The situation of Human Rights in [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) ([Urdu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urdu_language): پاکستان میں انسانی حقوق‎) is complex as a result of the country's diversity, large population, its status as a [developing country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developing_country) and a [sovereign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereignty) [Islamic democracy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_democracy) with a mixture of both [Islamic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic) and [secular law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secular_law). The [Constitution of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan) provides for fundamental rights, which include [freedom of speech](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_speech), [freedom of thought](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_thought), [freedom of information](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_information), [freedom of religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_religion), [freedom of association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_association), [freedom of the press](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_the_press), [freedom of assembly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_assembly) and the (conditional) [right to bear arms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Right_to_keep_and_bear_arms). The Clauses also provide for an independent [Supreme Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Pakistan), [separation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Separation_of_powers) of executive and judiciary, an [independent judiciary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judicial_independence), independent [Human Rights commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Human_Rights_(Pakistan)) and freedom of movement within the country and abroad. However these clauses are not respected in practice.

Khawaja Nazimuddin, the [2nd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Prime_Ministers_of_Pakistan) [Prime Minister of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Pakistan), stated: "I do not agree that religion is a private affair of the individual nor do I agree that in an Islamic state every citizen has identical rights, no matter what his caste, creed or faith be"[1] However, this in stark contradiction to what Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, stated in an address to the constituent assembly of Pakistan, "You will find that in course of time Hindus will cease to be Hindus and Muslims will cease to be Muslims, not in the religious sense, because that is the personal faith of each individual, but in the political sense as the citizens of the State."[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-2) Though the Constitution includes adequate accommodation for Pakistan's religious minorities, in practice non-[Sunni](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni) Muslims tend to face [religious discrimination](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_discrimination) in both the public and private spheres (for example – non Muslims cannot hold any of the top positions in the country's government). In response to rising sectarian and religious violence, the Pakistani government has unveiled several high-profile efforts to reduce tension and support religious pluralism, giving new authority to the [National Commission for Minorities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Commission_for_Minorities) and creating a [Minister for Minority Affairs](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Minister_for_Minority_Affairs&action=edit&redlink=1) post. Nonetheless, religious violence and intimidation, as well as periodic charges of blasphemy, have occurred. Attacks against [Shia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shia) Muslims, who make up between 5–20 of Pakistani Muslims, have also been carried out by terrorist organizations such as the TTP and LeJ. However, in recent years, the Pakistani military and law enforcement agencies have conducted vast and extensive operations against these terrorist organizations which has resulted in a dramatic decrease in violence against minorities and restoration of relative peace. Furthermore, Pakistani courts have taken action against the misuse of blasphemy laws,in one case sentencing multiple people to life in prison and death for starting a blasphemy mob. Pakistani lawmakers have also taken action against the misuse of blasphemy laws, putting forward amendments that seek to equate punishments for a false accusation of blasphemy to the punishment for actually committing blasphemy.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-12)

Although Pakistan was created to uphold the principles of democracy, [military coups in Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_coups_in_Pakistan) are commonplace, and for most of its history after independence has been ruled by military dictators who declare themselves president. The [2013 Pakistani general election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013_Pakistani_general_election) were the first elections in the country where there was a constitutional transfer of power from one civilian government to another. [Elections in Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elections_in_Pakistan) although being partially free, are rife with irregularities including but not limited to [vote rigging](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vote_rigging), use of threats and [coercion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coercion), discrimination between Muslim and non-Muslim and many other violationsAdditionally the [Government of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Pakistan) has itself admitted on several occasions that it has absolutely no control over the [Military of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_of_Pakistan) and related security agencies.

Domestic violence is an important social issue in Pakistan, specially because of allegations that the Pakistani government has not done enough to stem the problem from the country. An estimated 5000 women are killed per year from domestic violence, with thousands of others maimed or disabled.

The majority of victims of violence used to have no legal recourse but this was fixed recently when multiple provincial parliaments passed thorough and strict laws against domestic violence. According to the 2016 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 2,134,900 people are enslaved in modern-day Pakistan, or 1.13% of the population.

