



Manual for Sindh Human Rights Commission & Government Officials for Countering Violent Extremism and Peacebuilding in Context of Human Rights

"To create a society free of violence, extremism and have an environment of peace, interfaith, harmony and justice." vision of SHRC

About this manual

This manual is designed to use in capacity building session with the members and staff of Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC). The overall objective of this manual is to prepare government to play active role in countering violent extremism in the society. The specific objectives are:

- 1. To build capacity of the government around CVE legislative framework with special focus on laws and policies in local context of Sindh
- 2. To learn about the human rights indicators, its relevance with violent extremism and role that government can play for CVE oversight
- **3.** To devise strategies to engage with community-based organizations and develop and implement a Local Action Plan with the support of local resources

The manual is divided into five chapters.

Chapter 1 deals with the definition of key concepts that are frequently used in CVE literature. Chapter 2 introduces different policy steps taken by the government to counter violent extremism in Pakistan.

Chapter 3 discusses the relevant sections of CVE related legislation in Sindh, review the laws critically and identify the gaps in the laws.

Chapter 4 this chapter establishes the linkage between human rights and violent extremism and presents a review of human rights issues, laws and policies of Sindh. It also discusses in detail the three outcome indicators based on the mission statement of SHRC and devises a way forward for SHRC and the government.

Chapter 5 is about the Local Action Plan that SHRC can develop specific to their areas /district to implement it. It also enumerates some successful SAPs implemented in the previous phase of the programme so that government can take lead from these activities while formulating their Local Action Plan. The chapter also highlights the role of women for successful implementation of such plans. While doing so, the leadership role of women in government is also highlighted.

This manual is adapted from an existing resource, "Manual for Parliamentarians & Government Officials on Countering Violent Extremism & Peace Building in context of Sustainable Development Goals", originally developed by SSDO.

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- Chapter One Ms Shahida Ali (Lead Trainer)
- Chapters Two & Three Mr Mohsin Abbas (Legal Expert)
- Chapters Four & Five Ms Muneeezeh Khan (Research Specialist)

At the end I would specially like to mention Justice (R) Majida Razvi, Chairperson SHRC for her valuable input and constant guidance. We hope that the manual will serve as an ongoing resource for the SHRC and the government to effectively promote CVE. Suggestions for the overall improvement of this manual are always welcome.

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List of Abbreviations used in this manual

CID	Criminal Investigation Command
CNIC	Computerized National Identity Card
CPEC	China-Pakistan Economic Corridor
CSO	Civil Society Organization
СТ	Counter Terrorism
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
DC	District Coordinator
DFID	Department for International Development
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Area
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
GDP	Gross domestic product
GSP	Generalized Scheme of Preferences
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
LAP	Local Action Plan
LG	Local Government
NAP	National Action Plan
NCSW	National Commission on Status of Women
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NIPA	National Institute of Public Administration
NISP	National Internal Security Policy
NOC	No Objection Certificate
PCM	Peace Committee Member
PIPS	Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services
P/VE	Preventing Violent Extremism
RVE	Radicalization into Violent Extremism
SAP	Social Action Project
SHRC	Sindh Human Rights Commission
SWD	Social Welfare Department
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
WDD	Women Development Department

1. Learning Key Concepts of Countering Violent Extremism

Objectives of the Session

To have conceptual clarity about different terms used in CVE literature

1. Violence

Violence can be defined in number of ways **Definitions**

One comprehensive definition of violence is given by WHO in World Report on Violence and Health¹. According to the definition, "the intentional use of (*illegitimate*)* physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal development or deprivation."

Some words in this definition warrant explanation:

- **1.** Use of force is intentional and not by chance
- 2. Use of (*illegitimate*) physical force and/or power: Both physical force and power can be used. The very fact that physical force or power is being used for harmful purposes with damaging intentions makes it *illegitimate*. However, it is important here to distinguish between the two terms. Power and Force. We will try to understand the concept as defined and explained by Morgenthau². Political power is a psychological relationship between those who exercise it and those over whom it is exercised. It may be exerted through orders, threats, authority or charisma. Power must be distinguished from the force in sense of threat or actual use of physical violence.
- **3.** Target: The target of the use of physical force can be multiple. It can be used by perpetuator against themselves, against others, against a group or community or against movable/immovable property.
- **4.** Results: The action can be resulted into physical injury or there is a likelihood of injury. The action can also result into psychological trauma whereby witness of action might not have physical damage but can be emotionally damaging that can result into psychological disorder.

2. Extremism

Vocal or actual opposition of fundamental, social or cultural values, e.g. democracy, rule of law, fundamental human rights, mutual respect and tolerance. A person taking extreme position to these societal norms will be termed as extremists.

3. Violent Extremism

In simple words, if an extremist starts using means of violence it will be called violent extremism. Violent extremism is defined by the FBI as "encouraging, condoning, justifying, or supporting the commission of a violent act to achieve political, ideological, religious, social, or economic goals."

In other definitional approaches to violent extremism, defines it as "advocating, engaging in, preparing, or otherwise supporting ideologically motivated³ or justified violence to further social, economic or political objectives"

 $[\]frac{1}{2}$ Krug E, Dahlberg L, Mercy J.*et al World report on violence and health*. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2002

² Hans J Morgenthau, Politics among Nations, Peking University Press, Beijing, Sixth edition, pp. 35-36

³ Definitional approaches to 'violent extremism' in E4J University Module Series, Counter Terrorism, Module 2, Condition Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism, available at <u>https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-2/key-issues/radicalization-violent-extremism.html</u>

There is no agreed definition of VE and as such every definition has some grey areas. For example, VE will be practiced by non-state actors or similar activities performed by state actors would also be categorized as VE. Similarly, in above definition, the purpose of VE is political, ideological, religious, social or economic.

Can a criminal or purposeless act of use of force be categorized as VE?

4. Mobilization

The move from violent radical ideology to violent action

5. Radicalization

Radicalization is the process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly radical views in opposition to a political, social, or religious status quo. Not all radicalizations are necessarily accompanied by VE.

6. Early Intervention

CVE/PVE efforts to intervene and divert the path of an individual from violent extremism before it enter the domain of terrorism.

7. Counter Violent Extremism

The term "countering violent extremism," or CVE, refers to proactive actions to counter efforts by extremists to recruit, radicalize, and mobilize followers to violence. Fundamentally, CVE actions intend to address the conditions and reduce the factors that most likely contribute to recruitment and radicalization by violent extremists. For example, in 2008, PIAMAN, a Pakistani NGO started its program "Let's Live in Peace". The program was implemented in FATA (now called Newly Merged Districts) and KP. The program raised the status of the women within their communities to counter violent extremism. It was particularly focused on mothers, given their unique status in traditional culture of Pakistan and their ability to influence and mould the morals⁴.

8. Preventing Violent Extremism

The terms CVE and PVE are most commonly used interchangeably but there is a fundamental difference between the two. PVE refers to the efforts to develop programs that divert individuals from violent extremism and terrorism by addressing problems associated in part with radicalization to violence continuum and by providing guidance on resilience⁵. For example, the objective of the project *Strengthening Women's Participation in Political Processes* in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (2013 -2016) was to raise awareness about the electoral process. The project was implemented by Aware Girls and was a great success. The percentage of women participants interested in political process was increase from 44 to 81. It was identified that weak governance structure is one of the factors that allow extremists to recruit in the KP. The project, by raising the awareness of the women, builds the foundations for a more peaceful society⁶.

9. Resilience

The Webster definition of resilience is simple and comprehensive and can be applied to society as well the capability of a strained body to recover its size and shape after deformation caused especially by compressive stress.

⁴ Anne Speckhard, Women in Preventing Violent Extremism, UN Women, p-106, available at <u>https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20eca/attachments/publications/2021/2/pve_trainingmanual-min.pdf?la=en&vs=3547
⁵ <u>https://issuu.com/migsinstitute/docs/380461454-preventing-violent-extrem/6</u></u>

⁶ Local Approaches to Prevent Violent Extremism, peace direct, p-33, available at

https://www.peacedirect.org/wp- content/uploads/2017/03/Report-Pakistan-8-single-pages.pdf

10. De-Radicalization

De-radicalization refers to the programs designed to convince individuals who have become terrorist to abandon the ideas or ideology associated with terrorist group or movement.

Can you identify the difference between the two terms: Disengagement and Deradicalization?

In disengagement, individual is convinced not to participate in terrorist activities but that does not necessary means that individual has also abandoned the ideology. In de-radicalization, individual not only abandoned the ideology but also stop participating in terrorist activities.

*Word used by the author of this manual

2. Federal Level CVE Policies

Objectives of the Session

- To understand the countering violent extremism (CVE) policy regime of Pakistan
- Appreciate the importance of CVE policies in making the society free of all forms of violence and extremism
- Measures necessary for implementation of CVE policies to create environment of peace, interfaith harmony and justice

Extremism and violent extremism are some of the major concerns of Pakistan which have and are adversely affecting peaceful co-existence, law and order and economic development of Pakistan. Countering these occupies central place in our national policy environment. Since 1979, violent extremism has grown to enormous proportions in Pakistan threatening very fabric and unity of our society. But since 2001, things deteriorated from bad to worst. It is estimated that till 2017, we lost about seventy thousand⁷ human lives and suffered more than US\$ 126 billion⁸ in economic losses. Peoples' rights to life and property have been adversely affected due to the continued use of violence by extremist elements in the society.

