

# National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC)



QUARTERLY

# NEWSLETTER

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023



# Building a Safer Pakistan for Children



Government of Pakistan



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
THE RIGHTS OF CHILD

## About The NCRC

The National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC) is an independent statutory body established by the Government of Pakistan for the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of children's rights in Pakistan. The NCRC has the mandate to examine and review policies, laws, practices, and proposals, inquire into violations of child rights, conduct research, raise awareness, build capacities, provide technical support and advise the Government on legislative and policy matters by virtue of the National Commission on the Rights of Child Act, 2017.



# Message from the Chairperson

I am deeply honored to address you today, reflecting on a quarter that has exemplified our unwavering dedication to the well-being of our nation's children. As we journey together in our mission to protect and uphold the rights of every child, it is essential to acknowledge the progress we've made, the challenges we've encountered, and the path we envision for the future.

Our commitment to child rights found powerful expression in our relentless pursuit of the Prohibition of Child Domestic Labour (CDL) Bill, 2023. This endeavor has been instrumental in fostering critical discussions and sparking change. Through stakeholder engagement, we've brought this pressing issue to the forefront, urging key government stakeholders to recognize the urgency of CDL concerns.

Furthermore, our collaboration with The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has been a cornerstone of our progress. This partnership has significantly contributed to driving positive change in our efforts to protect child rights. The Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) has played a vital role in advancing our shared cause. A high-level meeting with the Caretaker Prime Minister on child rights issues underscores our commitment to addressing these pressing concerns.

Our engagements with Ambassadors have opened doors for fostering partnerships. These discussions serve as a testament to the global importance of protecting child rights and reaffirm our commitment to working collaboratively on this crucial front.



While we celebrate our achievements, we must acknowledge the challenges we've faced on our journey. Advocating for child rights often entails confronting deep-rooted issues and navigating complex legislative processes. Our resolve to protect and empower children remains strong, but we must also be vigilant in addressing these obstacles.

As we move forward, it is crucial to reinforce our dedication to children's rights at every level. Our active participation in global events reinforces our commitment to international collaboration for child rights. Initiatives like book on child protection and meetings with the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) Chairman are opening new avenues for raising awareness in mainstream media.

Our commitment to children's rights remains steadfast, and our resolve to protect and empower them grows stronger with each passing day. In conclusion, let us carry forward the spirit of unwavering commitment, resilience in the face of challenges, and hope for a better tomorrow. With your continued support and dedication, we can build a future where every child's rights are respected and upheld.

With gratitude,

Ayesha Raza Farooq,  
Chairperson, NCRC

# Introducing the New Commission

The NCRC is thrilled to introduce the passionate and committed team that now leads the Commission, dedicated to championing the rights and well-being of our nation's children. Our Chairperson, Secretary, and members bring a wealth of expertise and unwavering commitment to the Commission's mission. With their visionary leadership, we are poised to embark on a journey toward creating a brighter, more inclusive future for every child in Pakistan.

What sets us apart is our unique commitment to child representation. Pakistan proudly stands as

the only country in the SAARC region with two child members serving in the Commission. Their voices and perspectives will be invaluable in shaping policies that directly impact children. Additionally, the seat of Member Balochistan will soon be filled to ensure representation from all provinces.

The impactful initiatives and advocacy efforts of the Commission members are shared in the key achievements section to uphold and protect the rights of children.



**Ayesha Raza Farooq**  
Chairperson



**Khalid Latif**  
Secretary NCRC



**Khalid Naeem**  
Member ICT



**Mehek Naeem**  
Member Punjab



**Pirbhu Lal Satyani**  
Member Sindh/Minorities



**Nadia Bibi**  
Member  
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



**Muhammad Hassan**  
Male Child Member



**Rabia Imran**  
Female Child Member

\* Seat of Member Balochistan is vacant and will be filled.

# Key Function of the Commission

## Legal & Policy Reforms

The Commission reviews existing laws protecting children and proposes amendments if necessary.



## Coordination

The Commission collaborates with other provincial commissions and organizations to ensure coordinated efforts towards protecting children's rights.



## Inquiries Related to Child Rights Violations

The Commission investigates cases of child rights violations and recommends appropriate actions to relevant authorities.



## Addressing Child Rights Issues

The Commission identifies obstacles preventing children from enjoying their rights, such as violence and exploitation, and suggests solutions.



## Research and Database

It supports child-focused research and maintains a database of important information to inform decision-making.



## Awareness Raising

The Commission raises awareness about children's rights in society and educates the public on methods of protection.



## Reviewing International Commitments

It advises the government on international agreements related to child rights that should be adopted.