In 2019, a woman journalist was allegedly murdered by her husband - who was also a journalist - because she refused to quit her job. Urool Iqbal had been living alone at the time of her murder and had only recently filed a complaint against her husband with the police. [The Coalition For Women In Journalism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Coalition_For_Women_In_Journalism) founding director [Kiran Nazish said](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Kiran_Nazish_said&action=edit&redlink=1): “This case crystalizes the multi-layered dangers women journalists face in many countries, Pakistan being one of them. After speaking to those who were close to Urooj, it is very clear that her job as a journalist was a problem for her partner, who is accused in the fatal shooting that killed the young journalist."[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-22)

In general [Freedom of the press](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_the_press) is allowed but any reports critical of the government policy or critical of the military is censored. Journalists face widespread threats and violence making Pakistan one of the worst countries to be a journalist in, with 61 being killed since September 2001 and at least 6 murdered in 2013 alone.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-newspkpress-23)[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-RSF2014-24) TV stations and news papers are routinely shut down for publishing any reports critical of the government or the military.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-25)[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-jonboone-26)[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-27)

In May 2012, President Asif Ali Zardari signed the National Commission for Human Rights Bill 2012 for the promotion of the protection of human rights in the country.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-28) However, it remains to be seen if any positive effects will be derived from this.

In May 2018, a new constitutional amendment was passed that allowed tribal people to access their rights. The amendment allowed the people in tribal areas to enjoy the same constitutional rights as other Pakistanis. The constitutional amendment ended the [Frontier Crimes Regulation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frontier_Crimes_Regulation) (FCR), imposed under British rule in the 1850s. Under the FCR, people in the tribal areas were explicitly denied their right to appeal their detention, the right to legal representation, and their right to present evidence in their defence – sanctioning a wide-ranging series of human rights violations.[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-29)



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**Political Freedom in Pakistan**

Although Pakistan was created to uphold the principles of democracy, its history is rife with [Military coups in Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_coups_in_Pakistan), and for most of its history after independence has been ruled by military dictators who declare themselves president. The [2013 Pakistani general election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013_Pakistani_general_election) were the first elections in the country where there was a constitutional transfer of power from one civilian government to another.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-hrwreport2014-8) The elections were marred by terrorist attacks that killed hundreds and wounded more than 500 and widespread rigging of polls, the highest in the country's recorded history.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-30)

Religious minorities were prevented from voting for Muslim candidates after [Zia-ul-Haq's Islamization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zia-ul-Haq%27s_Islamization) and non-Muslims are restricted in the posts they may contest for, with several of the higher posts being unavailable to them. Although some of these laws were later repealed, religious minorities still continue to face several restrictions in politics.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-berkley-3)

Although slow but steady progress has been made towards return to democracy in the last decade, many Pakistanis and foreign observers see the military still firmly entrenched in politics with the government playing second fiddle to the military. The government is widely seen as having no control over the armed forces and the [Inter-Services Intelligence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inter-Services_Intelligence)[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-31)[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-32)

Most of Pakistan's laws are [secular](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secular) in nature, some of which were inherited from the [United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom)'s [colonial rule](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire) of modern-day Pakistan before 1947. However, in practice, [Sharia Law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharia_Law) takes precedence over Pakistani law. The constitution of Pakistan has been changed several times in its short history, with [Islamization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zia-ul-Haq%27s_Islamization) being the driving factor. Although the government has enacted a few measures to counter any problems, abuses remain. Furthermore, [courts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Court_system_of_Pakistan) suffer from lack of funds, outside intervention, and deep case backlogs that lead to long trial delays and lengthy pretrial detentions. Many observers inside and outside Pakistan contend that Pakistan's legal code is largely concerned with crime, national security, and domestic tranquility and less with the protection of individual rights.

In 2010, [Foreign Policy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreign_Policy_(magazine)) ranked Pakistan as number ten on its Failed States Index, placing it in the "critical" category with such other failed or failing states as Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Somalia.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-foreignaffairs.com-16) Pakistan consistently figures near the top of the list of failed states year after year[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan" \l "cite_note-foreignpolicy.com-33)

In September 2015, a Pakistani court has imposed ban on speeches of Mr. Altaf Hussain, chief of MQM which is the 4th largest political party of Pakistan and represents mainly Mohajir community. The court directed the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra) and Additional Attorney-General Naseer Ahmed Bhutta to implement a ban on the broadcast of images and speeches of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) chief Altaf Hussain across all electronic and print media till further orders.

