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# SINDH HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Office # 68, 68 B, 6th Floor, Fareed Chambers, Abdullah Haroon Road, Saddar, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan

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**SINDH HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS NETWORK (SHRDN) team presents the copy of the draft of the proposed law on the protection of human rights defenders to the parliamentarians of different political parties in Sindh Assembly.**

## SUBMISSION OF DRAFT OF THE LAW ON PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS



Sindh Human Rights Defenders Network delegation led by HRD Krishan Sharma visited the chamber of the Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly and met with Mr. Anthony Naveed Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly, Member of Parliament (MPA) of the Pakistan People's Party, the majority party and hand over the draft of the law to him. Mr. Anthony Naveed himself HRD and member and chairperson on Finance, Standing Committee on Transport & Mass Transit (Chairperson), Standing Committee on Primary Health (BHU, HRC and Vertical Programs) and Secondary Health (Rest of Health).

WHRD Sajiida, adv Hanif Chandio, Usman Awan and others were part of the delegation.



Sindh Human Rights Defenders Network (SHRDN) delegation led by WHRD Fakhar Imam Human shared the draft of the HRD protection law with Opposition Leader Sindh Assembly in his chamber. He is Member of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh as the Leader of Opposition in the Provincial Assembly belongs to Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) party.

Mr Ali Khursheedi hailed the initiative and gave very warm response to the delegation and promise his and his party's full support to the human rights and hrds.



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	<p>Sindh Human Rights Defenders Network (SHRDN) delegation led by WHRD Fakhar Imam shared the draft of the HRD protection law with the Member of Provincial Assembly Sirbuland Khan. He belongs to Pakistan Tehreek E Insaf (PTI) party.</p>
	<p>Sindh Human Rights Defenders Network (SHRDN) delegation led by WHRD Fakhar Imam shared the draft of the HRD protection law with the Member of Provincial Assembly Rehan Bandokda. Chair of one of the standing committees in the Assembly belongs to Pakistan Tehreek E Insaf (PTI) party.</p> <p>Mr. Bandokda praised the effort of shrdn and also gave his input on the draft and assured his and his party's full support to the draft in the Sindh Assembly.</p>
	<p>Sindh Human Rights Defenders Network (SHRDN) delegation led by WHRD Fakhar Imam visited the secretariat of Jamaat Islami, a political party in JI secretariat.</p> <p>Their representative Inayatullah Ismail received the draft and ensured full support in the assembly.</p>
	<p>Advisor to Chief Minister, Rajvir Singh Sodha welcomed the delegation of the HRDs in his office and assured that the human rights department will discuss this in their meeting.</p>



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	<p>Human Rights Defenders Protection Draft sharing with Information Commissioner Sindh Information Commission Government of Sindh Mr Shahid Jatoi sahab</p>
	<p>Human Rights Defenders Protection Draft shared with Mr Zaheer Thakur Superintendent Complaints, Enquiries &amp; Suo-Moto who received it on behalf of Mr. Iqbal Detho Chairperson, Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC).</p>
	<p>Draft of the law on Human Rights Defender Protection was shared with Mr. Chandan Malhi, Coordinator, National Commission for Human Rights.</p>
 <small>char Imam ember-2024 5:08 pm</small>	<p>Advocate Fakhar Imam from SHRDN handed over the final draft to Qazi Khizer the Vice Chair Person of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan for further input and support.</p>



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 <p>Advocate Fakhar Imam</p>	<p>Advocate Fakhar Imam from SHRDN handed over final draft to Ms Mehnaz Rehman, former Chair of Aurat Foundation and member Women Action Forum (WAF) for further input and support.</p>
 <p>5:02 pm</p>	<p>Human Rights Defender Protection law draft was presented to Madam Nuzhat Shireen, former Chairperson, Sindh Commission on the Status of Women, and a women rights defender.</p>
	<p>Advocate Fakhar Imam from SHRDN handed over final draft to Ms Ghazala Shafiq, HRD working on rights of women and minority rights for further input and support.</p>
 <p>Advocate Fakhar Imam September 2024 5:03 pm</p>	<p>Advocate Fakhar Imam from SHRDN handed over final draft to Nasir Mansoor sahib. Mr. Nasir Mansoor is the Deputy General Secretary National Trade Union Federation, Pakistan (NTUF) for further input and support.</p>



