

# National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC)



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
THE RIGHTS OF CHILD

QUARTERLY

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023





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 delighted to reflect on the significant strides the NCRC achieved in the past quarter, spanning October to December, as we approach the end of 2023. Our commitment to safeguarding and promoting the rights of children has materialised into impactful initiatives that align with our core mission.

The initiation of a consultative process on the Prohibition of Child Domestic Labour Bill 2024 reflects our approach towards legislative reforms. By calling upon political parties to incorporate child rights into their manifestos, we are actively shaping the political discourse ahead of the General Elections 2024. In the face of challenges such as the 'Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan,' the NCRC has advocated for the rights of every child, regardless of their immigration status.

Establishing advisory committees and working groups with religious scholars and minorities highlights our commitment to fostering inclusivity. The recent meeting with the National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA) to strengthen birth registration processes is pivotal to ensure the realization of every child's right to legal identity.

Our active engagement in World Children's Day celebrations, art competitions, and youth-led initiatives to raise awareness reflects our dedication to promote child rights, supported by esteemed partners like the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Embassy of Spain and Pakistan Girl Guides Association (PGGA).

Adding significance to the celebrations was the Charter of Demands drafted by children as a culmination of various celebratory activities and presented to the caretaker Prime Minister Mr. Anwar-UI-Haq Kakar.

The NCRC's advocacy campaigns, spearheaded in collaboration with Meta and Zindagi Trust, have created a sense of collective responsibility and inspired tangible actions to safeguard children's rights. The campaigns, featuring personal perspectives of Commission members on child rights issues and digital safety, have increased awareness aligning with the NCRC's mandate and functions.

As we approach the end of this year, I want to express my appreciation to each member, partner, and stakeholder for their support to the cause of child rights. As we navigate the complexities of our mission, let us remain resolute in our commitment to protecting and promoting the rights of the children and welcome the new year with determination to put an end to child rights violations in the country.

With gratitude,

Ayesha Raza Farooq,  
Chairperson, NCRC

# Members NCRC



**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 Functions 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 Quarter

## Legal & Policy Reforms

### The NCRC Initiates Consultative Process To Improve the Prohibition of Child Domestic Labour Bill 2024

The NCRC initiated the consultative process to discuss the Prohibition of Child Domestic Labour Bill 2024 with key stakeholders. The Prohibition of Child Domestic Labour Bill 2024 is set to bring about transformative change by strengthening legal measures against those involved in engaging children in domestic labour. By making Child Domestic Labour (CDL) a non-compoundable, non-bailable and cognisable offence, the NCRC aims to communicate that rights and well-being of children are our top priority.

This bill aims to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, to criminalise child domestic labour and eradicate this pervasive menace. The proposed bill, titled the Criminal Amendment (Prohibition of Child Domestic Labor) Bill, 2024, signifies a commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of children throughout Pakistan.

The bill proposes the insertion of a new section,

374-A, into the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, specifically addressing child domestic labour. This section criminalises the employment, recruitment, harbouring, transportation, or provision of a child below the age of eighteen years for domestic labour. The punishment includes imprisonment from two to seven years and a fine of not less than five hundred thousand rupees. The offences related to child domestic labour are categorised as non-bailable, non-compoundable, and cognisable.

Commencing the journey towards widespread societal change, the NCRC has planned a series of consultations at the provincial level to refine and strengthen the proposed bill. The first of these consultations took place in Peshawar on December 14th and the second in Lahore on December 20th, 2023. Key stakeholders, including government representatives, civil society organisations, and experts in child rights, attended the consultations.



## NCRC Calls Upon the Political Parties to Include Child Rights in their Manifestos Ahead of General Election 2024

The role of political parties in addressing child rights is of paramount importance as they have the power to shape policies, advocate for legislation, and allocate resources to protect and promote the rights of children in Pakistan. Political parties need to recognise and address the alarming rates of child rights violations and abuse prevalent in our society.

To commemorate #WorldChildrensDay, the NCRC took a significant advocacy initiative. The Commission penned letters to all political parties in Pakistan, urging them to prioritise the cause of child rights in their policy frameworks.

The request for political parties to incorporate a dedicated chapter on the "protection, promotion, and fulfilment of child rights" in their manifestos. This strategic approach is designed to elevate child rights as a key consideration in the political discourse, ensuring that the well-being of children is at the forefront of policy decisions.

The initiative aligns with the NCRC's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the rights of every child in Pakistan. The NCRC aims to create a collective commitment to prioritise and advocate for child rights protection, promotion, and fulfilment across diverse policy domains by reaching out to political parties.

## "For Every Child, Every Right": National Consultation on Climate Change Impact

On World Children's Day, marked annually to celebrate children's rights and well-being, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) orchestrated an impactful national consultation in collaboration with the NCRC. Titled "For Every Child, Every Right," the event focused on climate change's impact on children in Pakistan.

In the opening remarks, Chairperson NCRC emphasised the significance of World Children's Day. She reminded the audience of the societal commitment to create an environment where every child can thrive, learn, and grow safely.

The consultation's centrepiece was a vibrant panel discussion on "Inclusion for every child amidst climate impact in Pakistan." Moderated by child rights expert Arshad Mahmood, the panel featured distinguished speakers, including Shabnam Baloch (Country Director-IRC), Bilal

Anwar Chief Executive Officer (CEO), (NDRMF), Gohar Khan (Chief Projects Officer, NADRA), Izza Farrakh (Senior Education Specialist World Bank), and Dr. Naem Zafar (Mental Health & Child Rights Expert).

The discussion delved into the imminent impact of climate change on child protection, education, and psychosocial health in Pakistan. The aftermath of the 2022 floods was a focal point, highlighting children's challenges accessing essential needs like food, water, shelter, and education. Notably, the panel underscored the importance of birth registration, a fundamental human right for upholding other rights and ensuring children's legal recognition.

The Guest of Honor, Mr. Khalil George (caretaker Minister for Human Rights), emphasised the significance of Universal Children's Day for

F.No. 1-30/MPPP/NCRC/2023  
Government of Pakistan  
National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC)

Islamabad, November the 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Subject: INCLUSION OF CHILD RIGHTS IN THE MANIFESTO OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Dear Sir,

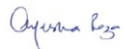
The National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC) has been established by the Government of Pakistan as an independent statutory body for the promotion, protection and fulfillment of Children's rights. It has the mandate to examine and review laws and inquire into violations of child rights and advise the Government on legislative and policy matters by virtue of the National Commission on the Rights of Child Act, 2017. Copy of NCRC Act, 2017 is attached at Annex-1.

