

Beyond Denial



ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Violence against women in Pakistan
A qualitative review of reported incidents



Beyond Denial
Violence against women in Pakistan
A qualitative review of reported incidents
January – December 2012

Written and analyzed by:
Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen

Consultant/ Founder Creative Anger by Rakhshi

Technical Review by:
Mr.Naeem Mirza, Ms.Maliha Zia and Ms.Rabeea Hadi (Aurat Foundation)

Primary Data Compilation by:
Mr.Zaigham Khan and Team (Intermedia)

Under the Aurat Foundation's Project
Gender Base Violence Policy Research & Capacity Building

In collaboration with:
Violence against Women Watch Groups

Under the auspices of:



With the support of:



About the author

Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen, an Ashoka fellow for her pioneering work against dowry violence and recipient of PTV Excellence Award for her debut production GENDER WATCH in 1999 that initiated gender discourse in Pakistani perspectives; she has over 18 years of diverse experience in training, action research, development management, documentary film making and advocacy on issues of public health, gender and social communication. Her work in Pakistan has existed under many guises with the underlying thread of challenging the elitist consensus on various forms of patriarchy. Dr Rakhshinda is Founder Director of creativeanger by rakhshi - a social enterprise, committed to courage for intellectual risks and functions as consultancy & civic advocacy organization; and of sinf surat (faces of gender), a think channel to promote dialogue on the neglected faces of gender inequity in policies, society and development strategies.

All rights reserved

This publication is provided gratis or sold, subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than in which it is published and without a similar condition being imposed on the subsequent publisher. References to this report and excerpts of the report can be reproduced with due acknowledgement of the publication and Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation (AF).

Disclaimer

Aurat Foundation makes available emerging discussions and debates related to the organization's areas of work. The views presented here reflect those of the author and do not necessarily always reflect the views of the organization.

Published by: Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation

Title technical design by: Shahzad Ashraf

Layout design by: Shahzad Ashraf

Printing by: Print Maxx Blue Area, Islamabad

Date of publication: May 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents	Page
Dedication	v
List of acronyms	vi
Structure of the report	vii
Glossary	ix
• Local glossary	ix
• Global glossary	x
Preface	xv
Executive summary	xix
 Section One:	
 Pakistan – The historical outlook & overview of cases of VAW	 01
 Section Two:	
 Situation and statistics from six regions	
• Overall cases of VAW in Punjab	17
• Overall cases of VAW in Sindh	23
• Overall cases of VAW in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa & FATA	30
• Overall cases of VAW in Balochistan	42
• Overall cases of VAW in Islamabad Capital Territory	48
 Section Three:	
 A five-year review of reported cases of VAW in Pakistan	 51
Annexes:	
Annex 1: Research methodology	69
Annex 2: List of data sources (newspapers consulted)	72

Dedication

We dedicate this small effort to
Parveen Rehman,
a committed and brave social worker,
who devoted her life for better and dignified conditions of life for the poor
people in impoverished communities across the country.

She headed the Orangi Pilot Project (OPP) at Orangi Town, Karachi, for
several years. At OPP, one of Asia's largest slum projects, she worked
tirelessly for low-cost sanitation, housing, health, family planning,
education and micro finance for the poor.

We lost her on 13th March 2013,
when she was assassinated near her office, by gunmen who were opposed
to her work.

We resolve to continue her mission.

List of acronyms

AF	Aurat Foundation
CSO	Civil Society Organization/s
DV	Domestic Violence
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GoP	Government of Pakistan
Gov	Government
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Misc	Miscellaneous
NGOs	Non Governmental Organization/s
UN	United Nations
VAW	Violence against Women

Structure of the report

This report is based on the review and analysis of the numerical figures and tables received from the selected newspapers of six regions of Pakistan through the Intermedia to the Aurat Foundation regarding violence committed against women and children during the calendar year 2012.

The report is principally based on the information retrieved from the sampled newspapers but, for the sake of clarity and advocating the case of VAW in Pakistan, secondary references are also used where judged *de rigueur*. The report is append aged with glossaries, meanings and interpretations of the essential forms of violence in legal domain and annexures.

The report is divided broadly into three parts. Each part comprises a brief narrative of the land in terms of its geography, history and culture.

Part one encapsulates the reported cases and presents an analysis.

Part two is further divided into five parts to look into the greater details of the VAW in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa & FATA and ICT.

Part three is in an abridgment of the last five years on the reported cases of the VAW in the same regions of Pakistan in the light of the reports of the Aurat Foundation and seven pro-women laws.

This scribe has not only provided the referred sources and resources in the foot notes but also put citations here and there to provide as much contextual information as possible.

The report is intended for all students of life besides hoping to be of practical use to rights-based organizations and individuals, donors and technical aid agencies, UN agencies, academia, media, political parties and public sector departments.

While every attempt was made to permeate the pre identified biases and limitations and corroborate the genuineness of the numbers, methodologies of bringing together the information and integrity of the cited sources any miscalculation or mistake if found may be taken as omission and a feedback is requested to be provided to the scribe and the Aurat Foundation for improving the quality of our work and insights.

Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen

April 3, 2013
Islamabad, Pakistan.

¹Glossary

Local glossary

- **Kala-kali** is a Balochi and Seraiki expression for culturally condoned ‘honour’ killing of a man or a woman charged with maintaining an illicit relationship.
- **Karo-kari** is a Sindhi expression for pre-meditated ‘honour killing’ of a condemned man or woman for illicit relations to restore lost respect to the family. In reality ‘honour’ killings are also committed for disobedience etc – not specifically illicit relations.
- **Ghairat** can be loosely translated as honor but is considered a chivalrous adherence to tradition and culture in the context of social relations.
- **Jargais** a tribal assembly of male elders who make decisions regarding social issues and disputes through consensus. The term is in Pushto but the practice exists across Pakistan. It is an informal decision-making body. Common pronunciation is *jirga*.
- **Swara** is a Pashto word denoting a child marriage custom in tribal areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. This custom is tied to blood feuds among different tribes and clans where young girls are forcibly married to members of different clans in order to resolve the feuds. However, in reality the practice is not limited to just child marriages.
- **Vanni** is a child marriage custom in tribal areas of Pakistan. Besides tribal areas, it is widely followed in Punjab as well. This custom is tied to blood feuds among different tribes and clans where young girls are forcibly married to members of different clans in order to resolve the feuds. Vanni could be avoided if the clan of the girl agrees to pay money called *Diyat* (دیت). Otherwise the young bride may spend her life paying for the crime of her male relatives. However, in reality the practice is not limited to just child marriages.
- **Watta Satta** is a tribal custom in Pakistan of exchanging brides between two families. At the time of marriage, both families trade brides. That is, both families must have a daughter and a son and be willing to betroth them to a daughter and son of the other family. For example, in order for one to marry off his son, he must also have a daughter to marry off in return to the same family.

¹The definitions/interpretations included here are neither perfect nor the ultimate ones.

²Global glossary

(A selected list of certain concepts and terms to ensure consistent understanding for the audiences outside the development practice circle)

- **Dowry death:** Killing a woman whose family fails to pay full dowry (some countries in Asia)
- **Dowry killing:** The homicide of women whose dowry, the payment in cash or/and in kind by the bride's family to the bridegroom's family along with the giving away of the bride in marriage, was not considered sufficient by her husband or in-laws. Most of these incidents are reported as accidental burns in the kitchen or disguised as suicide.
- **Gender:** The term gender has now transcended its earlier "grammar-based" usage of classifying nouns as male, female and neuter. It is not used to describe the biological sexual characteristics by which we identify females and males but to encompass the socially defined sex roles, attitudes and values which communities and societies ascribe as appropriate for one sex or the other. In this specific sense, it was first used as a phrase, "the social relations of gender", for which gender has become a kind of shorthand. The social relations of gender seeks to make apparent and explain the global asymmetry which appears in male/female relations in terms of sex roles in power sharing, decision-making, the division of labour, return to labour both within the household and in the society at large. The phrase directs our attention to all the attributes acquired in the process of socialization; our self and group definitions, our sense of appropriate roles, values and behaviours and, above all, expected and acceptable interactions in relationships between women and men.
- **Honour killing:** A customary practice where male family members kill female relatives in the name of family 'honour' for sexual activity outside marriage, either suspected or forced, even when they have been victims of rape. Often young teenage boys are chosen to perform the crime because their sentences are generally lighter than those for adults. The practice is deeply rooted in patriarchal/tribal traditions where male is looked upon by society as the sole protector of females and by this duty conferred upon him; he has complete control of the female. In case the man's protection is violated through the perceived immoral behavior of the woman, the man loses his honour in society as it is interpreted as a failure either to protect the woman adequately or to educate her properly. These crimes are widespread all over the world, while they are more prevalent in countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Egypt and other Mediterranean and Gulf countries. Some cases have

²Marie Vlachova and Lea Biason, Glossary - Women in an Insecure World: Violence against Women Facts, Figures and Analysis - Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).

also been reported in India, Brazil, Ecuador, Israel, Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom, etc.³

- **Violence against Women (VAW):** Any act or threat of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. This includes physical, sexual and psychological violence such as wife beating, burning and acid throwing, sexual abuse including rape and incest by family members, female genital mutilation, female feticide and infanticide, and emotional abuse such as coercion and abusive language. VAW does not only occur in the family and in the general community, but in sometimes also condoned or perpetuated by the State through a variety of policies and actions.

Selected legal terms & their meanings⁴

These meanings are derived from US based sources available on the web. The description may appear irrelevant and/ or alien for many readers (informed as well as uninformed both) but the author put it deliberately so that one may comprehend the world of VAW beyond Pakistan and then look inwards.

- **Abduction**
n. the criminal taking away of a person by persuasion (convincing someone-particularly a minor or a woman-he/she is better off leaving with the persuader), by fraud (telling the person he/she is needed, or that the mother or father wants him/her to come with the abductor), or by open force or violence. Originally abduction applied only to protect women and children as victims. Currently in most states it can also apply to an adult male. In fact, in some states like New York abduction meant the unlawful taking or detention of any female for purposes of "marriage, concubinage or prostitution." Kidnapping is more limited, requiring force, threat of force upon an adult or the taking of children.
- **Aggravated assault**
n. the crime of physically attacking another person which results in serious bodily harm and/or is made with a deadly or dangerous weapon such as a gun, knife, sword, ax or blunt instrument. Aggravated assault is usually a felony punishable by a term in state prison.
- **Assault**
v. the threat or attempt to strike another, whether successful or not, provided the target is aware of the danger. The assaulter must be reasonably capable of carrying through

³'Honour' killings are done most commonly against illicit sexual relations – but focus more on the loss of honour e.g. divorce etc.(AF)

⁴Source: <http://dictionary.law.com/Default.aspx?selected=2278>

the attack. In some states if the assault is with a deadly weapon (such as sniping with a rifle), the intended victim does not need to know of the peril. Other state laws distinguish between different degrees (first or second) of assault depending on whether there is actual hitting, injury or just a threat. "Aggravated assault" is an attack connected with the commission of another crime, such as beating a clerk during a robbery or a particularly vicious attack. (2) *n.* the act of committing an assault, as in "there was an assault down on Third Avenue." Assault is both a criminal wrong, for which one may be charged and tried, and civil wrong for which the target may sue for damages due to the assault, including for mental distress.

- **Date rape**

n. forcible sexual intercourse by a male acquaintance of a woman, during a voluntary social engagement in which the woman did not intend to submit to the sexual advances and resisted the acts by verbal refusals, denials or pleas to stop, and/or physical resistance. The fact that the parties knew each other or that the woman willingly accompanied the man are not legal defenses to a charge of rape, although one Pennsylvania decision ruled that there had to be some actual physical resistance.

- **Domestic violence**

n. the continuing crime and problem of the physical beating of a wife, girlfriend or children, usually by the woman's male partner (although it can also be female violence against a male). It is now recognized as an antisocial mental illness. Sometimes a woman's dependence, low self-esteem and fear of leaving cause her to endure this conduct or fail to protect a child. Prosecutors and police often face the problem that a battered woman will not press charges or testify due to fear, intimidation and misplaced "love." Increasingly domestic violence is attracting the sympathetic attention of law enforcement, the courts and community services, including shelters and protection for those in danger.