**Freedom of the press in Pakistan**

*See also:* [*Media of Pakistan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_of_Pakistan)*,* [*Censorship in Pakistan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Censorship_in_Pakistan)*, and* [*Internet censorship in Pakistan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_censorship_in_Pakistan)

In general freedom of the press is allowed but any reports critical of the government policy or critical of the military are censored. Journalists face widespread threats and violence, making Pakistan one of the worst countries to be a journalist in, with 61 being killed since September 2001 and at least 6 murdered in 2013 alone.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-newspkpress-23)

[Freedom House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_House) rated Pakistan as "Not Free" in its report of 2013 and gave it a score of 64 (on a scale of 0–100, with 0 being most free and 100 being least free). The report brought to light widespread intimidation of journalists by various government, military and security agencies with killings allegedly being carried out by the [Inter-Services Intelligence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inter-Services_Intelligence).[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-freedomhouse2013-34) [Reporters without borders](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reporters_without_borders) has ranked Pakistan number 158 out of 180 countries listed in its Press Freedom Index of 2014.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-RSF2014-24)

In 2013 veteran journalist [Hamid Mir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamid_Mir), a recipient of the [Hilal-i-Imtiaz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hilal-i-Imtiaz), Pakistan's second-highest civil award, was shot at by unidentified assailants wounding him with bullets thrice. He alleged that the Inter-Services Intelligence was behind the attack. His TV channel [Geo Tv](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geo_Tv) was shut down by the government for 15 days for airing reports that the ISI may have carried out the attacks.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-jonboone-26)[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-35)[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-36)[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-37)

Websites such as [YouTube](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/YouTube) and many others were in the past blocked by the government for violating [blasphemy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blasphemy) laws. Websites which are deemed to criticize the government or the military, websites which expose human rights violations of minorities, and websites which are perceived as blasphemous are all regularly blocked.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-freedomhouse2013-34)

**Censorships In Pakistan**

Though Print Media & TV Channels in Pakistan had usually been reeling under the curbs imposed by the Military Rulers, but this year, a new era of curbs on media in Pakistan has ushered in. Even though there is no military rule or internal emergency or a grave situation like civil unrest, but the Prime Minister Imran Khan's Govt. has imposed restrictions on a wide array of broadcasting & publication of news that do not taste good to the Civil Govt. under PM Imran Khan or parallel Military Govt. being run by Army Chief Bajwa.

[**Ban on Airing Ads of International Brands With Indian Stars**](https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2019/04/12/pemra-chairman-warns-cable-operators-against-airing-indian-channels/)

Strict restriction on airing Indian TV Channels in Pakistan is not new. In the beginning of the New Year 2019, Supreme Court of Pakistan had declined the request of PEMRA to air ads of global big brands containing Indian content on the ground that they would damage Pak culture. In April 2019, Chairman of PEMRA once again threatened cable operators against severe actions against the cable operators airing Indian Channels. §(Pakistan Today)

**Provincial inequality[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Human_rights_in_Pakistan&action=edit&section=3" \o "Edit section: Provincial inequality)]**

**Miscarriage of Justice[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Human_rights_in_Pakistan&action=edit&section=4" \o "Edit section: Miscarriage of Justice)]**

*See also:* [*Insurgency in Balochistan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insurgency_in_Balochistan)

Security forces routinely violate the human rights in the course of counter terrorism operations in [Balochistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balochistan) and elsewhere. Suspects are frequently detained without charge and or convicted without a fair trial. Thousands of people rounded up as suspected terrorists continue to languish in illegal military detention without being produced in court or being prosecuted. The army continues to deny independent monitors, lawyers, relatives or humanitarian agencies access to the prisoners.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-hrwreport2014-8)

The 1997 Anti-Terrorism Act, which established [Anti Terrorism Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti_Terrorism_Court_(Pakistan)), and [subsequent anti-terrorist legislation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-terrorism_legislation#Pakistan), has arisen concerns about protection of [fundamental rights](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fundamental_rights).

[Muslim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim) groups have persecuted non-Muslims and used some laws as the legal basis for doing so. The Blasphemy law, for example, allows life imprisonment or the [death penalty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_penalty) for contravening Islamic principles, but legislation was passed in October 2004 to attempt to counter misuse of the law.

Provisions of the Islamic [Qisas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qisas) and [Diyat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diyat) laws allow the murder victim's nearest relative or Wali (ولي) (legal guardian) to, if the court approves, take the life of the killer or to agree to financial compensation paid to the heirs of the victim.[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-38)

*Main article:* [*Missing persons (Pakistan)*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missing_persons_(Pakistan))

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| [[icon]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Wiki_letter_w_cropped.svg) | This section **needs expansion**. You can help by [adding to it](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Human_rights_in_Pakistan&action=edit&section=). *(December 2010)* |

Pakistan's military intelligence agency, [Inter-Services Intelligence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inter-Services_Intelligence) (ISI), and the law enforcement have been accused of arresting and kidnapping political leaders who have demanded more autonomy or freedom from Pakistan. They have also been accused of arresting student activists and teachers protesting the exploitation of Pakistani government. Many human-rights activists in Pakistan have protested against force disappearances and kidnappings.[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-39)

**Women's rights**

*Main article:* [*Women in Pakistan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_Pakistan)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Women_in_Pakistan_wait_to_vote_(8735821208).jpg)

Women in [Rawalpindi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rawalpindi) queuing to vote in Pakistan's 2013 elections.