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	<p>SHRDN delegation led by advocate Fakhar Imam handed over the law draft on protection of human rights defenders to WHRD and journalist Fehmida Riaz Sehwan Sahiba Program Host @ Untold Stories   Associate Researcher Fellow Freie University   Freelance Journalist Human Rights activist.</p>
	<p>Law draft on protection of human rights defenders was handed over to advocate High Court and hrd Sohail Ahmed Memon.</p> <p>Advocate Ali Palh and Advocate Fakhar Imam from Sindh Human Rights Defenders Network (SHRDN).</p>

This law has also been seen sent to Honorable President of Pakistan, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Federal Minister of Law and Justice, Chief Minister of Sindh and the Governor of Sindh for information and gaining support for its passing from the Sindh Assembly.

**We are thankful to the Government of Sindh, Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Criminal Prosecution Department for positive response and communication.**



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NO.S.LEGIS:2(13)2008/Pt-II/  
GOVERNMENT OF SINDH  
LAW, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND  
CRIMINAL PROSECUTION DEPARTMENT

Off: ■ 021-99213803

Karachi, dated the 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.

To,

1. The Secretary,  
Human Rights Department,  
Government of Sindh,  
**KARACHI.**
2. The Chairperson,  
Human Rights Commission of Sindh,  
**KARACHI**

SUBJECT: **LEGISLATION FOR PROTECTION OF HUMAN  
RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of letter  
No. Nil dated Nil alongwith enclosures and proposed draft Bill  
titled "Rights Defenders Protection Act, 2024" received from  
Fakhar Imam, Advocate Sindh Human Rights Defenders  
Network, Karachi, on the subject noted above.

The Human Rights Department and Human Rights  
Commission is administratively concerned with proposed draft  
Bill. It is, therefore, requested to examine and furnish the  
views/comments on the proposed draft Bill and process the same  
in accordance with the provisions of Sindh Government Rules of  
Business, 1986.

(KHALIL AHMED LARIK)  
SECTION OFFICER (REGULATION)  
FOR SECRETARY TO GOVT. OF SINDH  
LAW DEPARTMENT

✓ A copy is forwarded for information to Fakhar  
Imam, Advocate Sindh Human Rights Defenders Network,  
Karachi:-

(KHALIL AHMED LARIK)  
SECTION OFFICER (REGULATION)  
FOR SECRETARY TO GOVT. OF SINDH  
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## **LAUNCHING PRESS CONFERENCE of LAW DRAFT ON PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS.**

Press Club Karachi, January 27, 2025

Press Conference of the Draft Law was held at Press Club Karachi on January 27, 2025 participated by Krishan Sharma, human rights defenders, chief of District Development Association Tharparkar DDAT and one of the survivors of enforced disappearance, Justice R Majida Rizvi, Former Justice Sindh High Court (SHC), Nuzhat Shireen, Former Chair of Sindh Commission on the Status of Women (SCSW), Sarang Joyo, human rights defender and survivor of enforced disappearance, Shazia Nizamani, Chief of Sindh Women Lawyers Alliance (SWLA), Mr. Mahesh Kumar human rights activist and a journalist, Ms Fahmida Shehwani, activist and journalist.

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **Empowering Voices: SHRDN Unveils Draft Law for Human Rights Defenders in Sindh.**

KARACHI, January 27, 2025: The Sindh Human Rights Defenders Network (SHRDN), a dedicated network of human rights defenders comprising individuals, groups, and organizations, has prepared a draft law for Sindh Assembly legislators to protect human rights defenders in the province.

