

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Gender Equality & Women's Economic Empowerment

National Commission on the Status of Women

9-10 August 2022



NCSW - Institutional Overview

Brief History of NCSW

- A statutory body, established in July 2000 through a Presidential Ordinance: outcome of the national & international commitments of Pakistan i.e. Beijing Declaration & Platform for Action, 1995; National Plan of Action (NPA) for Women, 1998.
- In 2013, NCSW Act, 2012 was passed: Four Commissions formed from 2000 to 2012 through Presidential Ordinance, 5th, 6th & 7th Commissions formed under NCSW Act 2012 for a term of 3 years.
- Members of the 7th Commission notified & appointed in June 2020; Chairperson NCSW appointed on 29th July, 2021.

Mandated Governance Structure

- **Chairperson:** The Administrative and Financial Head of the Commission; nominations solicited, MoHR shortlists, PM Office with Leader of Oppositions shortlists 3 names for interview and final selection by the Parliamentary Committee.
- **Secretary:** The Head of Secretariat and ex officio member of NCSW.
- **Executive Committee:** Elected from among members to assist and advise Chairperson in administrative / operational matters.
- **Sub-Committees:** From members and coopted members (Law & Policy; Research & Policy; Advocacy; Finance).
- **Member Meetings:** Held quarterly per year.

Composition of the Commission

NCSW is a Representative Body:

- 8 members from 4 provinces
- 5 members (minorities, AJK, FATA, ICT, GB).
- 5 Ex-officio members
- Chairs of Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women (Punjab, Sindh, KP, Baluchistan, AJK) GB Commission yet to be notified
- Members provide liaison and coordination in provinces
- Members can be co-opted as relevant on sub-committees

NCSW Characteristics

- Independent and autonomous
- Extends to whole of Pakistan
- Advisory and Advocacy Role
- Monitoring and Tracking Implementation
- Not an Implementing institution
- Non partisan

Objectives of NCSW

- Safeguard and promote women's rights in the country
- Achieve gender equality before the law in accordance with Pakistan's Constitution and its international obligations

Mandated Functions

- **Legislative Review:**
 - Of laws, rules & regulations affecting status & rights of women & necessary amendments, repeal or new legislation to end discrimination
 - Monitoring implementation
- **International instruments & obligations :**
 - **Monitor** laws and policies for implementation of CEDAW
 - **Recommend** signing/ratification of international instruments
- **Liaise:** with Provincial Commissions & concerned provincial organizations;

Mandated Functions

- **Develop active association** with similar commissions & institutions in other countries for collaboration and action;
- **Advocacy:**
 - Sponsor, steer, encourage research
 - lobby, build coalitions/ networks & promotion of women's cause & participation in all spheres of life
- **Develop and maintain** interaction/dialogue with non-governmental organizations, experts & individuals;
- **Resource Mobilization** financial & technical
- **May Call for Information or Report** from Federal Government, CSOs/ autonomous/ concerned organization

Mandated Functions

- **Exercise Powers** of Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Act V of 1908) while inquiring into complaints of violations of women rights,
- **Inspect** any jail, sub-jail or other places of custody with permission of provincial governments;

NOT AN IMPLEMENTING INSTITUTION

Mode of Operations / Strategies

Significant Modes of interventions:

- Legislation
- Monitoring
- Research
- Partnerships
- Responding to Complaints
- Relief through Courts (e.g. Elections, Jirgas /Panchayats)

Thematic Priority Areas

Thematic Priority Areas:

- Violence Against Women (VAW)
- Health & Reproductive Rights
- Women with Special Needs
- Women's Political Participation & Representation
- Women's Economic Empowerment
- Reaching out to Youth
- Inter Provincial Coordination

Summary of Activities

- Reviewed & provided input on more than **35** Laws
- Campaign for Reducing the Gender Gap in electoral rolls - **13** Major Activities /events
- Public advocacy : Direct Interaction via **530** events
 - Exclusive NCSW = 151
 - Partnership with Governments /CSOs etc. = 379
- Youth Engagement -at **six** major Universities (Advocacy /Dialogue)
- Advocacy / Awareness using media
 - Awareness campaigns against VAW during 16 days of activism,
 - TV Shows, Spots, Drama Serial,
 - Radio Programs, Radio Spots, Commercials
 - SMS Campaigns,
 - Posters & Banners
 - Research and Publications: **23**