## Other

The Commission may conduct any other task related to child rights that the State may be requesting from the Commission.



# Key Achievements of the Commission

## Legal & Policy Reforms

### Advocacy for Prohibition of Child Domestic Labour Bill, 2023

The NCRC stands at the forefront of legislative change with the groundbreaking Prohibition of Child Domestic Labour Bill 2023. This initiative is set to elevate CDL to a non-compoundable and non-bailable offence, marking a profound step in the protection of children from child domestic labour.

Yet, we understand that true transformation transcends mere laws; it necessitates the collective commitment of society. That's why the NCRC launched a dynamic social media campaign, rallying widespread support to criminalize CDL.

Moreover, the NCRC is actively seeking feedback from and collaboration with civil society, child rights experts, and an advisory committee to refine and strengthen the bill. We are dedicated to an inclusive approach that leverages the expertise and insights of stakeholders in crafting the most effective legislation.

As we look ahead, the NCRC remains unwavering in its commitment to advocate for this bill and will work tirelessly with the new government post-election.



## Stakeholder's Consultation on Child Domestic Labour

The NCRC, in collaboration with Group Development Pakistan (GDP) and Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO), organized 'Stakeholder's Consultations on Child Domestic Labour'. The Stakeholder Consultations served as a platform for stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogues, share insights, and propose actionable solutions to combat this pressing challenge.

The discussions were marked by a shared commitment to understanding the multifaceted challenges that children in domestic labour face

and exploring actionable solutions to combat this pressing concern. It was a collective endeavour to ensure that the voices of stakeholders, including civil society, experts, and advocates, were heard and integrated into comprehensive strategies for change.

The Stakeholder's Consultations reaffirm our dedication to a collaborative approach in the fight against CDL, and together, we are forging a path towards a brighter and more just future for our young ones.



## Reviewed ICT Child Protection Policy

The NCRC has actively engaged in collaborative efforts with the Federal Ministry of Human Rights to provide valuable input for the development of the ICT Child Protection Policy. This dynamic partnership is a testament to our commitment to safeguarding the rights and well-being of children. By actively participating in the

formulation of this policy, we are working hand in hand to create a safer and more nurturing environment for the children. This policy is poised to set a precedent for comprehensive child protection measures, ensuring that children's rights are upheld and they are shielded from harm.

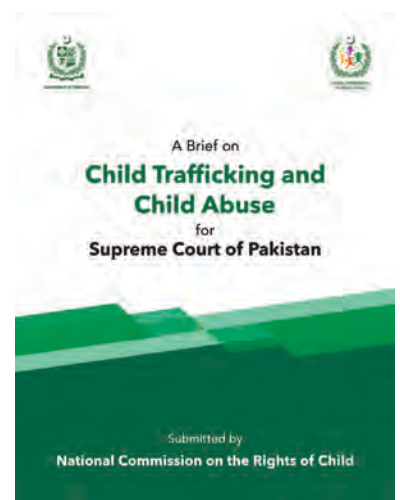
## Endorsed Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill, 2023

In a proactive step towards safeguarding the rights of children, the NCRC undertook a comprehensive review of the Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill, 2023 for ICT, moved by Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi. During this process, the NCRC provided detailed input to the Senate of Pakistan, advocating for crucial enhancements to the legislation. Specifically, the NCRC supported the augmentation of punishments for contracting, solemnizing, promoting,

or permitting child marriages. This strategic move aims to curb the practice of child marriage and establish stronger deterrence against this harmful tradition. The input provided by the NCRC underscores its unwavering commitment to advocating for legal reforms that protect the rights and well-being of children, further strengthening our nation's resolve to eradicate child marriage.

## Brief to Supreme Court on Child Trafficking and Child Sexual Abuse

In a determined effort to safeguard the rights and well-being of children, the NCRC has submitted a comprehensive brief to the Supreme Court, addressing the pressing issues of child trafficking, child abuse, and child cruelty. This document delves into the intricate socio-economic and cultural context of Pakistan, shedding light on the backdrop against which these issues must be understood. It meticulously examines the domestic legal and policy frameworks in place, discussing both general and specialized legislation, such as the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2018 (PTPA). The NCRC critically evaluates these legal frameworks, aiming to identify any shortcomings and gaps that need to be addressed. Additionally, the brief explores international legal instruments related to these issues and provides suggestions for legislative and institutional reforms, as well as general recommendations.



## Attending Senate & National Assembly Standing Committee Meetings

In a quarter marked by an unwavering dedication to child rights and the eradication of CDL, the NCRC appeared before the Senate's and National Assembly's Standing Committee on Human Rights not once but in four different meetings. These appearances underscored the NCRC's commitment to fostering meaningful change for children in Pakistan.