On 16.12.2014, APS Peshawar attack shocked whole of Pakistan. About 150 people mostly school children lost their lives in one of the most brutal terrorist attacks by terrorists. This incident united people of all walks of life to form a united front against terrorism and violent extremism. Since then, the Federal Government has taken several policy steps to combat extremism, promote human rights and adopting an inclusive approach in decision making.

1. National Action Plan 2014

National Action Plan was evolved immediately after terrorist attack on Army Public School in Peshawar. It is more a statement of objectives to deal with all terrorist/ extremist activities with iron hand through a concerted national consensus. This 20-points action plan includes:

- (a) Crackdown on hate-speech;
- (b) Stop religious extremism and protect minorities;
- (c) Regularization and reform of Madrassas;
- (d) Destruction of communication systems of terrorist organizations;
- (e) Prosecution of those who spread sectarian violence; and
- (f) Strengthen LEAs through reforms in the Criminal Justice System.

 ⁷ Farid Sabri, 67,399 people killed in terror attacks during past 15 years, March 20, 2017. Available at https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/05/20/67399-people-killed-in-terror-attacks-during-past-15-years/
 ⁸ Finance Division, Government of Pakistan, Pakistan Economic Survey 2017-18, page 248.

Input of the Participant:

2. National Counter Extremism Policy Guidelines 2018

National Counter Extremism Policy Guidelines were approved in 2018 after extensive deliberations with stakeholders. The Guidelines identified six major areas for policy interventions⁹. These include:

- (a) Rule of law and service delivery;
- (b) Citizen Engagement;
- (c) Media Engagement;
- (d) Integrated Education Reform;
- (e) Reformation, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, and Renunciation; and
- (f) Promotion of Culture.

The document defines 'extremism' as 'having absolute belief in one's truth with an ingrained sense of self- righteousness.¹⁰ This document also suggests implementation mechanism for national counter extremism policy guidelines.¹¹ It includes formulation of projects for promoting welfare of minorities and strengthening women rights. It proposes an extensive plan for promotion of women rights under education reforms. Recommendations include the following:

- (a) Women rights to be taught from basic elementary level;
- (b) A module on human rights should be sensitively developed without segregating women rights as separate from human rights; and
- (c) Our heroes should not remain limited to men, but female figures should also be included in curriculum.

⁹ National Counter Extremism Policy Guidelines 2018 developed by the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) available at <u>https://nacta.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/NCEP-Guidlines.pdf</u>

¹⁰ ibid p-9

¹¹ Ibid pp 41-43

Input of the Participant:

3. Paigham-i-Pakistan 2018

The 22-points Paigham-i-Pakistan is the national narrative against the religious extremism.¹² It was prepared by International Islamic University and signed by 1800 scholars from various Islamic schools of thoughts. Assistance in preparation of the document was provided by the State's institutions, eminent religious scholars and academia from prominent Pakistani universities. Paigham-i-Pakistan is, in fact, a *Fatwa* (legal opinion) sought by the Federal Government to counter terrorism and violent extremism. This unanimously agreed document was prepared in accordance with the injunctions of Holy Quran, Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH) and the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Its message is that sectarian hatred, armed sectarian conflict and imposing ones ideology on others by force is in clear violation of the injunctions of Shari'ah and is disorder on earth (*fasad-fil-arz*). (point 8)

Paigham-i-Pakistan also put emphasis on women rights and protection of these rights. The declaration, referring to the last sermon of the Prophet (peace be upon him), reminds us about the protection of these rights and non-discrimination or equality before law. In accordance with the teachings of Islam, women have right to vote, education and employment. To destroy women educational institutions, to attack on female students and educationists is contrary to human values, Islamic teachings and the law of land. The declaration also declares honor killing, marriage with Quran, and exchange marriage (*watta-satta*) against the injunctions of Islam. Watta Satta was most prevalent in Sindh (66-78%).¹³

Input of the Participant:

¹² Available at <u>http://www.paighamepakistan.com/joint-declaration-2/</u>

¹³ N. Rehan and K. Qayyum, Customary Marriages in Rural Pakistan, 2017, available at <u>https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28733565/</u>

4. National Internal Security Policy 2018

National Internal Security Policy 2018-2023 identifies youth alienation and frustration; exclusionary identity narratives; a lack of social justice and the rule of law; regional disparities; lack of accountability and inclusion; and foreign linkages as significant drivers of insecurity in Pakistan. The Policy emphasizes that violation of human rights can become a crucial driver for extremism and radicalization, and it is therefore, essential to establish the rule of law and deliver justice.

The Policy determine the priority list under six policy area consisting of 20 action points for immediate action.¹⁴ It is developed version of an earlier internal security policy of 2014 but implementation of this policy is a real issue. A summary of these action plans is as follow:

- (a) **Re-orient**: Reforms in criminal justice system are essential in establishing rule of law; measures will be taken to combat financing of terrorism through effectively countering financing regime.
- (b) **Reimagine**: A national narrative against extremism and terrorism be prepared and curriculum of mainstream institutions and *madrassas* will be reformed based on the narrative.
- (c) **Reconcile**: De-radicalisation and rehabilitation programs will be incorporated to enable former militants to join the mainstream; and incentives be offered to militants on terms to shun violence.
- (d) **Redistribute**: Uplift of marginalized groups; social protection and health schemes for vulnerable sections of the society and removing sub-national disparities by focusing on the development of less-developed areas.
- (e) **Regional Approach**: Promotion of peaceful neighbourhood in the region; and neighbouring countries be offered to join CPEC.
- (f) **Recognize**: Counter terrorism and counter extremism centres of excellence will be established; and increase in funding for research in social sciences and humanities.

Input of the Participant:

¹⁴ https://www.interior.gov.pk/index.php/downloads/category/32-policies

5. FATF and Pakistan:

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watch dog. It set international standards to prevent illegal activities including organized crimes, corruption and terrorism. It requires states to take legislative, policy and administrative actions to check money laundering and terrorist financing. FATF action plan contains 40 measures. Pakistan was originally compliant to 27 measures.

Since 2018, Pakistan has taken significant steps to implement the FATF action plan that include:

- (a) Taking action to identify and sanction illegal money or value transfer services;
- (b) Implementing cross border currency and bearer negotiable instrument controls;
- (c) Improving international cooperation in terrorist financing cases;
- (d) Passing amendments to anti-terrorism law to increase the powers of the sanctioning authority;
- (e) Financial institutions implementing target financial sanctions for anti-money laundering/combating terrorism financing; and
- (f) Controlling facilities and services owned or controlled by designated persons and entities.

Pakistan has made significant progress on 24 out of 27 deficient measures/ action under FATF action plan. FATF has urged Pakistan to address the deficiencies under following three points before June 2021:¹⁵

- (a) effective terrorist financing investigations and prosecutions;
- (b) terrorist financing prosecutions result in effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions; and
- (c) effective implementation of targeted financial sanctions against all under UNSC Resolutions 1267 and 1373.

Pakistan satisfactorily complied with 26 measures as noted in FATF meeting in June 2021 but still decided to retain it on grey list. It is estimated that Pakistan has suffered \$38 billion loss to gross domestic product (GDP) due to its continued listing on FATF's grey list. This has seriously impacted peoples' economic rights.¹⁶ Pakistan is asked by FATF to:

- (a) target eight groups the Afghan Taliban, Jamaat-ud-Dawa, Haqqani Network, Jaishe-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation, al-Qaeda and Islamic State;
- (b) enhance international cooperation by amending the Mutual Legal Assistance law; [recently amended by the Parliament]

¹⁵ Jurisdiction under Increased Monitoring Feb 2021; <u>http://www.fatf-gafi.org/countries/a-c/barbados/documents/increased-monitoring-february-2021.html</u>

¹⁶ Pakistan hit with \$38 billion loss due to FATF grey list; Jun 28, 2021; <u>https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/pakistan-hit-with-38bn-loss-due-to-fatf-grey-list/articleshow/83867954.cms</u>

- (c) tighter scrutiny of real estate agents, jewelers, lawyers and chartered accountants through regular reporting and audits etc.; and
- (d) increase money laundering investigations and prosecutions and trace, freeze and confiscate crime proceeds.

Input of the Participant:

3. Sindh Provincial Legislation Related to Counter Violent Extremism

Objectives of the Sessions

- To know the contents of some of the existing provincial laws aimed at countering violent extremism in Sindh and their correlation with the protection of human rights
- Gap analysis of the identified CVE laws in order to make them effective for protection of human rights
- Role of Human Rights Commission in making counter violent extremism laws effective
- Understanding the measures necessary for the effective implementation of CVE laws for making recommendations to the Provincial Government

1. Sindh Protection of Communal Properties of Minorities Act 2013¹⁷

Ref	Date of legislation	Total Sections
SINDH ACT NO. XL OF 2013	15 th March 2013	5

Purpose of this law	To protect the properties of the minority communities meant for their communal use. This aims at protection of joint or common properties of minorities as envisaged under Articles 20 and 36 of the Constitution.
Relevance to CVE	In past, we have seen VE groups occupying the religious places of the minorities. The law declares any such activity as unlawful and will provide legal cover against any such illegal occupation.