Significant Achievements / Initiatives

- **Engagement in Election Process:** Election Law, Campaign for reducing Gender Gap in Electoral Rolls, Election Observation, Report, Recommendations, Training
- **Inter Provincial Ministerial Group (IPMG)** - NCSW as Sectt. –sharing of innovative actions, coordination on issues, involvement of key provincial departments and elected representatives
- **Briefing notes and reports** for Federal Govt (MoFA/ MoHR/ MOLJ) and Parliamentary Standing Committees, Planning Commission, GCC, presentation for EU Monitors
- **Representing GoP** at international fora
- **Research:** Status of Women in Pakistan Reports using national data and indigenous VAW Indicators

Significant Achievements / Initiatives

- **Winning** a landmark Decision from Supreme Court of Pakistan on banning use of illegal Jirga throughout Pakistan
- **Drafting** of Provincial Commission on the Status of Women Baluchistan & GB Bill
- **Recommendations** to FATA Reform Committee for inclusion of Women
- **Review/comments** on CEDAW Optional Protocol and General Declaration
- **Mapping** of support services for women survivors of VAW across Pakistan
- **Establishment** of National Gender Data Portal 2021



Details of Actions / Strategies

Legislation

- **More than 35 Laws reviewed During 2013-22**
- **Significant reviews and Inputs:**
 - The Protection against Harassment of Women at Work Place Act, 2010
 - The Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trail) Act, 2021
 - The Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2022 (Amendment in Article 51)
 - The NCSW (Amendment) Bill, 2022
 - The GB Commission on the Status of Women Bill, 2021
 - Recommendations on “Women in Criminal Justice System” (MOLJ)
 - ADR Act 2017
 - Anti-Rape Bill

Legislation

- Honour Killing Bill
- Cyber Crime Law
- Proposed amendments in Qisas & Diyat laws 2018
- Proposed Amendments in PPC in Context of Jirga/ Panchayats
- Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking of Women Ordinance 2002 and Human Smuggling Ordinance 2002/Act 2018
- Transgender Persons Bill, 2017
- Protection against Harassment of Women at Work Place Act 2010
- Christian Marriage and Divorce (Amendment) Bills

Legislation

- Pakistan Registration of Hindu Marriage Bill 2017
- Amendments to Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929
- Reproductive Health Care Bill 2013
- Amendment in NCSW Act 2012
- Provincial Commission on the Status of Women Baluchistan Bill
- Review the Draft Juvenile Justice System Bill, 2015
- Recommendations to FATA Reform Committee for inclusion of Women in its deliberations

Political Representation & Participation

- Recommendations:
- Electoral Reforms Law 2017- advocacy / lobbying for women's general seat tickets and 15% minimum female votes polled per constituency
- FATA Reform Committee for inclusion of Women
- Reviewed Local Government laws and proposed 33% representation in all tiers in all province
- Political Parties Act – for women's 33% rep in decision making bodies
- Charter of Demand for Local Body Election 2022

Women Economic Empowerment

- Women Business Forums with the Women Chambers of Commerce & SMEDA throughout Pakistan
- Women Advancement in the Muslim Countries – Lessons Learnt & Best Practices in collaboration with the Embassy of Indonesia, Turkey, KSA, Malaysia, Tunisia, Jordan – March 2022
- Women Economic Empowerment knowledge exchange dialogue in collaboration with the Egyptian Embassy to establish linkages between women chambers of commerce & industries with financial institutions - June 2022

Advocacy & Awareness

- **Women's Economic Participation and Rights**
 - Promoting women agricultural worker's rights- recognition/ value of contribution
 - Women's Economic Empowerment Index
 - Women Work & Trade Policy Recommendations
 - Home based workers- valuation of work, policy advocacy
- **Women's Social and Human Rights**
 - Human Trafficking – Drama serial
 - Mapping of VAW support Services
 - 16 days of activism campaigns against VAW
 - Monitoring prisons and shelters
 - Support for VAW survivors through existing redressal mechanisms
- **Women in Elections** – meetings/ radio programs / info graphic / report

