

"Million Names...Million Voices"

Break the Silence to End the Violence against Women & Girls



President of Pakistan becomes the One Millionth Signatory to the "One Million Signatures Campaign" during the Concluding Ceremony, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Friday 27 July 2012

Photo credit: Government of Pakistan

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A high profile nationwide One Million Signatures Campaign "Million Names Million Voices – Break the Silence to End Violence Against Women and Girls" concluded on Friday 27 July 2012 with the signature of its one millionth supporter – the President of Pakistan.

The One Million Signatures Campaign was launched by UN Women in collaboration with a network of women's organizations and the EVAWG Alliance in commemoration of the annual 16 Days of Activism on 25 November 2011.

The campaign has seen more than 450,000 community members and social media users mobilized, along with 1,500 Pakistani women leaders. Pakistanis from all walks of life, including celebrities and politicians, have publicly signed 'Take Action' cards while Charters of Demand have been gathered from 57 districts focusing on reforming laws, policies and services to better serve women.

Closing the ceremony, President Asif Ali Zardari maintained that there was a need to bring about a positive change in the attitudes of men towards women. "A traditional mindset takes time to change, but positive actions are being taken to bring about the desired change," he said, before adding that violence against women was a fundamental violation of human rights and one of the worst forms of discrimination known to society. He further said that "exploitation and discrimination of this nature undermines women's dignity and self-esteem and deprives them of their right to full participation in all aspects of national life." On the occasion, the President declared that the Government has taken the decision to appoint women judges in the judiciary as part of its efforts to take practical, social, economic, legal and constitutional steps for women's empowerment.

Applauding the Government for its landmark legislations and the work of campaigners in moving the violence against women agenda forward, UN Women's Country Director, Alice Shackelford, highlighted the need for the campaign's momentum to be preserved and ensured UN Women's support in working with the country's provinces and regions towards effective implementation of the legislations.

UN Women's support towards increasing women's participation and representation in political processes, includes adoption of gender responsive electoral measures and processes that increase women's representation as both voters and candidates.

UN Women is supporting two 'voter' focused initiatives - a nationwide campaign to increase the number of women with CNICs providing them with a right to vote, as well as enhance institutional mechanisms to collect gender disaggregated voter data.

2. Women Voter's Registration Drive - In Pursuit of Equality

Naam to Diya Hai... Pehchan Bhi Do!

The latest draft electoral rolls in Pakistan include 48 million men and 38 million women. Given the roughly equal gender division in population figures, there is a clear discrepancy showing approximately 10 million Pakistani women are **unaccounted for in these figures** and consequently are not entitled to vote.

The first step for Pakistani women to have real choices and exercise their rights (including the right to vote) is to have ID proof. The Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) is the source of this verification in Pakistan and requires one to be registered with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA).

Recording citizen data is the responsibility of NADRA and voter registration is managed by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Being registered to vote is not a legal requirement

in Pakistan and though the *right* to vote for all citizens is protected under the Constitution of Pakistan, no laws are being violated by not registering.

UN Women in collaboration with NADRA jointly launched a comprehensive campaign to "promote women's registration for ID cards" leading towards increasing women's political participation as voters. The campaign targets the five most vulnerable districts of Balochistan where there is low women CNIC registration as identified by NADRA (Pishin, Killa Saifullah, Lasbela, Zhob and Gwadar) through means of electronic media (TV channels and radios), print media (newspapers), outdoor media (posters, flyers and banners), and mobile vans to reach out to the women in those districts.

The campaign will run initially from August 2012 to November 2012.



3. It's a First - Voter Gender Disaggregated Data in Pakistan

Multan (NA-151)

- **245 polling stations, of which:-**
 - 62 were male voters only
 - 59 were female voters only
 - 124 were combined (for male & female)
- **Voter turnout was 41.45%, of which:-**
 - 43.12% were male voters
 - 38.44% were female voters
- Voter turnout at individual male and female stations was 0.2% to 75.7%
- Female voter turnout at combined polling stations was not available
- Overall voter turnout for women ranged at 10% to 79%

Sanghar (PS-83)

- **93 polling stations, of which:-**
 - 26 were male voters only
 - 26 were female voters only
 - 41 were combined (for male & female)
- **Voter turnout was 43.6%, of which:-**
 - 47.86% were male voters
 - 38.79% were female voters
- Voter turnout at individual male and female stations was 2% to 88%
- Female voter turnout at two combined polling stations was 0%
- Overall voter turnout for women ranged at 0% to 88%

For the first time in Pakistan's history disaggregated voter data by gender was collected from local polling stations during bye-elections held in the districts of Multan (Constituency No. NA-151) and Sanghar (Constituency No. PS-83) on 19 June 2012.