Section	Headings	Text of the Section
Section 3	Transfer of communal properties	A communal property of a minority shall not be transferred by any person without NOC from the Provincial Government given after recommendation of the Provincial Commission for Minorities.
Section 5	Punishment	Punishment of up to seven years imprisonment and fine of not less than one hundred thousand rupees for the person who transfers communal property of minority community without permission of the Provincial Government. It also provides such unauthorized transfer is of no legal effect.

¹⁷ The Sindh Protection of Communal Properties of Minorities Bill, 2013 was passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 15th March, 2013 and assented to by the Governor of Sindh on 28th March, 2013. It was published in the official Gazette on 1st April 2013. A copy of the Act is available at

http://www.pas.gov.pk/uploads/acts/Sindh%20Act%20No.XL%20of%202013.pdf last accessed on 7 August 2021.

Critical analysis

- (a) It is a skeleton and intransitive law as it lacks necessary implementation details. It does not resolve the conflict which is likely with the evacuee trust properties law to the extent of a communal property which is also an evacuee trust property.
- (b) There is no system of identification or list of communal properties with title and possession status and its permitted and permissible uses. These measures are necessary for a proper protection system of communal properties.
- (c) The system of inclusion and exclusion of properties from the list of communal properties is also required for effective implementation of this law.
- (d) There has to be a legally competent custodian of these properties who or which is responsible to protect the communal properties.
- (e) There is no data to judge the effectiveness of the law. The cases processed under the law, state of communal properties before and after this law with periodic reviews of its effectiveness.
- (f) One of the mechanisms for implementation of a law is to make it mandatory the provision of periodic information to the Provincial Assembly regarding implementation of the law. This mechanism is absent in this law.
- (g) Changes in the scheme of the law and chalking out a proper and effective implementation plan are necessary to protect the legitimate rights of the minorities over communal properties.

Input of the Participant:

2. Sindh Witness Protection Act 2013¹⁸

Ref		Date of legislation	Total Sections
SINDH ACT NO. LI O	F 2013.	18 th September 2013	29
		· •	·
Purpose of the law	To provide	for protection of witnesses to	enable them to give
	evidence in	criminal proceedings. An effect	ive witness protection
	law is nece	essary for enforcing the citizen	ns' rights to life and
	property. It	is also aimed at promoting the ru	le of law.
Relevance to CVE	Any harm to witness can send a wave of shock and terror in the		
	society and will further discourage citizens to give evidence.		
	Witness protection is of utmost importance in violent extremism		
	cases. Conviction rate in violence extremism cases is very low		
	because witness often reluctant to come forward. For example, in		
	the murder case of Advocate Naimatullah Randhawa, the court		
observed that "eyewitnesses (private) have hidden themselves d			
	to the fear of demon of terrorism." The court further observed		
	that, "The public has become too frightened to assist the system		
	fighting against terrorism, which is adding bad name to the		
	country, adversely affecting the law and order situation, welfare		
	of the people, tourism, foreign investment, economy of the		
	country etc."		

Section	Heading	Text of the Section
2(i)	Definition of	"Serious offence" means an offence punishable for not less than
	serious crime	twelve months.
4(1)	Witness	Government shall establish a Witness Protection Programme for
	protection	protection and safety of a witness
	Program	
5(1)	Witness	The Government is also required to establish a Witness
	protection	Protection Advisory Board and a Witness Protection Unit
	Advisory	
	Board	
11(1)	Appointment	Witness Protection Officers are required to be appointed to assist
	of Witness	the Chief Witness Protection Officer
	Protection	
	Officers	
7(1)	Chief	Additional Inspector General Police CID is ex officio Chief
	Witness	Witness Protection Officer. The officer is required to sign a
	Protection	witness protection agreement with the witness who is required to
	Officer	be protected.
4(2)	New identity	Necessary arrangements will be made to allow witness to
		establish new identity or conceal their identity by wearing a
		mask, changing voice appearance or any other form of
		segregation during the investigation or trial, or examination

¹⁸ The Sindh Witness Protection Bill, 2013 was passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 18th September, 2013 and assented to by the Governor of Sindh on 30th October, 2013. It was published in the official Gazette on 1st November 2013. The copy of the law is available at <u>http://www.pas.gov.pk/uploads/acts/Sindh%20Act%20No.LI%20of%202013.pdf</u>

Critical analysis

- (a) Act is on a concurrent subject of evidence.¹⁹ Federal laws regulating identity of a person²⁰ and evidence²¹ override this Act under Article 143 of the Constitution.
- (b) There is non-availability of data to determine usefulness of this law like appointment of witness protection officers and witnesses protected and type of protection provided to them. No public information is available about resource allocation for this protection system.
- (c) The information regarding successful use of this system in terrorism cases is also not available. The cases in which this law is used and the accused persons are convicted on the basis of evidence of the protected witness, there no information regarding this in public domain.
- (d) The law is based on the protection system operative in a developed nation. Our society is closely knitted, protecting a person through changing his/her identity is almost an impossible task.
- (e) Financial protection and admissibility of statement of a witness under programme before the investigator/ court under certain safeguards may prove more effective.
- (f) More pragmatic Federal law on witness protection with provincial representation may be considered.
- (g) Annual provision of the data under protection system to the Legislature may be made mandatory in order to ensure proactive implementation of the law.
- (h) If this law is made effective, it will take care of perpetrators of violators of human rights and deter others from violating the rights of weaker segments of the society.

Input of the Participant:

¹⁹ Article 142 (b) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

²⁰ National Database and Registration Authority Ordinance 2000 (VIII of 2000)

²¹ Qanoon-e-Shahadat Order 1984 (CE Order No. 10 of 1984)

3. Sindh Information of Temporary Residents Act 2015²²

Ref	Date of legislation	Total Sections
SINDH ACT NO. XXI OF 2015.	13 th April 2015	16

Purpose of the law	To obtain information about tenants and other temporary residents; to develop a database of such persons to effectively combat terrorism and other crimes, to use such information for investigation and prosecution of offences. This law is aimed at protected the citizens' rights to life and property. It is designed to prevent danger to violation of these rights.
Relevance to CVE	Movement of the extremist and terrorist required to be monitored in order to counter them. It was observed that violent extremists commit heinous terrorism away from their native towns. They and their handlers hire a place to carry out their nefarious designs. This law aims to obtain information about their place of abode in order to prevent violent extremism.

Section	Heading	Text of the Section
3(1)	Tenants' information to police	The property dealer, landlord and tenant are required to provide information about the tenant to the police through the fastest means of communication within 48 hours from the time of delivery of possession of the rented premises to the tenant.
3(2)	Hotel/Hostel guests information to police	The owner or manager of a hotel or hostel should provide information about the guest to the police through the fastest means of communication within three (03) hours from the time of arrival or check in of the guest.
4	Stay of external guests in hostel	A person, not being student or staff of an organization or institution, is prohibited from staying at a hostel exclusively managed and controlled by the organization or institution without prior permission in writing of the manager of the hostel. In any case, the manager has to inform the police about particulars of the person within three (03) hours of the receipt of information by the manager.
5(1)	Identity of the tenant/guest	The landlord, manager and property dealer have to satisfy about the identification of the tenant or the guest on the basis the computerized national identity card or passport of such tenant or guest before allowing the tenant or guest to stay at the rented premises, hostel, or hotel.

²² This Act VIII of 2015 was passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 13th April, 2015 and assented to by the Governor of Sindh on 12th May, 2015. It was published in the official Gazette on 18th May 2015. A copy of the Act is available at <u>http://www.pas.gov.pk/uploads/acts/Sindh%20Act%20No.XXI%20of%202015.pdf</u>

5(2)	Identity of the tenant/guest	The landlord, manager and property dealer have to obtain and keep a copy of the computerized national identity card or passport of the tenant or the guest and to provide a copy to the police as well.	
6(1)(2)(3)	Use of tenants/guest's information	The police will use the information received under this Ac and maintain a database of all the tenants and guests by categorizing them into different categories. The police are also required to conduct analysis of the data for prevention detection, and investigation of offences. But such information cannot be used for any purpose other than prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of offences.	
7	Competent officer for the inspection of premises	A police officer (not below Sub-Inspector) may inspect a rented premises, hostel or hotel; and to obtain necessary information from the relevant documents and persons including landlord, tenant, manager, guest or property dealer.	
9	Firearms and explosives	The landlord, manager and the property dealer to ensure that the tenant or guest is not carrying or in possession of a firearm or any explosives other than a licensed weapon. Even in case of licensed weapon, the owner or manager of a hostel or hotel shall keep an entry of any licensed weapon being kept by a guest and provide the information about the weapon to the police.	
10	Assistance to police	A DSP may obtain information about the ownership or title of a rented premises or a hostel from any authority maintaining record of rights, transfer deeds or other title documents.	
11	Penalty for non- cooperation with the police	If a person fails to provide the information under this law, the person may face punishment of up to six months imprisonment and fine between 10000 rupees to 45000 rupees. Police can arrest the accused without arrest warrants and the Magistrate is required to swiftly decide the case in summary manner.	