The social status of women in Pakistan is one of systemic [gender subordination](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_subordination) even though it varies considerably across classes, regions, and the rural/urban divide due to uneven socioeconomic development and the impact of tribal, feudal, and capitalist social formations on women's lives. The Pakistani women of today do, however, enjoy a better status than the past.[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-adb_wom_pak-40)[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-whistory-41)

Pakistan has a dual system of civil and [sharia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharia) law. The [Constitution of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan) recognizes equality between men and women (Art. 25(2) states "There shall be no discrimination on the basis of sex") but also recognizes as valid [Sharia law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharia_law) (Chapter 3A. – [Federal Shariat Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Shariat_Court)).[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan" \l "cite_note-42)

**Violence against women[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Human_rights_in_Pakistan&action=edit&section=6" \o "Edit section: Violence against women)]**

*See also:* [*Domestic violence in Pakistan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_violence_in_Pakistan)*,* [*Rape in Pakistan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape_in_Pakistan)*,* [*Honour killing in Pakistan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honour_killing_in_Pakistan)*, and* [*Violence against women in Pakistan law*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violence_against_women_in_Pakistan_law)

Domestic violence in Pakistan is an endemic social problem. According to a study carried out in 2009 by [Human Rights Watch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Watch), it is estimated that between 70 and 90 percent of women and girls in Pakistan have suffered some form of abuse.[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-Gosselin-43) An estimated 5000 women are killed per year from domestic violence, with thousands of others maimed or disabled.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-Hansar2-17) The majority of victims of violence have no legal recourse. [Law enforcement authorities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_enforcement_in_Pakistan) do not view domestic violence as a [crime](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime) and usually refuse to register any cases brought to them. Given the very few [women's shelters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_shelter) in the country, victims have limited ability to escape from violent situations.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-Hansar2-17)

[Human Rights Watch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Watch) said in its report released in 2014 that "Violence against women and girls – including [rape](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape), [Honor killings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honor_killings), [Acid attacks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acid_attacks), [Domestic violence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_violence) and [Forced marriage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forced_marriage) all remain serious problems in Pakistan. Despite high levels of domestic violence, the parliament has failed to enact laws to prevent it and protect women."[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-hrwreport2014-8) In 2002 women's rights activists Saba and [Gulalai Ismail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulalai_Ismail) founded [Aware Girls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aware_Girls), a grassroots women's rights initiative to empower women and girls against domestic and terrorist violence based in [Peshawar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peshawar).[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-guar2018-44) More recently Saba Ismail has represented women's rights at the [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations).[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-45)

Rape in Pakistan came to international attention after the politically sanctioned rape of [Mukhtaran Bibi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mukhtaran_Bibi).[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-Laird-46)[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-Khan-47) The group [War Against Rape](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_Against_Rape) (WAR) has documented the severity of rape in Pakistan, and the police indifference to it.[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-Karim-48) According to Women's Studies professor Shahla Haeri, rape in Pakistan is "often institutionalized and has the tacit and at times the explicit approval of the state".[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-Haeri-49) According to a study carried out by [Human Rights Watch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Watch) there is a rape once every two hours[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan" \l "cite_note-Gosselin-43) and a gang rape every hour.[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-Foerstel-50)[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-51) According to lawyer Asma Jahangir, who is a co-founder of the women's rights group [Women's Action Forum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_Action_Forum), up to seventy-two percent of women in custody in Pakistan are physically or sexually abused.[[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-Goodwin-52)

There have been several thousand ["honor" killings in Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honor_killing_in_Pakistan) in the past decade, with hundreds reported in 2013.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-hrwreport2014-8) An Amnesty International report noted "the failure of the authorities to prevent these killings by investigating and punishing the perpetrators."[[53]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-53) Honour killings are supposed to be prosecuted as ordinary murder, but in practice, police and prosecutors often ignore it.[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-54)