- **Kidnapping**

(also spelled kidnapping) *n.* the taking of a person against his/her will (or from the control of a parent or guardian) from one place to another under circumstances in which the person so taken does not have freedom of movement, will, or decision through violence, force, threat or intimidation. Although it is not necessary that the purpose be criminal (since all kidnapping is a criminal felony), the capture usually involves some related criminal act such as holding the person for ransom, sexual and/or sadistic abuse, or rape. It includes taking due to irresistible impulse and a parent taking and hiding a child in violation of court order. An included crime is false imprisonment. Any harm to the victim coupled with kidnapping can raise the degree of felony for the injury and can result in a capital (death penalty) offense in some states, even though the victim survives. Originally it meant the stealing of children, since "kid" is child in Scandinavian languages, but now applies to adults as well.

- **Murder**

n. the killing of a human being by a sane person, with intent, malice aforethought (prior intention to kill the particular victim or anyone who gets in the way) and with no legal excuse or authority. In those clear circumstances, this is first degree murder. By statute, many states consider a killing in which there is torture, movement of the person before the killing (kidnapping) or the death of a police officer or prison guard, or it was as an incident to another crime (as during a hold-up or rape), to be first degree murder, with or without premeditation and with malice presumed. Second degree murder is such a killing without premeditation, as in the heat of passion or in a sudden quarrel or fight. Malice in second degree murder may be implied from a death due to the reckless lack of concern for the life of others (such as firing a gun into a crowd or bashing someone with any deadly weapon). Depending on the circumstances and state laws, murder in the first or second degree may be chargeable to a person who did not actually kill, but was involved in a crime with a partner who actually did the killing or someone died as the result of the crime. Example: In a liquor store stick-up in which the clerk shoots back at the hold-up man and kills a bystander, the armed robber can be convicted of at least second degree murder. A charge of murder requires that the victim must die within a year of the attack. Death of an unborn child who is "quick" (fetus is moving) can be murder, provided there was premeditation, malice and no legal authority. Thus, abortion is not murder under the law. Example: Jack Violent shoots his pregnant girlfriend, killing the fetus. Manslaughter, both voluntary and involuntary, lacks the element of malice aforethought.

- **Rape**

n. the crime of sexual intercourse (with actual penetration of a woman's vagina with the man's penis) without consent and accomplished through force, threat of violence or intimidation (such as a threat to harm a woman's child, husband or boyfriend). What constitutes lack of consent usually includes saying "no" or being too drunk or drug-influenced for the woman to be able to either resist or consent, but a recent Pennsylvania case ruled that a woman must do more than say "no" on the bizarre theory that "no" does not always mean "don't," but a flirtatious come-on. "Date rape" involves rape by an acquaintance that refuses to stop when told to. Defense attorneys often argue that there has to be physical resistance, but the modern view is that fear of harm and the relative strengths of the man and the woman are obvious deterrents to a woman fighting back. Any sexual intercourse with a child is rape and in most states sexual relations even with consent involving a girl 14 to 18 (with some variation on ages in a few states) is "statutory rape," on the basis that the female is unable to give consent. (2) *v.* to have sexual intercourse with a female without her consent through force, violence, threat or intimidation, or with a girl under age. Technically, a woman can be charged with rape by assisting a man in the rape of another woman. Dissatisfied with the typical prosecution of rape cases (in which the defense humiliates the accuser, and prosecutors are unable or unwilling to protect the woman from such tactics), women have been suing for civil damages for the physical and emotional damage caused by the rape, although too often the perpetrator has no funds.

Protection services for rape victims have been developed by both public and private agencies. On the other side of the coin, there is the concern of law enforcement and prosecutors that women whose advances have been rejected by a man, or who have been caught in the act of consensual sexual intercourse may falsely cry "rape."

- **Statutory rape**

n. sexual intercourse with a female below the legal age of consent but above the age of a child, even if the female gave her consent, did not resist and/or mutually participated. In all but three states the age of consent is 18, and the age above which the female is no longer a child varies, although 14 is common. The theory of statutory rape is that the girl is incapable of giving consent, although marriage with a parent's consent is possible in many states at ages as low as 14. Intercourse with a female child (below 14 or whatever the state law provides) is rape, which is a felony. Increasingly statutory rape is not charged when there is clear consent by the female, particularly when the girl will not cooperate in a prosecution. Controversy continues over what constitutes "resistance" or "consent," particularly when some men insist a woman who said "no" really meant "yes."

- **Sodomy**

n. anal copulation by a man inserting his penis in the anus either of another man or a woman. If accomplished by force, without consent or with someone incapable of consent, sodomy is a felony in all states in the same way that rape is. Homosexual (male to male) sodomy between consenting adults has also been found a felony but increasingly is either decriminalized or seldom prosecuted. Sodomy with a consenting adult female is virtually never prosecuted even in those states in which it remains on the books as a criminal offense. However, there have been a few cases, including one in Indiana, in which a now-estranged wife insisted that a husband be charged with sodomy for sexual acts while they were living together. Traditionally sodomy was called "a crime against nature." Sodomy does not include oral copulation or sexual acts with animals (bestiality).

- **Suicide**

n. the intentional killing of oneself. Ironically, in most states suicide is a crime, but if successful there is no one to punish. However, attempted suicide can be a punishable crime (seldom charged against one surviving the attempt). "Assisted suicide" is usually treated as a crime, either specifically (as in Michigan) or as a form of homicide (second degree murder or manslaughter), even when done as a kindness to a loved one who is terminally ill and in great pain.

Preface

Ever since Aurat Foundation has started to report statistics of violence against women, the figures collected have been a source of major concern. The statistics compiled in 2012 also present a discouraging picture. Incidents like attack on a school-going girl and an activist championing for girls' education Malala Yousufzai, arrest of a teenage Christian girl Ramsha Masih, forced conversion of Hindu girls, e.g. the case of Rankil Kumari and the brutal murder of a valued colleague Parveen Rahman indicate that women of Pakistan have a long and challenging journey ahead of them and their fight with obscurantist mindset to have a space for themselves will be tough and patient.

Aurat Foundation and other rights-based groups and committed human rights activists have resolved to continue their struggle to stand by women of Pakistan in their just cause for a violence-free society. In this endeavour, we feel content to launch our fifth consecutive annual report on Incidents of Violence against Women (VAW) in Pakistan for the year 2012.

As the country cherishes the fact that for the first time in Pakistan a civilian democratic government has been able to complete its term, the women's rights activists also take pride in the fact that the outgoing Parliament passed historic legislation for women. In 2010, two laws came in on preventing and criminalizing the offence of sexual harassment of women and in 2011, came these three laws - on customary practices, acid attacks and fund for women in distress.

The major challenge in the future would be to see how women parliamentarians and women's rights movement ensure that women of Pakistan in all professions, groups and classes and in all age groups benefit from these laws.

Since 2007, women's rights activists and rights-based organisations began a campaign on Domestic Violence Bill which was opposed by a certain conservative lobby sitting in federal and provincial legislatures. Their argument was that it was a domestic domain issue and should not be intruded but on the other hand. However, this campaign received great support from women parliamentarians in Sindh especially by the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Sindh Assembly, who owned this issue and the Assembly passed a historic legislation on March 8, 2013 known as 'Domestic Violence: Protection and Prevention Act 2013.'

Despite all these developments, 2012 can be called 'year of challenges' for Pakistan and the security situation of our country remained fragile which, once again dominated media reporting. The 'State of the Human Rights in 2012' report released by Human Rights Commission of Pakistan reports that the country faced 1,577 terrorist attacks in 2012 claiming the lives of 2,050 innocent people and causing injuries to another 3,822. At least 2,284 people died in ethnic, sectarian and politically-linked violence in Karachi. More than 100 Shia Hazaras were killed in Balochistan alone because of their ethnic identity and genocide continued during the early months of 2013.

Despite all these sad facts, achievements of women's movement remained a source of pride for human rights activists in many ways. The strengthening of National Commission on the Status of Women is an encouraging development. The commission has formally started its operations after selection of Khawar Mumtaz as Chairperson and the nomination of its members. Pakistan also got a prominent slot in world rating regarding women in parliaments and it stood at number 52 in the world ranking of countries according to the percentage of women in parliament.

Understanding violence against women is a complex issue. In Pakistan, domestic violence is considered a private matter, as it occurs in the family, and therefore not an appropriate focus for assessment, intervention or policy changes. According to an estimate, approximately 70 to 90 per cent of Pakistani women are subjected to domestic violence. Various forms of domestic violence in the country include physical, mental and emotional abuse. Some other common types of violence include honour killing, rape, spousal abuse including marital rape, acid attacks and stove burning by family members.

Several organizations and individuals contributed to the development of this report on the statistics of incidents of violence against women, which is fifth in row since 2008.

Above all, we owe deepest appreciation to our committed comrade in struggle for the rights of women and children and a scholar on issues of violence against women, Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen, who wrote this report with her rich analysis and incisive and insightful observations on the painful situation of violence against women. One of her arguments is that the quantitative data on VAW does not provide any clue with regard to cause and motive of the crimes, particularly with regards to murders and kidnappings of women, nor does the data provide profile of the accused etc. In any case, she asserts that "The cumulative number of women and girls died during the years 2008-2012 due to murder, 'honour' killing or suicide is 13583. This implies that 34% of the total percentage of women and girls subjected to violence could not survive which is very unfortunate". While moving towards conclusion, Dr. Rakhshanda has more questions than answers to provide and she asks poignantly:

- Is VAW a genuinely priced priority in the agenda of the development sector and free and fair judiciary in this Islamic Republic of Pakistan, or is it merely a catchy and catty slogan to gain media attention and accomplish the technical obligations of donor and development agencies?
- How and why accused in cases of VAW get acquitted?
- Under what circumstances parents or guardians of victims "forgive" the perpetrators?
- What would be the possible means to obtain legal redress amidst weak rule of law frameworks and corrupt justice officials for the victims of gender-based violence who face the added difficulties of discrimination and sexual stereotypes, including from the police and the judiciary?
- How long mainstream and influential media would violate the self-esteem, dignity and confidentiality of the victims of violence?
- Who would make powerful players in the civil society and media to understand the difference between confidentiality and secrecy?

- Who would ensure the compliance with the ethical considerations?
- How and when women friendly laws would be adopted and implemented in letter and spirit?
- The absence of a law on any form of the VAW does not exempt the State from its responsibility of preventing any forms of abuses and injustices to its citizen including women. Does State own its responsibility?

We all have to answer these questions, particularly the ones who receive public mandate to protect lives of the citizens. We require courage, soul-searching, debate and research on these questions emerging from the statistics presented in this report. We expect that academics and students at Gender Studies Departments in our public universities and those who are keen on research on VAW issues look at this data and undertake research on multiple factors that cause violence, their relationship with each other and the whole vicious cycle and dynamics of violence against women. The main purpose should be to devise effective strategies to deal with the ever-increasing menace.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the media firm, Intermedia, Mr. Adnan Rehmat, Mr. Zaigham Khan and his team, who helped us in compiling the VAW data of 2012.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to our partner organization Trocaire, for their continuous support during the course of data compilation since 2008. We appreciate their long term commitment to reduce gender-based violence in Pakistan and enactment of progressive laws to address offences like domestic violence and harmful customary practices.

We also extend special thanks to VAW Watch Groups and all those activists, networks, researchers, organisations and individuals, in Pakistan and abroad, who used this yearly data as an advocacy tool and actively lobbied for pro-women legislation and its enforcement in the country.

Naeem Mirza
Chief Operating Officer
Aurat Foundation

Rabeesa Hadi
Manager
Gender Base Violence
Policy Research &
Capacity Building

Executive summary

In Pakistan religiosity is on the rise. The tensions with India on the east since the birth of Pakistan on one hand, and with Afghanistan on the west particularly since the invasion of that country in 1989 by the Soviet forces on the other, have been rising. It has led to an era of violence in our country. A heavy militarization along with acquiring of the status of a nuclear state have not helped Pakistan much in dealing with the outbreak of Jihadi violence in uncontrollable semi-autonomous tribal areas bordering Afghanistan. The information obtained for producing this report qualified that a patriarchal and misogynist mindset had interpreted religion affecting women in a narrow parochial manner weighing heavily in favour of men, despite constitutional guarantees of fundamental human rights, including equality of status and of opportunity before the law.

The present report which is fifth in the series of Violence against Women (VAW) in Pakistan, published by the Aurat Foundation, is an effort to serve as a valuable source of information about prevalence of VAW in Pakistan. While in no way can any claim be made that this data provides an actual figure of VAW in Pakistan, it merely provides a snap shot. It aims to provide statistical evidence and support to be used not just by rights based organizations and individuals, but also political parties and public sector departments with the hope that this results in influencing and creating change at the policy level and in effect, on the ground,

This report is based on the review and analysis of the numerical figures and statistics collected and compiled from different newspapers from six regions of Pakistan regarding violence committed against women and girls during the calendar year 2012.