During these engagements, the NCRC team provided comprehensive briefings on crucial matters pertaining to child rights and CDL, highlighting the progress made in the recent CDL cases. These discussions were not just about monitoring progress but also outlining strategic measures to prevent such cases in the future.

These engagements with the Senate and National Assembly Committees were emblematic of the NCRC's tireless efforts to advocate for child rights and address pressing issues that affect children's lives.



## Coordination

### The NCRC Convenes Inaugural Advisory Committee Meeting to Combat Child Labour and Child Trafficking

The NCRC commenced its inaugural advisory committee meeting on July 19 2023, followed by 2nd meeting of the advisory Committee on September 27 2023. Esteemed child rights experts, policymakers, CSOs and other government stakeholders gathered to address critical issues concerning CDL and child trafficking, with a shared commitment to strengthening preventive measures and upholding the rights of children.

The Advisory Committee emphasized the need for an in-depth analysis of the current landscape, focusing on the root causes and far-reaching impacts of child labour and child trafficking. It also explored avenues to enhance awareness, advocacy efforts, and partnerships between government agencies, NGOs, and civil society.

The advisory committee meetings yielded a comprehensive set of recommendations covering various aspects of the proposed legislation to criminalize CDL. These recommendations are geared towards strengthening the bill and closing potential loopholes. The resounding consensus among committee members was that CDL must be treated as a grave offence, devoid of any compromises. The bill will explicitly prohibit compounding and bail in such cases, sending a strong message against child exploitation.

These advisory committee meetings underscore the NCRC's unwavering dedication to safeguarding children's rights while taking into account the recommendations made by the experts from child rights experts.



## Chairperson NCRC Ayesha Raza Farooq Calls upon the Caretaker Prime Minister in the wake of the Surge in CDL Cases



In light of the recent heart-wrenching cases involving Rizwana and Fatima, the Chairperson of NCRC, Ayesha Raza Farooq, took a significant step by meeting with Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar Kakar to apprise him of the alarming situation regarding child exploitation and child labour in our country.

Caretaker Prime Minister Kakar reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to utilizing all available resources to support the NCRC. He made it clear

that stringent legal action would be taken against those who violate children's rights, ensuring swift justice. Moreover, he promised unwavering support for the NCRC in its noble mission to safeguard the well-being of our young ones. This meeting underscores the government's dedication to eradicating child exploitation and ensuring that children's rights are upheld and protected.

## Meetings with Key Government Stakeholders



In a proactive effort to bolster child protection mechanisms and facilitate collaboration, the NCRC Chairperson Ayesha Raza Farooq, accompanied by Member Punjab Mehek Naeem and Member ICT Mr. Khalid Naeem, held a crucial meeting with Chief Provincial Commissioner for Children, Punjab, Tabana Sajjad Naseer. This constructive meeting aimed at deepening the understanding of respective mandates and, more importantly, exploring avenues for synergistic collaboration. The gathering also emphasized the critical need for

reinforcing complaint mechanisms, ensuring that the voices of children are heard and acted upon.

The NCRC team recently had the honour of meeting with the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights, Mushaal Mullick. During this engaging meeting, we had the invaluable opportunity to illuminate the essential mandate and impactful work carried out by the NCRC, with a specific focus on safeguarding the rights of vulnerable children. SAPM Mushaal Mullick expressed her wholehearted support and appreciation for our cause, reaffirming the government's dedication to advancing child rights in Pakistan.

Chairperson NCRC Ayesha Raza Farooq spearheaded a significant meeting with the Federal Law Minister and Secretary. The focal point of this crucial discussion was the formulation of the National Sex Offender Register Rules, 2023 and recent surge in the CDL cases. The formulation of rules is a momentous development in the fight against sexual offences. The National Sex Offender Register Rules, 2023,

hold immense promise in addressing the grave issue of sexual offences by creating a comprehensive database of sex offenders.

Chairperson NCRC Ayesha Raza Farooq and the Commission members called upon the the Federal Minister of Human Rights Khalil George. The primary objective of this meeting was to discuss the critical situation of child rights issues, both at the federal and provincial levels of governance. During this meeting, the NCRC delegation addressed the pressing concerns surrounding child rights in Pakistan. They highlighted the need for comprehensive measures to protect children from various forms of exploitation, including child labour, lack of access to quality education, and inequitable healthcare. The Minister assured the NCRC of his full support in their mission to uphold and protect the rights of children throughout the country.

