



Promotion of Human Rights in Pakistan - Huqooq e Pakistan

Duration	Budget	Location	Implementing Partners
December 2018 – December 2021	€ 7.9 million	Federal and Provincial	Ernst & Young

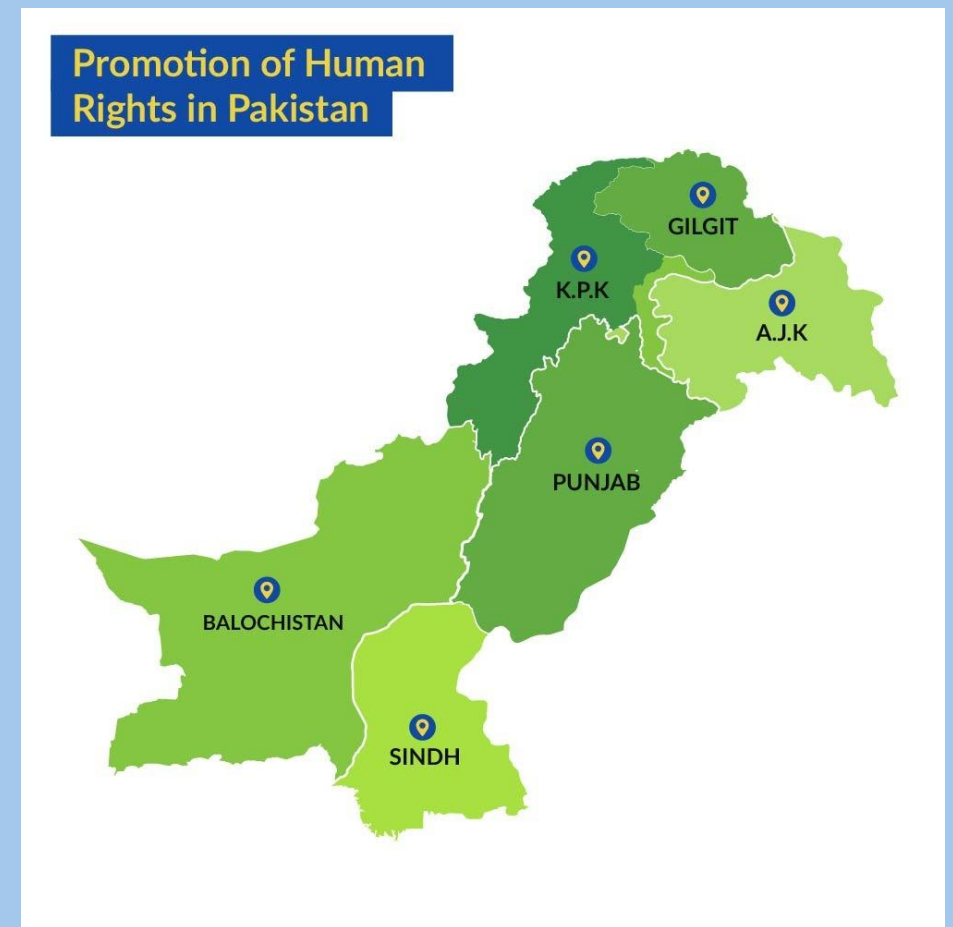
The European Union attaches great value to democracy and human rights in its relations with other countries and its development cooperation. Based on the shared values laid down in the international treaty framework, the European Union and Pakistan agreed on the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) Plus status for Pakistan. GSP plus is a trade agreement through which the EU concedes significant tariff preferences for exports from Pakistan while Pakistan commits to efficient implementation and monitoring of the implementation of 27 core international conventions on human and labour rights, environmental protection and good governance. The Promotion of Human Rights project was designed to support the government of Pakistan in this implementation, as well as in the promotion of Human Rights.

The challenge

The government of Pakistan signed the core international treaties and established an inclusive institutional and legal framework as well as oversight bodies. The challenge lies in making sure that the set-up is efficiently implemented and reported on. The EU supports the Pakistani government in tackling shortcomings in cooperation, collaboration and capacity of institutions at federal and provincial levels and to promote the knowledge and understanding of citizens on their fundamental rights.