Critical analysis

- (a) There is no evidence or data to prove that the purpose of the law to prevent and combat violent extremism has been achieved.
- (b) There are widespread complaints of misuse of this law against innocent landlords. There are instances in which the relatives of landlords were booked under this law. This law allows police to violate the privacy of home or a hotel room (privacy rights) which may become a serious human rights issue.

- (c) The police have drifted from its role to achieve the purpose of this law for combating violent extremism to more of a regulator of leases etc.
- (d) There is complete absence of Parliamentary oversight/ report to Assembly and the Provincial Assembly is not being informed on the utility and enforcement of this law. Similarly, there is no effort to find ways and means to reduce instances of abuse or misuse of this law.
- (e) Only an effective law will be able to protect the citizens' rights to life and property. Effective measures are required to guard against its misuse and to create a balance between achieving the objects of this law and protecting the privacy rights of the citizens.

Input of the Participant:

4.	Sindh Sound	d Systems	(Regulation)	Act 2015 ²³
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Ref	Date of legislation	Total Sections
SINDH ACT NO. XXIII OF 2015	13 th April 2015	12

Purpose of the law	For purposes of preventing public nuisance and the voicing of utterances of a controversial nature likely to cause public disorder and to regulate, control and prohibit the use of certain sound systems in the Province of Sindh in the interest of environment, public order, decency and the prevention of incitement to terrorism. It is aimed at protecting the right of peaceful coexistence.
Relevance to CVE	Sound system is misused to spread the hate message in addition to noise pollution. It is necessary to regulate sound systems to prevent utterances of a controversial nature likely to cause public disorder, or utterances which may incite extremism or terrorism. The extremist groups usually take the advantage of loudspeakers to disseminate their message and recruit the followers. This law is

²³ This Act XXIII of 2015 was passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 10th April, 2015 and assented to by the Governor of Sindh on 12th May, 2015. It was published in the official Gazette on 18th May 2015. The copy of law is available at <u>http://www.pas.gov.pk/uploads/acts/Sindh%20Act%20No.XXIII%20of%202015.pdf</u>

aimed at stopping the use of loudspeakers (except for some specific purposes) and to place a check on extremist agenda of spreading hate.

Section	Heading	Text of the Section
3(1)	Prohibition on the use of sound system	A person shall not use, or assist in using, permit or allow the use of a sound system which generates any loud, unnecessary or unusual noise or any noise which annoys, disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace, or safety of persons in or beyond the vicinity.
2(G)	Definition of sound system	Sound system is a loudspeaker, sound amplifier or any other similar equipment.
2(h)	Definition of Vicinity	Vicinity is an area or place within ten yards of the place where the sound system is placed.
2(3)	Definition of Public place	A public place means a public street, a public thoroughfare, a public park or playground or any other place to which the members of the public or section of public have access with or without invitation.
4(1)	Regulation of sound system	 A person shall not use sound system: (a) in a public place, in a manner so as to cause or to be likely to cause annoyance or injury to persons in the vicinity; or (b) in any place in the vicinity of a worship place during
		prayer times, hospital at any time, educational institution, court or office during working hours.
4(2)	Regulation of sound system	One external sound system at a place of worship can be used for the purpose of Azan, Arabic Khutbah delivered on a Friday or on Eid, announcement of death of a person, lost or found a thing or a person.
		If sound system is used within a place of worship for any other purpose, it may not be heard beyond ten meters of the worship place.
		(There is a specific prohibition on use of sound system for the voicing of any sectarian or other utterances of controversial nature likely to lead to public disorder, if such utterances are or may be heard outside or beyond the immediate limits or precincts of such place.)
4(2)	Regulation of sound system	External sound system at a public place can be used during reasonable hours with the prior permission of the Government if the use of such sound system is in accordance with the conditions mentioned in such permission.
5	Inspections of sound systems by police	The officer in charge of the police station shall regularly inspect sound system of every place of worship and shall maintain a record of such inspections.
6	Punishment	In case of violation, the violator is liable to punishment of up

		to six months imprisonment and fine between 25000 and 50000 rupees.
	Power of seizure	Police is empowered to seize the sound system used in the commission of the offence.
8	Cognizance and summary trial	Police can also arrest the accused without warrant from the court and the Magistrate may summarily try the offence.
9	Confiscation	Court can also order confiscation of sound system and other case property.

Critical analysis

- (a) There is no evidence or data to prove that the purpose of the law to control hate speech and misuse of sound system by extremists has been achieved. Data of registered cases (FIRs) is available but there no impact analyzes of this law.
- (b) The law is inherently discriminatory against minorities. They don't have permission to use sound system at their places of worship as all permissible uses are for majority faith worship places.
- (c) There is complete absence of Parliamentary oversight/ report to Assembly and the Provincial Assembly is not being informed on the utility and enforcement of this law. Similarly, there is no effort to find ways and means to reduce instances of abuse or misuse of this law or selective/ discriminatory use of this law.
- (d) It may be more appropriate to completely prohibit external use of a sound system or limit/ regulate it to mandatory prior licensing. License may be given after obtaining undertaking for specified time and not to use it for hate speech and/or propagation of extremists' ideology.
- (e) Only a specified system with in-built recording/connectivity may be allowed to be used and every use of such system may be reviewed by a panel of experts who may render their views in writing to police. Police may only act on the basis of report of the panel of experts.
- (f) Some changes are likely to make this law more effective from human rights prospective. It will be able to protect environment and precious lives and properties by controlling the hate speech. Effective implementation will also protect the right of citizens to comfortable living without any nuisance or annoyance.

Input of the Participant:

5. Sindh Charities Registration and Regulation Act 2018²⁴

Ref	Date of legislation	Total Sections
SINDH ACT NO. XVI OF 2019	10 th December 2019	34

Purpose of the law	To make effective provisions for the registration, administration and regulation of charities, fund-raising and collection and utilization of	
	charitable funds for charities and other institutions.	
Relevance to CVE	The law is aimed at put a check on illegal collection of funds and misuse of charitable funds for illegal, criminal or promotion of violent extremism.	

Section	Heading	Text of the Section
3-5	Commission	The commission shall consist of chairperson and 14 other
	and the	members. Minister/ Advisor will be chairperson, 2 MPAs, 7
	Chairperson	official and 5 non-official members. Government to appoint
		Director General from officers of Social Welfare Department.
6-12	Registration	The Commission is empowered to register and regulate
	and regulate of	charities in Sindh. Director General is the sole registering
	charities	authority. He may register or refuse to register an organisation
		as charity. He is empowered to suspend or cancel registration
		of a charity. No collection without registration of charity.
13	Prohibition on	The promoter of the charity will make a declaration before
	collection	collection of the charity about the intended use of the charity.
		Commission may refuse the sanction if it is not satisfied with
		regard to the good faith of the promoter, or with regard to the
		proper custody and administration of the fund.
17-21	Charity trustee	Commission may appoint a trustee or other officer-bearer of a
		charity by replacing the delinquent trustee/ office-bearer.
		Trustee has fiduciary responsibility towards charitable funds
		and shall ensure proper maintenance of accounts of the
		charity.
22-23	Audit and	In addition to regular annual audit, Commission may direct
	prohibition of	special audit of a charity. It may direct inspection of a charity.
	misapplication	Fund may only be spent for the purpose for which it is
	of funds	collected. There is express prohibition of misapplication of
		funds.
24	Penalties	Commission may, for up to six months, appoint an
		administrator of a charity. In case of violation of any
		provision, the violator is liable to imprisonment from 6
		months to one year and fine of 50 thousand to 100 thousand.

²⁴ The Sindh Charities Registration and Regulation Bill, 2019 was passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 22nd November, 2019 and assented to by the Governor of Sindh on 2nd December, 2019. It was published in the official Gazette on 10th December 2019. A copy of the Act is available at http://www.pas.gov.pk/uploads/acts/Sindh%20Act%20No.XVI%20of%202019.pdf

Critical analysis

- (a) This law may create the situation of conflict of laws. An organisation is registered under some other law and has to comply with the regulatory framework of that law as well as this law. There is no provision to resolve the conflict between the two regulatory frameworks.
- (b) The laws deal all organizations registered under relevant laws as charities. The law made it mandatory for all organization to declare the purpose of the funds before collecting it. The law fails to appreciate that some organization are hybrid. They provide consultancy services to other organizations and even individuals and in such cases the purpose of money receive may not be charity. There have been instances when government officials deputed for scrutiny of the funds are not able to differentiate between charitable funds, donor money, consultancy fee and local fund raising. There is confusion about such hybrid organisations.
- (c) The law does not distinguish between small and large charities. All powers are concentrated in the Director General. Law need to distinguish between different categories of charities and distribute the function of registration and regulation of small charities to the local or district administration.
- (d) Act requires detailed regulatory framework by making rules and regulations. In the absence of detailed regulatory framework, the law is likely to be implemented in discriminatory manner.
- (e) The charity commission established by the government has a very non-transparent website. It does not fulfil even the minimum standards of transparency. No details about chairperson or members of the commission or its staff is available on the website. It only provides for online registration. It does not contain the data about charities in Sindh.
- (f) An effective regulation of charities will not only ensure that the charities are used for economic well-being of the poor and needy but will also prevent the charitable funds from reaching in wrong hands. It will also be necessary to meet Pakistan's international financial obligations reaping benefits to better gross domestic product (GDP) and poverty alleviation.