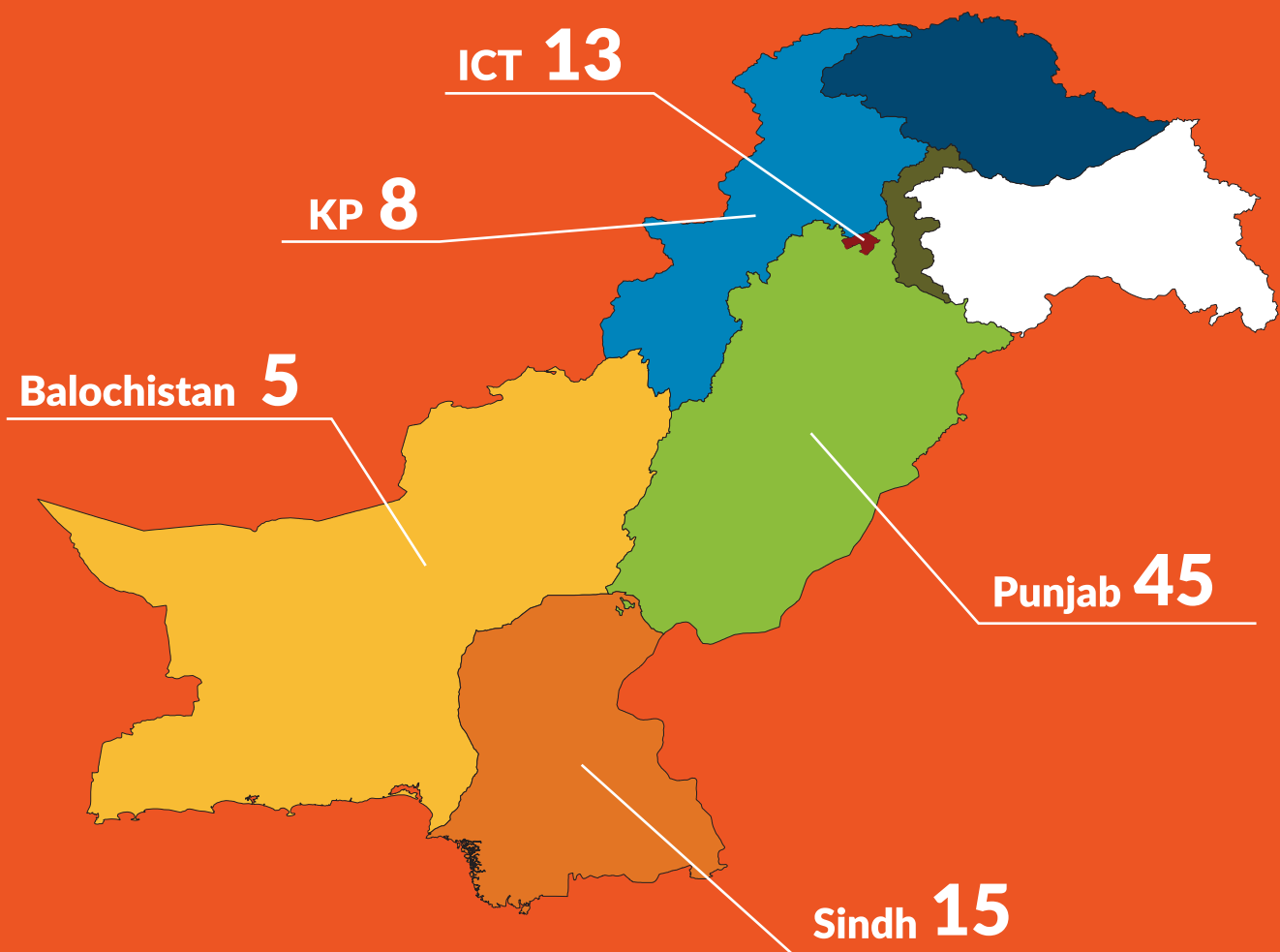


## Inquiries Related to Child Rights Violations

### Complaint Handling

The NCRC's commitment to the well-being of children remained steadfast as we addressed a total of 86 complaints related to children's rights. These cases serve as a poignant reminder of the vital role the NCRC plays in advocating for and protecting the rights of children. Each complaint

handled represents a child whose voice was heard and whose rights were defended, reinforcing our dedication to creating a society where children can thrive without fear or injustice.



Total **86**

## Addressing Child Rights Issues

### Participating in SDG's Side Event on CRVS Facilitated by UNICEF

In a significant stride towards advancing the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system, the Chairperson of the NCRC, Ayesha Raza Farooq, represented Pakistan at a crucial Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG's) side event facilitated by UNICEF in New York. Addressing the event, she underscored the imperative of strengthening the CRVS system through a multifaceted approach. These included prioritizing interoperability with the health sector, facilitating fee waivers within legally permissible timeframes, streamlining

business processes for enhanced efficiency, and fostering collaboration with the education, nutrition, and social protection sectors. This strategic emphasis on aligning CRVS with these vital sectors not only aligns with SDG 16.9 but also demonstrates Pakistan's commitment to achieving comprehensive and inclusive development. The Chairperson of NCRC was applauded for her advocacy in driving positive change and putting Pakistan at the forefront of global CRVS initiatives.