UN Women jointly with UNDP are supporting ECP in guaranteeing gender responsive governance in national and local government elections and ensure neutrality and transparency in the conduct of elections.

One of UN Women's efforts in this areas centers around Gender Disaggregated Data (GDD) through which analysis of GDD will enable ECP and other stakeholders to pinpoint areas where women continue to face obstacles in voting and to direct civic and voter education towards increasing the number of women voters.

Collection and consolidation of GDD has been a consistent demand of the political parties, contesting candidates, civil society stakeholders and election observers. The existing data collection forms of the ECP were gender blind and did not have the provision to record gender disaggregated voter turnout data for both registered voters and for votes cast.

An in-depth technical review of the bye-elections results has highlighted three forms of critical importance in collecting gender disaggregated voter turnout data in Pakistan (Form XIV [statement of the count], Form XVI [consolidation result of the polling station] and Form XVII [result of the count]).

The required amendments and redesign of these Forms to be undertaken by ECP are as follows:

- ◆ Include whether the polling station is male only, female only or a combined male and female polling station
- ◆ Include number of registered male and female voters for each of the polling stations
- ◆ Include number of registered male and female voters by constituency
- ◆ Include total number of voters bifurcated by male and female who have cast their vote

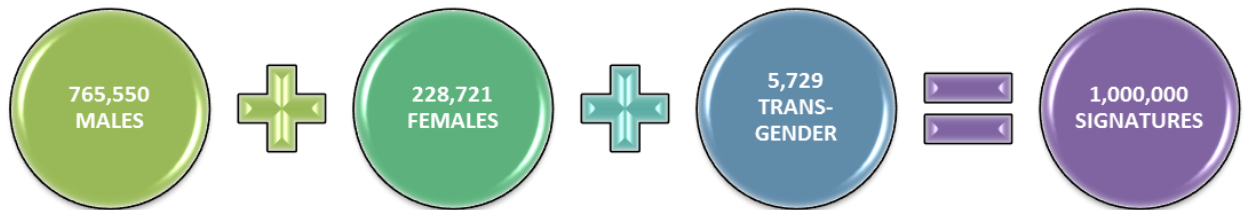
Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

UN Women in supporting efforts to prevent violence against women and girls in collaboration with key partners and Alliances launched the “One Million Signature Campaign” giving a voice to One Million people to SAY NO to violence against women and girls.