Input of the Participant:

4. Human Rights and its Relevance to CVE

Objectives of the Session

- 1. To understand CVE in the broader context of human rights.
- 2. To discuss the role of Government in developing a counter narrative to extremism

The Nexus:

Violent extremism is the product of historical, political, economic and social circumstances, including the impact of regional and global power politics. While a direct causal relationship has not been determined, there are a number of recognised conditions conducive to – or factors that create – an enabling environment for violent extremist groups to drum up support and recruits. As outlined by the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the General Assembly in 2006, these include: prolonged unresolved conflicts; dehumanisation of victims of terrorism; lack of the rule of law and violations of human rights; ethnic, national and religious discrimination; political exclusion; socio-economic marginalisation; and lack of good governance.

The importance of human rights has become central in formulating CVE approaches. The UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism recognizes that P/CVE should be grounded in human rights frameworks in order to tackle rights-based issues such as socioeconomic discrimination, political exclusion, lack of accountability and a widespread sense of justice.²⁵

In Pakistan, there is little political accountability for policies addressing VE, and many have been attempted as experiments, without evaluation of impact and effectiveness. CVE policies tend to be mandated by executive decisions rather than legislative frameworks. The focus on human rights in CVE can lead to a more progressive approach to peace building where local communities stand to gain against the forms of violence they encounter in their everyday lives, and not just address those issues prioritized by the state machinery. Experiences in development and peacebuilding show that more inclusive and tolerant societies are better able to achieve lasting peace and sustainable development²⁶.

Issues, Laws and Policies:

While Pakistan has remained in the global limelight for violent extremism, terrorism, radicalization and redress interventions, there is still a startling dearth of nuanced, insightful literature theorizing learnings from within the country in general and within Sindh province in specific. In this manual we have included some of the priority areas of intervention that are covered under the SHRC Strategic Plan 2017-2021.

²⁵ https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/RuleOflaw/Pages/PCVE.aspx

²⁶ Contextual Analysis of CVE: human rights violations and gaps in legislative framework, Aurat Foundation

1. Minority Rights

Minority groups are among the most vulnerable to the acts of violent extremism when the law fails to safeguard the rights to freedom of religion. In an otherwise pluralistic and inclusive Sindh, the rising number of cases of forced conversion has jeopardized the rights and freedoms of the non-Muslim communities and demands strict observance of human rights. Hindu community of Sindh has repeatedly flagged concern of kidnapping of girls and forced conversion. There are laws which are relevant to issues around CVE such as interfaith, ethnic and sectarian harmony, for example the Sindh Hindu Marriage (Amendment) Act 2018, Sindh Protection of Communal Properties of Minorities Act (2013); however, the absence of a specific law to deal with the issue of forced conversion has sanctioned several grave human rights that are being conducted under the garb of conversion.

Under its mandate to oversee human rights violations and identify/address legislative gaps, SHRC has dealt with a number of cases of forced conversion across the province and is also spearheading the initiative to introduce effective amendments into the draft legislation concerned with the subject of forced conversion i.e. The Criminal Law (Protection of Minorities) Bill (2019). Moreover, with respect to other areas where intimidation of minorities continues in the form of harassment, abductions, forged FIRs, lack of implementation of the job quota reserved for minorities, delay in allotment of burial ground to the sub-groups of Hindu community, the Commission takes and aims to augment responsible measures to streamline state machinery to halt discriminatory practices against minority groups on the religious lines.

2. Ethnic and Sectarian Conflicts

Exploiting Karachi's rapid, unplanned and unregulated urbanization, illegal land encroachment and criminality to violent clashes between rival extremist groups, has led to sectarian violence and disturbing inter communal harmony. In this regard, necessary steps must be taken by the government to control the growing religious intolerance and extremist elements in Karachi.

The city is also faced with multiple ethnic related issues, for example in the AF project areas; Saeedabad, Paposh Nagar, Nawabad, Shirin Jinnah and Chakra Goth districts of Karachi. Some of these areas are highly volatile and require sensitivity in dealing with diverse ethnic and sectoral groups residing. Women, at times have faced security and mobility issues due to long standing ethnic / political rifts in the districts²⁷. This facilitates extremism in the region as conflict areas turn into restricted mobility. The SHRC was advised to play a role in restoring the writ of the state in the no-go zones while also help addressing issues from a human rights perspective. The influx of people from rural / tribal areas to Karachi has further caused the extremist elements and mindset to creep into society and neighborhoods residing in cities, escalating ethnic clashes.

²⁷ Awardee Final Report, "Strengthening the Role of Women in Peacebuilding", Aurat Foundation

3. Legal Identity

"Recruitment of children by terrorist and violent extremist groups is taking place in countries throughout the world... In States with low birth registration, the determination of the correct age of a child may pose a challenge to authorities. When children are not recognized as such because of difficulties related to age assessment, they may face very serious consequences. Children without documents to prove their age, for instance, are more vulnerable to being treated as adults rather than children in criminal proceedings and when seeking international seekers²⁸". District level local government should use their influence for arranging NADRA vans in less developed area for registration of children as well as making CNIC for adults.

4. Compensation to victims of terrorism

Since 2006, Sindh, and especially its capital Karachi, has been rife with incidents of terrorism and turf wars, apart from a long-standing sectarian violence and political conflict²⁹.

No.	Nature	Compensation	
1	Loss of life due toterrorist activities (irrespective of bread earner or non-bread earner)	a. Loss of life due to terrorist actb. Innocent victims of cross firec. Victims of target killing subject to verification by a Committee headed by Home Secretary that it was target killing and not a personal dispute.	Rs. 500,000/- Rs. 200,000/- Rs. 200,000/-
2	Injured due to terrorist activities (irrespective of bread earner or non-bread earner)	a. Injured due to terroristactivities.b. Permanent disability due to terrorist act.	Rs. 100,000/- Rs. 200,000/-

Compensation for Civilian Victims of Conflict and Terrorism

The first major response from Government of Sindh on redressing the loss of civilian lives through compensation can be traced back to nineties, spurred by increasing sectarian conflict and later the Karachi operation.

Since 2006, a total of 2,035 civilianshave become victims of terrorism, sectarian violence and political conflict in Sindh.

The present regime for award of compensation to the civilian victims of conflict and violence was notified in August 2010. The revised standards increased the compensation grants for civilian victims of terrorist attacks and bomb blasts, with effect from July 1, 2010. The key-feature of the present regime for award of compensation in Sindh is the distinction between

²⁸ An excellent handbook on the topic is produced by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Vienna. *Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: The Role of the Justice System* available at https://www.undc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/Child-

Victims/Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups the Role of the Justice System.E.pdf

²⁹ Compensating Civilian Victims of Conflict & Terrorism:Policy and Practice in Sindh, Issue Brief 213/ NCMC, Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan

the civilian victims of targeted killings, terrorist activities and victims of crossfire. The Government of Sindh needs to formulate a law that would ensure compensation to civilian victims of terrorism and conflict in a systematic manner. The proposed legal framework may address the key issues in existing regime, such as timely provision of compensation, simplifying the process, redress for grievances of the civilian victims etc. The amount of grant awarded to civilian victims should be enhanced from the prescribed amount, and the compensation rules should also cater to material losses of a civilian as a result of a terrorist act.

5. Model Review of Human Rights Law

The Commission is currently exploring the existing linkages between human rights and violent extremism, as highlighted in the topics above. There is lack of clear and readily available data to back this up, therefore SHRC intends to work in this area through evidence based research and legislative review of human rights laws (example given below).