The draft law was submitted to parliamentarians from various political parties in the Sindh Assembly for their input and consideration. Copies were also provided to the Law and Human Rights Ministry, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), the Sindh Commission on Human Rights (SHRC), and the Human Rights Department to seek their support for this critical legislation.

Now, this draft law is being presented to the media to garner their support for its passage as an Act in the Sindh Assembly. The proposed legislation specifically addresses the protection of human rights defenders—individuals and organizations that risk their lives to promote and protect human rights both globally and within Pakistan.

The Sindh Human Rights Defenders Network (SHRDN) is committed to enhancing the safety and security of those advocating for human rights across Sindh province. The SHRDN focuses on building the capacity of human rights defenders, providing legal aid, and facilitating information sharing among them.

Since 2013, SHRDN has documented numerous incidents of violence against human rights defenders due to their work. Tragically, four human rights defenders have been murdered during this period, including Nazim Jokhio, who was abducted, tortured, and killed for advocating for environmental rights. Other notable victims include women rights defenders Parveen Rehman, Sabeen Mehmood, and Roshan Rajpar, all assassinated for their commitment to human rights. Additionally, journalists Nasrallah Gadani and Jan Mohammad Mahar were murdered for voicing concerns about human rights violations. Many other



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defenders have faced illegal detentions, enforced disappearances, torture, false accusations, intimidation, threats, and harassment.

Between 2016 and now, approximately 22 activists and journalists have experienced enforced disappearances or illegal detentions. Labour rights activists such as Nasir Mansoor and Saeed Balouch have been falsely implicated in terrorism and sedition cases. Environmental defenders like Masood Lohar have faced severe threats while seeking justice in high-profile cases.

To improve the safety of human rights defenders in Sindh province, the SHRDN urges the Government of Sindh and all members of the Sindh Assembly to swiftly pass a law protecting these essential advocates. This demand aligns with recommendations made by UN Special Rapporteur Michel Forst during his visit to Pakistan in February 2020, when he met with key state officials to emphasize the need for protective measures for human rights defenders.

The draft law comprises around 43 sections titled "Sindh Human Rights Defenders Protection Act." It includes provisions defining a human rights defender based on the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders adopted by the UN General Assembly 1998. The law reaffirms that the state has a primary responsibility to protect these defenders by refraining from actions that violate their rights due to their advocacy work, protecting them from abuses by third parties, and taking necessary steps to create an enabling environment for them.

While freedoms are not explicitly mentioned in the draft due to their existing protections under Pakistan's constitution, once enacted, the proposed commission on human rights defenders will ensure that no unreasonable barriers impede these freedoms. The draft guarantees essential rights such as life protection from illegal detention and enforced disappearances while addressing intimidation from both state and non-state actors.

Furthermore, it outlines additional rights, including privacy protection, non-disclosure of sources, safety from intrusion or interference, freedom from stigmatization or reprisal, and access to remedies. The law emphasizes environmental protection and highlights the need to safeguard environmental human rights defenders.

The draft also calls for establishing a commission dedicated to protecting Sindh's human rights defenders. However, SHRDN remains open to allowing existing human rights commissions to take on this mandate if it prevents duplication or unnecessary financial burdens. This commission should represent human rights defenders' interests and aspirations.

The final provisions of the law outlines the Sindh Government's obligations regarding robust protection measures for human rights defenders and the prevention of crimes against them. The commission will operate according to international principles (Paris Principles), ensuring all freedoms for defenders while continuously engaging with them across the province. It will also thoroughly investigate any crimes committed against defenders.



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Recognizing the unique needs of women defenders, transgender individuals, and minority advocates is crucial; thus, monitoring their safety will be a priority for this commission. Additionally, accountability measures will be included to address any misconduct by government agencies or police forces involved in violations against human rights defenders.

As Sindh leads other provinces in passing pro-human rights legislation, SHRDN, and civil society, activists hope the Sindh Assembly will swiftly act on this crucial law.





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[Empowering Voices: SHRDN Unveils Draft Law for Human Rights Defenders in Sindh - Chehra Digital](#)





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Chehra WebDesk

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