However, while the report is principally based on the information retrieved from the sampled newspapers, for the sake of clarity and advocating the case of VAW in Pakistan, secondary references are also used where judged *de rigueur*.

The report neither questions (vividly) nor comments on the *raison d'être* of failure to legislate on many judicious and astute women issues and VAW. Some specific forms of violence were not included in any report as they might not be reported as VAW cases and/ or considered too alien for this culture. The report however identified the silent aspects of the data and the less documented and/or forgotten forms of VAW while raising concerns about Violence against Women and Girls from religious and ethnic minorities in Pakistan that did appear in the media including print media but has yet to be mainstreamed and recognized as a burning issue in the spectrum of human and women rights movements and institutional frameworks. This report neither includes analysis on the content of the reported cases of VAW in the newspaper nor the state of follow up. However it is the author's view that it appears that the issues of violence experienced by poor and socially disadvantaged women and girls remain unheard or unnoticed. Even if they are documented, they suffer from the elitist and patriarchal consensus of forgetfulness, marginalization and selective prioritization of issues of violence. A highly prevalent form of violence, the dowry violence that is a non-cognizable crime due to the deficiency of legislation is either not recognized as a priority in the print

media reporting or remains buried under domestic violence. Child sexual abuse is another neglected area where advocacy, lobbying and prioritization within print media remains weak. This is an essential issue as analysis show that most of the offences are against girls under 18 years of age.

Generally speaking it is difficult to interpret the complex spectrum of VAW in the light of given data. The emerging picture seems like the trailer of a horror movie. By and large the incidents of the reported cases of VAW do not seem to follow any proportional or non-proportional relationship to the degree of modernity, level of literacy, accessibility to basic civil amenities, influence of media, role of religion and binding of the conventional morality. These are crimes whether cognizable or not against a weaker person (woman or a girl) across the strata of the society that is selective in justice, morality and enlightenment

All provincial capitals have the highest reported cases of VAW. If based on the existing data only, a particular province with lower reported cases and another with much higher ones does not spell out precise reason or reasons of the patterns and trends of violence. The reported cases do not and should not label a particular district as more or most violent.

7516 is the total number of reported cases of VAW from four provinces, FATA and the ICT during January to December 2012. From these cases nearly 63% cases were reported from Punjab. Sindh had the second highest instance of reported VAW cases with a total 1628 cases which form 22% of the total cases reported in Pakistan. 674 cases were reported from Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KP) and FATA. Islamabad was noted for 281 cases of VAW, which is a very high number considering the region is much smaller and resides a very small ratio of population as compared to the other regions. Balochistan had a total of 167 reported cases.

Major Categories of VAW prevalent in Pakistan included: murder, kidnapping, rape/ gang rape. 'Honour' killing and suicide remained the major categories of VAW in 2012. A total of 1745 murders, 1607 cases of abduction, 1134 miscellaneous forms of the VAW, 989 cases of domestic violence, 822 cases of rape/gang rape, 575 incidents of suicide and 432 cases of 'honour' killings were reported.

Most of the districts from where the highest prevalence of VAW has been reported are in Punjab. 754 VAW crimes were reported in Rawalpindi in 2012, which makes 10% of the total VAW cases thus making Rawalpindi the worst district for women. The highest number of murder i.e. 162 murders were committed in Lahore in 2012 followed by 136 murders in Karachi.

The highest number of 'honour' killings was reported from Jacobabad and Lahore. Sukkur, Faisalabad, Larkana, Kashmore, Ghotki, Rawalpindi, Khairpur and Mardan also had high prevalence of reported 'honour' killings. 599 cases were reported from Lahore, which constitutes 8% of the cases in Pakistan. Other districts that were noted for high prevalence of VAW were Karachi, Chakwal, Multan, Gujranwala, Quetta, Peshawar, Sukkur, Khairpur, Faisalabad, Attock, Sheikhpura, Bannu and Okara.

Rawalpindi, Okara, Sargodha, Lahore, Chakwal, Gujrat, Sialkot, Muzaffargarh, Sheikhupura and Dera Ghazi Khan were noted for the highest number of reported kidnappings and abductions. It must however be noted that past experiences of investigation into many reported cases of abduction had also been seen to reveal that if young woman elopes or chooses to marry the man of her choice, her own parents or guardians file the case of abduction.

Lahore, Gujranwala, Karachi, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Sahiwal, Rahim Yar Khan, Kasur, Khairpur and Sheikhupura were noted for the highest number of suicide. Most of the districts noted for highest number of reported cases of sexual violence were also from Punjab.

Okara, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Muzaffargarh, Sargodha, Dera Ghazi Khan, Chakwal, Pak Pattan, Gujranwala and Sialkot were the top 10 districts with most reported cases of rape and gang rape.

The highest number of acid throwing cases was reported from Okara, Faisalabad, Multan, Lahore, Jhang, Sahiwal, Peshawar, Kurram, Karachi, Jhelum districts. Despite the fact that a law was passed in December 2011, offences have continued to be committed. Questions of effective implementation of law must be raised.

Rawalpindi, Sukkur, Karachi, Khairpur, Tando Allah Yar, Badin, Nawab Shah, Kashmore, Sanghar and Dadu were noted for highest number of reported cases of sexual assault. It is essential to note that the absence of reporting for the sexual assault in Balochistan, KP, FATA and ICT regions must not be equated with non-occurrence of this crime.

The FIRs of 55% of the reported VAW cases i.e. 4135 have been registered with police. FIRs of 977 cases i.e. 13% remained unregistered while there was no information about the FIR status of the remaining 2404 i.e. 32% cases. There must be further dialogue between the media, civil society and the police in order to tally these figures to provide accurate data. Questions must also be raised on law enforcement agencies about effective actions taken to solve a crime when highlighted in media.

About 2103 victims of VAW reported are married, 1589 were unmarried and there is no information about marital status of remaining 3062 victims and survivors. Media reporting of single women especially divorcees are often observed to be insensitive. Biasness towards single women remains a common practice in our society. Strategies to address this issue must be prioritized by all stakeholders. Unmarried aged women and divorced ones not only bear the usual burden of patriarchal mindset and social injustices but also have to face the additional share of stigma reserved for them by society and its systems.

An extremely disturbing revelation from emotional perspective is the act of incest. The inconvenient truth of the difficult position and predicament of child survivors of such an abuse by blood relations are only seen to be mentioned in a few reports of some NGOs as well as in English newspapers/magazines only; while it is avoided to be presented in national reports to trigger the conscience of vast majority of the society to admit it as a crime as well as in policy of the state.

There is no information about the age group of over 68% of VAW victims and survivors. Amongst the group whose ages were known, the majority i.e. 18% of the total victims were below 18 years of age.

It is fear-provoking to note that many districts with top 20 literacy rates (as documented by the ministry of education - now defunct in its various reports) are also included in the top 15 districts where women are subjected to violence. These are Rawalpindi, Lahore, Okara, Sargodha, Faisalabad, Chakwal, Gujranwala, Muzzafargarh, Sheikhpura, DG Khan, Gujrat, Sialkot, Pak Pattan, Multan & Sahiwal as was previously mentioned. It certainly implies that there is no proportionality between increased literacy rates to the reduction of VAW.

The pertinent queries that emerge from the data presented in this report are:

- What does this indicate?
- Does literacy and modernity have no impact on the mindsets or is it a reflection of graver and subtler issues which are breeding in our system and society?
- What is the source that influences people to commit such crimes?
- Is it the culture of sex, violence and drug shown on mainstream media shaping the behaviors of individuals?
- What about the quality of education and the content of our curriculum?

Many such questions of grave nature could be raised with having just a glimpse of the statistics presented.

The on hand-data is silent about the rationale and reason (if there could be any), incentive and intention of a particular type of violence, profile of the victim, profile of the perpetrator, follow up measures and authenticity of the reported details such as whether a reported suicide was or was not a homicide, or whether the victim initially experienced physical abuse or rape before committing suicide or subtle details like whether a reported case of rape was or was not a case of incest and whether 'honour' killing was or was not due to illicit relations etc.

It is impossible but at the same time unfair to draw conclusions on the basis of certain statistics compiled from a limited number of newspapers on prickly issues like VAW. However, it remains a fact that currently available statistics are symptomatic manifestations of a society deeply characterized by patriarchy, injustices, virtual absence of the rule of law, male domination and power friendly interpretation or implementation of laws on ceremonial cum cosmetic basis by governance for important issues like poverty reduction, community uplift, women empowerment and gender equity.

Amidst a disabling environment for an enthusiastic activism and liberal discourse on religion, culture, traditions and laws, the progressive legislators and a vibrant civil society in Pakistan continued their efforts towards pro-women laws. It is indeed a great achievement for a country like Pakistan that is shackled in debt, dearth of democracy, militancy, influence of military, terrorism, political Islam and religious extremism that seven (7) women friendly laws were passed between 2004 to 2011 by the Parliament and the Senate.

It can be easily appreciated from the given statistics that heinous crimes like murder, domestic violence and acid throwing have increased in the years 2010-2012. The number of all the reported cases of VAW in general and the increase in the three types in particular discourages human/ child/girl child/women rights activist and advocates from celebrating the gains achieved so far.

The cumulative number of women and girls died during the years 2008-2012 due to murder, 'honour' killing or suicide is 13583. This implies that 34% of the total percentage of women and girls subjected to violence could not survive which is very unfortunate.

In last five years miscellaneous forms of violence constituted a major proportion. From 2008-2011 Abduction/Kidnapping remained the highest reported form of VAW. It is only in the year 2012 where murder remained on top of all offenses committed against women. In 2012 a highest number of the reported cases of Domestic Violence, Acid throwing and burning (highlighted in brown) were also recorded. 2009 and 2011 recorded 274 and 110 cases while 2010 and 2012 recorded 74 and 58 cases of sexual assault respectively.

It is rather difficult to infer any linkage between recorded cases and placement of legislation. What is safe to articulate remains the fact that when more women and girls (either due to individual motivation or through the push of circumstances i.e. support by media and practical activism by CSOs) decided to raise their voices against any form of violence, more number of reports emerged in and highlighted by media.

Time has come to go beyond denial and to observe quick, sincere and simple solutions because VAW, irrespective of its complexity is still preventable.

A majority of rights based activists particularly women's rights advocates fear that in the current milieu marked by rising hatred violence, intolerance, vigilante mob rule, extremism and Talibanization, there is no rule of law or fundamental human rights. Neither Christians, Hindus, Ahmadis, Shias/Hazaras nor any Muslim women and girls are safe nor do any schools, mosques, *imam bargahs*, churches or temples remain a safe haven for the majority. A vast majority of the passion driven activists (beyond diplomacy) in Pakistan began to question; What is preventing political leaders to delink their respective parties from all those persons and groups who are affiliated with terrorist sectarian outfits? Is this the Pakistan which a common peace loving Pakistani would wish to leave for her/his children? The answers of saner voices is a crystal-clear and loud NO, it is NOT.

This report is ending neither with recommendations nor with definite conclusion but with the identification of certain challenges that are phrased here as pertinent queries. These critical questions are: Is VAW a genuinely priced priority in the agenda of the development sector and free and fair judiciary in Pakistan, or it is merely a catchy and catty slogan to gain media attention and accomplish the technical obligations of donor and development agencies? How and why does a person accused of VAW get acquitted? Under what circumstances do and can parents or guardians of victims "forgive" the perpetrators? What are the possible means to obtain legal redress amidst weak frameworks of law and corrupt duty bearers for the victims/survivors of gender-based violence who are further subjected to discrimination and

sexual stereotyping that also includes police and the judiciary? For how long will the mainstream and influential media violate the self-esteem, dignity and confidentiality of victims of violence? Who will make powerful players in the civil society and media to understand the difference between confidentiality and secrecy? Who would ensure compliance with ethical considerations? How and when will women friendly laws be adopted and implemented in letter and spirit? The absence of law on a large numbers of different forms of VAW does not exempt the State from its responsibility of preventing any forms of abuses and injustices to its citizen including women - Does State own its responsibility?

It is necessary to work towards the adoption of a well-organized stratagem to end violence against women and girls by the public, private and citizens' sector as a national priority. It is vital to move beyond our existing efforts to identify and develop new strategies to prevent and punish perpetrators of VAW with the vision to establish a society that respects women and girls, provides them with a space to breath, dream and live the way they want. Without a uniformed and comprehensive strategy, women and girls as well as other disadvantaged groups will continue to strive to live in a violent and insecure environment by facing violence of all sorts.