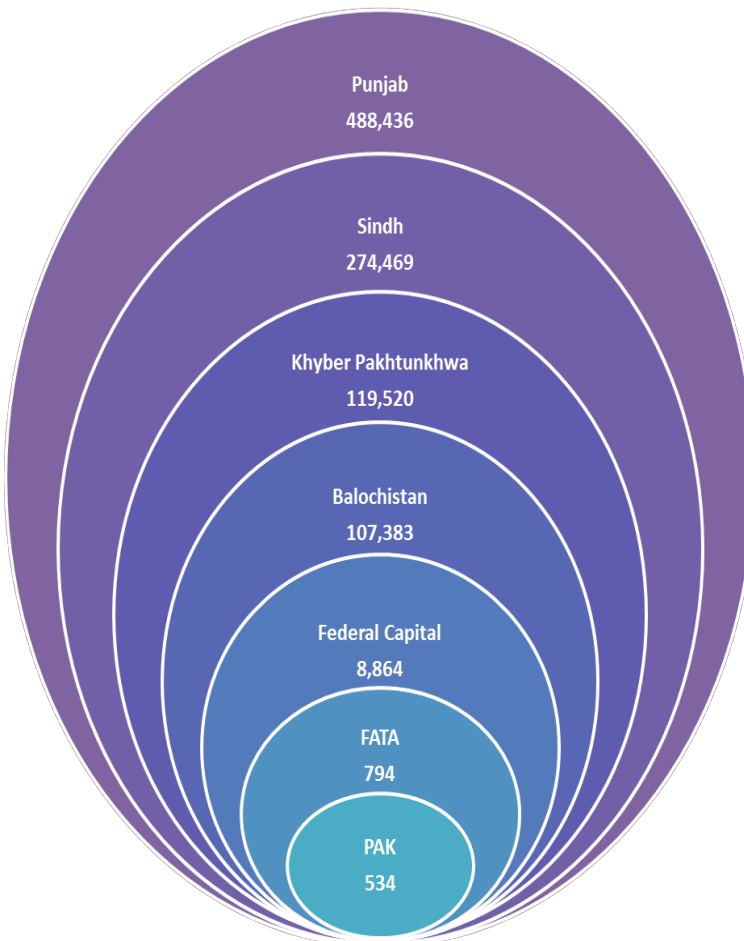
This nationwide campaign, linking communications with advocacy efforts, successfully generated national awareness on the impact of violence on women and girls (VAWG), and collectively raised the voices of **ONE MILLION** people for better advocacy on legislations towards ending violence against women and girls.

4. Take Action - A Demographic Breakdown

Count by Gender



Count by Region



Punjab

Female	116,221
Male	371,856
Trans Gender	359

Sindh

Female	73,282
Male	201,047
Trans Gender	140

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Female	14,374
Male	99,936
Trans Gender	5,210

Balochistan

Female	19,686
Male	87,681
Trans Gender	16

Federal Capital

Female	4,563
Male	4,297
Trans Gender	4

Federally Administered Tribal Areas

Female	358
Male	436
Trans Gender	0

Pakistan Administered Kashmir

Female	237
Male	297
Trans Gender	0



Analysis by Gender

In working towards engaging men and boys, along with women and girls in actions and measures to end violence against women and girls, a high proportion of men were mobilized and have pledged their support for:

- i. legislation to end VAWG
- ii. non-tolerance for violence against anyone
- iii. bringing about a change in one's own personal behaviour and attitudes towards women

Analysis by Age

The campaign having predominantly reached out to more males than females specifically targeted 73% male youths and middle-aged men initiating dialogue at the grass root and community levels around:

- i. recognition of issues and types of violence faced by women and girls
- ii. address power inequalities related to gender
- iii. raise awareness and lobby for support for sensitive measures and legislation to protect women and girls

Out of One Million respondents: 8.69% males and 5.2% females aged 10-20 years, 24.8% males and 8.31% females aged 21-30 years, 25.75% males and 6.03% females aged 31-40 years, 13.67% males and 2.75% females aged 41-50 years, and 3.64% males and 0.59% females were aged 51+ years

Analysis by Region

The total number of respondents from each of the regions are very much proportionate to their respective population size and numbers

(Punjab 53.4%; Sindh 23%; KP 13.5%; Balochistan 5%; Federal Capital 0.6%; FATA 2.4% and PAK 2.1% [source: ISO 3166-2 Newsletter II-3, dated 2011-12-15]).

Analysis by Profession

By bringing together the voices of the government, non-government organizations, social sector, women's groups and other civil society organizations, the mass media, judiciary, students and the private sector resulted in a coordinated, collective front with voices raised to end violence against women and girls. Social mobilization and awareness generation efforts of ONE MILLION people from different professions calls for actions to end VAWG to be intensified through public resolutions at the local level and Charter of Demands from 56 districts that have been presented to the provincial governments to 'take action' to break the silence and end violence against anyone.

Out of One Million respondents: 39.94% were from the public sector, 18.73% were from the private sector, 18.71% were students, 4.72% were housewives or currently unemployed and 17.9% were others.

Photo credits: UN Women

UN Women in supporting increased economic empowerment opportunities for informal women workers includes their access to enter and participate in formal employment.