2. The role of political parties in addressing child rights is of paramount importance as they have the power to shape policies, advocate for legislation, and allocate resources to protect and promote the rights of children in Pakistan. It is essential for political parties to recognize and address the alarming rates of child rights violations and abuse prevalent in our society. Unfortunately, Pakistan remains plagued by child rights issues of child labor, child trafficking, child marriage and child physical and sexual abuse. Pakistan also has one of the highest out of school children and child mortality rates, and lowest birth registration in the world. Political parties must take immediate and decisive action to put an end to these atrocities and ensure that every child in Pakistan is guaranteed their fundamental rights and protection under the law.

3. In view of the dismal indicators, being a mainstream political party, you are requested to include a dedicated chapter on "protection, promotion and fulfillment of child rights" in your manifesto. Some of the priority areas may include a) increase enrollment and reduce number of out of school children in line with Article 25-A of the Constitution. b) strengthen legal and policy framework around child labour and child marriage. c) increase birth registration and, d) ensure child centric budgeting.

4. The National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC) eagerly awaits your commitment to take concrete actions aimed at eradicating child rights violations, and kindly requests that your esteemed party inform us of the specific measures you plan to take in order to address these crucial issues. Moreover, we would like to offer our guidance and support to your party in crafting effective policies and strategies. By working together, we can build a safe, nurturing, and inclusive Pakistan for our children.

Yours Sincerely

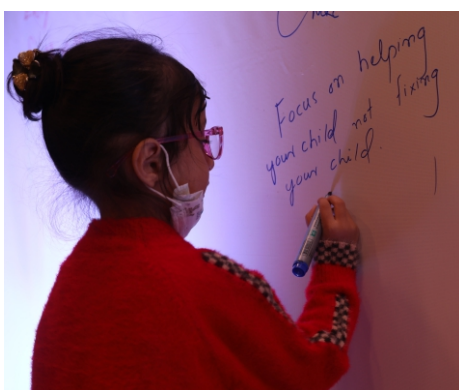


Ayesha Raza Farooq  
Chairperson-NCRC

Pakistan. In his keynote speech, he stressed the collective responsibility to create a future where all children are registered, protected, educated, and empowered despite the challenges posed by climate change.

Shabnam Baloch, Country Director IRC-Pakistan, expressed the collaboration's united effort to address pressing issues faced by children in Pakistan, showcasing a commitment to inclusive and sustainable solutions. As the

world celebrates World Children's Day, the NCRC points out the importance of prioritising children's rights and participation. By making space for children and young people to voice their concerns, we collectively contribute to building a better future for all.





## Stakeholders Consultation on Child Trafficking and Bonded Labour in Karachi

The Stakeholders Consultation on Child Trafficking and Bonded Labour, recently convened in Karachi by the Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) and the Sindh Human Rights Commission, marked a pivotal moment in the ongoing efforts to address and combat these alarming issues. The event brought together influential voices and organisations dedicated to eradicating child trafficking and bonded labour, with a particular focus on the unique challenges faced by vulnerable children. Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq represented the Commission as a panellist, sharing invaluable insights on these issues' complexities. She presented the NCRC's perspective on the matter. She highlighted the need for a comprehensive approach involving awareness campaigns, law enforcement, capacity building, and collaboration across the criminal justice system and child protection authorities.

During the consultation, participants engaged in in-depth discussions on various thematic aspects, ranging from the enforcement of existing laws to the crucial role of all stakeholders in creating a protective environment for children. Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq emphasised the importance of a unified effort in combating child trafficking and child domestic labour. The event culminated in a collective call to action, with stakeholders recognising the pressing need for immediate measures and a shared commitment to working together. The consultation is expected to catalyse positive change, leading to strengthened legislation, more robust enforcement mechanisms, and increased public awareness campaigns to protect the rights and well-being of vulnerable children in Pakistan.



## Stakeholder's Consultation on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Draft Child Protection Policy

Member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa NCRC Ms. Nadia Bibi represented the Commission at Stakeholder's Consultation on the Draft Child Protection Policy for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The event marked a significant engagement by the NCRC to contribute to the policy discourse, ensuring the inclusion of robust measures for safeguarding children's rights in the region.

The Commission's active participation exemplifies the NCRC's commitment to actively shaping and influencing policies at the provincial level. The Stakeholder's Consultation provided a platform for diverse voices to converge, fostering a collaborative approach towards developing a comprehensive Child Protection Policy.



## Advocacy Meeting on Sindh Breastfeeding and Nutrition Bill 2023

Chairperson NCRC and Member Punjab Mehek Naeem convened a meeting with Pakistan Pediatric Association for the advocacy, awareness and promotion of breastfeeding forward in Pakistan. Sindh Breastfeeding and Nutrition Bill 2023 was discussed in detail as to how this legislation can be advocated in other provinces. It was agreed to expedite the

advocacy efforts to influence policymakers and stakeholders at national and sub national level, and raise awareness through educational campaigns targeting parents, caregivers, and healthcare workers. The NCRC is committed to promoting and advocating for legislative reforms on breast-feeding in all provinces.

## Reviewed Child Marriage Restraint Amendment Bill 2023

The NCRC gave detailed input while supporting the Child Marriage Restraint Amendment Bill 2023 drafted by the Law and Justice Division in collaboration with the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), shared with the NCRC by the Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR). The said bill proposed amendments in the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 to the extent of Islamabad Capital Territory. The bill defines a

'child' as anyone below the age of 18 years, thus making it uniform for both boys and girls and bringing it in line with the definition of a 'child' under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Majority Act 1875. Moreover, the bill proposes the Family Court as the competent judicial authority under the subject law, which is appropriate as child marriage is a child protection issue.

One of the proposed amendments also provides a timeline of three months for the Family Court to decide a case under the law, which is crucial to mitigate secondary trauma for child victims, which they may suffer due to prolonged litigation. Furthermore, the bill adds a new section which ensures that the Nikah Registrar examines documentary proof at the time of nikah to ensure the correct age determination of the parties. The bill also enhances the

punishments provided for contracting, solemnising, and promoting or permitting child marriages to curb this practice and create stronger deterrence against the same. Given the time sensitivity attached to the issue of child marriages and the adverse consequences it may lead to, the bill aims to reduce any administrative hurdles that may make taking cognisance of the offence cumbersome.

## Reviewed Guardians and Wards (Amendment) Bill 2023

The NCRC also gave comprehensive input and comments on the Guardians and Wards (Amendment) Bill 2023, intended to be moved by Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri to the extent of Islamabad Capital Territory, as shared with the NCRC by the Senate Secretariat. The said bill aimed to ensure that while deciding a custody case and awarding interim custody under section 12 of the Guardians and Wards Act 1890 (the 'Act'), the court should, on the first date of hearing, pass an interim order regarding visitation rights of the non-custodial father. The NCRC raised concerns about the restrictive

nature of the said amendment as it covers only a father's visitation rights. In contrast, the issue that the said amendment aims to address is not particular merely to the father but to a non-custodial parent in general, which may include the mother as well. Furthermore, the said bill proposed to enhance the fine under section 45 of the Act for contravening the provisions of the subject law, which the NCRC supported as the said enhancement is crucial to create a strong deterrent effect and to safeguard the interests of a minor.

