



Child rights and Pakistan's alternative report for UNCRC-2015

The state of children's rights has not improved notably in the last 25 years since Pakistan ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1990. In the past two decades, Pakistan has made some progress in recognizing child rights. Its commitments include: the ratification of the UNCRC; the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2012; the Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act 2012; the Prevention of Anti-Women Practices (Criminal Law Amendment) Act 2011; the Protection against Harassment at the Workplace Act (PHWA) 2010; the National Commission for Human Rights Act, 2012; the Juvenile Justice System (Amendment) Ordinance 2012; the Sindh Child Protection Authority Act (SCPAA) 2011; the Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act 2011; the Sindh Human Rights Commission Act 2011; the Sindh Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2013; the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013; the KP Child Protection and Welfare Act (CPWA), 2010; KP Borstal Institutions Act (BIA) 2012; the Punjab Employment of Children Act (Amendment) 2011; Punjab Promotion of Breastfeeding Act 2012; the Punjab Compulsory and Free Education Ordinance 2014; the Punjab Child Marriage Restraint Act 2015; the Balochistan Free and Compulsory Education Act 2014, Balochistan Promotion of Breastfeeding Act 2014; and the Amendment to the Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR) 2011 remain works in progress. On the other hand, the pending/lapsed bills are: The Criminal Law Amendment (Child Protection) Bill 2009, The National Commission on the Rights of Children Bill 2013, The Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Bill 2012, The Child Marriages Restraint (Amendment) Bill (except for Sindh), The Charter of Child Rights Bill 2009, Balochistan Child Protection and Welfare Bill, The KP Right to Free and Compulsory Education Bill 2011, KP Protection of Breastfeeding and Child Nutrition Bill, Punjab Commission on the Rights of the Child Bill, Prohibition of Employment of Children Bills (in all four provinces), Rules for the Sindh Child Protection Authority Act 2011 and the KP Borstal Institutions Act 2012.

On the whole, this policy and legislative environment is ineffective and inadequate and the improvement that was expected in the condition of children in Pakistan has not materialized. The situation of girls, the denial of their right to education and the threats to their freedom, is equally alarming.