UN Women's technical support to informal workers has focused on female home based workers and their access to formal factory work thereby improving their income and access to social security. Through public-private social sector partnerships, UN Women seeks to bring forth a holistic support package for informal women workers and their inclusion in entrepreneurship programmes and market partnerships.

5. Recognition and Protection for Home Based Workers

Pakistan's 11.6 million or so female home-based workers make up a large chunk of the country's informal work force in different industrial and commercial sectors (including garments, leather, embroidery, sports goods, shoe making, glass bangles and many other sectors) and face a multitude of challenges, many rooted in gender discrimination. With their mobility often restricted along with their education and skills training, these women have less access to, or ownership of resources and assets, or access to credit and social services, and as such have few opportunities to advance. Their lack of involvement in decision-making – at home and in the public realm – secures their low social and economic status across the country.

In working to economically empower female home-based workers, moving them out of informal work into formal and decent employment, UN Women has supported four pilot projects with ILO and local NGOs to raise awareness of 265 women (100 soccer ball stitchers, 50 women quilt makers, 30 women artisans, and 85 women garment alteration workers and bouquet makers) on their rights to healthy, safe and improved working conditions such as free transport, separate resting areas and washrooms, as well as equal wages and the right to join unions and bargain collectively. This has resulted in many of these women to better lobby for registration, greater recognition and protection within the formal workforce.

The following extract is a case study from a female home based football stitcher from Sialkot:

Five years ago, the death of Shahida Parveen's husband left her facing a frightening future. Unsure of how best to support herself and her four children, she began to stitch footballs at her home in the small rural village of Mehat Pur, in Pakistan's Punjab Province. The work was unstable, unregulated, and her monthly income (approximately Rs. 2,500 or US\$27.98) did not meet the rising price of food. She started to borrow money for groceries and the tuition of her children, leaving her in debt and vulnerable to exploitation.

Shahida's situation is far from unique. Pakistan's 11.6 million or so female home-based workers make up a large chunk of its informal work force. These women face a multitude of challenges, many rooted in gender discrimination. With their mobility often restricted, along with their education and skills training; less access to, or ownership of resources and assets, or access to credit and social services, such women have few opportunities to advance. Meanwhile, the lack of women's involvement in decision-making – at home and in the public realm – secures their low social and economic status across the country.

When Baidarie, a UN Women partnering NGO, visited Mehat Pur in 2010, Shahida was one of 100 women trained on the legal rights of formal workers. With support from Baidarie, she enrolled in a four-month training programme at the nearby Leather Products Development Institute.

The training helped her get a factory job that pays almost three times her original salary, with health facilities, and health and security benefits. As the income of Shahida's home has soared, she says, so has her confidence in herself, and the future of her family.

Photo credits: Baidarie

6. Making the Invisible Workforce Visible

Advocacy efforts jointly by UN Women and ILO for employers and workers under a pilot project 'Integrated Support to Home-Based Workers for Decent Employment' through Baidarie and the Employers' Federation of Pakistan has resulted in a number of industries adopting 'women friendly work practices' to include the informal home based women worker into formal employment. Including the invisible informal female worker into the visible and recognized workforce of an industrial organization not only provides benefit to the individual herself but proves beneficial for her children and her family.

Under this project Forward Sports (Pvt) Ltd, a leading sports industry in Sialkot, became an 'Equal Opportunity Employer' by opening the doors of formal employment to informal rural women who were earlier working at home.

Due to cultural constraints, rural women of Sialkot were not allowed to go to factories rather they were engaged in home-based works which in some cases were exploitative and discriminative.

To facilitate the recruitment of informal women workers, Forward Sports had introduced a number of gender-responsive policy reforms within their system to encourage women to enter formal work. So far, over 800 women workers have joined the industry in different cadres, and more opportunities for women are being planned.

Some special arrangements made for women have included:

- ◆ Free transport, separate resting area and separate wash rooms for women workers
- ◆ Equal wages and equal access to social security benefits as that for men workers
- ◆ Shorter duration of 'probation period' with full pay during training for new female entrants
- ◆ Six-weeks paid maternity leave
- ◆ Equal growth opportunities for men and women workers and opportunity to join the Workers' Union

As a result of adopting these gender responsive practices Forward Sports (Pvt) Ltd have been able to achieve dividends like brand imaging and better scoring on Social Compliance Audit by international buyers.