## Coordination

### The NCRC Convenes Inaugural Advisory Committee Meeting of Religious Scholars

The NCRC convened first meeting of the 'Working Group of Religious Scholars on Child Rights meeting.' The primary objective of this working group was to deliberate on issues about child rights, drawing upon the collective wisdom and expertise of esteemed religious scholars. Forming a working group of religious scholars on child rights is a significant step forward in our mission to safeguard the rights and welfare of children.

The meeting commenced with a dialogue on the critical intersection of religious teachings and child rights. Scholars emphasised protecting



children's rights, fostering a shared vision for a brighter future for the nation's children.

Religious scholars provided insights on how religious education can play an influential role in promoting child rights. They discussed strategies to create awareness and engage in community-based initiatives that advocate for the rights and well-being of children.

Moreover, religious scholars recommended reforming school curricula to incorporate child rights education, emphasising the importance of children's rights from an early age; promoting awareness campaigns to educate parents,



children, and communities about child rights and protection; enhancing the capacity of teachers to effectively convey the message of child rights and protection and utilise mosques and the extensive network of madrassahs to disseminate child protection messages and raise awareness about the importance of child rights.

The inaugural meeting concluded with assurance of the religious scholars to support the NCRC's mission.



## The NCRC Convenes Inaugural Meeting of the Working Group of Minorities on Child Rights



The Working Group of Minorities for Child Rights convened its first meeting, initiating an inclusive dialogue on children's rights from minority backgrounds. The meeting witnessed an inspiring exchange of ideas and experiences as representatives from diverse minority



communities engaged in a dynamic dialogue on various facets of children's rights. Participants highlighted key issues affecting children from minority backgrounds, ranging from access to education and healthcare to concerns about discrimination and social inclusion.

The meeting wasn't merely a discussion but a proactive step towards finding concrete solutions. Participants actively contributed to identifying challenges and brainstormed innovative approaches to address them. Members from minority communities expressed

gratitude for the NCRC's commitment to actively involve and empower minorities in this crucial conversation. The Working Group of Minorities for Child Rights emerges as a forum for dialogue and a catalyst for positive change, embodying the spirit of collaboration and unity.



## Meeting with NADRA to Strengthen Birth Registration

Chairperson NCRC met with Chairman NADRA Lieutenant General Mr. Muhammad Munir Afsar to address the critical issue of birth registration in the country. The meeting was marked by a shared commitment to enhancing the current system and ensuring that every child's birth is duly recorded.

Recognising the importance of seamless collaboration, the implementation of robust data linkages with health and education departments was discussed. This strategic approach ensures that no child goes unregistered, leveraging existing networks to streamline registration.

Chairman NADRA expressed a strong commitment and keen interest in collaboratively devising and executing a comprehensive strategy to bolster birth registration nationwide.

An important aspect of the discussion focused on alleviating financial barriers associated with birth registration. Chairperson NCRC and Chairman NADRA explored ways to make the registration process more accessible by working



towards simplifying procedures and potentially reducing associated costs. Representatives of both organisations emphasised the need to make the birth registration process more

accessible and simpler for parents. This approach aligns with the broader goal of encouraging widespread compliance and ensuring no child is left without a registered identity.

## Meetings with Key Government Stakeholders

Chairperson NCRC and Member Punjab Mehek Naeem, paid a visit to the Child Protection Welfare Bureau (CPWB), Punjab. The purpose of their visit was to meet Rizwana, a courageous survivor of child domestic labour and abuse, who, despite facing immense hardships, radiated resilience. In discussions with CPWB Chairperson Ms. Sarah Ahmad, the NCRC team

explored avenues for collaboration to support further and uplift survivors like Rizwana. The meeting emphasised the shared commitment to creating a protective and empowering environment for survivors, ensuring that they recover from their past and thrive in their newfound freedom.



The NCRC has taken the lead in fostering coordinated efforts with provincial child protection authorities. Member Sindh/ Minorities, Mr. Pirbhu Satyani, exemplified this commitment through a comprehensive discussion with the Director General Sindh Child Protection Authority (SCPA). This strategic coordination between the NCRC and the Sindh Child Protection Authority will assist in addressing child protection issues at the

provincial level. By leveraging the National Commission's advocacy and the local expertise of provincial authorities, this coordination signifies a united front in creating impactful solutions for the well-being and protection of children. The NCRC remains steadfast in building synergies that transcend administrative boundaries, ensuring a collective and effective approach to safeguarding the rights of every child across the nation.



The recent meeting between the NCRC and Major General (R) Ghulam Qamar, Director General, Directorate General of Religious Education, has set in motion a discussion on the intersection of religious education and child

rights. Major General (R) Ghulam Qamar gave valuable suggestions paving the way for harnessing the extensive Madrasah network to the NCRC as a powerful tool for increasing outreach and awareness on child rights.



## Meetings with Donor Agencies, INGOs and Civil Society

Chairperson NCRC met Ms. Jo Moir, Development Director at the Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO). The discussion centred on key issues crucial to children's well-being, including ending child marriage, combating forced conversions,

strengthening Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), and protecting children from domestic labour. This collaborative effort reflects a shared dedication to positively impacting children's lives and addressing critical challenges concertedly.



Chairperson NCRC engaged in discussions with the esteemed Canadian High Commissioner, Leslie Scanlon. The focus of their conversation encompassed critical subjects such as #ChildRights, #GenderEquality, and #WomenEmpowerment, with a special emphasis on harnessing the power of sports to drive positive change. Chairperson NCRC took the opportunity to spotlight the NCRC's mandate, centered on safeguarding and promoting the rights and well-being of children

in Pakistan. During the meeting, Chairperson NCRC gave emphasis to the NCRC's ongoing initiatives, shedding light on the challenges faced by the country, particularly in the relentless efforts to combat polio. High Commissioner Leslie Scanlon expressed sincere appreciation for the impactful work of the NCRC and acknowledged the dedication demonstrated in addressing these challenges. The discussions also delved into the

transformative role of sports, especially in empowering women and children, paving the

way for potential collaborative efforts in promoting sports-based initiatives.



Chairperson NCRC and Member ICT Mr. Khalid Naeem engaged in a meeting with Dr. Michael Bopp, Founder of Four World's Int Canada, and Dr. Bob Dickson, Founder of Safe Water Calgary Canada. The meeting served as a platform for a comprehensive introduction to the NCRC and its pivotal role in advocating for Child Rights on a

national scale.