Section One:

Pakistan - The historical outlook

Pakistan came into being as a separate state on 14 August 1947, after almost a century of British colonial rule. The partition of Indian sub-continent was justified on the basis of achieving a state for Muslims where their rights are safeguarded which, they feared, would be denied to them in an undivided India where an overwhelming majority was of Hindus.

Situated on the north-western flank of the South Asian Region, Islamic Republic of Pakistan straddles over a strategically important geo-political part of Asia, with the Arabian Sea in the south, sharing borders with Iran and Afghanistan on the west and India in the east. In the north, the narrow strip of Wakhan joins it with China. Itself the cradle of the Indus Valley civilization, it connects the Indian sub-continent with the Middle East as well as the Central Asia.

With Pakistan's involvement in the Afghan war, the country gradually became a transit route for the Afghan drugs, including heroin, opium, morphine, and hashish mainly for markets in Iran, the Gulf States, Africa, Asia, Europe and America. The increasing incidence of financial crimes related to drug trafficking, terrorism, corruption and smuggling has aggravated a sense of social insecurity. The situation has been further compounded with the free flow of arms and weapons in the society, giving birth to what is called *kalashnikov culture*. Violence in general is on increase for settling scores not only in ideological skirmishes but in personal issues as well.

Over the centuries, even before the arrival of Aryans, this area has welcomed new people and new ideas by absorbing them in its own rich culture. These migratory populations came more than often with invading armies. There were relatively shorter periods of peace in the area which comprises now Pakistan between one invasion and the next. It has seen much turbulent times.

The invaders from the north-west, and from 16th century onwards, the growing influence of colonizing European nations, particularly the English who came in the guise of merchants, had started corroding the body-politic of the sub-continent. As the people under their decadent rulers were unable to defend themselves, they sought solace that Sufism provided. It disseminated the message of love, compassion, tolerance and universal brotherhood. Sufism seems to have become a defense mechanism, a shield to protect civilized life from the rigors of living under the scourge of both the pressures of political tyranny as well as its supporting religiosity.

Side by side with Sufi teachings, there was another mindset which developed in this part of the world which is common to most war prone regions. The mindset where the physically strong dominates the weak, vendetta and feuds between warring tribes and clans become the norm and the woman becomes simultaneously a symbol of honour, and as a consequence she

becomes a weapon of dishonouring the enemy, the target to release frustration at home and a valuable asset while settling disputes.

Today's world is said to be a global village. Electronic media has magnified the exposure to modernization and globalization to an extent which was unimaginable before. But in Pakistan, it is not accompanied with corresponding increase in investments on social development as is the case with the emerging market nations. As a result, it has produced unfulfilled desires for greater material comforts and facilities. But some apparent signs of modernization appear to be selective and disproportionate and seem more of a façade as on close examination the patterns and forms of violence against women and girls across the class and geographical divisions are disquieting. They point out a weakening of moral fibre of the social fabric.

The founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah wanted a country where all religious faiths could live in harmony with each other and the matters of state and religion will remain separate which he clearly stated in his famous speech of 11 August 1947. But in the years followed, Pakistan evolved as an ideological state where Islam became the state religion and the population comprised of approximately 98 per cent Muslims.

A patriarchal and misogynist mindset continued to favour men and is parochial towards women, despite the constitutional guarantees of fundamental human rights which include equality of status and opportunity before the law.

In Pakistan religiosity is on the rise. The tensions with India on the east since the birth of Pakistan on one hand, and with Afghanistan on the west particularly since the invasion of that country in 1989 by the soviet forces on the other, have been rising. It has led to an era of violence in our country. A heavy militarization along with acquiring of the status of a nuclear state have not helped Pakistan much in dealing with the outbreak of Jihadi violence prevalent uncontrollably in semi-autonomous tribal areas bordering Afghanistan.

According to mainstream indigenous human rights and women's rights networks, the exploitation of popular sentiment in the name of religion is not new in Pakistan⁵. However it is reaching unprecedented proportions, especially when applied to the Christian community of Pakistan, whose numbers (along with those of Hindus, Ahmadis, Hazaras and Shias) are dwindling at an alarming rate.

⁵Information collated from various press statement releases at different instances of human and women rights violations by different networks. (author)

An overview of VAW cases in Pakistan

7516 is the total number of reported cases⁶ of Violence against Women (VAW)⁷ from four provinces as well as FATA and the Islamabad Capital territory (ICT) between January to December 2012.

The percentage distribution of these cases of violence across the regions in decreasing order of frequency is given in the table 1.

From these incidents, nearly 63% cases were reported from Punjab.

Sindh had the second highest instance of reported VAW cases with a total 1628 cases which form 22% of the total reported cases.

674 cases were reported from Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KP) and FATA.

Islamabad was noted for 281 cases of VAW, which is a very high number compared to the size of the region which is considered to be much smaller and dwells a small ratio of population as opposed to the other regions.

Balochistan had a total of 167 reported cases.

Table 1: Number & percentage of cases of VAW in Pakistan during 2012

Province	No of incidents	Percentage
Punjab	4766	63
Sindh	1628	22
KP& FATA	674	9
Islamabad	281	4
Balochistan	167	2
Total		7516

⁸Different forms of reported VAW are categorized as crime and their percentage distribution in decreasing order of frequency is given in the table 2.

Major Categories of VAW prevalent in Pakistan

Murder, kidnapping, rape/ gang rape, 'honour' killing and suicide were the highest among offences reported against women in 2012. A total of 1745 murders, 1607 cases of abduction, 1134 miscellaneous forms of the VAW, 989 cases of domestic violence, 822 cases of rape/gang rape, 575 incidents of suicide and 432 cases of 'honour' killing were reported.

⁶ See annex 1 for the research methodology and annex 2 for the sources. Cases/VAW/Crimes are used interchangeably in the report.

⁷ VAW includes violence against girls & girl children as well.

⁸ See annex 3 for legal meanings of certain forms of VAW and crimes.

Table 2: Number and Percentages of Major Categories of VAW in Pakistan in 2012

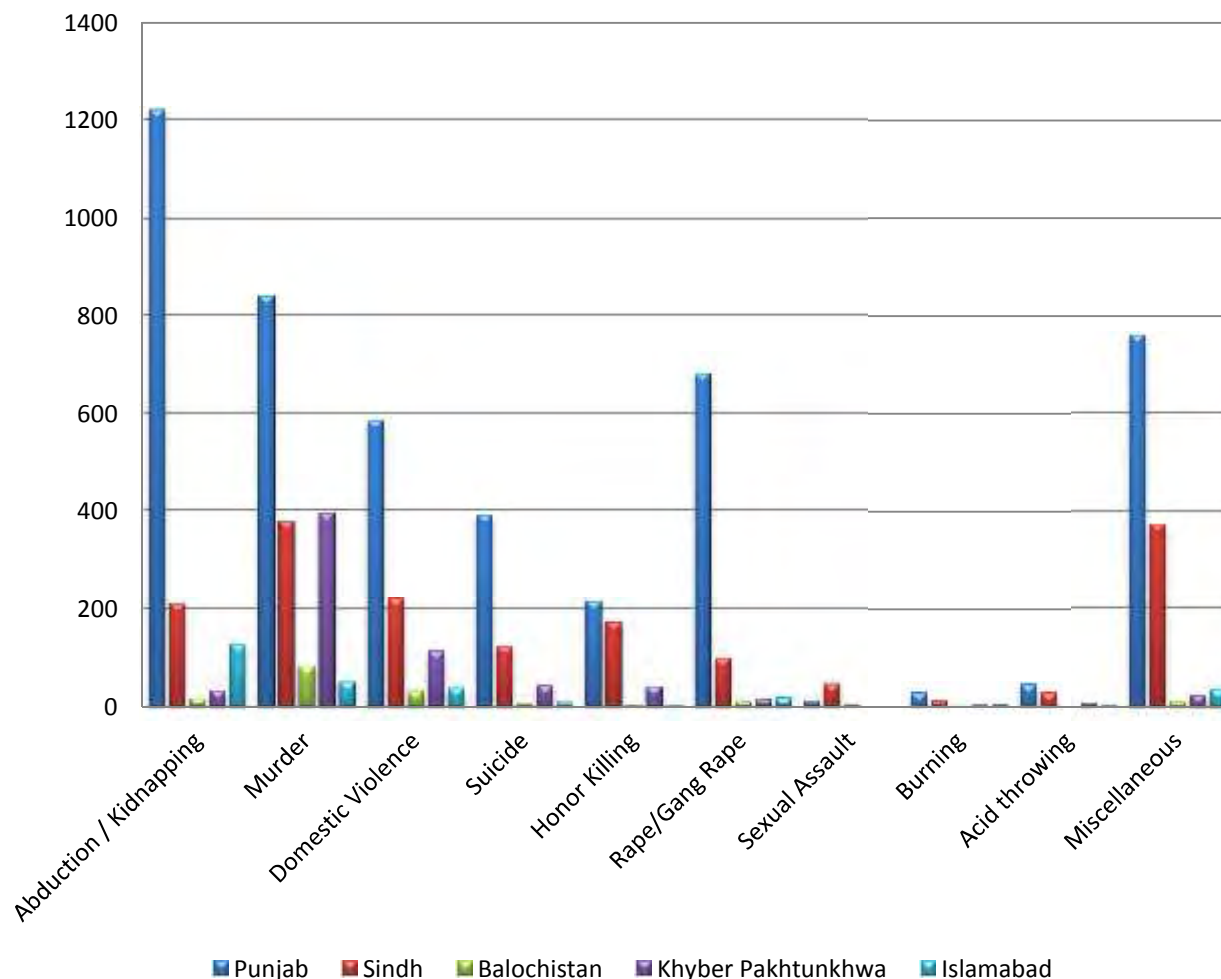
Categories of Crime	No. of incidents	Percentage of Total
Murder	1745	23%
Abduction / Kidnapping	1607	21%
Miscellaneous	1134	15%
Domestic Violence	989	13%
Rape/Gang Rape	822	11%
Suicide	575	8%
Honour Killing	432	6%
Sexual Assault	58	1%
Acid throwing	83	1%
Burning	71	1%
Total	7516	100%

Table 3: Offense-wise / Province-wise breakdown of major offenses reported out of 7516 cases of VAW in Pakistan

Categories of Crime	Punjab	Sindh	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Balochistan	Islamabad	Total
Abduction / Kidnapping	1222	207	33	18	127	1607
Murder	835	381	395	84	50	1745
Domestic Violence	573	230	114	34	38	989
Suicide	394	120	44	8	9	575
Honour Killing	227	158	42	3	2	432
Rape/Gang Rape	676	103	14	11	18	822
Sexual Assault	12	46	-	-	-	58
Acid throwing	45	28	8	-	2	83
Burning	48	11	4	2	6	71
Miscellaneous	734	344	20	7	29	1134
Total	4766	1628	674	167	281	7516

As table 3 shows, different types of VAW crimes were reported from different regions.

Offense wise / Province wise breakdown of major offenses reported out of 7516 cases of VAW in Pakistan



Territorial Distribution of VAW in Pakistan

District-wise distribution of VAW

Data from all over Pakistan shows that most of the districts from where the highest prevalence of VAW has been reported are in Punjab.

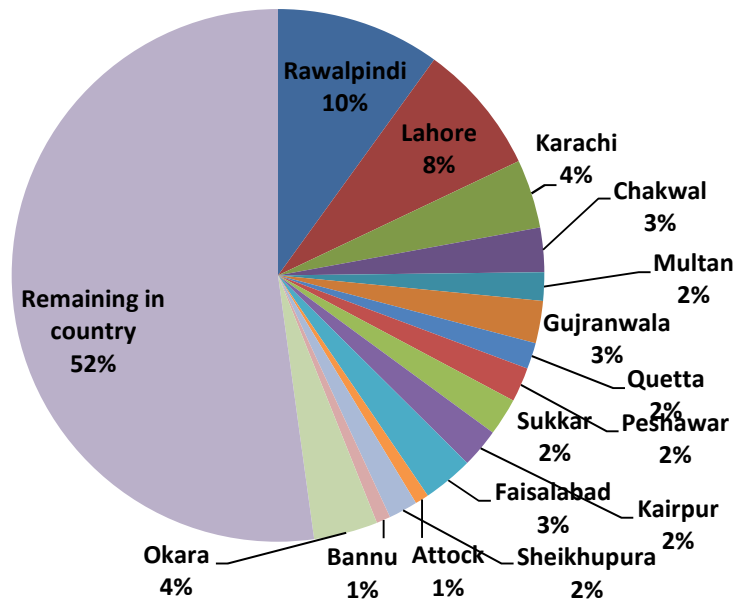
754 VAW crimes were reported in Rawalpindi in 2012, which makes 10% of the total cases thus making Rawalpindi the worst district for women.