Ref				Date of legislation	Total Sections
SINDH ACT NO. XV OF 20		14	11 th June 2014	13	
rights to			to health a	olemnization of child m and education of the chi case of child marriage.	harriages. It is to protect ldren which are under
Relevance to CVE The law is aimed at putting an end to child marriages and al effectively tackle the problem of child girl conversion throug marriage. The conversion of girls belonging to the minority group can lead to religious and sectarian tensions, hence promoting radicalization and extremism in society. This is an example of human rights law in which we need to do more research and actual cases can be explored for inference.			ild girl conversion through nging to the minority group tensions, hence promoting ty. This is an example of a		
Section Heading			Text of th	e Section	
2	Definitions			1	ale) who is under eighteen rriage in which a spouse is a
3-5	3-5 Penalties for child marriage		fine Parent, gu		wo years imprisonment plus acilitator: from two to three
7	5		0	strate may issue injunct sed child marriage.	ion to prohibit solemnization

Sindh Child Marriages Restraint Act 2013³⁰

³⁰ The Sindh Child Marriages Restraint Bill, 2013 was passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 28th April, 2014 and assented to by the Governor of Sindh on 10th June, 2014. It was published in the official Gazette on 11th June 2014. A copy of the Act is available at <u>http://www.pas.gov.pk/uploads/acts/Sindh%20Act%20No.XV%20of%202014.pdf</u>

Critical analysis

- (a) Child marriage is a human rights violation occurring on a high scale across the world including Pakistan. Child marriage is also internationally recognized as 'forced marriage' due to the fact that children below the age of 18 are not recognized as having the legal capacity to provide an informed consent for contracts including marriage contract. This is also the case where child girl belonging to minority community converts as Muslim under the garb of marriage.
- (b) Child marriage is regarded as robbery of 'childhood'. It takes away the right of choice and impedes education, blocks any opportunity to gain vocational and life skills, adverse health consequences and increased vulnerability of the child to abuse and violence.
- (c) Universal birth registration is necessary prerequisite for proper implementation of this law. There should not be any ambiguity regarding age of any person. As an alternate, production of CNIC or passport may be made mandatory for solemnization of any marriage.
- (d) A system of mandatory marriage registration has to be strictly adhered to with a punishment attached to non-registration.
- (e) Definition of 'consent' within marriage law and clear statement that a child below the 18 cannot give consent to marriage.
- (f) Child marriage must be made voidable marriages even till two years of the child attaining the age of majority with a swift procedure for such dissolution.
- (g) Any offspring from a child marriage must be declared legitimate despite nature of marriage and option of dissolution.
- (h) Sexual relations with a child below the age of 18 must be explicitly recognized as statutory rape despite the forced marriage/ relationship.
- (i) This law must have overriding effect to ensure the inconsistent age of majority in other laws of Pakistan must not be allowed to confuse or take precedence over this law in the marriage of matter.
- (j) Act requires detailed regulatory framework by making rules. In the absence of detailed regulatory framework, the law is likely to be implemented in discriminatory manner.
- (k) An effective law is necessary to stop the forced marriages commonly known as child marriages. Such a law will protect health of the children and will ensure realization of their fundamental right to education. Their fundamental right of choice in one of the most important decision of life will also be protected with an effective law that works.

6. Absence of implementation mechanisms for laws

There has been series of pro rights legislation development that makes the province of Sindh stand out as a socially progressive legislator. The Sindh Assembly has taken the lead on legislation on domestic violence, child marriage, Hindu marriage, forced conversion and now on the minorities' commission. However, when it comes to establishing necessary mechanisms and structures to implement these laws, there is a huge gap. Many laws remain unaccompanied by the necessary rules of business. Commissions and structures stipulated in legislation are seldom established.

As the SHRC's experience has been, in many cases, the police is hardly aware of the new law or its mechanisms and continues registration of cases under old laws. This is a serious concern and much impedes the realization of rights through progressive legislation.

7. International Human Rights Conventions

Pakistan has ratified important human rights conventions including Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Convention on the Rights of the Child, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and Convention Against Torture, among others. This includes, as well as is in addition to, the 27 Conventions on human rights, labour rights, governance and environment that come with the GSP Plus status for Pakistan by the European Union. Compliance to these conventions is an obligation if Pakistan is to retain the status for a tariff free access to the European markets.

The SHRC is guided by the definition of human rights as provided in the 2011 Act as, "the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and enforceable by the law"³¹.

Way Forward:

The state mechanism to oversee human rights violations in the country involves parliament, federal government and provincial government. At the federal level, there is a Ministry of Human Rights with a minister in the federal cabinet. There are several national human rights institutions in place as well with provincial offices, such as the National Commission for Human Rights; the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW). Also, the Provincial Ombudsman (The Protection against Harassment of Women at the Work Place) is in place and functioning. There are seven departments concerning human rights, attached to the ministries. At the provincial assembly level, a Standing Committee for each department exists. These include Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights Department Labour and Human Resources Department; Minorities Affairs Department; Population Welfare Department; Rehabilitation Department; Social Welfare Department and (SWD) and Women Development Department (WDD)³².

The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has a broad mandate to protect and promote human rights including those within the ambit of CVE and violent extremism. The Commission has powers including the authority to launch inquiries on human rights violations (including suo-moto powers) and recommend remedial measures to the government, form and implement human rights policies, and recommend measures for the effective implementation of laws – this includes CVE laws which the Commission officially

³¹ https://shrc.org.pk/downloads/SHRC-Strategic-Plan-2017-2021.pdf

³² ibid

recognizes as under its mandate.³³ The SHRC is also empowered to engage directly with citizens and civil society, and to conduct research and publish reports aimed at providing oversight of the government's implementation of laws, policies and programs. As discussed earlier, in its current Strategic Plan (2017-21), the Commission emphasizes attacks on religious minorities and terrorist incidents as areas of concern, as well as challenges to minority rights such as forced conversions. It also highlights the frequency of tribal clashes in the region which contribute to extremism and the role the SHRC can play in addressing these issues from a human rights perspective, as well as the importance of developing a counter narrative to extremism.³⁴

The Commission, has established itself as a key stakeholder in implementing the human rights agenda in the province of Sindh. Today its active role in addressing the cases of violation of human rights and its contribution in expanding the scope of human rights agenda in the province is well acknowledged.

"The review of Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act 2011, is necessary to remove the impediments towards implementation of the vision and work of the Commission"- Chairperson SHRC, Justice Majda Razvi.

The following outcome indicators are based on mission statement(s) of SHRC:

Outcome Indicator 1: Compliance to International Obligations including CVE into the broader rights framework. Preventing violent extremism is a commitment and obligation under the principles and values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. To be effective and sustainable and in line with Member States obligations under international law, all legislation, policies, strategies, NAPs and practices adopted to prevent violent extremism must be firmly grounded in the respect for human rights³⁵.

IR1 (Mission Statement): Bringing all state legislation, policies, institutions and actions in conformity with human rights obligations enshrined in the constitution and international treaties and conventions ratified by Pakistan.

Explanation/Definitions

Charter of United Nations defines Human Rights as: "Human Rights are universal legal guarantees protecting individuals and groups against actions which interfere with fundamental freedoms and human dignity." As such the mission of SHRC is "to protect the fundamental human rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973, and the Universal Declaration and Charter of the United Nations."

The SHRC plans to support an environment conducive for compliance to Pakistan's international obligations. This shall be done within the provincial framework. The SHRC sees itself as a key actor to ensure compliance of international conventions and treaties, as stipulated in the Commission's mandate. The Commission has been authorized to "study treaties and other international instruments on human rights and make recommendations for their effective implementation".

³³ <u>https://shrc.org.pk/power-function.php</u>

³⁴ https://shrc.org.pk/downloads/SHRC-Strategic-Plan-2017-2021.pdf

³⁵ Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2015)

Relevance with CVE	What the Government can do?
"To create a society free of violence, extremism and have an environment of peace, interfaith, harmony and justice." vision of SHRC ³⁶ . To boost the resilience of communities, and their ability to resist violent extremism, there needs to be a move away from a "hard security" approach. Focusing on human rights does this, by promoting resilience in affected communities, where they feel they have space to freely express themselves and fully participate in political life and public affairs ³⁷ .	To understand the international obligation and human rights treaties from a CVE lens and include the rising radicalization and extremism in Sindh, into the broader rights frameworks. Undertake a review of the institutional and structural mechanisms established for the purpose of compliance and if needed, propose reforms for an effective system. Employing a consultative approach involving inputs of a range of actors and experts.
Relevant Law (s) Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pa	akistan 1973

Universal Declaration of Human Rights & Charter of the United Nations.

³⁶ <u>https://shrc.org.pk/</u>

³⁷ Excerpts from the report of Geneva Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism titled 'Respecting human rights is key to prevent and counter violent extremism' available at <u>https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/ViolentExtremism.aspx</u>

Outcome Indicator 2: Building relationship with Govt. Departments for CVE oversight

Strengthening the rule of law, repealing discriminatory legislation and implementing policies and laws that combat discrimination, marginalization and exclusion in law and in practice must be an essential component of any response to the threat posed by violent extremism. While we can set parameters at the global level, it is action at the local, regional and national levels that will have the most impact^{*}33.

IR2 (Mission Statement): Providing for speedy investigation and redress by driving state machinery to respond to violation of human rights.

Explanation/Definitions

As the Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act 2011 authorizes the Commission to address cases on application or by way of *suo moto* notice, all applications and *suo moto* notices are pursued by way of a thorough inquiry into the cases followed by hearings, where needed, and filing of recommendations. In the last four years, selected government departments (Women's Development Department, Social Welfare Department and Ombudsmen Offices, among others), have worked together with the Commission for a speedy response on cases.