Both organisations, Four World's Int Canada and Safe Water Calgary Canada, expressed a keen interest in collaborative efforts with the NCRC across various areas related to child rights.



Chairperson NCRC had a fruitful meeting with Mr. Sanjay Wijesekera, Regional Director, UNICEF, Regional Office of South Asia (ROSA). Mr. Sanjay expressed appreciation for the impactful work undertaken by the NCRC in safeguarding children's rights. Country Representative of UNICEF Pakistan, Mr. Abdullah A. Fadil, commended the NCRC's



proactive engagement with political parties, urging them to include child rights in their manifestos ahead of the General Election 2024. The meeting catalysed the impact of the NCRC's advocacy efforts, positioning the Commission as a key player in shaping policies that directly impact the lives of children.





The NCRC, in its mission towards safeguarding children's rights held a meeting with the IRC team led by Country Director Shabnam Balouch. During this productive meeting, the discussions delved into pivotal areas such as child protection case management, fostering synergies across all



organisational levels, and elevating the effectiveness of birth registration processes. Key outcomes included the identification of synergies, the development of strategic partnerships, and the exploration of innovative solutions to longstanding issues.



The NCRC team had a productive meeting with Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri from the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). During the meeting, Dr. Abid Suleri gave invaluable advice and assured his support to the NCRC team. His



wealth of experience and deep commitment to social development are anticipated to play a pivotal role in guiding the Commission's initiatives towards ensuring the well-being and rights of children.



Chairperson NCRC engaged in a meeting with Muhammad Israr Madni, President of IRCRA (International Research Council for Religious Affairs). Discussions delved into strategic ways of leveraging IRCRA's extensive grassroots

network to combat pressing issues such as child marriages, child abuse, and corporal punishment and to promote family planning initiatives actively.



In an effort to address the issues and challenges affecting children in Sindh, the NCRC team engaged in a meaningful discussion with the CEO of Legal Rights Forum (LRF), Mr. Tahir Malik, and the Manager Program, Mr. Tahir Husnain. The discussion focused on strategies to enhance child protection services, specifically

emphasising the reactivation of Child Protection Units for improved service delivery in the region. The collaborative exchange extended to vital subjects such as the urgent need to address child marriages and combat cases of child domestic labour.

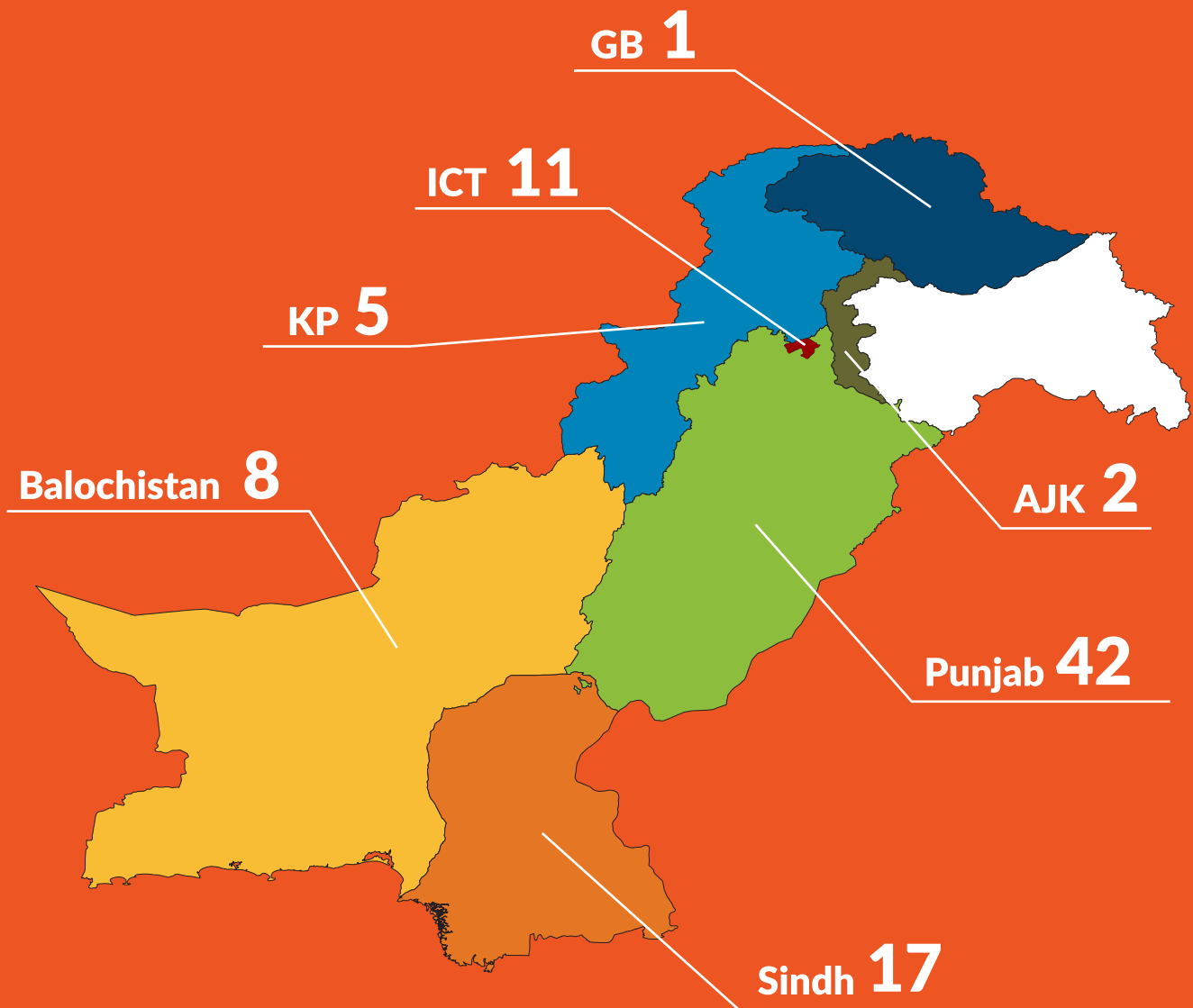


# Inquiries Related to Child Rights Violations

## Complaint Handling

The NCRC's commitment to the well-being of children remained strong as we addressed 86 complaints related to children's rights in the last quarter of 2023. These cases serve as a poignant reminder of the vital role the NCRC plays in advocating for and protecting children's rights.

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

### NCRC Advocacy for Children's Rights Amidst Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan

As advocates and defenders of children's rights in Pakistan, the NCRC, to address concerns related to the government's 'Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan', wrote a letter to the Prime Minister. The NCRC expressed deep concern about the potential adverse impact of the plan on the children involved.