Photo credits: Baidarie

UN Women in enhancing the leadership role of women in disaster struck communities provides opportunities for local women to become active participants in shaping the futures of their communities.

UN Women's technical support in empowering grass-root women as communal leaders re-positions them as mediators and negotiators in the eyes of their families and communities, and particularly amongst the male community. Re-building efforts, led by grass-root women, addresses practical problems faced by women and girls including issues of shelter, access to basic services, livelihoods and mechanisms of protection and prevention against violence.

7. Rebuilding Lives - Establishment of a 'Women Shura'



Jalozai camp in Peshawar, is one of two remaining transit camps in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) serving displaced persons from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The camp comprises of six sectors (or phases) and each sector comprises of one thousand families, with sectors seven and eight being established to cater for an additional influx of families.

The camp has a 'consultative body' called the Grand Shura, and is made of twelve members - two from each sector - and represents the displaced population within these camps in camp management issues being faced by them. Currently there is no representation of women within the Shura nor is there any coordination forum for women.

UN Women is co-chair to the Thematic Groups on Gender established in response to the early recovery phase of the monsoon floods. The Group explored the feasibility of establishing a 'Women Shura' (a women's forum) within Jalozai camp as a dialogue forum for women and girls, and also assessed the possibility of setting up women's friendly spaces to provide them with a safe haven.

The 'Women Shura' would play an important role in increasing women's leadership and participation in the decisions being made in the camps that inadvertently would affect them and their lives - this forum would also pave the way towards identification and training of future women leaders from FATA. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) supports the need to empower displaced women to raise their issues and concerns, and be part of the planning and decision making process.

Following advocacy efforts by UN women and partners, the important role of elderly women in resolution of women issues at the family level and their coordination with the tribal Jirga, has been recognized by members of the Grand Shura and have resultantly welcomed the establishment of the first women's forum at Jalozai camp.

Before
displacement

- Elderly women played the important role in resolution of issues within the family
- Younger women used to look up to and seek guidance from the elderly women
- Where issues escalated and warranted intervention of the tribal elders (who are all male), it was the elderly women who approached them through the tribal Jirga
- Women wanting to escape domestic disputes took refuge in their neighbours' house
- The neighbour used to approach the tribal elders to resolve the domestic dispute

After
displacement

- There is confined mobility, women are limited to their tents
- Role of elderly women has greatly diminished
- A greater role is required to be played by elderly women
- Space to be provided whereby elderly women from the different sectors and even from the different tribes be brought together on a platform

8. Voices from the Field - A Lady who Knows how to Lead

Ghuncha Bibi is a 68 years old widow, a veteran of 50 years of marriage, currently residing in Phase 8 of Jalozai Camp, with her sons.

Ghuncha Bibi's entire life was spent in a small village and she is regarded as a lady who knows how to lead the way. Ghuncha Bibi is a commanding matriarchy figure and even in the camp, she ensures that her family follows their tribal customs and traditions which have played a huge role in shaping her personality.

"Elderly women in our village used to serve as birth attendants, and provide support in weddings and funerals. They were also responsible for taking the ill ones from the neighborhood to the hospital in absence of male family members" she shared with UN Women in a gathering at a 'women friendly space' in the camp.



Supported by other women who were also new to the camp environment, Ghuncha Bibi expressed her confusion of the rules and regulations of the camp setup. To help give voice to women issues in the camp, she advocated having a women committee at camp level for to better address issues pertaining to women. She also emphasized the need to have one elderly woman overseeing ten tents who will be responsible for identification, referral and follow up of the women issues.

It is through such forums and spaces where women like Ghuncha Bibi can, and are playing a significant role for the next generation of women from FATA.

Photo credits: UN Women

UN Women in promoting accountability for implementation of gender equality commitments across the United Nations system in Pakistan is co-chair to the cross-cutting issues working group (which encompasses gender equality, human rights, civil society engagement and refugees).

Under the cross cutting area of human rights, two high profile missions from the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights took place on the invitation of the Government of Pakistan.