### Attending the Regional Consultation of Child Rights Institutions in South Asia Facilitated by UNICEF

In a testament to the NCRC's commitment to championing child rights not only within Pakistan but across the South Asian region, our esteemed Chairperson and two members of the Commission participated in a pivotal regional consultation of Child Rights Institutions in Maldives with the facilitation of UNICEF and presented the progress of the Commission. With unwavering dedication, she introduced the NCRC's mandate and highlighted our ongoing efforts in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the promotion and protection of children's rights. The Commission was appreciated as it is the only CRI in the region with two child members.



## Children's Consultations

The NCRC, in partnership with UNICEF, organized a series of children-led consultations on child rights that reverberated across Pakistan. The epicenter of this transformative movement was the National Assembly of Pakistan, where dynamic discussions at the event titled "Children in the Lead: Voices Unleashed" took place. Young changemakers took the reins, sharing their invaluable insights on a myriad of pressing issues affecting their lives, from child labour to child marriage, violence against children, education, online protection, mental health, climate change, gender, disabilities, and social inclusion, among others.

But the ripple effect extended far beyond the National Assembly. Following this event, consultations with children were held in Multan, Quetta, Peshawar, and Hyderabad. These consultations formed a mosaic of child participation and empowerment, allowing children's voices to resonate nationwide. It was an embodiment of the commitment to ensuring that children's voices are not only heard but also valued and acted upon. The children presented a treasure trove of recommendations on various issues, each recommendation a call to action for policymakers and stakeholders to prioritize child-centred policies.



## Consultations with CSOs

The NCRC orchestrated a series of provincial consultations (in Punjab and Sindh) and stocktaking workshops (in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh), engaging civil society, experts, and advocates in crucial dialogues on child rights, protection, and the prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation. These events emerged as pivotal platforms for stakeholders to unite, assess progress, and collectively chart a course for a safer and more nurturing environment for children. These consultations allowed for the exchange of invaluable insights and the forging of partner-

ships aimed at bolstering child protection mechanisms.

Furthermore, the "Stocktaking Workshop on Child Protection Prevention Activities" in both Punjab and Sindh served as a dedicated space for stakeholders to assess the efficacy of existing child protection and prevention initiatives. These workshops delved deep into the heart of the matter, providing a platform for self-reflection and a critical evaluation of the progress made in safeguarding children from abuse and exploitation.



## Ensuring Quality Care for Children: NCRC's Visits to Islamabad Orphanages

In line with its empowering mandate, the NCRC embarked on a mission to safeguard and enhance the welfare of children across Pakistan. With an unwavering commitment to the best interests of the child, the Commission recently took a vital step by visiting orphanages within the vicinity of Islamabad to ensure that minimum quality care standards were being applied in these facilities.

The NCRC team's visits extended to four orphanages: EDHI Homes, Pakistan Sweet Homes, Al-Khidmat Aghosh Homes, and SOS Village. By engaging with these orphanages and conducting thorough assessments, the Commission aimed to not only monitor existing practices but also make recommendations to enhance the implementation of child rights policies.

Chairperson of NCRC, Ayesha Raza, met with Mr. Zamurad Khan from Pakistan Sweet Homes, a heartwarming organization dedicated to providing shelter and rehabilitation to homeless children. In this heartfelt meeting, Chairperson Ayesha Raza extended her deep appreciation for the unwavering efforts of Pakistan Sweet Homes in transforming the lives of these vulnerable children.

The Commission remains steadfast in its mission to ensure that all children, regardless of their circumstances, are provided with the care, support, and opportunities they deserve. These visits to Islamabad's orphanages are a powerful example of the NCRC's proactive efforts to create a safer, more nurturing environment for the nation's children.

## Research & Database

### Policy Brief on Child Trafficking

The NCRC is finalizing a policy brief on 'Child Trafficking' aimed at creating perspectives for lawmakers, judges, and law enforcement agencies by identifying gaps in legal and policy frameworks on the issue of child trafficking. Not only that, but the policy brief also attempts to make recommendations to fill the legislative lacunas and further suggests reforms on the

institutional side for the effective implementation of the laws. While laws alone cannot root out the problem unless the structural factors which serve as the root causes are also addressed, an effort has also been made to make recommendations that can be used to address the root causes of child trafficking in the country.