The NCRC, cognizant of its responsibility to protect the rights and well-being of every child in the nation, appealed directly to the Prime Minister to take action against this violation. The Commission underscores the importance of ensuring that children belonging to refugee families are shielded from undue harm and are

treated with the utmost dignity.

The appeal to the Prime Minister is based on the commitment to upholding the Constitution of Pakistan and honouring international obligations outlined in the UNCRC. The NCRC advocates for a compassionate and rights-based approach that prioritises the welfare and dignity of the children affected by the repatriation plan.

As we await a response from the Prime Minister's office, the NCRC remains steadfast in its dedication to safeguarding the rights of every child in Pakistan.

### NCRC's Visits to Jails

Chairperson NCRC and Member Punjab Mehek Naeem visited Lahore Camp Jail to comprehend juvenile prisoners' dynamics. The focus of this visit was to gain insights into the conditions of juvenile detainees and strategise ways to ensure their smoother reintegration into society as productive citizens.

The NCRC's commitment to advocating for the rights of juvenile prisoners is exemplified through these proactive engagements. By understanding the unique challenges this vulnerable demographic faces, the NCRC aims to influence policies and practices that foster a rehabilitative rather than punitive approach.



Member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadia Bibi and Ali Abbas, Strategic Engagement Officer, visited Haripur Jail. The visit aimed to assess the current conditions and explore future possibilities for juvenile rehabilitation in the region. During the visit, Superintendent Umair Khan shared insightful plans for establishing a new juvenile rehabilitation centre to promote rehabilitation rather than punishment, aligning with principles that prioritise the well-being and future prospects of the young individuals involved.



### NCRC's Visits to Orphanages

With an aim to comprehend the vital work of Khpal Kor orphanages, Member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadia Bibi visited all the campuses in Swat. The visit was driven by the objective of understanding the organisation's efforts in providing alternative care for children in Pakistan.

recommendations from the NCRC, contributing to the improvement of alternative care practices nationwide. The firsthand insights from these visits will play a pivotal role in shaping informed policies and strategies that prioritise the well-being and future of the children under alternative care in Pakistan.

These explorations informed robust



The NCRC Member Sindh/Minorities Pirbhu Satyani visited "Dar-ul-Atfal," a shelter home for destitute and orphan children managed by the Social Welfare Department Sindh in Malir, Karachi. These visits were not just a routine

assessment; it was an engagement to ensure that every child, irrespective of their background, receives the care and support they inherently deserve. The visit was a vital assessment step focused on evaluating the

facility's compliance with minimum care standards for vulnerable children. This aligns with the NCRC's mission to engage and monitor



facilities actively, ensuring the well-being and rights of all children are upheld.



In an effort to comprehend the conditions and challenges faced by orphans and needy children living in institutional care, Member Punjab Mehek Naeem, paid a visit to Kashana Homes, a residential facility in Lahore. The purpose of this visit was to gain insights into the daily lives of these children and to assess the overall situation of their well-being and care.



## NCRC Chairperson Leads a Delegation to UK Exploring Cutting-Edge Models for Victim-Centric Service Delivery

Chairperson NCRC led a high-level delegation to the United Kingdom to immerse in cutting-edge Police and Prosecution Operating Models, with a special focus on Operation Soteria. The delegation delved into the intricacies of advanced Police and Prosecution Operating Models in the UK. This experience provided invaluable insights into the latest methodologies and technologies employed in ensuring the safety and well-being of children.

The victim-centric and suspect-focused approach adopted by Operation Soteria serves as a blueprint for enhancing our strategies for protecting the rights of girls and children in Pakistan. The NCRC aims to integrate these learnings to create a more responsive and proactive system.





## Stakeholders' Consultation for Building Collaborative Networks for Referral Services



The Stakeholders' Consultation marked a pivotal moment in fostering collaboration between the NCRC and various government departments dedicated to child protection. The primary objectives of the consultation were to apprise participants about the NCRC's functioning, discuss the roles and responsibilities of participating organizations, and establish a robust network for referral services. Key government agencies, including representatives from Islamabad Police, Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat, Federal Directorate of Education, MOHR, Federal Investigation Authority (FIA), National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine

(NIRM), Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), and Zainab Alert Response & Recovery Agency (ZARRA), actively participated in the session.

Ms. Mehek Naeem, Member Punjab, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the NCRC's complaints redressal mechanism, shedding light on the number and types of cases addressed to date. The consultation was acknowledged as a valuable platform to enhance joint efforts in dealing with child rights violations, reaffirming the commitment to ensuring a safer and more protected environment for every child.

## NCRC Advocates for Inclusion of Child Protection in Academic Curriculum

Child sexual abuse is a significant social problem prevalent in our society, which, if left unaddressed, can lead to long-lasting psychological, behavioural and health

consequences. Therefore, school-based education must include programmes and content on the prevention of sexual abuse, which may help children increase their

knowledge and protective behaviour. The NCRC, having an overarching mandate to promote and protect children, believes that a book on child protection, titled 'Zorr se Kehna, 'Nahi'', that NCRC co-launched with Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) be made part of the academic curriculum of schools. In this regard, the NCRC wrote letters to Dr. Mariam Chughtai,

Director National Curriculum Council, and all the provincial education departments so that the said book be made a part of their academic curricula. The NCRC shared copies of the book described above with the relevant departments to help them initiate their formal review process and assured its commitment and provision of required support in taking the said action.

## Appearance Before the Court Related to Child Rights Violation

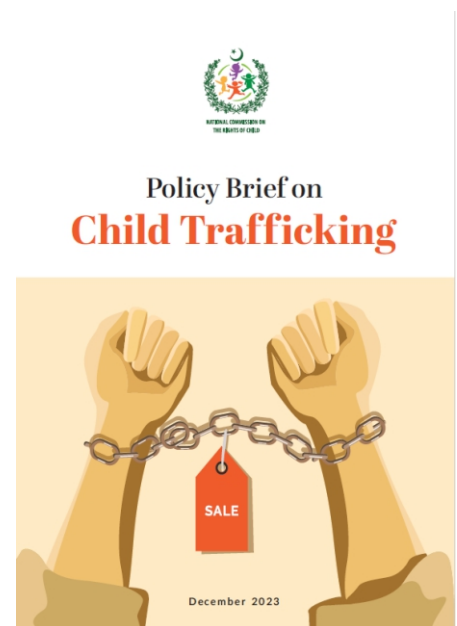
The NCRC also appeared before the Lahore High Court (LHC) in writ petition no. 10511 of 2020 filed in the court pertaining to alleged child rights violation in the Kashana Welfare Home. The NCRC shared a report with the court laying out all the necessary actions the NCRC took on receiving a complaint regarding the matter through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In line with its mandate, the NCRC, while taking full

cognisance of the issue, wrote letters to the Inspector General of Police, Punjab; Secretary, Home Department, Punjab; Secretary, Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Mal, Punjab; and Chief Secretary, Punjab to investigate the aforesaid allegations and share the details of the inquiry with the NCRC. The NCRC also assured the LHC of any further technical input or support to assist the court in deciding the matter.