599 cases were reported from Lahore, which constitutes 8% of the cases in Pakistan. Other districts that were noted for high prevalence of VAW were Karachi, Chakwal, Multan, Gujranwala, Quetta, Peshawar, Sukkur, Khairpur, Faisalabad, Attock, Sheikhpura, Bannu and Okara.

Table 4: Top 15 Districts of VAW Crime

#Sr.No.	District	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Rape/ Gang Rape	Honour Killing	Murder	Sexual Assault	Suicide	Misc. ⁹	Total
1	Rawalpindi	271	2	134	69	16	95	6	25	136	754
2	Lahore	87	4	89	59	23	162	1	89	85	599
3	Okara	113	7	6	72	6	46	-	11	33	294
4	Sargodha	104	1	-	38	7	15	--	8	56	229
5	Faisalabad	43	6	18	17	20	60	-	32	33	229
6	Chakwal	65	-	18	30	5	32	1	3	49	203
7	Gujranwala	18	1	10	31	5	33	-	39	56	193
8	Muzzafargarh	44	1	45	48	4	9	-	3	33	187
9	Sheikhupura	47	2	11	21	18	31	-	16	30	176
10	Dera Ghazi Khan	43	1	45	30	5	12	1	2	10	149
11	Gujrat	54	1	2	9	6	22	-	9	43	146
12	Sialkot	48	-	5	21	7	24	1	14	23	143
13	Pak Pattan	40	-	5	27	9	25	-	6	18	130
14	Multan	29	5	16	18	1	21	-	18	21	129
15	Sahiwal	23	4	6	17	8	19	-	22	6	105

Top 15 Districts of VAW Crime



⁹Includes 48 burning incidents

Key Crime Categories – 10 worst districts

Murder – Top 10 Districts

The highest number of murder i.e. 162 murders were committed in Lahore in 2012 followed by 136 murders in Karachi.

Table 5: Top 10 districts for murder during 2012

S. No.	District	Province	No. of Cases
1	Lahore	Punjab	162
2	Karachi	Sindh	136
3	Rawalpindi	Punjab	95
4	Peshawar	KPK	89
5	Sukkur	Sindh	65
6	Quetta	Balochistan	64
7	Faisalabad	Punjab	60
8	Mardan	KP	45
9	Okara	Punjab	44
10	Khairpur	Sindh	39

Higher number of reported cases of murder in modern cities like Lahore and Karachi are indeed alarming and points out towards growing culture of intolerance and extremism. Besides lack of efficient policing this trend also indicates deteriorating moral and mental health of not only the concerned individuals who commit such crimes but of also of a society that breeds such “illnesses”. In-depth research is required to identify the exact reason behind such crimes and variation in reporting.

‘Honour’ Killing – Top 10 Districts

The highest number of ‘honour’ killing was reported from Jacobabad and Lahore. Sukkur, Faisalabad, Larkana, Kashmore, Ghotki, Rawalpindi, Khairpur and Mardan also had high prevalence of reported ‘honour’ killings.

Table 6: Honor Killing - Top 10 Districts

S. No.	District	Province	No. of Cases
1	Lahore	Punjab	23
2	Jacobabad	Sindh	23
3	Sukkur	Sindh	20
4	Faisalabad	Punjab	20
5	Larkana	Sindh	20
6	Kashmore	Sindh	18
7	Shaikhupura	Punjab	18
8	Rawalpindi	Punjab	16
9	Ghotki	Sindh	14

The complex notion of honour prevalent and accepted in Pakistani cultures and society needs to be further unpacked and addressed as an urgent agenda item while dealing with the spectrum of women rights. The issue has unfortunately been sensationalized in recent years as opposed to real and hard analysis of this growing cultural sickness.

The etiology of the apparent cultural sickness is not unknown but it is rather inappropriate from research viewpoint to precisely identify it in the absence of the needed empirical evidence. It remains however, evident that the growing culture of violence has its roots not only in the overall culture of patriarchy but it is also flourishing in a climate of intellectual growth retardation as can be evidenced by the personal and collective articulation of intolerance. The biased content in the text book and mainstream media can be taken as the proxy indicators of “cultural sickness”.

Abduction / Kidnapping – Top 10 districts

Rawalpindi, Okara, Sargodha, Lahore, Chakwal, Gujrat, Sialkot, Muzzafargarh, Shiekhupura and Dera Ghazi Khan were noted for the highest number of reported kidnappings and abductions. It must however be noted that past experiences of investigation into many reported cases of abduction had also revealed that if young woman elopes or chooses to marry the man of her choice, her own parents or guardians file the case of abduction. Therefore there must be an increased focus on working with police to make a clear investigative report on such cases and then allowing the cases to be quoted in statistics for accurate data compilation. This also calls for the media to play an increased role in investigation.

Table 7: Abduction / Kidnapping – Top 10 Districts

S. No.	District	Province	No. of Cases
1.	Rawalpindi	Punjab	271
2.	Okara	Punjab	113
3.	Sargodha	Punjab	104
4.	Lahore	Punjab	87
5.	Chakwal	Punjab	65
6.	Gujrat	Punjab	54
7.	Sialkot	Punjab	48
8.	Sheikhupura	Punjab	47
9.	Muzzafargarh	Punjab	44
10.	Dera Ghazi Khan	Punjab	43

Suicide – Top 10 districts

Lahore, Gujranwala, Karachi, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Sahiwal, Rahim Yar Khan, Kasur, Khairpur and Sheikhupura were noted for the highest number of suicide.

Table 8: Suicide – Top 10 districts

S. No.	District	Province	No. of Cases
1.	Lahore	Punjab	89
2.	Gujranwala	Punjab	39
3.	Karachi	Sindh	35
4.	Faisalabad	Punjab	32
5.	Rawalpindi	Punjab	25
6.	Sahiwal	Punjab	22
7.	Multan	Punjab	18
8.	Rahim Yar Khan	Punjab	17
9.	Kasur	Punjab	15
10.	Khairpur	Sindh	14

Rape/Gang Rape – Top 10 Districts

Most of the districts noted for highest number of reported cases of sexual violence were also from Punjab. Okara, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Muzaffargarh, Sargodha, Dera Ghazi Khan, Chakwal, Pak Pattan, Gujranwala and Sialkot were the top 10 districts with most reported cases of rape and gang rape.

Table 9: Rape/Gang Rape – Top 10 Districts

S. No.	District	Province	No. of Cases
1.	Okara	Punjab	72
2.	Rawalpindi	Punjab	69
3.	Lahore	Punjab	59
4.	Muzaffargarh	Punjab	48
5.	Sargodha	Punjab	38
6.	Karachi	Sindh	31
7.	Gujranwala	Punjab	31
8.	Dera Ghazi Khan	Punjab	30
9.	Chakwal	Punjab	30
10.	Pak Pattan	Punjab	27

Acid throwing – Top 10 districts

The highest numbers of acid throwing cases were reported from Okara, Faisalabad, Multan, Lahore, Jhang, Sahiwal, Peshawar, Kurram Agency, Karachi, Jhelum districts. Despite the fact that a law was passed in December 2011, offences have continued to be committed. Questions of effective implementation of law must be raised.

Table 10: Acid throwing – Top 10 districts

S. No.	District	Province	No. of Cases
1.	Okara	Punjab	7
2.	Hyderabad	Sindh	7
3.	Faisalabad	Punjab	6

4.	Multan	Punjab	5
5.	Karachi	Sindh	5
6.	Sanghar	Sindh	5
7.	Jhang	Punjab	4
8.	Sahiwal	Punjab	4
9.	Peshawar	KP	4
10.	Kurram Agency	KP	4

Domestic violence – Top 10 districts

Rawalpindi, Lahore, Dera Ghazi Khan, Peshawar, Karachi, Quetta, Muzaffargarh, Khairpur, Sukkur and Faisalabad had highest incidents of DV cases. This remains an issue as proper identification of domestic violence through existing law is lacking and the refusal to pass a national law on domestic violence.

Table 11: Domestic violence – Top 10 districts

S. No.	District	Province	No. of Cases
1.	Rawalpindi	Punjab	134
2.	Lahore	Punjab	89
3.	Karachi	Sindh	54
4.	Dera Ghazi Khan	Punjab	45
5.	Muzaffargarh	Punjab	45
6.	Khairpur	Sindh	38
7.	Peshawar	KP	35
8.	Sukkur	Sindh	34
9.	Quetta	Balochistan	28
10.	Bannu	KP	20

Sexual Assault – Top 10 districts

Rawalpindi, Sukkur, Karachi, Khairpur, Tando Allah Yar, Badin, Nawab Shah, Kashmore, Sanghar and Dadu were noted for highest number of reported cases of sexual assault.

¹⁰The absence of reporting for sexual assault in the regions of Balochistan, KP, FATA and ICT must not be equated with non occurrence of such offences in these areas.

Table 12: Sexual Assault – Top 10 districts

S. No.	District	Province	No. of Cases
1.	Sukkur	Sindh	8
2.	Rawalpindi	Punjab	6
3.	Larkana	Sindh	5
4.	Tharparkar	Sindh	5
5.	Sanghar	Sindh	4

¹⁰This holds true for all other crimes against women and girls until and unless clearly specified. No area is free of VAW in general. There is more likelihood of the absence of reporting of a typical abuse due to myriad reasons including the ability to perceive the abuse as per the standard definition.

6	Khairpur	Sindh	3
7.	Tando Allah Yar	Sindh	3
8.	Badin	Sindh	3
9.	Khasmore	Sindh	2
10.	Nawabshah	Sindh	2

First Information Report (FIR) Status of VAW cases in Pakistan

The FIRs of 55% of the reported cases of VAW i.e. which makes 4135 number of cases have been registered. FIRs of 977 cases or 13% offences were not registered while there is no information about FIR status of the remaining 2404 (32%) cases. There must be dialogue initiated between media, civil society and police in order to tally these figures for provision of accurate data. Law enforcement agencies must also be questioned about the mechanism to address such crimes when reported in media.

Table 13: FIR status of VAW cases in Pakistan

FIR Status	Cases	Percentage
Registered	4135	55%
Unregistered	977	13%
No Information	2404	32%

Marital Status of VAW Victims & Survivors in Pakistan

2103 VAW victims in reported cases were identified to be married, 1589 were unmarried while there was no information about the marital status of remaining 3062 VAW victims and survivors. Media reporting of single women especially divorcees are often observed to be insensitive. Biasness towards single women remains a common practice in our society. Strategies to address this issue must be prioritized by all stakeholders.

Table 14: Marital Status of VAW Victims in Pakistan

Marital Status	Total	Percentage
Married	2103	28%
Unmarried	1589	21%
Widow	402	5%
Divorced	360	5%
No Information	3062	41%

Marriage is an important institution in Pakistan which is assumed to give protection to women according to shadowy understanding of religion/s or pressure of circumstance, culture and class. Unmarried aged women and divorced ones not only bear the usual burden of patriarchal mindset and social injustices but also have to face the additional share of stigma reserved for them by society and its systems.

The sympathy graph of the society and the state too vary with marital status. Whereas widows are generally respected (at least apparently) and are encouraged to remarry (most often for retaining family wealth and honor) the injustices experienced by single women in

different combinations are yet to be understood even by the mainstream feminists and activists in Pakistan.

The violence (overt and covert) for divorced women, divorced and disabled women, divorced mothers, divorced and disabled mothers, never married and divorced women is too complicated to be identified, perceived, believed and eventually reported by conventional media.

Age group of Victims/ Survivors of Violence

There was no information about the age group of over 68% VAW victims and survivors. Amongst the group whose ages were known, the majority i.e. 18% of the total victims were aged below 18 years.

Table 15: Age Group of Victims

Age Group	Total	Percentage
0 – 18 years	1361	18%
18 – 35 years	821	11%
Over 35	249	3%
No Information	5085	68%

The statistical data presented in this overview does not highlight high profile cases of violence against women and girls that commanded national and international attention at various levels.