[Women's eNews](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_eNews) reported 4,000 women attacked by [Bride burning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bride_burning) in [Islamabad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamabad)'s surroundings over an eight-year period and that the average age range of victims is between 18 and 35 with an estimated 30 percent being pregnant at the time death.[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-Terzieff-55) [Shahnaz Bukhari](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shahnaz_Bukhari) has said of such attacks

Either Pakistan is home to possessed stoves which burn only young housewives, and are particularly fond of genitalia, or looking at the frequency with which these incidences occur there is a grim pattern that these women are victims of deliberate murder[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan" \l "cite_note-Terzieff-55)

According to the Progressive Women's Association such attacks are a growing problem and in 1994 on [International Women's Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Women%27s_Day) announced that various NGO's would join to raise awareness of the issue.[[56]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-Rappaport-56)

**Notable attacks against women[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Human_rights_in_Pakistan&action=edit&section=7" \o "Edit section: Notable attacks against women)]**

* On 9 October 2012, the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for attempting to assassinate 15-year-old [Malala Yousafzai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malala_Yousafzai). They vowed to continue to target her for promoting education for women and girls. In response, a new law was signed by the President on 20 December, guaranteeing free and compulsory education to boys and girls between the ages of five and 16.
* On 4 July 2012, women's human rights activist [Fareeda Kokikhel Afridi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fareeda_Kokikhel_Afridi) was killed in a drive-by shooting as she left her home in Peshawar for work in the Khyber Tribal Agency. Local civil society groups said she had been targeted for promoting the human rights of women. The authorities failed to bring the perpetrators to justice.[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-57)
* In 2007, [Kainat Soomro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kainat_Soomro) a 13-year-old was kidnapped at gunpoint and gang raped. Her family faced widespread condemnation for refusing to "honor" kill their daughter and faced several attacks which resulted in the death of her brother. Her rapists were all acquitted and she was put under trial for premarital sex which is a crime under Islamic law.[[58]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-58)[[59]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-59)
* On June 2002, [Mukhtaran Bibi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mukhtaran_Bibi) was [gang raped](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gang_rape) on the orders of a tribal council and paraded naked in front of a cheering crowd of 300 people. She did not commit suicide, as is customary in gang rape incidents in Pakistan, but instead attempted to seek justice. After nearly a decade after the incident 5 of the 6 accused of gang raping her were acquitted while the sixth faces life in prison. She continues to face widespread discrimination in Pakistan and has been subject to house arrest, illegal detention and harassment from the government and law enforcement agencies.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-60)

**Political abuse of human rights**

Provincial and local governments have arrested journalists and closed newspapers that report on matters perceived as socially offensive or critical of the government or military. Journalists also have been victims of violence and intimidation by various groups and individuals. In spite of these difficulties, the press publishes freely on other matters, although journalists often exercise self-restraint in their writing to avoid inuring the wrath of the government or military.

In 2001, citizens participated in [general elections](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_Pakistani_general_elections), but those elections were criticized as deeply flawed by domestic and international observers. Societal actors also are responsible for human rights abuses. Violence by drug lords and sectarian militias claims numerous innocent lives, [discrimination](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discrimination) and violence against women are widespread, [human trafficking](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_trafficking) is problematic, and debt slavery and bonded labor persist.

The government often ignores abuses against children and religious minorities, and some government institutions and [Muslim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim) groups have persecuted non-Muslims and used some laws as the legal basis for doing so. The Blasphemy law, for example, allows life imprisonment or the [death penalty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_penalty) for contravening Islamic principles, but legislation was passed in October 2004 to attempt to counter misuse of the law.

Furthermore, the social acceptance of many these problems hinders their eradication. One prominent example is [honor killings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honor_killing) (“[karo kari](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karo_kari" \o "Karo kari)”), which are believed to have accounted for more than 4,000 deaths from 1998 to 2003.[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-61)[[62]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-62) Many view this practice as indicative of a feudal mentality and falsely anathema to [Islam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam), but others defend the practice as a means of punishing violators of cultural norms and view attempts to stop it to as an assault on cultural heritage.