How do we address the challenge?

The EU has agreed on a comprehensive and ambitious programme with the Federal Ministry of Human Rights. It consists of three pillars: Institutional development, capacity building and awareness raising that are essential for the promotion of human rights. Aim is to reinforce the capacity and knowledge of the government and the citizen about Human Rights and the ways to reinforce them in Pakistan.



What do we do?

Institutional development of the Ministry of Human Rights, Provincial Human Rights Departments and Treaty Implementation Cells

- 4 Human Rights Policies & 6 Institutional Development Plans operationalised
- Standing Operational Procedures for collaboration in place
- 10 legislative amendments drafted

Enhanced technical capacity of Human Rights stakeholders, police and judiciary

- 175 officials trained in Human Rights framework, reporting and office management
- 55 officials go on exposure visits and study tours to improve knowledge of international fora and best practices on Human Rights
- 70 Young Professional Associates & 15 junior non-key experts deployed to support the work of the Human Rights stakeholders at federal and provincial level
- 1,000 judges and police officers trained in Human Rights and gender in Islamabad, Sindh and Balochistan

Know-how of Pakistani citizens on fundamental rights improved

- 7 web-based know how platforms for Human Rights stakeholders developed
- 9 million citizens reached through awareness raising campaigns on television and 8 million on social media
- 25 public visibility events and 8 school interventions of the Ministry of Human Rights
- 34 Civil Society Engagement Sessions with NGOs, media and business community

The National Commission of Human Rights (NCHR) and the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) are operational

- Administrative and financial rules for NCHR and NCSW adopted
- Complaint registration and response mechanism operational and in use
- Commissioners and Officials trained in their core functions

The Ministry of Human Rights, under the EU 'Huqooq-e-Pakistan' Programme launched a Truck Art for Awareness and Advocacy campaign on the International Day of the Girl in 2019.

Twenty trucks were painted with positive messaging on the rights of the female child. Film-maker and anthropologist, Sana Minallah Khan & a team of truck artists conceptualized and painted 20 trucks in traditional art.

Messaging with imagery of female children and calls-to-action against child-marriage and the prevention of female education were painted on trucks travelling from Peshawar to Karachi. Leading local and international news channels also covered the initiative.

Support to policy

The promotion and protection of Human Rights is among the founding principles of the European Union, but currently we see these values under attack in many places in the world. Cooperation between all stakeholders and institutions is the key to success in ensuring a meaningful protection framework. In Pakistan, and across the world, the EU works closely with the government, the EU member states and likeminded partners and relies on the excellent work of the United Nations and civil society organizations who have the same aim.



EU in Pakistan

The European Union (EU) funds projects and programmes around the world in order to help addressing global and local challenges. The reduction of poverty and the respect of fundamental rights and freedoms are key objectives in this context.

In Pakistan, the EU is committed to a stable, democratic and pluralistic country that respects human rights and benefits from its full economic potential by supporting sustainable and inclusive development for all its citizens. The EU provides Pakistan with about €100 million annually in grants for development and cooperation. Among other issues, the EU supports Pakistan in its efforts to tackle poverty, increase education, promote good governance, human rights, rule of law and ensure sustainable management of natural resources. EU-funded projects are covering all of Pakistan with a special focus on Sindh and Balochistan.

The collaboration between the European Union and Pakistan is grounded in the Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP) signed in 2019. Areas of cooperation under the SEP include peace and security, democracy, rule of law, human rights, and migration but also sectors such as energy, climate change and science and technology.

The EU is one of Pakistan's largest trading partners. The EU supports Pakistan's integration into the world economy and its sustainable economic development, namely by granting it preferential access to the European single market under the GSP+ system since 2014. Under this scheme almost 80% of Pakistan's exports enter the EU duty and quota free. In 2018, Pakistani exports to the EU were worth €6.9 billion.

In order to enjoy the trade preferences under GSP+, Pakistan needs to demonstrate progress on the implementation of 27 international conventions on human rights, good governance, labour rights and environmental protection.

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