## Reviewing International Commitments

### Report on CEDAW

The NCRC submitted a comprehensive report to the Ministry of Human Rights detailing progress made against recommendations put forth by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) with special focus on girl child in the periodic progress report.

This report provides critical insights into several key areas, including the prosecution and punishment of child marriage and forced marriage cases, awareness-raising campaigns combating discriminatory stereotypes, and the

number of government-funded programs dedicated to preventing child marriage and forced marriage.

This commitment extends to ensuring that the rights and dignity of women and girls are upheld, and discriminatory practices are eradicated. The NCRC remains steadfast in its dedication to building a more inclusive and equitable society where every individual can thrive free from discrimination and violence.

## Awareness Raising

### Meeting with Chairman PEMRA

The NCRC is grateful for the unwavering commitment demonstrated by Chairman PEMRA in our recent meeting. The promise to dedicate airtime to raise awareness on child rights and lead advocacy and awareness campaigns is a significant leap forward in our collective mission.

During the meeting, the NCRC had the privilege of sharing concrete recommendations and initiatives aimed at safeguarding the rights and well-being of children. These include the development of child rights-focused programming, impactful awareness campaigns, child-sensitive reporting guidelines, rigorous content screening measures, and comprehensive



capacity-building workshops tailored for media professionals. The collaboration between the NCRC and PEMRA highlights the pivotal role of media in championing child rights.



## Meeting with META Team

The NCRC team had a productive meeting with the META team to discuss the issue of online safety of children. The META team expressed their commitment to join forces with the NCRC to launch impactful awareness campaigns and training programs for children, parents, teachers and caregivers. Through targeted campaigns, NCRC aims to raise awareness about the potential risks and challenges children face online. Empowering parents, teachers, and children themselves with the knowledge and tools to navigate the digital safety is crucial to prevent it. Ultimately, our shared vision is to ensure that children can explore the digital landscape with confidence, creativity, and, above all, safety. We're setting the foundation for a future where every child's online experience is secure and enriching.



## The Commission participated in various consultations and events to raise awareness of child rights

The NCRC has been actively engaged in a series of consultations and events dedicated to raising awareness and advocating for child rights. These endeavours reflect our unwavering commitment to the welfare and protection of children across the nation. Chairperson NCRC Ayesha Raza Farooq and the members of the Commission participated in several key events to represent the NCRC. Here's a brief summary of some key activities:

- National Conference on Combatting Child Trafficking & Bonded Labour Organized by SSDO
- National Conference of Service Providers Organized by UNWomen
- Recognition of Service Ceremony on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons: Organized by the National Police Bureau in collaboration with SSDO
- Training of Trainers on Nurturing the Spiritual Development of Children Organized by Islamic Relief Pakistan
- Provincial Dialogue on Legislative Reforms to Outlaw Child Domestic Labour: Organized by Search for Justice
- 8th Annual PPA (Punjab) Symposium & 13th National Child Rights Conference Organized by Pakistan Pediatric Association
- National Dialogue on Child Protection Organized by Islamic Relief Pakistan.
- National People's Assembly at the SDGs Midpoint Organized by Awaz Foundation and U Good
- Global Disability Summit 2023 Organized by Sightsavers
- A Conversation on Challenges & Solutions in Combating Caste-Based Discrimination & Religious Hatred Organized by South Asia Research Institute for Minorities

- 1st Meeting of Technical Working Group on Legislation on Child Domestic Labour in Sindh Organized by Legal Rights Forum

These engagements reflect the Commission's active role in advocating for child rights at

various levels and in diverse contexts. We remain dedicated to fostering a society where every child's rights are upheld and protected, ensuring their well-being and a brighter future for all.



## Book Launch on Child Protection

The NCRC in collaboration with Idara-e-Taleem-o-Agahi, organized an exceptional book launch event, unveiling the powerful narrative of "Zor se kehna, NAHEE!" This enlightening book serves as a beacon of empowerment, shedding light on the critical topic of 'good touch and bad touch.'

The launch event was not just an occasion to celebrate the release of a remarkable literary work but a platform to emphasize the significance of equipping children, parents, and



educators with the knowledge needed to safeguard our young ones. "Zor se kehna, NAHEE!" exemplifies the power of literature in addressing essential issues, promoting awareness, and fostering a safe and nurturing environment for children. This collaborative effort between ITA and the NCRC Pakistan showcases our unwavering dedication to protecting and advocating for the rights and well-being of every child.

## The NCRC in Media

**Child Labour and Human Trafficking:** The NCRC's Chairperson Ayesha Raza Farooq engaged with Ananke editor to shed light on child labour issues within the context of modern slavery and human trafficking, inviting everyone to join us in supporting a brighter future for every child.