The recommendatory powers of the Commission are however a limiting factor as there is no binding obligation on the government or related departments to follow up with a response. The Commission has proposed relevant provisions towards this end in the review of the Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act 2011

Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act 2011.	
Relevance with CVE	What the Government can do?
Access to justice is a fundamental right and Pakistan's Constitution guarantees it to all citizens under articles 4 (due process) and Article 10-A (right to fair trial). The deficits in the legal system, evident in poor policing,	The province of the Sindh has a separate legislation on protection of human rights which can ensure that human rights of citizens are protected.
investigation and judicial systems result in marginalization and exclusion of the poor and promote alternate Jirga system ³⁸ .	Lobby for provincial policy on human rights and mainstreaming of the policy at all department levels in the province;
Law and order challenges (in Sindh) originate from political polarization, ethnic divide, underdevelopment and absence of proactive measures to engage citizens for a positive state-society relation.	Partnership building between commissions and selected government entities (such as human rights, women development, social welfare and law and justice) for a functioning network. Submit a collective response to the Department/Ministry of Human Rights including Pakistan National Action Plan. SHRC can ensure the proper implementation of Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act 2011, through review and amendments, for concrete steps towards CVE.

³⁸ Strategic Plan 2017-2021, Sindh Human Rights Commission

	Participant Notes
Relevant Law (s)	l
Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act 2011	

Outcome Indicator 3: Advocating human rights agenda in context of CVE and peacebuilding Supporting the establishment of local, regional and national networks for civil society, youth, women's organizations and religious leaders to enable them to share good practices and experience so as to improve work in their respective communities and promote intercultural and interfaith dialogue. This requires more strategic and better coordinated activities as duty holders, peacekeepers, human rights advocates, educators, civil society activists in order to strengthen the resolve and results**₃₃.

IR3 (Mission Statement): Mainstreaming human rights awareness and education

Explanation/Definitions

Given the huge mandate and the situation of human rights in the province, the Commission aims to establish a formal partnership mechanism with stakeholders on the basis of mutual learning, sharing and working together. This approach is also in-line with the mandate provided in Rules of Business where the Commission is expected to develop and maintain interaction and dialogue with civil society organizations and stakeholders.

The Commission aims to use advocacy and lobby as an effective strategy to achieve major targets for promotion and protection of human rights in the province. This may include developing awareness and understanding on CVE, both broadly, and in the context of existing policy and legal frameworks for human rights.

existing policy and legal frameworks for numan rights.			
Relevance with CVE	What the Government can do?		
Extremism struggles to thrive in inclusive,	Creating opportunities to engage in trainings		
tolerant and open societies which enjoy	on CVE laws, policies and issues and		
good governance, respect for human rights	interact with key stakeholders; NGOs, civil		
and the rule of law. Where violent	society, activists for research, dialogues and		
extremism festers unchecked, it can lead to	collaboration.		
human rights violations and abuses and			
create barriers to the universal enjoyment of	Positive media influence to create human		
the full spectrum of human rights ³⁹ .	rights awareness and highlight issues and		
	cases of human rights violations and VE.		
	Undertake sensitization sessions to spread knowledge and understanding of related laws with local communities and general public.		
	SHRC can promote awareness of the safeguards available for protection of human rights in VE context, as part of its mandate.		
	Participant Notes		
Relevant Law (s)			
Kutvant Law (5)			

Rules of Business, Sindh Protection of Human Rights

³⁹ <u>UK best practice CVE Human Rights submission DRAFT 03032016 (ohchr.org)</u>

5. Community Engagement: What Role Government can play to Address CVE

Objectives of the Session

- 1. To learn about the role of government institutions to lead CVE activities
- 2. To formulate a Local Action Plan for countering Violent Extremism
- 3. To prepare government departments to take lead in implementing Local Action Plan in the provincial districts in coordination with local civil society organizations
- 4. To know about institutional and non-institutional measures to be taken to take all stakeholders on board for successful implementation of Local Action Plan

In this chapter we will discuss what role government can play in their province to mainstream CVE agenda for successful implementation of Local Action Plan (LAP).

What Government can do at local level?

Experience from the Past

The Government can engage in several ways in their province and districts. Some of the successful interventions of the past programs, may be utilized:

- i. Attracting a sizeable percentage of women activists for mobilization of CVE activities.
- ii. Including influential/community women from diverse ethnic community and / or sect for better understanding of the vision behind CVE, in a peaceful manner.
- iii. Organizing seminars in a comfortable and accessible location, ensuring active and continued participation of women beneficiaries around CVE themes.
- iv. Co-option of the media especially during the COVID-19 crisis can be instrumental in keeping the pace of the project when field activities have to bring on halt.
- v. Engaging volunteers, including an adequate number of women volunteers, in different project activities. This experience will be an asset in coordinating with local CSOs while implementing Local Action Plan.

Using skilled social organizers (field mobilizers) already familiar with local knowledge of the target communities, mitigates the issue of ethnicity, political interference, instability and the nonattendance by marginalized populations in local programs and events.

How Government can Engage Local Community for CVE activities: Experience from the Past

A group of seven youth trained under the 'Youth Engagement' intervention, identified the need of manhole covers in there are of Chakra Goth, Karachi. The initial attempts to approach Union Council's office and Water and Sewerage Board could not bear fruits. The group started their networking efforts with UC Chairperson and WSB with the support of two members of national and provincial assemblies. The efforts were successful, and WSB finally provided 16 manhole covers. The success of the effort should not be measured in term of output (16 manholes). The lesson of the story is that constant networking efforts and support from the parliamentarian can be used for service delivery at local level. The same group continued in their efforts in the area and finally successfully able to establish an *Agahi* (awareness) centre inside the UC office. This *Agahi* center is since then being used for community meetings and discussions. The positive collaboration between the local government and the community and the environment of trust this generates pushes back against the ability of VE groups to infiltrate and exploit isolated communities towards their cause.

vi. Government institutions like SHRC can strengthen linkage with the district level communities and citizen action forums by consistently providing information to them about human rights and taking their feedback for the effectiveness of the government policies at local level.

How Dispute Resolution Forums can be used for CVE Activities: SHRC Context

SHRC have also been participating in district level activities. Keeping in view the intense Human Rights violation situation, the Commission decided to hold public hearings/ meetings in district Shikarpur, Jacobabad & Kashmore Kandhkot in the presence of district administration, civil society, media and other relevant stakeholders. The public hearing/ meetings were aimed at collecting information regarding general human rights situation in the respective districts vis-à-vis tribal social fabric of the area, Jirga system vis-à-vis violence against women and other human rights violations impacting state of implementation of Articles 9, 25& 25A (health, water education and equal rights) of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for necessary short term and long term (holistic recommendations) to the Government of Sindh for redressal. Overall human rights situation of district was discussed in view of Jirga system. The Honorable Sessions Judge District Jacobabad emphasized over the fact that there is a need for a strategic planning in order to curb the menace of tribalism which was agreed by the Chairperson. Formulation of a holistic strategy to combat tribal conflicts and a need for adopting and institutionalizing Alternate Dispute Resolution.

The above success story highlights the efficacy of social action plans with vulnerable communities, rule of law and effective collaboration at local level.

vii. In addition to continuously meeting the local communities, there are number of other mechanisms that can establish this dialogue; the most powerful can be the use of social media to remain engaged with the community groups and activists. This mechanism will be helpful in the context of COVID-19 when frequent in-person interaction is not possible.

viii. Once the threat of pandemic is over, government can increase their outreach to the local areas including interface meetings with citizens, holding meetings with local opinion leaders including religious leaders, visit to schools, hospitals and participation in local activities to get more insight of community dynamics. Efforts should be made to interact with marginalized groups including women, minorities and visiting the slumps as well. Such visits will give the real insight of the provincial district and will be helpful in devising Local Action Plan and implementing it.

How Government Officials Got Connected with the PCMs on Implementing CVE Activities:

Advocacy Meeting Aurat Foundation activities for the project *Strengthening the Role of Women in Peace building in Five districts of Karachi* is a good example how government officials can be engaged in a sustained way for CVE related activities. Of the 100 direct beneficiaries of trained women on CVE laws and policies, 40 were selected to become peace committee members (PCMs) and participate in the advocacy meetings with stakeholders.

Women' Peace Committee Members (PCMs) trained under the 'Community Engagement' intervention, were introduced to the government and parliamentarians at the advocacy meetings, where they shared IEC material with peace messages and developed linkages to counter violent extremism (CVE). The selected parliamentarians and govt. officials, including those previously trained on CVE were, invited in the advocacy meetings. AF arranged for participation of PCMs from each of the five targeted' districts. All parliamentarians across board applauded this kind of initiative in Karachi towards peacebuilding. They encouraged the PCMs by offering them full support as well as raising VE issues at the floor of Assembly. All parties exchanged contacts of PCMs for networking and information sharing. The PCMs were, also promised an exposure visit to the Sindh Assembly. The relevant departments of the Sindh Government, including the Home Department, WDD and SWD offered to provide information and serve as resource persons in future trainings and community sessions regarding CVE. The LG department offered the services of its Town Officers as focal persons regarding solving of any VE issues at the community level and maintaining peace in the area, as part of its mandate. The Information Department also exchanged contact of PCMs for record and sharing.



Advocacy meeting with Government Officials & Peace Committee Members (Karachi)



Government Officials of Sindh with Peace Committee Members (Home Department, WDD, SWD, LG, Law and Information Department)

Successful implementation of any local action plan warrants courtesy calls to authorities and political leaders and sharing information in advance with provincial and district government; enhancing the peace building activities without any disruption.

Best Practices of Engagement with the Community

i. Partnership with local faith-based organizations including religious leaders will draw madrassas students into implementation of Local Action Plan for CVE activities.