¹¹A brief profile of some of the victims and survivors of VAW and the respective cases:

Malala Yousafzai: Taliban gunmen singled out Malala on October 9, 2012 in a school van full of girls returning home for the day. They shot her in the neck and head. She had infuriated the Taliban with her blog posts for the BBC that exposed the insurgent group's ban on girls' education in her native village in Swat, located in the northwest part of Pakistan. The Taliban consider girls' education to be un-Islamic and they began to destroy schools as a tactic to stop education for girls. According to TIME Magazine, they destroyed 473 schools between 2007 and 2009. The destruction and closure of local schools compelled Malala to speak up against Taliban's actions. The Taliban have vowed to kill Malala if she survives, and she currently remains under treatment in a hospital in England¹². Malala has emerged as a child hero epitomizing resistance against the Taliban.

¹¹ From Ten women who shook Pakistan By Malik Siraj Akbar. Malik Siraj Akbar, based in Washington DC, is an exiled Baloch journalist who founded The Baloch Hal, the first online English language newspaper in Balochistan, Pakistan. www.afpak.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/10/19/ten_women_who_shook_pakistan

¹² “Thousands of miles away, comes a weak but determined voice, “Where am I?” as Malala asked after recovering her consciousness. She may not be aware of the place where she is staying but her friends, class fellow, teachers and all those who love her and pray for her speedy recovery know she resides in their hearts.” by Kahar Zalmay in Sunday, November 04, 2012. www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012%5C11%5C04%5Cstory_4-11-2012_pg3_6

Ramsha Masih: is a teenaged Pakistani Christian girl, who according to some reports suffers from Down's syndrome, and who was detained by authorities in Islamabad on blasphemy charges in August 2012 for allegedly burning the pages of the Holy Quran. She could face death sentence if charges against her are proven. Ramsha's case spotlighted the vulnerability of Pakistan's religious minorities, who can easily be subjugated by Muslim clergymen under the controversial blasphemy law. It turned out that a Muslim cleric had actually planted evidence against the Christian girl but he was eventually granted bail by the court. Ramsha's physical safety still remains a major concern.

Rankil Kumari: The case of this 17-year old Hindu girl has helped to draw public attention to another disquieting practice i.e. forceful conversion of Hindu girls into Islam and their subsequent forced marriages with Muslim boys. On February 24, 2012, an influential Muslim politician kidnapped Ms. Kumari from her residence in Sindh province. When the girl resurfaced after a few days, she, apparently concerned about personal safety admitted that she had 'willingly' embraced Islam and married a Muslim man. The Hindu community, on their part, says young girls from their minority community are wholly unsafe in Pakistan, where each month at least 20 to 25 girls are forcefully converted to Islam and compelled to marry Muslims. According to one estimate, 300 Hindu girls are forcefully converted in Pakistan each year.

Overall Understanding

Generally speaking it is difficult to interpret the complex spectrum of VAW in the light of given data. The emerging picture seems like trailer of a horror movie.

By and large the incidents of VAW reported here do not seem to follow any proportional or non-proportional relationship to the degree of modernity, level of literacy, accessibility to basic civil amenities, influence of media, role of religion and binding of the conventional morality. These are crimes whether cognizable or not against a weaker person (woman or a girl) across the strata of society which is selective in justice, morality and enlightenment.

All provincial capitals have had highest ratio of VAW as evident from the report. Based on the existing data where a particular province has lower reported cases of VAW while the other with much higher number of cases, one cannot precisely be sure about the reasons for such variation in patterns and trends of violence. The reported cases cannot should not label a particular district to be violent than other.

However if the political, social, cultural and governance contexts of each region are juxtaposed with the available numbers of the reported cases it appears that the expressions of abuses and unfairness against women and girls are in alignment with the geography, history and current situation and perspective of each region.

An extremely disturbing revelation from emotional perspective is incest. The inconvenient truth of the difficult position and predicament of child survivors of such an abuse by blood relations are only seen to be mentioned in NGOs with a specific focus, as well as in English newspapers/magazines only; while it is avoided to be presented in national reports to trigger

the conscience of the vast majority of the society to admit it as a crime as well as in policy of the state. The report of 12 cases only from Punjab while nil reporting from other regions does not mean that the offence does not exist there or is less prevalent in our country. The reason however lies in the fact that media access to certain areas where such cases are prevalent may be limited. Some non-profit organizations, for instance War Against Rape (WAR)¹³ have reported much higher numbers of this crime.¹⁴ Victims of incest, as per findings of WAR and UN are mostly minor girls, and the traumatized survivors are exposed to harsh police investigation methods, court environments and hospitals. The number of reported incest cases remains low because of the stigma attached with family members' involvement. The data is acquired from news reports which are usually reported only when FIRs are registered with the police. A War Against Rape report recommends a major overhaul in the approach towards gender based sexual violence in Pakistan.

According to a November 2012 report by the Awaz Foundation Centre for Development, as many as 2,713 cases of violence against women have been reported in 15 districts of southern Punjab since January 2012, which gives some measure of the scale of the issue. The cases of incest however remained buried in these reports.

¹⁵In 2012, *The Express Tribune, English Daily* covered over 150 reports on cases of rape and their follow-ups across the country. However the actual number of incidents is likely to be more than reported cases because the stigma of rape, maltreatment meted out by the police and low prosecution rates makes this crime largely unreported.

¹⁶According to an NGO Sahil, incest is the least reported as a form of child sexual abuse because the adult family members are often complicit in the act or those aware of their spouse or family member involvement refrain to disclose it.

The overall status of women regardless of status, class and region as well as their accessibility to justice is almost the same. Upper class and urbanized women also suffer from subtle forms of violence. Thus it can be inferred that nature of violence may be different but all women fall victim to it.

Education, availability of wealth and availability of opportunities to access media and justice do ease the miseries to certain extent but assessment of all-encompassing impact of these variables in reducing the prevalence and incidents of VAW is yet to be gauged which is beyond the scope of current report.

¹³As many as 728 sex-related crimes were reported in the city during the year 2004, says a report prepared by an NGO, the War against Rape (WAR). It investigated 57 cases reported by print media, and found that only 15 surviving victims appeared willing to move a court to seek justice. In other cases, the reasons for the victims' unwillingness to pursue their cases were lengthy judicial process, social and family pressures, unendurable method of cross-examination, etc. Source: <http://www.pakistanpressfoundation.org/news-archives/3976/over-700-sex-related-cases-reported-last-year-war/>

¹⁴<http://tribune.com.pk/story/336803/for-incest-victims-the-trauma-never-goes-away/>

¹⁵<http://tribune.com.pk/story/486966/pakistans-shame-rape-cases-in-2012-timeline/>

¹⁶<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2012/04/22/city/karachi/hidden-victims-the-plight-of-pakistan%E2%80%99s-child-incest-survivors/>

It is fear-provoking to note that many districts with top 20 literacy rates (as documented by the ministry of education-now defunct in its various reports) are also included in the top 15 districts where women are subjected to violence. These are Rawalpindi, Lahore, Okara, Sargodha, Faisalabad, Chakwal, Gujranwala, Muzzafargarh, Sheikhpura, DG Khan, Gujrat, Sialkot, Pak Pattan, Multan & Sahiwal as was previously mentioned. It certainly implies that there is no proportionality between increased literacy rates to the reduction of VAW.

The pertinent queries that emerge from the presentation of data in this report are:

What does this indicate? Does literacy and modernity have no impact on the mindsets or is it a reflection of graver and subtler issues which are breeding in our system and society? What is the source that influences people to commit such crimes? Is it the culture of sex, violence and drug shown on mainstream media shaping the behaviors of individuals? What about the quality of education and the content of our curriculum? Many such questions of grave nature could be raised with having just a glimpse of the statistics presented.

The following matrix without oversimplifying a complex scenario reflects a Pakistan that is probably not too safe and friendly for its women citizens.

Matrix 1: Pakistan and VAW (Reported Cases in selected Newspapers between Jan-Dec 2012)

S#	Indicators	Statistics
1	Total No. of most violent districts in 4 provinces	20
2	Most prevalent form of VAW & Prevalence	Murder 17454 23%
3	Total No. & percentage of women who experienced domestic violence	989 13%
4	Total No. & percentage of women who were killed in the name of 'honour'	432 6%
5	Total No.& percentage of women who were murdered	1745 23%
6	Total No.& percentage of women who were abducted	1607 21%
7	Total No.& percentage of women who were raped/gang raped	822 11%
8	Total No.& percentage of women who committed suicide	575 8%
9	Total No.& percentage of women who fell victims to harmful cultural practices like <i>watta satta,vanni</i> etc., human trafficking etc.	1134 15%
10	Total No. and percentage of Victims& Survivors: Married Women	2103 28%
11	Total No. and percentage of Victims& Survivors between 0-18 years of age	1361 18%
12	Total No. of FIR registered	4135 55%

The on-hand data is silent about the rationale and reason (if there could be any), incentive and intention of a particular type of violence, profile of the victim, profile of the perpetrator,

follow up measures and authenticity of the reported details such as whether a reported suicide was or was not a homicide, or whether the victim initially experienced physical abuse or rape before committing suicide or subtle details like whether a reported case of rape was or was not a case of incest and whether ‘honour’ killing was or was not due to illicit relations etc.

It is impossible but at the same time unfair to draw conclusions on the basis of certain statistics compiled from a limited number of newspapers on prickly issues like VAW. However, it remains a fact that currently available statistics are symptomatic manifestations of a society deeply characterized by patriarchy, injustices, virtual absence of the rule of law, male domination and power friendly interpretation or implementation of laws on ceremonial cum cosmetic basis by governance for important issues like poverty reduction, community uplift, women empowerment and gender equity.

Section Two:

Punjab

Punjab has been known as the "Land of Five Rivers" since ancient times. The name Punjab literally translates from the Persian words **Panj**, meaning Five, and **Aab** meaning Water. The province is the most fertile region of Pakistan situated along river valleys and has been named after five rivers called Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej respectively. The Punjab is the country's most populous region with about 56% of Pakistan's total population ratio.

Punjab is the most prosperous, industrialized and urbanized province of Pakistan. The people are characterized by their outgoing, industrious and initiative-taking nature. Punjab was the last frontier of the South Asian sub-continent which faced the onslaught of invaders from Central Asia from centuries. As a result, it has become a melting pot of different races. The constant periods of turmoil and brief phases of peace have greatly shaped people's characteristics and attitude towards life. Of these traits, worth noticing is their attitude towards womenfolk, who are considered no more than a property item and less worthy than a cattle. It was demonstrated during the unprecedented 2010 floods when many preferred to save their cattle but not their women when rescue teams reached the flood affectees. Punjab occupies an important place by being an important part of the Indus Valley Civilization where the city of Harappa was an important citadel cited in history around 4000 BC. The Indus Valley Civilization spanned much of what is today Pakistan and eventually evolved into Indo-Aryan civilization. This civilization shaped subsequent cultures in South Asia and Afghanistan.

Punjab is Pakistan's second largest province at 205,344 km² (79,284 mi²) after Balochistan, and is located at the northwestern edge of the geological Indian plate in South Asia. The provincial capital is Lahore which is also the largest metropolis in northern Pakistan. Other important cities include Multan, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Jhelum and Rawalpindi.

It is the only province in Pakistan that has contiguous borders with all the provinces. The federal capital Islamabad which is treated as a federal territory lies within the territories of this province in its northern part. The region also contains Cholistan desert. The lands are irrigated with canal waters throughout the province. Neighboring areas are Sindh in the south, Balochistan and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to the west, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and the India to the east.

Despite the lack of a coastline, Punjab is the most industrialized province of Pakistan. Since 1950s, Punjab industrialized rapidly. New factories came up in Lahore, Multan, Sialkot and Wah. During 1960s the new city of Islamabad was built near Rawalpindi. Starting in 1980s, large numbers of Punjabis migrated to the Middle-East, Britain, Spain, Canada and the United States for economic opportunities.

An overview of VAW cases in Punjab

A total of 4766 cases of VAW have been reported in Punjab from January to December 2012, which is nearly 63% of the total number reported cases from the country. If the statistics from all the other provinces under consideration are combined the result will yield a lesser number of VAW crimes as compared to a single province of Punjab.

However, the increased reporting of VAW in Punjab could be attributed to the improved accessibility to media and to law enforcement agencies.

It is quite possible that the VAW incidents are frequent in Punjab compared to the rest of the regions, but

It might be possible that the incidence of violence in Punjab really is more frequent than in other provinces, but it is highly unlikely that the ratio of VAW in Punjab vs other provinces are really quite as high as would appear by the difference in the number of reported incidents.

