



August 11, 2022

Mr. Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada
Federal Minister for Human Rights

Subject: **CALL TO ATTENTION ON FORCED CONVERSIONS OF PAKISTAN'S HINDU CITIZENS**

Dear Sir,

Today, Pakistan observes the **National Day of Minorities** to pay tribute to its citizens of minority faith groups for their invaluable services for the creation, defense, and development of Pakistan. As we celebrate our cultural diversity today, I would like to draw your attention to the continuing problem of the abductions and forced conversions of Hindu women and girls in Pakistan particularly in Sindh.

The fact that the Parliament and the Government are slow to legislate on forced conversions and mostly sluggish in protecting the Hindu citizens against this vicious onslaught brings into question the Government's ability or willingness to address this problem. Forced conversion is a breach of the universally acknowledged and constitutionally protected right to religious faith, not to mention it is a stigma for the country.

Due to continued violations of religious freedom in our country, there have been calls this year (2022) by organizations like the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) to designate Pakistan as a *Country of Particular Concern* (CPC) for religious freedom violations. More critically, however, the forced conversion is harming social cohesion and cultural diversity in Pakistan which we, as a nation, are ill-prepared to afford.

Therefore, it is pleaded that as the Minister for Human Rights you may kindly use your good offices to take the issue up at appropriate parliamentary and governmental platforms to help address problem.

Thank you and kind regards

Asma Khalid
Coordinator,
Pakistan Youth Observatory
Islamabad
Ph: 051-8359475-6

**Established by Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS), the Pakistan Youth Observatory is a group of educated Pakistani youth that monitors violations for religious freedom in Pakistan.*