Pakistan was recommended by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) in May to be designated as a “Country of Particular Concern” (CPC) by the Department of State because of its government's engagement or toleration of systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom.[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-63)

**Humanitarian response to conflict**

Violence in Pakistan and the Taliban conflict with the government have heightened humanitarian problems in Pakistan.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64) Political and military interests have been prioritized over humanitarian considerations in the offensives against the Taliban, and issues are likely to get worse as people are encouraged back home prematurely and often face once again being victims of the Taliban terrorists.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64) Displacement is a key problem and humanitarian organizations are failing to address the basic needs of people outside displacement camps, nor are they able to address issues such as the conduct of hostilities and the politicization of the emergency response.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan" \l "cite_note-ODI-64) Researchers at the [Overseas Development Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overseas_Development_Institute) argue that aid agencies face dilemmas with engaging with the government, as this does not always produce the desired results and can conflict with their aim of promoting stability and maintaining a principled approach.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64) A principled approach limits their ability to operate when the government emphasizes political and security considerations.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64)

**Internally displaced people**

There were over 500,000 people displaced in 2008 mainly from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) on the border with Afghanistan, and a further 1.4 million from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa in May 2009.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64) By mid-July 2009, Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) put the total of [Internally Displaced People](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internally_Displaced_People) (IDPs) at just over 2m, while unofficial figures are as high as 3.5m.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64) Most of those displaced (up to 80%) were taken in by relatives, friends and even strangers – Pashtun communities in particular have displayed great efforts in assisting the displaced despite their own high levels of poverty.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64) Still others use schools, but only a small minority live in approximately 30 official camps, mainly in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64)

There is little support for those living outside of camps, official support consists only of some food and non-food items and government cash grants.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64) Many of those who have been taken in are looked after by political and religious groups providing assistance in return for membership or support.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64) The government has been struggling to provide support to an area traditionally marginalized and remote and is also keen to downplay the scale of the crisis.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64) Before military operations are undertaken, little preparation is made for the predictable increase in displaced peoples in order to avoid attracting the attention of opposing forces.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64) There are also suggestions that help given to IDPs is informed by cultural and political expediency, as in the case of a $300 family cash grant.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64)

The [international community](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_community)'s assistance is marginal in comparison to local efforts due to the rate and scale of displacement; the scattering of displaced populations among host families and in spontaneous settlements; access difficulties due to insecurity and the role of the military in the relief effort.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64) International [humanitarian organizations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humanitarian_organization) have focused on camp-based populations and this limited interaction has hampered their attempts to analyze the full complexity of the situation, the context, its different actors and their interests – all of which are key to ensuring that the humanitarian imperative is achieved in this complex operating environment.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64)

The cluster method often used for the coordination and funding of humanitarian responses to IDPs have been criticized many agencies have bypassed the UN cluster, such as [OFDA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OFDA) and [DfID](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DfID).[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64) However, operational agencies also indicated that donors have also been slow to challenge government policy due to their overall support to the Pakistani counter-insurgency effort, as well as lack of influence.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64)

The government has come under criticism also for downplaying the crisis, but also for weakening the position of the UN though the ‘One UN Approach’ in Pakistan, leaving a UN unable to function properly.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64) Furthermore, in an effort to force refugees back to the areas they have fled (in order to create a sense of normalcy), the government has cut off power and water supply to the IDP camps.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-ODI-64)

**Discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Human_rights_in_Pakistan&action=edit&section=12" \o "Edit section: Discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities)]**

*See also:* [*Religious discrimination in Pakistan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_discrimination_in_Pakistan)*,* [*Sectarian violence in Pakistan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sectarian_violence_in_Pakistan)*, and* [*Forced conversion to Islam in Pakistan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forced_conversion_to_Islam_in_Pakistan)

Pakistan is known for widespread discrimination against religious minorities, with attacks against [Christians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christians), [Hindus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindus), [Ahmadiyya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmadiyya), [Shia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shia), [Sufi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sufism) and [Sikh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sikh) communities being widespread. These attacks are usually blamed on religious extremists but certain laws in the Pakistan Criminal Code and government inaction have only caused these attacks to surge higher.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-dawn.com-7)

Sunni militant groups operate with impunity across Pakistan, as law enforcement officials either turn a blind eye or appear helpless to prevent widespread attacks against religious minorities.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-hrwreport2014-8)

**Extrajudicial killings of Pashtuns[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Human_rights_in_Pakistan&action=edit&section=13" \o "Edit section: Extrajudicial killings of Pashtuns)]**

The [Pashtun Protection Movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pashtun_Protection_Movement) has accused the Pakistan Army of "a campaign of intimidation that includes extrajudicial killings and thousands of disappearances and detentions."[[65]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-65) The [killing of Naqeebullah Mehsud](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killing_of_Naqeebullah_Mehsud) has brought forth accusations that Pashtuns are racially profiled. Military operations in Pakistan's tribal areas have caused the dispersal of Pashtuns away from their homes.[[66]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-66) Pashtuns who have advocated for human rights for their ethnic group have been attacked and murdered.[[67]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-67)