Table 16: Overall VAW cases in Punjab

Categories of Crime	Incidents reported	Percentage of total
Abduction / Kidnapping	1222	26%
Murder	835	18%
Domestic Violence	573	12%
Suicide	394	8%
Honour Killing	227	5%
Rape/Gang Rape	676	14%
Sexual Assault	12	0%
Acid Throwing	45	1%
Burning	48	1%
Miscellaneous	734	15%
Total	4766	100%

The above table shows abduction and kidnapping to be the most frequent form of VAW in Punjab making 26 % of all the reported cases in Punjab. Murder of women had been the second highest frequent form of VAW making 18% of all violence committed. Rape and gang-rape followed with a 14% while domestic violence with a 12% ratio of all crimes committed against women in 2012. The abject helplessness that manifests in 8% rate of suicides by committed by women indicates the grim reality of the country's most thickly populated areas. Women remained the target of 'honour' killing in the province despite being more developed compared to the rest of the country. This shameful crime constitutes 5% of the reported cases. **Sexual Assault did not appear in the list of crimes falling in the category of VAW.** Acid throwing and cases of burning which is perceived to be a common practice constituted each only 1% of the reported crimes.

Remaining 15 % was composed of crimes of miscellaneous nature which also included 51 cases of attempted abductions and kidnapping. About 85 cases of attempted murder were not successful. 93 cases of attempted suicide were reported while 124 cases of rape attempts were

also registered which needs to be given serious consideration. 19 cases constituted child marriages, 9 cases of forced marriages of girls while *vanni* was imposed on 21 women/ girls. There were 15 cases of attempted *karo kari*. No cases of ¹⁷*watta satta* were reported (although it is a very common practice and culturally accepted). Harassment incidents were numbered with 41 cases in 2012 and 19 women/girls suffered illegal custody. Incest was also reported which comprised 12 cases in total though it is believed the actual number could be much higher but remains unreported due to socio-cultural reasons. Some 184 women/girls reported were being tortured which makes the highest incidents of violence in miscellaneous category while no cases for injury were reported during 2012. 36 women/girls received life threats, while 25 cases of trafficking cases were recorded.

The Table 17 A (given below) presents the frequency and distribution of VAW cases on a district-wise basis in all the 36 districts of the province. It should be noted that 16 out of 36 districts have less than 100 cases of VAW.

Khushab stood out as the least violent district with the number of reported cases as 14, ascended by Mianwali (20), Layyah (24) and Narowal(30).

Table 17 A: Number and Prevalence of VAW cases in 36 different districts of Punjab

Sr. No.	District	Abduction/Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Rape/ Gang Rape	Honour Killing	Murder	Sexual Assault	Suicide	Misc.	Total
1	Attock	7	-	6	6		18	-	1	25	63
2	Bahawalnagar	9	-	8	21	1	13	-		7	59
3	Bahawalpur	4	-	5	14	1	20	-	4	3	51
4	Bhakkar	21	-		8	1	6	-	3	10	49
5	Chinot	8	1	5	12	5	3	1	4	-	39
6	Chakwal	65	-	18	30	5	32	1	3	49	203
7	Dera Ghazi Khan	43	1	45	30	5	12	1	2	10	149
8	Faisalabad	43	6	18	17	20	60	-	32	33	229
9	Gujranwala	18	1	10	31	5	33	-	39	56	193
10	Gujrat	54	1	2	9	6	22	-	9	43	146
11	Hafizabad	5	-	4	1	1	13	-	-	11	35
12	Jhang	11	4	6	9	6	10	-	4	9	59
13	Jhelum	3	2	8	8	5	11	1	3	20	61
14	Kasur	10	-	2	12	11	23	-	15	4	77
15	Khanewal	19	-	17	12	5	14	-	6	12	85
16	Khushab	2	-	4	1	1	3	-	1	2	14

¹⁷*watta satta* is a cultural practice it may or may not embody violence.(author)

17	Lahore	87	4	89	59	23	162	1	89	85	599
18	Layyah	4	-	10	5	1	1	-	2	1	24
19	Lodhran,	11	-	8	11	1	2	-	5	8	46
20	Mandi Bahauddin	8	-	2	2	4	12	-	7	1	36
21	Mianwali	2	-	-	2	2	6	-	2	6	20
22	Multan	29	5	16	18	1	21	-	18	21	129
23	Muzzafargarh	44	1	45	48	4	9	-	3	33	187
24	Nankana Sahib	17	-	6	5	6	7	-	2	2	45
25	Narowal	-	-	5	6	4	6	-	3	6	30
26	Okara	113	7	6	72	6	46	-	11	33	294
27	Pakpattan	40	-	5	27	9	25	-	6	18	130
28	Rahim Yar Khan	5	1	20	4	8	15	-	17	2	72
29	Rajanpur	7	1	17	7	9	6	-	4	1	52
30	Rawalpindi	271	2	134	69	16	95	6	25	136	754
31	Sahiwal	23	4	6	17	8	19	-	22	6	105
32	Sargodha	104	1	-	38	7	15	--	8	56	229
33	Sheikhupura	47	2	11	21	18	31	-	16	30	176
34	Sialkot	48	-	5	21	7	24	1	14	23	143
35	Toba Tek Singh	22		12	15	6	22	-	11	7	95
36	Vehari	18	1	18	8	11	16	-	3	13	88
	Total	1222	45	573	676	229	833	12	394	782	4766

A close review of the above table reveals:

- 26 out of 36 districts had no reported cases of sexual assault.
- 16 out of 36 districts had no reported cases of acid attacks.
- District Chiniot had no reported case of crime that could fall under the category miscellaneous.
- District Sargodha had the second highest (104) number of the reported cases of abduction and third highest number (56 cases) of suicide.
- District Rawalpindi had the highest number of the reported cases of abduction (271) followed by Sargodha (104).
- District Rawalpindi had the highest number of the reported cases of Domestic Violence(134)
- District Lahore having the highest number of reported murders (162) happened to be the third highest in the reported cases of acid throwing (4), rape/gang rape (59) and miscellaneous crimes(85), and the second highest in domestic violence(134).
- District Okara had the highest number of the reported cases of acid throwing (7), rape/gang rape (72) and third highest of miscellaneous crimes (294).
- District Faisalabad had the second highest number of the reported cases of acid attacks (6) and 'honour' killings (20) and third highest number of murder (60) and suicide (32) respectively.
- Districts Faisalabad and Sargodha had equal share of reported miscellaneous crimes (229) each.
- District Gujranwala had the second highest number of the reported cases of suicide (39).

The five most violent districts are presented separately in table 17 B.

Table 17 B: Five Worst Districts in Punjab

Sr. No.	District	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Rape/Gang Rape	Honour Killing	Murder	Sexual Assault	Suicide	Misc.	Total
1	Rawalpindi	271	2	134	69	16	95	6	25	136	754
2	Lahore	87	4	89	59	23	162	1	89	85	599
3	Okara	113	7	6	72	6	46	-	11	33	294
4	Sargodha	104	1	-	38	7	15	--	8	56	229
5	Faisalabad	43	6	18	17	20	60	-	32	33	229

Lahore the provincial capital had the highest number of reported cases as is evident by the number of murder (162), suicide (89) and ‘honour’ killing (23).

The city of **District Rawalpindi** that is twin to the capital emerged again as the most violent city in Punjab with 754 reported cases of VAW. 271 cases of abduction/kidnapping, 134 cases of domestic violence and 136 cases constituting miscellaneous crimes were reported from this district. District Okara had the highest number of reported cases of rape/gang rape (72) and acid throwing (7) which is among the top five most violent districts in Punjab with reference to VAW. No cases of sexual assault were reported from the top five districts including Faisalabad, Sargodha and Okara.

It would be too simplistic to interpret the given statistics on superficial basis. These figures neither show the efficiency of police in a particular area or district nor nullify the same. These figures reflect, though to a limited extent, the degree of correct perceptions, awareness, courage to report by the aggrieved party, notions of honour and revenge, capacity of law enforcing agencies, abuse of power and overall status of women and girls.

FIR Status of VAW in Punjab

In majority of cases FIR had been registered in Punjab. However 30% cases had no information about its FIR status.

Table 18: FIR Status

FIR Status	Punjab	Percentage
Registered	2779	58%
Unregistered	532	11%
No Information	1455	31%

Marital Status of VAW Victims & Survivors in Punjab

There was no information about the marital status of nearly half the victims and survivors. The majority of victims were reported to be married. There was no information available in the collected data about the specific type of violence experienced by women and girls with different marital status.

Divorced victims and survivors made 5% of the total cases. The number 238 may appear insignificant out of 4766 but it significantly reflects another social trend with major implications i.e. divorce and the connotations attached with divorced women.

Table 19: Marital Status

Marital Status	Punjab	Percentage
Married	1085	23%
Unmarried	875	18%
Widow	280	6%
Divorced	243	5%
No Information	2283	48%

Age Group of VAW Victims & Survivors in Punjab

There was no information about the age groups of over 72% of the VAW victims & survivors. For those whose ages were reported, the majority were aged below 18. It is alarming that most of the victims and survivors of violence are minors. This also means that most of the subjects affected by these heinous crimes like incest, trafficking, forced marriages, *vanni*, acid throwing etc. are very young females. No information could be ascertained of remaining 4758 cases.

Table 20: Age Group of VAW victims in Punjab

Age Group	Punjab	Percentage
0 – 18 years	859	18%
18 – 35 years	339	8%
Over 35	115	2%
No Information	3453	72%

Sindh

Geographically, Sindh is the third largest province of Pakistan, stretching about 579 km from north to south and 442 km (extreme) or 281 km (average) from east to west, with an area of 140,915 square kilometers (54,408 sq mi) of Pakistan territory. Sindh is bounded by the Thar Desert to the east, the Kirthar Mountains to the west, and the Arabian Sea in the south. In the centre is a fertile plain around the Indus River.

Sindh is located on the western corner of South Asia, bordering the Iranian plateau in the west. The neighboring regions of Sindh are Balochistan to the west and north, Punjab to the north, Gujarat and Rajasthan in India to the southeast and east, and the Arabian Sea to the south. The coast of Sindh boasts of the two major ports of Pakistan, Karachi and Port Qasim which handle the quasi-totality of Pakistani trade.

The 1998 Census of Pakistan indicated a population of 30.4 million. However, the 2011 population, according to Population Census Organization is estimated at 40,589,003 but many dispute this estimate and consider it to be above 52 million. In fact, the lack of correct and reliable statistics due to irregular census distorts all planning and economic decisions. About just under half of the population are urban dwellers who are mainly residing in Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Mirpur Khas, Nawabshah District, Umerkot and Larkana. Sindhi is the sole official language of Sindh since the 19th century. According to the 2008 Pakistan Statistical Year Book, Sindhi-speaking households make up 59.7% of Sindh's population; Urdu-speaking households make up 21.1%; Punjabi 7.0%; Pashto 4.2%; Balochi 2.1%; Seraiki 1.0% and other languages 4.9% respectively.

Agriculture is an important industry in Sindh with cotton, rice, wheat, sugar cane, bananas, and mangoes as the main crops. Sindh is the richest province in terms of natural resources that includes gas, petrol, and coal. Endowed with coastal access, Sindh is a major centre of economic activity in Pakistan and has a highly diversified economy ranging from heavy industry and finance, centered in and around Karachi to a substantial agricultural base along the Indus. Manufacturing includes machine products, cement, plastics, and various other goods.

Sindh has the 2nd largest economy in Pakistan. Historically, Sindh's contribution to Pakistan's GDP has been from 30% to 32.7%. Its share in the service sector has ranged from 21% to 27.8% and in the agriculture sector from 21.4% to 27.7% respectively. In terms of performance, it is best in manufacturing where its share has ranged from 36.7% to 46.5%. Since 1972, Sindh's GDP has expanded by 3.6 times.

Sindh is the cradle for Indus Valley Civilization as remarked by Hamida Khuhro who said, "Sindh is an ancient civilization, one of the oldest in the world. A contemporary of Sumer and Akked in Mesopotamia, it is a corner of the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent where ancient Sindhi has created a powerful culture that rested on Moenjodaro in upper Sindh and its periphery extended north to Kashmir and south to Gujarat. A highly sophisticated urban system existed with a flourishing trade with its contemporary civilization in Mesopotamia

and further afield. The Indus civilization had flowered approximately two thousand years ago before the Aryans invaded northern India with their primitive tribal and pastoral culture¹⁸.”