**Urgent Action Against Child Labour Torture:** The NCRC's Chairperson Ayesha Raza Farooq addressed the alarming increase in torture cases involving child domestic laborers during an interview with 92 NEWS. She emphasized the urgency of the matter and our active engagement with key stakeholders to advocate for the criminalization of CDL as a non-bailable and non-compoundable offense, reflecting our unwavering commitment to child safety and



rights.

**Passionate Plea for Change:** As cases of CDL surged, Chairperson Ayesha Raza Farooq passionately called upon all key stakeholders in an interview with ARY News to take decisive action by criminalizing CDL under the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), stressing the need to protect the rights and well-being of our children.

**Justice for Rizwana:** Taking a resolute stance, Chairperson NCRC Ayesha Raza demanded comprehensive FIRs in cases like Rizwana's torture case during an interview with NEO News. She emphasized our commitment to pursuing justice for Rizwana and preventing such heinous atrocities from recurring.



**Unified Support for Rape Victims:** In a candid conversation with Dawn News, Chairperson NCRC Ayesha Raza Farooq highlighted the critical need for a unified approach to support rape victims, advocating for collaborative efforts among the police, prosecution, judiciary, and civil society. This approach aims to streamline the process, ensuring prompt and thorough investigations, effective prosecution, and sensitive judicial proceedings.

**Podcast on Legal Reforms:** The Chairperson Ayesha Raza Farooq participated in a podcast Talking IDEAS with Dr. Faisal Bari, Dean, School of Education, LUMS, where she discussed the NCRC's efforts to criminalize CDL and bring about legal reforms.

These activities reflect our ongoing commitment to protecting the rights and well-being of children and pursuing justice in cases of child abuse and exploitation. Join us in making a difference for the children of Pakistan.



The NCRC has been making headlines as its impactful initiatives to protect and uphold children's rights gain widespread media

coverage. These reports highlight the dedication and relentless efforts of NCRC in championing child rights.

## NCRC, UNICEF hold consultation to empower young voices in NA

The National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC), in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), is conducting a series of consultations to empower children's voices and ensuring their rights during a vulnerable childhood. The consultations are being held at the National Assembly of Pakistan.

The first round of consultations, titled "Empowering Young Voices", was held in Islamabad. The consultations were organized to provide a platform for children to express their views on various issues related to their rights and well-being. The consultations were held in a friendly and interactive manner, with children participating through facilitated discussions, group activities, and role-playing exercises.

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## NCRC convenes inaugural advisory committee meeting

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: NCRC is pleased to announce the commencement of its first advisory committee meeting on 16th July 2023. The meeting convened esteemed experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss critical issues of child labour and child trafficking, aiming to strengthen preventive measures and protect the rights of children.

The NCRC is an independent statutory body established by the Government of Pakistan for the promotion, protection, and fulfillment of children's rights in Pakistan. NCRC has the mandate to examine and review policies, laws, practices, and proposals, inquire into violations of child rights, conduct research, raise awareness, build capacities, provide technical support and advise the Government on legislative and policy matters by virtue of the National Commission on the Rights of Child Act of 2017.

The committee also suggested to foster partnerships between government agencies, NGOs, and civil



society to effectively combat these egregious violations. The NCRC firmly believes that safeguarding children's rights is a collective responsibility, and this inaugural advisory committee meeting represents a significant step towards creating a safer and more just society for children.

"The issues of child labour and child trafficking demand our utmost attention and unwavering commitment. Our advisory committee brings together experts from diverse fields to engage in constructive dialogue, leading to concrete actions in ensuring the rights and protection of every child," stated Ayesha Raza Farooq, Chairperson, NCRC.

"Issues like child labour and child trafficking requires joint and collaborative actions from key stakeholders," stated Khalid Naem, member-ICT.

"Children begging is a violation of their rights and a form of exploitation. Giving money to children on the streets is a form of grooming. Recording children on the streets and posting videos, make them vulnerable and is unethical," stated Nadia Bibi, member-KP

## Civil society activists demand elin labour

By Our Correspondent August 14, 2023

KARACHI: Child rights and civil society activists at a consultation on the need for eliminating child domestic labour saying that it exploits and harms their development.

The rights activists were speaking at the consultation organised by the Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC) at its Karachi office. The consultation was held to discuss the implementation of the Sindh Child Marriage Act, which is seen as a step towards addressing the issue of child marriage. The activists stressed the need for a comprehensive approach to address the root causes of child marriage, including poverty, gender inequality, and lack of access to education and reproductive health services.