Founder of [Aware Girls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aware_Girls), Gulalai Ismail, was threatened with death by the [Inter-Services Intelligence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inter-Services_Intelligence) after she joined the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement and protested against enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings by the Pakistani state.[[68]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-NPR-68) After raising awareness of sexual assault committed by Pakistani security forces on women, Gulalai Ismail fled the country as police forces were on their way to arrest her.[[68]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-NPR-68)

**Silencing of human rights abuses in Balochistan[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Human_rights_in_Pakistan&action=edit&section=14" \o "Edit section: Silencing of human rights abuses in Balochistan)]**

*Further information:* [*Insurgency in Balochistan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insurgency_in_Balochistan)

As of 2018, the Pakistani state was using Islamist militants to crush Balochi separatists.[[69]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-69) Academics and journalists in the United States have been approached by [Inter-Services Intelligence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inter-Services_Intelligence) spies, who threatened them not to speak about the insurgency in Balochistan, as well as human rights abuses by the Pakistani Army or else their family would be harmed.[[70]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-70)

**Human rights violations of Ahmadi[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Human_rights_in_Pakistan&action=edit&section=15" \o "Edit section: Human rights violations of Ahmadi)]**

Several minority Muslim communities, such as the [Ahmadiyya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmadiyya) have been attacked in [pogroms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pogrom) in Pakistan over the years.[[71]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-71)

The human rights violation of the [Ahmadiyya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmadiyya) have been systematic and state-sponsored. General Zia, the military dictator of Pakistan, went many steps further in 1984, when to gain the support of Islamic fundamentalists in Pakistan, he promulgated the anti-Ahmadiyya Ordinance XX that added Sections 298-B and 298-C in Pakistan Criminal Code.[[72]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-72)[[73]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-73)

**298-B. Misuse of epithets, descriptions and titles, etc., reserved for certain holy personages or places:**

(1) Any person of the Qadiani group or the Lahori group who call themselves 'Ahmadis' or by any other name who by words, either spoken or written, or by visible representation- (a) refers to or addresses, any person, other than a Caliph or companion of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), as "Ameer-ul-Mumineen", "Khalifatul- Mumineen", Khalifa-tul-Muslimeen", "Sahaabi" or "Razi Allah Anho"; (b) refers to, or addresses, any person, other than a wife of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), as "Ummul-Mumineen"; (c) refers to, or addresses, any person, other than a member of the family "Ahle-bait" of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), as "Ahle-bait"; or (d) refers to, or names, or calls, his place of worship a "Masjid"; shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine. (2) Any person of the Qadiani group or Lahori group (who call themselves "Ahmadis" or by any other name) who by words, either spoken or written, or by visible representation refers to the mode or form of call to prayers followed by his faith as "Azan", or recites Azan as used by the Muslims, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

**298-C. Person of Qadiani group, etc., calling himself a Muslim or preaching or propagating his faith:**

Any person of the Qadiani group or the Lahori group (who call themselves 'Ahmadis' or by any other name), who directly or indirectly, poses himself as a Muslim, or calls, or refers to, his faith as Islam, or preaches or propagates his faith, or invites others to accept his faith, by words, either spoken or written, or by visible representations, or in any manner whatsoever outrages the religious feelings of Muslims shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine.

Through this ordinance, Ahmadi Muslims were deprived of most of their basic human rights and their freedom of faith. Under the provisions of this ordinance, an Ahmadi Muslim could be given rigorous imprisonment of 3 years and fined any amount. An Ahmadi can be easily charged for profession of his faith or for ‘posing’ as a Muslim. The ordinance was a green signal for anti-Ahmadiyya elements to open the floodgates of tyranny with the help of the State. The ordinance provides a ready and convenient tool in the hands of fundamentalists and the government to incriminate Ahmadis on flimsy grounds and petty excuses.[[74]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-74)

**Controversial blasphemy laws[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Human_rights_in_Pakistan&action=edit&section=16" \o "Edit section: Controversial blasphemy laws)]**

Anti-Pakistani blasphemy law protest in [Bradford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bradford), [England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England) (2014).

*Main article:* [*Blasphemy law in Pakistan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blasphemy_law_in_Pakistan)

In Pakistan, 1.5% of the population are Christian. Pakistani law mandates that any "blasphemies" of the Quran are to be met with punishment. On July 28, 1994, [Amnesty International](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amnesty_International) urged Pakistan's Prime Minister, [Benazir Bhutto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benazir_Bhutto) to change the law because it was being used to terrorize religious minorities. She tried, but was unsuccessful. However, she modified the laws to make them more moderate. Her changes were reversed by the [Nawaz Sharif](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nawaz_Sharif) administration which was backed by religious political parties.