Existing peacebuilding structures: religious leaders engaged

There are 30 faith leaders from diverse religious and sectarian backgrounds who have been trained under the project on CVE who now act as a bulwark against VE and help mobilize communities on promoting interfaith dialogue and harmony and to establish sustained intercommunal contact and demonstrate inter-communal harmony to the public at large. These members work with community peace leaders and conduct different activities in their areas. These have organized Social Action Projects (SAPs) in the targeted areas, where they conveyed messages of inter-communal peace and harmony to a wider audience through implementation of peace initiatives with the aim to raise awareness in the communities about prevailing state laws regarding hate speech, extremism, and sectarian violence as well as to warn them to guard against being part of any extremist element.

- ii. The media can play a key role in facilitating communication between government and local communities.
- iii. The CSO-Government partnership will ensure that both can utilize the knowledge, experience and contacts.



MoU with the Sindh Human Rights Commission for CVE Oversight and Peacebuilding

A mutually collaborative relationship developed with various departments and organs of the Government of Pakistan. Aurat Foundation's strategic MOUs with Ministry of Human Right, Law and Justice, NADRA, Women's Parliamentary Caucus and Women Development Departments, Social Welfare Departments, Provincial Commissions and its legitimate agreements with 25 Public sector universities assured its proactive engagement with government in an impactful way of influencing policy and law reform process through research, social mobilisation and policy advocacy which is conducive for human rights.

- iv. Government can coordinate outreach with CSOs to enhance grassroots participation in CVE activities.
- v. In addition, CSOs can engage the existing women peace committee members and youth groups to investigate current sources of VE. The results of such activities can be used to make Local Action Plan.

Increased ability of peace committee members can be utilized as an institutional resource: AF case example having gained understanding of the concepts of community resilience the peace committee members realized that preventive efforts are crucial to counter and control the growing intolerance and extremism from society. The project activity sparked interest in peace committee members in promoting peace messages while, they also tried to resolve VE issues and reached out to the communities (as influencers) during dissemination of IEC material (peace messages). Thereby, inspiring and empowering women to advocate for social cohesion in their areas. The PCMs have displayed great potential and ability to speak confidently and become real "agents of change' not only in their own homes and communities while resolving issues but also at the stakeholder and governmental forums. These peace committee members can be effectively used to make local action plans.

The different civil society actors

There are different actors in civil society with different roles and aims. These actors have different forms of organisation and incorporation, as well as different degrees of formality, from highly informal ad hoc groupings and initiatives that may be short lived to long established organisation with long-term objectives and aims.

Overview of different types of CSOs:

Non-governmental service providersStatus: formalPerspective: long-termGoals: providing a specifically defined service for the community of specifictarget groups, mostly no political orientation

CharitiesStatus: formalPerspective: long-termGoals: promoting ethical causes by providing charitable services, mayinclude political or religious orientations

Single issue initiatives (informal + short term)Status: informalPerspective: short-termGoals: promoting a clearly defined programmatic issue

Advocacy groupsStatus: semi-formal/formalPerspective: medium/long-termGoals: promoting a clearly defined cause, supporting specific constituencies

Lobby groups Status: informal/semi-formal Perspective: medium Goals: promoting a clearly defined cause, supporting specific interest groups

Government initiated organizations [GONGOs]Status: formalPerspective: long-termGoals: promoting government policies in a civil society context

International Best Practices: Government interaction with Civil Society

In principle, civil society organizations, including NGOs, act as intermediaries between the Council of Europe and the citizens of member states. These organizations are often called upon to provide experts in their field of action to the Council, to aid in the Council's campaigns and tend to be consulted on local human rights issues. Practically, all Steering Committees and Ad Hoc Committees have granted observer status with numerous NGOs, which are permanent and active partners in their work. This is mandated by the Committee of Ministers' Resolution Res (2005)47, which outlines this possibility and delineates the conditions for obtaining observer status (*Policy paper on government interaction with civil society on drug policy issues: Principles, ways and means, opportunities and challenges*).

Developing CVE/PVE Action Plan

Governments can develop a Local Action Plan (LAP) in their provincial districts to Counter Violent Extremism. Any such plan should be developed with the active participation of local CSOs, Local Government Offices, Women Leaders, Youth and Activists. Before developing the LAP, four overarching principles or pillars of UN for developing CVE/PVE plan should be kept in mind.

Pillar 1	Pillar 2	Pillar 3	Pillar 4
Address the conditions	Take measures to	capacity to prevent	Measure to ensure
conducive to violent	prevent and counter		respect for human
extremism	violent extremism		rights and rule of law

This provides an excellent template for designing CVE action plan. In this section we will adopt this action plan for CVE activities at local level and will see how government officials can take a lead in developing and implementing this action plan at local level. It will involve active support from local civil society, local opinion leader, media and especially the women and youth-based organizations and of course the district administration. Government departments and institutions should develop good working relations with all these groups.

Group Activity

Trainer will explain the main postulates of the Local Action Plan to the participants. Any good suggestion from the participants should be welcome and adopted. The ground realities keep on changing with the change in geography and there cannot be one-plan-fits-all.

After the plan is discussed in plenary, trainer will divide the participants into groups. Try to accommodate geographically contiguous constituency into one group because the socioeconomic situation will be similar in these constituency. Ask groups to develop their area specific LAP. Time 45 min for group exercise, 30 minutes for presentations.

How can you make your LAP successful through leadership role

You should be the vanguard of all P/CVE efforts in your area. CVE activities are usually undertaken by governments, CSOs, and youth organizations, but these activities cannot be done in isolation. All these stakeholders should get together to build and effective alliance and display a powerful show. And while doing so, you must be the binding force for all these stakeholders. You should organise yourself, learn time management techniques and spent more time in your constituency. Staying, aloof from the people and visiting them after long intervals will not help your plan to be successful. After all, it is your plan more than anybody else.

Women in Leadership in Government; Affirmative steps

- The public sector training institutions (e.g., NIPA, PIPS) should mainstream the topics of leadership skills and gender sensitization in the courses they offer for women/men leaders.
- Gender sensitization of the staff of government department at all level is recommended. It can be done through organizing gender sensitization sessions.
- In the departments where women employees are serving in a reasonable number, establishment of day-care center may be of a great support to them.
- Gender stereotyping, in general or in humor, should be discouraged and be considered as a matter of human rights violation.
- Due action and efforts are needed to improve basic office facilities and establishment of a gender friendly culture & environment in government departments.
- Enforcement of sexual harassment Act at work place and awareness raising of all the staff on the implication of Act.

The Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act 2011

THE SINDH PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACT, 2011. SINDH ACT NO: XIII OF 2011 AN ACT

HANDOUT

Proposed Amendments in the Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act 2011

The Commission is regulated by the Sind Protection of Human Rights Act 2011. The Act lays out the powers and functions of the Commission, qualification and criteria for appointment of Commission's Chairperson and members, the terms and conditions of their services, funds, and accounts and audits of the Commission. Rules of Business of the Commission lay down the structures and procedures to follow the mandate of the Commission.

The law has important provisions that empower the Commission to undertake actions to address violation of human rights. The Commission is authorized to do this either by way of responding to applications or taking *suo moto* notice. The law also equips the Commission with the powers to contribute positively to the human rights environment by reviewing laws and policies from human rights perspective, collaborate with civil society and media for a supportive human rights environment and undertake researches on human rights for an informed and objective discourse. The law has been extremely useful in terms of opening avenues for the Commission to make useful interventions to improve the human rights situation in the province.

However, the Commission, in the course of its work in the past four years, has felt that there are limiting factors in the law that obstruct the Commission in realizing an impact of its actions. These pertain to the exercise of the Commission's powers and functions, institutional aspects such as appointment and resignation of Chairperson and members, inter-departmental linkages, funding, and audits. Because of these factors, there have been various instances where Commission's efforts have failed to make any impact despite solid grounds utilized to advance the given objective. This was solely because the law does not provide necessary mechanism to materialize action. This is most direly felt when addressing human rights violations cases. Many of the recommendations filed by the Commission have not been able to evoke any response from the government simply because the law does not provide a binding obligation to the authorities to follow up.

In terms of institutional appointments, the Commission has felt that there would be a greater positive impact on credibility and transparency if the members of the Commission are selected by both the government and the opposition. Moreover, being an independent body, the Commission feels that a system of accountability through public representative is important as the Commission is mandated to protect the human rights of the population of Sindh. It is therefore important that the Commission presents an annual report of its work before the Sindh Assembly.

In order to address these gaps, the Commission initiated a process of introducing amendments to the law. The process was supported by The Gender Equity Programme (Aurat Foundation) and The Asia Foundation. A draft was prepared by a competent legal professional Mr Hammad Saeed. This draft was informed by a series of consultations that involved participation of leading legal experts, retired judges, human rights experts, and civil society leadership, among others. Their inputs were incorporated into the draft.

Key amendments proposed pertain to clarity in definitions, qualifications of chairperson and members, constitutional framework for human rights to be followed by the Commission and inter linkages with relevant departments for speedy and effective redressal of human rights violations cases.

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