



Deputy Secretary

Islamabad the August 02, 2024

Press Release: "Unveiling Shadows: GBV Cases in Pakistan"

The Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan expresses grave concern over the significant increase in gender-based violence (GBV) cases nationwide. The recently released report, "Unveiling Shadows: An Overview of Gender-Based Violence Cases - 2023," provides an in-depth analysis of GBV trends throughout the country. It focuses on cases adjudicated under the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 (PECA) during 2023.

In response to the urgent need for action, the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan proposed a key initiative in 2019. The National Judicial Policy Making Committee (NJPMC) directed the establishment of specialized courts dedicated to GBV cases across the country. This report evaluates the effectiveness of these 480 courts established across the country.

The report is organized into three main sections:

- 1. Case Statistics:** This section presents a provincial breakdown of GBV cases. The backlog of unresolved GBV cases increased significantly from 21,891 to 39,655 by year-end, an 81% rise. Punjab saw its backlog nearly double, from 16,958 to 34,350 cases—a 100% increase. Sindh's backlog grew by 3%, from 1,453 to 1,495 cases. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's backlog increased by 14%, from 2,230 to 2,547 cases, while Balochistan and Islamabad reported slight increases of 2% and 1%, respectively.
- 2. Types of Cases:** The second section reviews the types of GBV cases addressed during the year. Sexual violence remains the most pressing issue, with ongoing challenges in resolution. Delays are also significant in cases of abduction, kidnapping, and trafficking. Gender-based killings have risen, though the backlog in gender-based harm cases has decreased. Marriage-related offenses have seen an increase in pending cases, while economic violence cases have decreased. Gender-based intimidation and threats have fallen, whereas gender-based electronic crimes have risen.
- 3. Judicial Outcomes:** The final section highlights the judicial outcomes, revealing a troublingly low conviction rate of 5% and a high acquittal rate of 64%. This trend is consistent across provinces and indicates systemic issues requiring immediate reform.

The report concludes with recommendations for addressing these issues, including a thorough review of acquittal cases, enhanced training for judicial officers and prosecutors, strengthened victim support services, increased public awareness, improved case management practices, legislative review, better resource allocation, and robust monitoring and accountability systems.

Overall, this report is essential for understanding the current state of GBV cases in Pakistan and will inform future actions and reforms. The Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan remains committed to transparency, accountability, and the protection of human rights. A comprehensive follow-up report will be developed at the end of the year, continuing efforts to foster a just and equitable society free from fear and violence.

Additionally, The Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan proudly announces the release of its new publication, "*Gender-Inclusive Legislation: Framework for Equity, Empowerment and Justice.*" This essential compendium provides a comprehensive overview of federal and provincial laws and rules aimed at advancing women's rights, including key legislation on gender-based violence, discrimination, economic empowerment, and political participation. By enhancing understanding and implementation of these laws, the document reaffirms the LJCP's commitment to fostering gender equality and an inclusive society. It serves as a vital resource for policymakers, legal practitioners, and advocates, underscoring the ongoing need to address systemic barriers and ensure the full realization of women's rights.

The report and compendium are available for download on the official website and Facebook page of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan. (www.ljcp.gov.pk | www.fb.com/lawandjusticecommissionofpakistan)

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