

## 2015 >>>

## 2017 >>>

## 2016 >>>

- > Punjab Protection of Women against Violence Act 2016
- > Anti-honor killing bill and Anti-rape bills (2016) (Federal)
- > The Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act 2016 (CRC) (Federal)
- > Punjab Prohibition of Child Labour in the Brick Kilns Act 2016

## >>>

- > Punjab Restriction on Employment of Children Act 2016
- > Balochistan Child Protection Act 2016
- > Azad Jammu and Kashmir Child Rights (Care and Protection) Act, 2016 (AJK)
- > National strategy to eliminate child and bonded labor launched in 2016 (Federal)

- > KP Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 2016
- > KP Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2016
- > Sindh Hindu Marriage Act 2016

Legislation





Legislation

- > 26th amendment of the Constitution of Pakistan, 2019 (Federal)
- > Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Act, 2019 (Federal)
- > Gilgit-Baltistan Prohibition of Employment of Children Act, 2019
- > Punjab Occupational Safety and Health Act 2019
- > Punjab Domestic Workers Act 2019

**2019**

Legislation

2021 Supreme court ruling against capital punishment for people with serious mental health issues (Federal)

**2021**

**2018 >>>**

- > 25th amendment of the Constitution of Pakistan (Federal)
- > The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2018 (Federal)
- > Juvenile Justice Act 2018 (Federal)
- > KP Child Labour Policy, 2018
- > Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Employment of Children Act, 2018 (Federal)

- > Sindh Home-Based Workers Act, 2018
- > Punjab Bonded Labour System (Abolition) (Amendment) Act, 2018
- > KP Labour Policy, 2018
- > Sindh Labour Policy, 2018
- > Punjab Labour Policy, 2018

Legislation

**2020**

- > Balochistan Employment of Children Prohibition and Regulation Act, 2020
- > Notification Banning Child Domestic Labour, 2020 (Federal)

Legislation

**2022**

- > Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention & Punishment) Act 2022 (Federal)
- > Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2022 (Suicide Decriminalization) (Federal)

Legislation







# COMPLIANCE

Since it gained GSP+ status in 2014, Pakistan has strived to ensure compliance with ratified conventions. It has demonstrated commitment to fulfilling reporting obligations to the UN Treaty Bodies for the 27 UN Conventions, and to the International Labour Organization (ILO) for ratified labour laws.

### Compliance

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Periodic Report: 04.01.08

**2008**

### Compliance

- > International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Initial Report: 19th October 2015 (was due in 2011)
- > Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 4th Report: 2011

**2011**

### Compliance

- > International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) 21st to 23rd Periodic Reports: 2015
- > International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) Initial Report: 16.10.15

**2015**

**2014**  
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**2009**

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) 15th to 20th Periodic Reports: 2009

Compliance

**2014**

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 5th Periodic Report: 23.05.14

Compliance

**2016**

Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) Initial Report: 04.01.16

Compliance





- > Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Latest Report: 23.10.18
- > Convention concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, No. 87 Latest report received: 2018.

## 2018 >>>

- > Convention concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively, No. 98 Latest report received: 2018.
- > Convention concerning Equal Remuneration of Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, No. 100 Latest report received: 2018

## >>>

- Compliance
- > Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation, No. 111 Last report received: 01.01.18

Compliance

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) 24th to 26th Periodic Reports: 28th Oct 2021

## 2021

## 2019 >>>

- > Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, No. 29 Latest report received: 2019
- > Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour, No. 105 Latest report received: 2019
- > Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, No. 138 Latest report received: 2019
- > Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, No. 182 Latest report received: 2019

Compliance

## 2022

- > Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) Report: 16 June 2022
- > International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Report: 16.06.22

Compliance





# WOMEN IN POLITICS

Prior to gaining GSP+ status in 2014, Pakistan saw little activity for the promotion of women in politics. As is evident from the timeline above, the Pakistani government has made the inclusion of women in politics at all levels a key priority

## Women in Politics

- > Registered Female Voters (National Assembly): 37.6 million
- > 17 constituencies with less than 10% women voters  
Upper Dir: Only one woman cast her vote

**2013**

**2014**  
Pakistan Attains GSP+

- > Registered Female Voters (National Assembly): 46.8 million  
Only two constituencies with less than 10% women voter turnout.
- > Upper Dir: 38% of registered women participated in polling.
- > Registration of female voters in the northwestern tribal areas (formerly known as Federally Administered Tribal Areas) increased by 66%

**2018 >>>**

- > The Electoral Commission of Pakistan (ECP) promoted women-only polling stations with female staff to encourage voter turnout.
- > The highest number of female candidates ran for parliament.

**>>>**

**2017**

- > Elections Act of 2017:
  - Mandated that returns from any constituency where women's turnout was less than or equal to 10 percent be nullified
  - Criminalized the practice of preventing a woman from voting in or contesting an election
  - Required all political parties to list female candidates in at least five percent of their non-reserved national and provincial assembly seats.

## Women in Politics





> A Gender Desk was set up for General Elections in the Control room of ECP Secretariat for General Elections, to receive complaints from women, persons with disabilities, transgender, minorities, female candidates, female polling staff and female polling agents.



Women in Politics

> A Gender Desk was set up in PEC office Punjab for General Elections, to receive complaints from women, transgender persons, persons with disabilities, and minorities.

Women in Politics

Registered Female Voters (National Assembly): 54.9 million

**2022**

**2021**

Registered Female Voters (National Assembly): 51.7 million

Women in Politics





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