

Women Leadership in Public Life

The project seeks to enhance the quality of life for women in Sindh, ensuring they have equal rights and amplified roles in public leadership. It strives to foster a supportive environment where women can exercise their rights, obtain essential protection, access legal assistance, and utilize referral services to address any infringements on their rights.

Furthermore, the project advocates for a Rights Based Approach, strengthening the capabilities of duty bearers such as the Women Development Department and the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women. Simultaneously, it collaborates with Community-Based Organizations that represent women and amplify their voices to protect their rights.



This brochure is developed and designed @ <https://maher.consulting> It was a part of first ever Gender Parity Report for Sindh developed by MAHER Consulting. The activity was supported by Oxfam in Pakistan through their program Women Leadership in Public Life. You can read the gender parity report by clicking the link.

<https://bit.ly/44imkJx>

Other Forms are Violence

Bonded Labor:

Bonded labor remains the dominant form of trafficking within Pakistan, especially in brick kilns, carpet-making, agriculture, fishing, mining, and production of goods for domestic use. Estimates suggest thousands of individuals, including children, are subjected to such conditions.

Sex Trafficking:

Pakistani women and girls are vulnerable to sex traffickers in Pakistan, China, the Gulf countries, and other regions. Some Pakistani religious leaders broker marriages between Chinese men and Pakistani girls, often from impoverished Christian communities, and these girls are then trafficked to China and forced into prostitution or labor.

Internal Trafficking:

There are reports indicating internal trafficking of women and girls from poorer regions to larger urban areas for forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation.

Afghan Refugees:

Afghan refugees residing in Pakistan are also at risk. They might be subjected to forced labor, particularly begging, or sex trafficking.

Transgender Violence

Between 2015 and 2020, according to TransAction Alliance Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 68 transgendered people were murdered in the province of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and in 2018 alone, 479 transgender women were attacked in the province.



OXFAM



Forms of Violence

Women Leadership in Public Life

Domestic Violence

Definition: Acts of physical, emotional, or psychological harm by a partner or family member.

Manifestations: Physical harm, emotional manipulation, verbal abuse, financial control.

Consequences: Trauma, physical injuries, economic dependence, isolation.



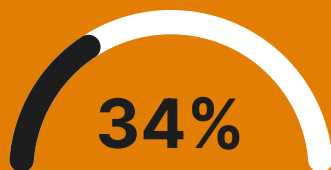
At least 70% women face a domestic violence issue

Sexual Assault and Harassment

Definition: Any unwanted sexual acts, attempts, or threats.

Manifestations: Rape, molestation, unwanted touching, stalking, catcalling.

Consequences: Psychological trauma, STIs, unwanted pregnancies, public shame.



about 34% of women aged 15-49 who have ever been married have faced physical or sexual violence by their spouses.

Human Trafficking

Definition: The illegal movement of people, especially women, for the purposes of forced labor or sexual exploitation.

Manifestations: Sex trafficking, forced labor, organ trafficking.

Consequences: Physical and psychological trauma, economic exploitation, loss of freedom.

Quantifying the exact scale of human trafficking is challenging due to its clandestine nature, underreporting. In the 2020 Trafficking in Persons Report, Pakistan was placed on "Tier 2" meaning that the government does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so.

Forced and Child Marriages

Definition: Marriages conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties.

Manifestations: Bride trafficking, marriage under duress, child brides.

Consequences: Loss of childhood and education, early pregnancies, health risks, economic dependence.



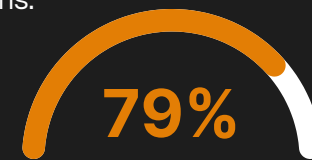
Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2017-18, about 3.6% of women aged between 20-24 were married before the age of 15, and 18.9% were married before 18.

Cyberbullying and Online Harassment

Definition: Intimidating or harassing women online.

Manifestations: Non-consensual image sharing, online stalking, hate speech.

Consequences: Mental health issues, public humiliation, withdrawal from online platforms.



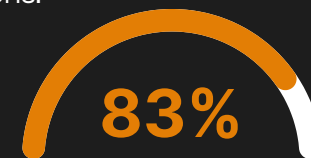
The Digital Rights Foundation, in its 2017 report, nearly 79% of the respondents stated they did not feel safe online in Pakistan.

Economic Abuse

Definition: Limiting or controlling a woman's economic resources.

Manifestations: Withholding money, preventing employment, stealing or coercing funds.

Consequences: Financial dependency, limited mobility, inability to leave abusive situations.



According to one study, the prevalence of economic violence (including constraints on having an independent source of income, no freedom to work, stealing money from wives, restricting their expenditures) against women by was 83.71%