The Mission Members met a number of high level dignitaries from the Government and judiciary, human rights activists, civil society, academics, journalists, and representatives from the most disadvantaged and excluded communities living in Pakistan.

9. Human Rights is Everyone's Right



United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights Ms. Navi Pillay

Photo credit: UNOHCHR

04 June 2012: United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay was on a four day mission which proved to be a **milestone in establishing a rapport between the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the Government of Pakistan.**

During her visit Ms. Pillay met with the former Prime Minister Mr. Yousuf Raza Gillani, Advisors to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and National Harmony and the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The High Commissioner also met the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, Standing Committee on Human Rights and the Special Committee of the Parliament on Kashmir.

Highlights and concerns raised during the mission included:

- ◆ Acknowledgment that Pakistan is at a very important juncture in its efforts to consolidate democratic civilian rule through ratification of two **international human rights treaties** the International Covenant on Economic and Social and Cultural Rights and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - the importance of translating these treaties into national laws was stressed
- ◆ Commended the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, and expressed her hope that they are able to build on the momentum they have gained since the **number of women in the Senate and National Assembly** has increased through the reserved seats and quotas
- ◆ Expressed concern over the existence of **parallel justice systems** such as *jirgas* and the separate harsh and inadequate legal system in FATA, where some of the key protections contained in the Constitution do not apply
- ◆ Expressed concern over allegations of **violations in the context of counter-terrorist and counter-insurgency** operations including extrajudicial killings, unacknowledged detention and enforced disappearances, where disappearances in Balochistan had become "a focus for national debate, international attention and local despair"
- ◆ Praised Pakistan for its energy and capacity to take **democracy and development** to a new stage, but highlighted inequality, not only between the rich and poor, or between one region with another, but in equal protection for all under the law

19 May 2012: The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers,

Ms Gabriela Knaul, is the first mandate holder of a Special Procedure of the Human Rights Council to undertake an official mission to Pakistan after a gap of 13 years.

In her eleven day mission to examine the country's judicial system the Special Rapporteur met with the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Law Ministers, Standing Committees on Law and Human Rights, and the Chief Justice Federal Shariat Court to understand the dynamics of the Shariah and other judicial systems in the country.