## Research & Database

### Policy Brief on Child Trafficking

The NCRC is set to launch the 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.



### Disrupting Harm Project

Disrupting Harm is a multi-country three-year research project initiated by NCRC, UNICEF, Interpol, ECPAT International, and its local partners. The purpose is to research online child sexual exploitation and abuse issues in Pakistan. Two initial consultative meetings were

organized to collect evidence on the nature and scope of online child sexual exploitation and abuse, and the readiness of national protection systems to respond to these forms of violence against children.



## Awareness Raising

### Colour of Dreams: Embassy of Spain's Art Competition – A Celebration of World's Children Day

In a ceremony filled with warmth, creativity, and dedication, the NCRC celebrated the award ceremony for the 'Color of Dreams: Embassy of Spain's Art Competition on Child Rights.' The event, organised in collaboration with the Embassy of Spain, marked a significant step towards raising awareness about child rights in Pakistan.

The ceremony brought together distinguished guests, including Ambassadors, Excellencies, Senators, children, civil society and child rights activists, all united in their commitment to championing the cause of children's rights. His Excellency Mr. Jose Antonio de Ory, the Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan, was recognised for his unwavering support in commemorating the Universal Children's Day in a manner that engaged children actively.

The 'Color of Dreams' competition successfully engaged 310 children from various schools, including public, private, and special education institutions. The participants were tasked with creating artwork that depicted their perspectives on critical child rights issues in Pakistan. The themes ranged from child marriage, child labour, online protection, mental health, and violence against children to out-of-school children and corporal punishment.

Given the exceptional talent and creativity displayed by the young artists, selecting the 50 best art pieces from the pool of entries proved to be a challenging task for the jury. The competition, however, aimed to showcase artistic talent and empower youth to become advocates for change, engaging with their communities and contributing to the discourse on child rights.

During the award ceremony, the young artists showcased their creative prowess and took the time to explain the aspirations and motivations behind their compelling artworks.



In the opening address, Chairperson NCRC expressed gratitude for the partnership with the Spanish Embassy. She said, 'Child rights are not just legal principles; they are the foundation upon which we build a compassionate and just society. Our partnership with the Spanish Embassy reflects a shared commitment to champion the cause of children's rights in Pakistan. Today, we are celebrating Universal Children's Day and affirming our dedication to fostering creativity, awareness, and dialogue surrounding the issues our children face.'

His Excellency Mr. Jose Antonio de Ory, the Ambassador of Spain, said, "Everything this embassy, and myself, can do in defence of the rights and well-being of children seems to me to be a duty, and that is why I immediately committed to collaborating in an activity that we have developed together."

The artwork produced during the competition provided invaluable insights, informing the NCRC's advocacy efforts and contributing to a more nuanced understanding of the challenges faced by children in Pakistan. The 'Color of Dreams' Art Competition on Child Rights stands as a testament to the power of art and advocacy in creating positive change for the well-being and rights of children.



## "Every Girl Leading the Way": Universal Children's Day celebrated with a Pledge for Change

In a remarkable Universal Children's Day celebration, the NCRC, in collaboration with the PGGA and UNICEF, hosted the event "Every Girl Leading the Way" in Islamabad on November 8th 2023. The event highlighted girls' pivotal role in shaping a brighter future for all.

Universal Children's Day, observed globally on November 20th, serves as a reminder of the collective commitment to protect and promote children's rights. The NCRC continues to ensure that every child, irrespective of their background, has the opportunity to flourish and thrive in a conducive environment. The impact of "Every Girl Leading the Way" was profound and stimulated the interest of participants and distinguished speakers alike.

Chairperson NCRC stated: "Universal Children's Day is a special occasion dedicated to promoting and celebrating the rights and well-being of children worldwide. This day reminds us of our commitment to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive, learn, and grow in a safe and nurturing environment. It serves as a reminder of our promises as a society to protect and empower our youngest members and to recognise their potential as future leaders and change-makers."

"Empowering girls is not just a cause; it's a transformative movement. 'Every Girl Leading the Way' exemplifies our dedication to inspiring and nurturing the leadership potential of our girls." said Maria Maud Sabri, National Commissioner, PGGA.

Chief Guest Senator Nuzhat Sadiq said, "The Universal Children's Day is a reminder of our collective responsibility to protect our children's future. Children are our most precious resource, and our responsibility is to ensure their well-being, safety, and a bright future. This year's celebration theme is 'For Every Child, Every Right,' emphasising the need to ensure that every child's rights are respected, protected, and

fulfilled."

During the event, children actively participated in activities and discussions about their rights and their vital role in building a just and inclusive society. This interactive engagement underscored the importance of actively involving children in decision-making processes and promoting their rights.

Daniela Luciani, Chief Child Protection, UNICEF, while addressing the ceremony, stated: "UNICEF is a strong advocate of promoting children as they are the future of this country. We are committed to supporting initiatives to promote children's rights, especially girls."

During the event, the children drafted a Charter of Demands calling upon the government to take affirmative action. The Charter was presented by Pirbhu Lal Satyani, Member Sindh/Minorities, NCRC, and the demands were:

- **Ban Child Marriage:** The first demand is the immediate prohibition of child marriage. This practice robs young girls of their childhood, education, and future prospects. We urge the government to take a firm stance against child marriage.
- **Criminalise Child Labor:** The second demand is to criminalise child labour. Children deserve the opportunity to grow, learn, and play, not to be subjected to harsh labour conditions.
- **Ensure the Right to Education:** Every child, especially girls, must have access to quality education. Education is a fundamental right, and the government must ensure that no child is left behind due to lack of access or discrimination.
- **Guarantee Gender Equality:** Gender equality must be a top priority. Equality in all aspects of life, from education and employment to political participation, is a non-negotiable demand.

- **Eliminate Bullying and Violence:** The government should take decisive action to eliminate bullying and violence against children. Every child deserves to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment.
- **Safeguard Freedom and Participation:** The right to freedom and participation is a fundamental human right. The government must protect this right and provide opportunities for children to express themselves, be heard, and participate in decision-making processes.
- **Provide Quality Healthcare:** Adequate and quality healthcare is a basic human right. It is imperative that all children, regardless of their background, have access to healthcare services that promote their well-being.

- **Birth Registration:** Birth registration is the first step in ensuring a child's legal identity and access to essential services. It must be universal, without exceptions.