## Empowering Voices

### NCRC Chairperson launches book 'Zor se kehna, NAHEE!'

**MEHREZ PARAZADA**

ISLAMABAD: The National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC) has launched a new book titled "Zor se kehna, NAHEE!" (Don't shout, please!). The book is a collection of children's voices and stories, highlighting the importance of listening to children and their views on various issues related to their rights and well-being.

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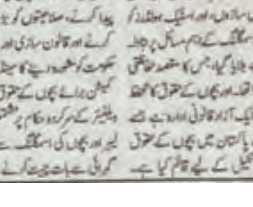
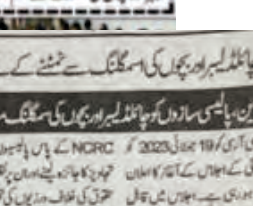
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## Child rights activists demand elin labour

The survey's findings had revealed very depressing results, the child rights activist said. He pointed out that 100 per cent of these children were engaged in domestic labour, which is a violation of their rights and well-being.

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## Other Activities

### 3-Year Strategic Plan

The NCRC is crafting a comprehensive 3-Year Strategic Plan that will guide our actions. This strategic plan is not just a document; it's a roadmap towards achieving our vision of a society where every child's rights are upheld, protected, and fulfilled. It will serve as a blueprint for our efforts to create a safer, fairer, and more inclusive environment where children can thrive.

Key areas of focus within our strategic plan include enhancing child protection mechanisms, advancing education and healthcare access, amplifying awareness of child rights, and fostering collaboration with stakeholders from all sectors. Through a holistic, child participatory and multi-dimensional approach, we aim to tackle the pressing challenges faced by children in Pakistan.

### Capacity Building of the NCRC Staff on Criminal Investigation Matters Related to Children

In pursuit of its mission to protect and advocate for children's rights, the NCRC took a significant step forward by organizing a capacity-building session on criminal investigation. Held at the NCRC office on September 13, 2023, the session featured two senior officers from the Punjab Police, who shared their expertise on the intricacies of criminal procedures, particularly concerning cases of child sexual abuse and violence. The NCRC is thankful to Dr. Usman Anwar, IG Punjab for facilitating this activity.

The session proved invaluable in equipping the NCRC staff and members with a profound

understanding of the legal and technical aspects of criminal investigations. Divided into two parts, the presentation covered procedural formalities in criminal cases, such as registering FIRs, conducting investigations, and submitting final reports to the court. Additionally, it offered an overview of the legal framework pertaining to crimes and violations related to children. Armed with a deeper understanding of investigation protocols, the NCRC is now better positioned to follow up on child rights violation cases, ensuring that the right procedures are adhered to.



## Board Meeting

The 8th Commission Meeting of the NCRC marked a significant milestone as essential updates and accomplishments were shared with our esteemed members, who wholeheartedly recognized the remarkable progress achieved by the Commission. The meeting provided a platform for a comprehensive review of the

Commission's activities and initiatives, shedding light on the significant strides we've made in upholding the rights of children in Pakistan.

The board expressed their deep appreciation for the strides made in our mission. Their support and acknowledgement reaffirm the significance of our work.



## Meetings with Ambassadors & UN Agencies

In a series of significant diplomatic engagements, the Chairperson NCRC embarked on a mission to introduce the new Commission and forge pivotal partnerships with esteemed ambassadors, UN agency heads, and influential NGOs.

The Chairperson NCRC Ayesha Raza Farooq had the privilege of meeting with distinguished representatives, each of whom expressed

genuine interest and support for our mission. Among the notable attendees were:

- French Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Nicolas Galey
- Spanish Ambassador H.E. Mr. José Antonio de Ory
- Ambassador of Japan, H.E. Mr. Wada Mitsuhiro
- Ambassador of Portugal H.E. Mr. Fredrico Silva

- German Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Alfred Grannas
- Dutch Ambassador, H.E. Ms. Henny Fokel de Vries
- U.S. Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Donald Blome
- Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Neil Hawkins
- Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Finland, H.E. Mr. Anssi Kullberg
- Resident Representative, UNDP Pakistan, Mr. Samuel Rizk

These meetings were instrumental in conveying the Commission's vision and objectives to key stakeholders on both national and international

fronts. The outcomes of these discussions have already begun to make a positive impact. Collaborative initiatives and partnerships are being explored, which will enhance our ability to protect and promote the rights of children in Pakistan. These partnerships encompass a diverse array of resources and expertise, ranging from diplomacy and international cooperation to grassroots NGO efforts. These meetings mark the beginning of a collaborative journey towards ensuring that every child's rights are respected, protected, and fulfilled, regardless of their background or circumstance.





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