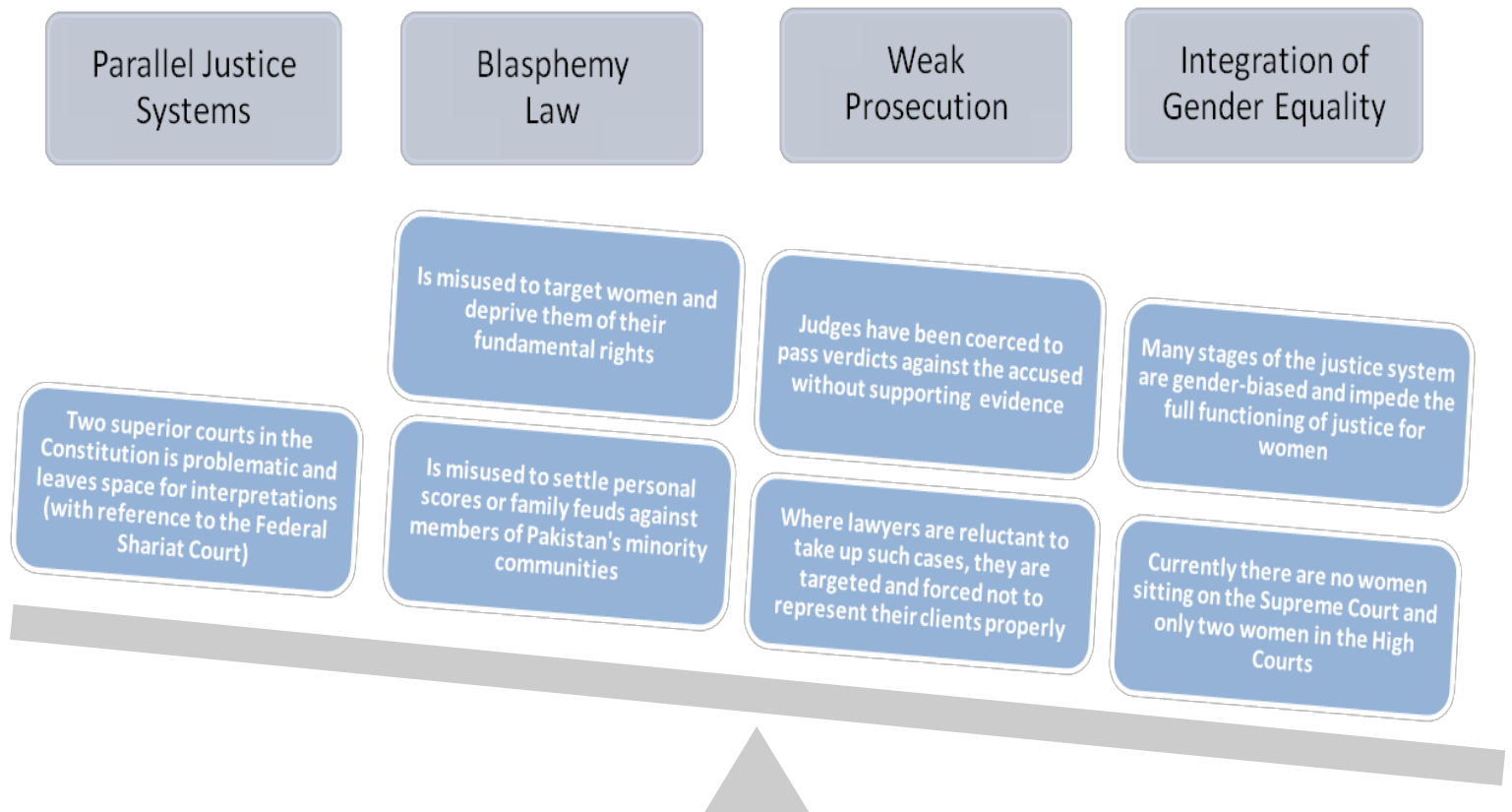
The mission travelled to Karachi and Lahore to meet provincial judges and lawyers and other stakeholders to seek their viewpoint on the condition of judiciary in the country.



UN Special Rapporteur on Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Ms. Gabriela Knaul meets with the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry at the Supreme Court during her mission to Pakistan, May 2012

Photo credit: UN Women

The following are some concerns identified during the mission (a final report will be made available in 2013):



10. Know your RIGHT - Everyone has the RIGHT to.....

- 1 Be free and be treated in the same way
- 2 Be equal despite differences in skin colour, sex, religion, language
- 3 Life, and to live in freedom and safety
- 4 No-one has the right to treat you as a slave nor should you make anyone your slave
- 5 No-one has the right to hurt you or to torture you
- 6 Be treated equally by the law
- 7 The law is the same for everyone, it should be applied in the same way to all
- 8 Ask for legal help when their rights are not respected
- 9 No-one has the right to imprison you unjustly or expel you from your own country
- 10 A fair and public trial
- 11 Be considered innocent until guilt is proved
- 12 Ask for help if someone tries to harm you, but no-one can enter your home, open your letters or bother you or your family without a good reason
- 13 Travel as they wish
- 14 Go to another country and ask for protection if they are being persecuted or are in danger of being persecuted
- 15 Belong to a country - no-one has the right to prevent you from belonging to another country if you wish to
- 16 Marry and have a family
- 17 Own property and possessions
- 18 Practice and observe all aspects of their own religion and change their religion if they want to
- 19 Say what they think and to give and receive information
- 20 Take part in meetings and to join associations in a peaceful way
- 21 Help choose and take part in the government of their country
- 22 Social security and to opportunities to develop their skills
- 23 Work for a fair wage in a safe environment and to join a trade union
- 24 Rest and leisure
- 25 An adequate standard of living and medical help if they are ill
- 26 Go to school
- 27 Share in their community's cultural life
- 28 Respect the 'social order' that is necessary for all these rights to be available
- 29 Respect the rights of others, the community and public property
- 30 No-one has the right to take away any of the rights in this declaration

Source: 'Summary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights' - www.hrea.org