Advocacy & Awareness

- Gender Policy for Universities with HEC
- Engagement with Students (FJWU, MUET, Benazir Shaheed University, NDU, Sindh University Jamshoro, Habib University Karachi, Karakorum University, IIUI)
- Representation in media events, talk shows, conferences, seminars
- Representation in Boards (BISP, PPAF, PSDF,PCP)
- **Chair** of Karakorum International University
- **Member** Syndicate Fatima Jinnah Women University
- **Coopted Member** SC Task Force on Population
- Dissemination of Short Awareness Films through Social Media (Care international, LAS and TDEA)

Research & Publications

1. Economic Empowerment for Women in Distress 2022
2. Climate Equity, Women as agent of Change 2022
3. NCSW Strategic Plan 2022-25
4. Report on COVID-19 Impact on Women with Special Focus on Access to GBV Services 2021
5. Costing Study on Child Marriage 2021
6. Young Women in Pakistan: Status Report 2020
7. Good Practices to Counter Violence against Women and Girls, including Acid and Burn Violence and Promote Gender Equality in Pakistan 2019
8. Gender Perspective on the National Climate Change Policy. 2019
9. Idrak aur degar afsanay. NCSW Literary Award. 2019
10. NCSW Annual Reports 2013, 2014, 2015-16, 2017, 2018-19

Research & Publications

11. Compilation of Laws to Counter GBV – Analysis and Gaps. 2019
12. Mapping of Support Services for Women Victims /Survivors of Violence. 2019
13. Women in Elections 2018 - NCSW Observation Report . 2018
14. Rural Women Status Report. 2018
15. Women, Violence and Jirgas. 2017 – to support NCSW petition
16. Aurat Teri Kahani – Book by a domestic worker. 2017
17. Access to Justice for Survivors of Sexual Assault. 2017
18. Countering Acid Burn Violence in Pakistan: A Success Story. 2017
19. Beijing + 20 Review. 2017
20. Prominent Invisibility (Women Officers in Pakistan’s Federal Civil Services). 2017

Research & Publications

21. Women Economic Empowerment in Pakistan Status Report 2016
22. Standardized Indicators on Violence Against Women in Pakistan. 2015
23. Acid Crime Reports. (2014, 2015)
24. Combating Violence: Ending Impunity, Seminar Report. 2015
25. Mainstreaming Adolescents Access to RH Information and Rights. 2015
26. Training Module and Reference Manual for nikah registrars. 2015
27. Study of Nizam e- Adal (with PCSW KP). 2013
28. NCSW News sheets

Monitoring

- Visit to Shelters
- Visits to Jails/Police Departments
- Monitoring of High Profile Court Cases
 - Honour Killing
 - Violence against Women
 - Child Domestic Worker
 - Cyber Crime Case
 - Assault and Disrobing in Public
- Media Monitoring
- Data Generation
- Election Observation
- Research for Monitoring

Institution Building

- Inter Provincial Ministerial Group (IPMG)
- Establishment of National Women Resource Centre at National Library
- First Women Bank Limited : Review of existing & proposed vision/mission of Bank as commercial & development bank
- Formulating of Gender Policy for Universities in Pakistan collaboration with HEC
- Annual Literary Award for Young Women Writers
- Collaboration with Universities
- Collaboration & Networking with Civil Society Organizations
- Capacity building for election reporting/observation for media & CSOs

Issues and challenges- Institution Building

- Delay in approval of Financial Rules
- Financial Rules and Accounting Procedures are pending with the Finance Division since 2015
- No Bank account
- Shortage of staff
- Inadequate Budget allocation

Year	Budget Allocation in Rupees
2018-19	50.000 million
2019-20	65.000 million
2020-21	57.820 million
2021-22	109.820 million
2022-23	78.118 million

- Institutionalized formal channel of communication with Parliamentarians

THANK YOU