The resounding success of "Every Girl Leading the Way" demonstrates the transformative power of children's rights advocacy and its profound impact on our society. By recognising the leadership potential of young girls, the event has set the stage for a brighter, more equitable future.



## ZARRA Alert App Launch and Youth Leaders Present Charter on World Children's Day to the Prime Minister



The NCRC and the Ministry of Human Rights joined hands for a significant event at the Prime Minister's Secretariat on World Children's Day. The celebration witnessed the official launch of the ZARRA Alert app by the Prime Minister, a groundbreaking initiative for the prompt recovery of missing and abducted children.

On the World Children's Day celebration at the Prime Minister's Secretariat, the NCRC and the Ministry of Human Rights orchestrated a memorable event. The highlight of this grand occasion was the official launch of the ZARRA Alert app by the Prime Minister, a groundbreaking tool for the swift recovery of missing and abducted children.

The children's presentation of a Charter of Demands added more significance to the event. It is important to note that this Charter was not a standalone effort but a culmination of the collective voice of children who actively participated in previous celebratory activities

related to World Children's Day organised by the NCRC. These young minds formulated demands that reflect their concerns, aspirations, and vision for a better future. The Charter of Demand included the following:

- Ban Child Marriage
- Criminalise Child Labour
- Ensure the Right to Education
- Guarantee Gender Equality
- Eliminate Bullying and Violence in Schools and Workplaces
- Provide Quality Healthcare
- Ensure Universal Birth Registration
- Prioritise mental health for children
- Ensure online safety
- Safeguard Children's Freedom and Participation in Policymaking on Social Issues, Child Rights, and Environmental Protection

- Establish a Child Advisory Committee
- Establish Comprehensive Waste Management
- Preserve and Restore Ecosystems
- Promote Public Transportation
- Implement Stricter Penalties for Environmental Violations
- Establish Climate-resilient Agricultural Practices

The Charter of Demand presented to the caretaker Prime Minister represents children's spirited advocacy and thoughtful contributions,

showcasing their engagement and awareness of the issues that matter to them. This emphasises the inclusive and participatory approach the NCRC takes in actively empowering children to shape the narrative concerning their rights and well-being.

As we celebrate the launch of the ZARRA Alert app and the presentation of the Charter of Demands, the NCRC reiterates its commitment to nurturing the voices of the youth and working towards a safer, brighter, and more equitable future for every child in Pakistan.

## SHIFTERS, Group Development Pakistan, and the NCRC Unite for Environmental Awareness at F9 Park

SHIFTERS joined forces with Group Development Pakistan and the NCRC to orchestrate an impactful environment awareness campaign at F-9 Park. The event, a testament to the collective commitment to environmental protection, witnessed remarkable contributions from champions for change. Notably, Member Sindh/Minorities Pirbhu Lal Satyani represented the NCRC and

awarded certificates to participating children. Attendees at F-9 Park were engaged in activities designed to inspire and educate participants on environmental protection. From interactive workshops to tree-planting ceremonies, the event provided a platform for participants to engage in meaningful dialogue about environmental conservation.



## Symposium on Empowering Families through Positive Parenting

In a collaborative effort, the Pakistan Pediatric Association, in partnership with NCRC, Pakistan Alliance for Early Childhood (PAFEC), SUN Secretariat, Ministry of Planning & Special Initiatives (MoPD&Si), Protection and Help of Children Against Abuse & Neglect (PAHCHAAN), UNICEF, and World Health Organization (WHO), organised a pre-conference symposium on Positive Parenting. The symposium aimed to unite a diverse group of experts, practitioners, and advocates with a

shared commitment to emphasising parents' crucial role in providing every child with their inherent rights.

During the symposium, Member Punjab Mehek Naeem representing the NCRC, took the stage to highlight the pivotal role of positive parenting in shaping a child's well-being. The discussion centred on the importance of creating an environment where children can thrive emotionally, physically, and mentally, focusing on nurturing their rights.



## Advocacy Campaign on NCRC's Priorities, Reporting Violations, and Countering Child Domestic Labour

The campaign kickstarted with a powerful call to action: for anyone witnessing a violation of children's rights, the NCRC provided accessible avenues for reporting, including a helpline (051-9202733), an email address (complaintsnrc@gmail.com), and a user-friendly website (<https://nrc.gov.pk>). This initiative encourages active participation in safeguarding children's rights by promptly reporting violations.

### Be the Voice for the Voiceless:

The campaign kickstarted with a powerful call to action: if anyone witnesses a violation of children's rights, be a voice for the voiceless. NCRC provided accessible avenues for reporting, including a helpline (051-9202733), an email address (complaintsnrc@gmail.com), and a user-friendly website (<https://nrc.gov.pk>). This initiative encourages active participation in



safeguarding children's rights by promptly reporting violations.

### Commission Members Share Priorities:

The campaign took a personal touch by featuring individual perspectives from NCRC Commission members in a series of impactful videos. Each member shared their priorities and passions,

inspiring viewers to champion specific aspects of children's rights.

**Member ICT:** Advocating for the right to education, he emphasised that education is not just a right; it's the foundation for a child's future.

**Member Punjab:** Focusing on health, she underscored the importance of a healthy child, expressing that ensuring children's right to health is a shared duty.

**Member Sindh/Minorities:** Highlighting inclusion, he stressed that every child, especially those from minorities, deserves acceptance and equal opportunities.

**Member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:** Centered on child protection, she emphasised the mission of safeguarding innocence and ensuring a secure environment for growth.

**Member (Secretary):** Advocating for play and expression, the Secretary emphasised the importance of prioritising every child's right to play.

### Promoting Informed Decisions for Smaller Families:

In addition to child rights advocacy, the campaign took a step further, addressing social issues affecting children. It highlighted the correlation between financial constraints and early child labour in larger families. Three videos disseminated through social media encouraged viewers to make informed decisions about family size, stressing that smaller families often have fewer financial burdens, reducing the likelihood of child labour.

## Social Media Campaign on Digital Safety

The success of the recent social media campaign led by the NCRC in collaboration with Meta and Zindagi Trust unfolded over five impactful days, captivated audiences and generated an astounding 24 million impressions collectively. A total of five videos were disseminated on digital safety, including:



The campaign concluded with a resonant slogan, "Remember a small family is a happy family," emphasising that having a smaller family size can contribute to the well-being and happiness of each family member, especially the children.

The NCRC's comprehensive campaign reached a significant number of viewers, fostered awareness, and inspired collective action to protect and promote children's rights. The NCRC remains committed to its vision, calling upon everyone to be active participants in securing a brighter and more equitable future for Pakistan's children.