**Forced conversions[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Human_rights_in_Pakistan&action=edit&section=18" \o "Edit section: Forced conversions)]**

*Main article:* [*Forced conversion to Islam in Pakistan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forced_conversion_to_Islam_in_Pakistan)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Dargah_pir_sarhandi.jpg)

Dargah pir sarhandi, a frequent crime scene of forced conversion and marriage of kidnapped underage Hindu girls.

In Pakistan, Hindu and Christian girls are kidnapped, raped, forcibly converted to Islam and married to Muslim men.[[125]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-auto-125) These girls are generally 12 to 18 years old.[[126]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-126) According to the [Aurat Foundation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aurat_Foundation),about 1,000 non-Muslim girls are forcibly converted to Islam in Pakistan every year.[[127]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-127)

Forced and coerced conversions of religious minorities to Islam occurred at the hands of societal actors. Religious minorities claimed that government actions to stem the problem were inadequate. Several human rights groups have highlighted the increased phenomenon of Hindu girls, particularly in Karachi, being kidnapped from their families and forced to convert to Islam. The Human Rights groups have reported that the cases of forced conversion are increasing.[[128]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-128)[[129]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-129) A 2014 report says about 1,000 Christian and Hindu women in Pakistan are forcibly converted to Islam every year.[[130]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-130)[[131]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-131)[[132]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-132) [[133]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-133)

In 2003 a six-year-old Sikh girl was kidnapped by a member of the [Afridi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afridi) tribe in Northwest Frontier Province; he also claimed the girl had converted to Islam and therefore could not be returned to her family.[[134]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-134)

Since the turn of the century non-Sunni minorities as the [Kalash](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalash_people) and [Ismailis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ismailis) have been threatened with conversion to Islam or death by the [Taliban](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taliban) and other radical Islamic groups.[[135]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-135) Well known Pakistani sportsperson-politician [Imran Khan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imran_Khan) (now the Prime minister) had condemned the forced conversions threat as un-Islamic.[[136]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-136)

On October 12, 2012, Ryan Stanton, a Christian boy of 16, went into hiding after being accused of blasphemy and after his home was ransacked by a crowd. Stanton stated that he had been framed because he had rebuffed pressures to convert to Islam.[[137]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-137)[[138]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-138)

Rinkle Kumari, a 19-year Pakistani student, Lata Kumari, and Asha Kumari, a Hindu working in a beauty parlor, were allegedly forced to convert from Hinduism to Islam.[[139]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-fridaytimesrinkle-139)[[140]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-140) They told the judge that they wanted to go with their parents.[[141]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-141) Their cases were appealed all the way to the [Supreme Court of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Pakistan). The appeal was admitted but remained unheard ever after.[[142]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-142) In 2020, a 15-year-old Hindu girl was kidnapped, forcibly converted and married to a Muslim man. She was later rescued by the police.[[143]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-143)[[144]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-144) The Court ordered her to be sent to a Women's protection centre.[[145]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-145) Others have been less fortunate with one bride actually being abducted with the help of the police.[[146]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Pakistan#cite_note-146)

**See also**

* [Acid throwing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acid_throwing)
* [Blasphemy law in Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blasphemy_law_in_Pakistan)
* [Child labour in Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_labour_in_Pakistan)
* [Domestic violence in Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_violence_in_Pakistan)
* [Dowry death](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dowry_death)
* [Forced disappearance in Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forced_disappearance_in_Pakistan)
* [Feudalism in Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feudalism_in_Pakistan)
* [Honour killing in Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honour_killing_in_Pakistan)
* [Human rights in Islamic countries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Islamic_countries)
* [Human Rights in Pakistan under General Zia-ul-Haq](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_in_Pakistan_under_General_Zia-ul-Haq)
* [Human trafficking in Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_trafficking_in_Pakistan)
* [LGBT rights in Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_Pakistan)
* [Persecution of Ahmadis#Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution_of_Ahmadis#Pakistan)
* [Rape in Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape_in_Pakistan)
* [Sectarian violence in Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sectarian_violence_in_Pakistan)
* [Violence against women in Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violence_against_women_in_Pakistan)

**Organisations**

* [Ministry of Human Rights](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Human_Rights_(Pakistan))

Human Rights Commission of PakistanCampaign for Innocent Victims in ConflictAsian Human Rights Development Organization