- Locked Profile
- Privacy Checkup
- Hidden Words
- False Information
- Supervision Tool



Each day, the campaign delved into crucial aspects of online safety, privacy, and combating false information. Our audience's engagement and response were noteworthy and indicative of the campaign's significant impact in fostering

awareness and initiating meaningful conversations. The synergy between the NCRC, Meta, and Zindagi Trust created a campaign that resonated widely and left a lasting impression on millions.

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

Chairperson, NCRC represented Pakistan at the 'Regional Moment of Reflection on Adolescent Girls in South Asia Workshop' organised by UNICEF in Nepal. In light of the discussions and insights shared at the workshop, it became evident that investing in gender justice and adolescent girls' well-being is a moral imperative and a strategic move with profound social and economic implications. By recognising the potential and rights of adolescent girls, we pave

the way for a brighter and more equitable future. Our nation has compelling numbers, insightful facts, and inspiring success stories. It's time to share these figures, realities, and working recipes that have positively changed adolescent girls' lives in Pakistan. By sharing our achievements, we contribute not only to regional knowledge but also inspire others to take impactful actions for the well-being of adolescent girls.



Chairperson NCRC participated in the 5-day Training of Trainers award distribution ceremony on Nurturing the Spiritual Development of Children, organised by Islamic Relief Pakistan.

The NCRC's participation in the event reflects its commitment to initiatives that are aimed at benefiting children.



Chairperson NCRC participated in the training of Child Protection Committees organised by the International Labour Organization and Sahil NGO. Her address delved into crucial aspects of reporting child labour incidents, emphasising the significance of community participation in enhancing reporting mechanisms.



She also highlighted the pivotal role of behaviour change and attitudinal shifts in discouraging the employment of children, particularly as domestic labour. Her insights underscore the NCRC's commitment to fostering awareness and actively participating in initiatives addressing child labour's root causes.



Mr. Pirbhu Satyani, Member Sindh, represented NCRC at the Ministry of National Health's consultative meeting on Maternal Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response. At the forefront of discussions, Pirbhu Satyani actively shared insightful perspectives and provided valuable feedback on the subject.



Chairperson NCRC attended the launch of the documentary "Unfathomable" by Justice Project Pakistan at the French Embassy. The event served as a platform to discuss the intricate relationship between adverse childhood experiences, mental health issues, and criminal behaviour.

Chairperson NCRC gave closing remarks at PODA's 16th Annual Rural Women Leadership Conference 2023, focusing on strategies to combat child marriage. Shedding light on the urgency of the issue, she emphasised the need



for legal reforms, robust enforcement mechanisms, awareness campaigns, and the crucial role of birth registration in addressing and preventing child marriages.



Chairperson NCRC gave a lecture to the Pakistan Administration Services (PAS) Probationers on the legal terrain of child rights in Punjab. In her lecture, she shed light on the existing challenges and brought attention to the



critical gaps in implementing child rights policies. Her lecture aimed to arm future administrative leaders with an understanding of the complexities involved in safeguarding children's rights in the province.



At the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) organised by the French Embassy, the Chairperson NCRC talked about the collaboration between the French Embassy and the NCRC aimed at protecting the most



vulnerable among us—our children. The NCRC and the French Embassy have joined hands to launch an awareness campaign dedicated to preventing child domestic labour, combating child sexual abuse, and advocating for the enrollment of out-of-school children.



In a meeting with Mr. Geir Tonstol, the Country Director of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the NCRC initiated a crucial dialogue on the pressing issues of child domestic labour. The discussion in meeting was focused on the multifaceted issues surrounding child



domestic labour. The collaborative effort aims to not only raise awareness but also to implement effective strategies and policies that will eradicate child domestic labour, ensuring a safer and more nurturing environment for every child.



In an event organised by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Australian High Commission to mark the International Day for Persons with Disabilities, Chairperson NCRC addressed the global challenges faced by individuals with disabilities. Her remarks

emphasised the imperative for immediate and concerted efforts to overcome barriers hindering the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society.



Khalid Naeem, Member ICT, NCRC, represented the Commission at a seminar organised by National University of Modern Languages (NUML), focusing on the facilitation of differently-abled persons. His participation



underscored the Commission's commitment to championing inclusivity and advocating for the rights and well-being of individuals with diverse abilities.



Member Punjab Mehek Naem participated in the launch of a report Situation Analysis of Child Domestic Labour in Punjab, organized by Search for Justice (SFJ) & National Commission for

Human Rights (NCHR). This research report gives a comprehensive insight about the dynamics and prevalence of child labour in the province.



Mehek Naem Member Punjab talked about child participation in the Digital World, at the hybrid International Symposium themed on Protection of Children from Abuse and Exploitation in the Virtual World; held in Turkey on 24th November in collaboration with the Union of Turkish Bar Associations. She spoke on the same topic as a key-note speaker at the International Child Protection Congress held in Izmir, Turkey on 3rd October 2023.



## The NCRC in Media

World Children's Day: Chairperson NCRC took the spotlight on Subha Saveray Pakistan, 92 News, talking about the significance of World Children's Day and the NCRC Pakistan's collaborative arts competition with the Embassy of Spain.



Silent Screams: Article by Chairperson NCRC published in The News, shedding light on the tragic case of #Rizwana, the urgent need for legislative reforms, enforcement of child-related laws, and social/behavioural change at community level to curb child domestic labour. 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.



Subh-e-Pakistan: In an informative segment, Member ICT Mr. Khalid Naeem participated in a talk show on PTV News Subh-e-Pakistan. The focus of the discussion centred around World Children's Day, where the NCRC representative

shared insightful perspectives on the significance of the day and the importance of safeguarding and promoting children's rights.



Dawn News: In conversation with Dawn News, Chairperson NCRC emphasised the pivotal role of the NCRC in safeguarding children's rights, underscoring the Commission's mandate to investigate violations and advocate for necessary actions while advising the government on crucial legal and policy reforms.



Geo News: Member ICT, Khalid Naeem in a special news report highlighted the work of the Commission on addressing child rights issues and complaints related to child rights violations.



## Other Activities

### The NCRC Convenes a Stakeholder Consultation for Strategic Planning

The NCRC convened a comprehensive stakeholder consultation on the NCRC's strategic action plan for the next three years. Key stakeholders attended the consultation, including the representatives from civil, child rights, academia and INGOs.

The NCRC appreciated the invaluable insights shared by all participants during this event. The diverse voices contributed to the rich tapestry of ideas that will inform the NCRC's strategic

direction. This strategic plan explains our vision and mission and provides a roadmap for executing initiatives that address the evolving needs of the child rights landscape. The strategic plan is a living document, ensuring that the NCRC remains agile, adaptable, and responsive to emerging challenges. The strategic plan is in the final stages and set to launch in the next quarter.



# Report Complaints



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