An overview of the VAW cases in Sindh

1628 is the total number of incidents reported from Sindh from January – December 2012. Murder and domestic violence appeared to be the most prevalent form of VAW in the province.

Table 21: Key crime categories of VAW in Sindh

Categories of Crime	Incidents reported	Percentage of total
Abduction / Kidnapping	207	13%
Murder	381	23%
Domestic Violence	230	14%
Suicide	120	7%
Honour Killing	158	10%
Rape/Gang Rape	103	6%
Sexual Assault	46	3%
Acid Throwing	28	2%
Burning	11	1%
Miscellaneous	344	21%

During the year under review, Sindh is leading in sexual assault crimes hence surpassing the other provinces. Sindh reported higher number of domestic violence cases, suicide, ‘honour’ killing, rape/gang rape, acid throwing, burning and miscellaneous crimes compared to KP, FATA, Balochistan & ICT.

Of the total of 1628 incidents the reported frequency of the cases of VAW in decreasing order are as follows:

1. Murder (381)
2. Miscellaneous (344)
3. Domestic Violence (230)
4. Abduction/Kidnapping (207)
5. ‘Honour Killing’ (158)
6. Suicide (120)
7. Rape/gang rape (103)
8. Sexual assault (46)
9. Acid throwing(28)
10. Burning(11)

¹⁸ Khuhro, Hamida, ‘Sind through the Centuries’, OUP, 1981

There were 158 cases of killing women in the name of family honour in Sindh's rural areas. Just as other provinces, this figure too demonstrated that women and girls continued to fall victim to patriarchal mindset which condone killing women in the name of 'honour'.

381 women/girls were murdered for miscellaneous reasons in 2012. The prevalence of capital crime in the provinces is an indication of the social mayhem in its most sophisticated industrial and backward agrarian and tribal social units. 'Honour' witnessed women get killed mostly in the tribal cultural belts bordering Balochistan. 246 reported cases of abductions and kidnappings are a matter of great concern along with other form of VAW which should be given due consideration as well.

The year under review also observed the disgraceful incidences of other forms of VAW as indicated above. Taking into considerations the concerns and queries highlighted in connection with data interpretation (section 1) the percentage of women and girls victim sums up to **40%** when percentages of 'honour' killing, suicide and murder are combined.

Table 22: Breakup of Miscellaneous¹⁹ VAW in decreasing order of frequency

Vanni	136
Attempted Rape	74
Attempted Suicide	44
Attempt to Murder	37
Child Marriage	24
Torture	20
Trafficking of Women	5
Harassment	2
Watta Satta	2
Attempt to Kidnap	-
Illegal Custody	-
Injury	-
Threat to Life	-
Forced Marriage	-
Incest	-
Attempted Karo Kari	-
Any other	-

Among the miscellaneous cases (344) the top three in decreasing order of frequency were reported to be the following:

Vanni (136)

Attempted rape (74)

Attempted suicide (44)

¹⁹In some cases the miscellaneous category includes repeat incidents; specifically when victims have been tortured / kidnapped or harassed prior to being subjected to other crime categories.

There were no reported cases of, for instance, attempted *Karo Kari*, incest and illegal custody or marriages with Quran which is perceived to be prevalent in this province. However the reported cases of attempted rape (74), attempted suicide(44), attempt to murder (77), child marriages (25) and torture(20) suggest that there is a dire need for detailed piece of information, if not the complete evidence.

However, the absence of such details does not exclude the existence of these harmful practices against women and girls and its acceptance by society and the State in the name of 'honour' but also indicates limitations of in legislation.

A close review of the table 23 revealed that:

- Districts Tando Muhammad Khan and Thatta had no reported case of crimes of VAW.
- District Umerkot had not reported cases of abduction/kidnapping.
- District Shikarpur had no reported case of Domestic Violence.
- District Kashmore and Tharparkar had no reported cases of rape/gang rape.
- Districts Dadu, Tando Allah Yar and Naushero Feroze had no reported case of 'honour' killing.
- District Jacobabad had no reported case of sexual assault.
- Districts Kashmore and Qambar Shaddakot had no reported cases of Suicide.
- 3 Out of 23 districts have more than 100 reported cases of the VAW.
- 4 out of 23 districts had no reported cases of sexual assault.
- 8 out of 23 districts had reported cases of acid attacks (less than 10).
- 10 out of 23 districts had less than 10 cases of abduction/kidnapping.
- Abduction/Kidnapping was the top form of VAW in districts Badin, Dadu and Ghotki as compared to other forms of violences.
- Miscellaneous forms of VAW were committed more in the districts of Hyderabad, Jamshoro, MirpurKhas, Nausheferoz, Nawabshah, Qambar Shahdadkot, Sanghar, Shikarpur, Tando Allahyar and Tharparkar.
- District Umerkot had domestic violence as the most frequently reported form of VAW
- District Kashmore had the major brunt of reported cases of 'honour' killing, compared to other forms of VAW in the district.
- Districts Karachi, Khairpur, Larkana and Sukkur were highest in ration murder
- District Shikarpur is noticeable for high rate of suicide
- Acid throwing, rape and sexual assault had not been reported as highly committed crime in any particular district.

Table 23: Number and Prevalence of VAW in 23 Districts of Sindh

S#	District	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Rape/ Gang Rape	Honour Killing	Murder	Sexual Assault	Suicide	Misc.	Total
1	Badin	15	2	4	2	4	10	3	8	11	59
2	Dadu	12	-	7	1	-	11	2	6	8	47
3	Ghotki	16	-	4	6	14	10	1	1	14	66
4	Hyderabad	6	7	6	4	2	10	4	6	22	67
5	Jacobabad	14	-	8	1	23	3	-	1	7	57
6	Jamshoro	10		2	1	1	5		2	10	31
7	Karachi	21	5	54	31	8	136	2	35	21	313
8	Kashmore	5		5		18	12	2		22	64
9	Khairpur	31	2	38	16	12	39	3	14	24	179
10	Larkana	16		6	2	20	23	5	6	9	87
11	Matyari	5		2	1	1	4	1	1	20	35
12	MirpurKhas	1	2	11	4	1	8		1	15	43
13	NausheroFeroz	15		9	10		5	2	7	22	70
14	Nawabshah	2	1	5	4	5	12	2	2	15	48
15	QambarShadadKot	6		2		4	2	1		11	26
16	Sanghar	6		8	2	7	11	2		28	64
17	Shikarpur	7	5		4	2	4		14	14	50
18	Sukkur	15		34	6	20	65	8	1	22	171
19	Tando Allah Yar	2		5	4		2	3	11	25	52
20	Tando M. Kham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Tharparkar	2	4	2		8	5	5	2	18	46
22	Thatta	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	Umerkot			18	4	8	4		2	17	53
	Total	207	28	230	103	158	381	46	120	355	1628

Table 24: Five Worst Districts in Sindh

S.#	District	Abduction / Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Rape / Gang Rape	Honour Killing	Murder	Sexual Assault	Suicide	Misc	Total
1	Karachi	21	5	54	31	8	136	2	35	21	313
2	Khairpur	31	2	38	16	12	39	3	14	24	179
3	Sukkur	15		34	6	20	65	8	1	22	171
4	Larkana	16		6	2	20	23	5	6	9	87
5	Naushero	15		9	10		5	2	7	22	70

The above table epitomizes the most violent districts of Sindh by presenting crimes in descending order of frequency. Like Punjab, the capital of Sindh which is the largest city of Pakistan and an economic hub proved to be intolerant towards its women and girl folk.

Among those assassinated in Karachi, four were women polio health workers who were murdered in seemingly coordinated attacks on Tuesday, December 8, 2012²⁰ within an hour. On the next day, another official who worked on a joint project of the local government and World Health Organization (WHO) was also shot dead in the city.

Another attention-grabbing but cheerless eye-opener is the ranking of district Khairpur in the same table. It is often lamented that lack or absence of political will is the sole reason of social challenges in any country. District Khairpur happens to be not only the native constituency of the Chief Minister of Sindh but his very talented daughter and champion of women's rights, a liberal of her own class, Ms. Nafeesa Shah (MNA-PPP) also shares the same constituency. The predicament of women and girls in Khairpur therefore raise speculations about the relevance of political will when compared with the overall state of governance and mindsets in a country.

FIR Status of VAW in Sindh

Majority of cases had FIR registered in Sindh. However there was no information about the FIR status of 41% cases. This reflects issues with transparency of police. It is also a known fact that the police does not carry out follow up of cases once reach to courts and hence there is a lack of details of the eventual outcomes.²¹ While previous attempts of co-ordination between civil society and the police have failed, it is vital for purposes of data collection on VAW.

Table 25: FIR Status of VAW cases

Fir Status	Sindh	Percentage
Registered	657	40%
Unregistered	321	20%
No Information	650	40%

Marital Status of VAW Victims & Survivors in Sindh

Nearly 23% of the VAW victims from Sindh were reported to be married, 27% were unmarried and there was no information about the remaining 38% of victims.

²⁰ Four women were killed in less than an hour in seemingly coordinated attacks in Karachi on Tuesday, a day after a man working on a local government-World Health Organisation (WHO) project was also shot dead in the city, police said. A sixth worker, also a woman, was killed on Tuesday in the northwestern city of Peshawar, which lies close to the tribal areas. Source: [http://dawn.com/2012/12/19/six-polio-workers-shot-dead-in-pakistan/\(visited](http://dawn.com/2012/12/19/six-polio-workers-shot-dead-in-pakistan/(visited) on 15 March 2013).

²¹ "Honour killing and Compliance with Law". Aurat Foundation, 2011

Table 26: Marital Status of Victims / Survivors in 2012

Marital Status	Sindh	Percentage
Married	386	24%
Unmarried	442	27%
Widow	101	6%
Divorced	88	5%
No Information	611	38%

Age Groups of VAW Victims & Survivors in Sindh

There was no information about the ages of over 51% of VAW victims. From those whose ages were reported, majority ranged between 19 to 36 years.

Table 27: Age Group of VAW Victims & Survivors in Sindh 2012

Age Group	Sindh	Percentage
0 – 18 years	330	20%
18 – 35 years	362	22%
Over 35	107	7%
No Information	829	51%

Khyber Pukhtunkhwa and FATA

These two regions have become the centre of conflict and terrorism. According to a report submitted by the intelligence agencies of Pakistan to the Supreme Court a total of 235 suicide attacks, 9,257 rocket attacks and 4,256 bomb explosions have taken place in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA since 2008. Among the fatalities, 5,152 were civilians, 1,489 army officials, 675 Frontier Corps, while 1,717 belonged to the police force. In targeted attacks, 243 people belonging to lashkars were killed and 275 were injured, while 995 schools and 35 colleges were also destroyed in the last five years.²²

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

In April 2010, the name of North West Frontier Province was changed to "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" (KP) by the Constitution (Eighteenth Amendment) Act, 2010, which was unanimously passed by both Houses of the Parliament of Pakistan, namely the National Assembly of Pakistan and the Senate of Pakistan, and received the assent of the President of Pakistan on 19 April 2010 to become part of the Constitution of Pakistan.

The province borders Afghanistan to the north-west, Gilgit-Baltistan to the north-east, Azad Jammu & Kashmir to the east, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) to the west and south, and Punjab and the Islamabad Capital Territory to the south-east. The principal language is Pashto and the provincial capital is Peshawar.

KP is divided into three administrative regions areas: Settled Areas, the Provincially Administered Tribal Areas (PATA), and the Federal Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

The famous Khyber Pass links the province to Afghanistan, while the Kohala Bridge is a major crossing point over the Jhelum River in the east. The province has an area of 28,773 mi² or (74,521 km²) and includes Hazara Division, the western point of the Karakoram Highway.

The region varies in topography from dry rocky areas in the south to forests and green plains in the north. The climate can be extreme with intensely hot summers to freezing cold winters. Despite these extremes in weather, agriculture remains important and viable in the area.

According to the 1998 census, the population of KP was approximately 17 million, of whom 52% are males and 48% are females. However, the Population Census Organization estimates the KP population to be 23,659,639 in 2011, contributing 13% to the total population of Pakistan.

Some manufacturing and high-tech investments in Peshawar have helped improve job prospects for many locals, while trade in the province involves nearly every product. The bazaars in the province are renowned throughout Pakistan mainly for abundance of smuggled goods from Afghanistan and beyond.

²² <http://dawn.com/2013/03/27/more-than-9000-terrorism-linked-deaths-in-kp-fata-since-2008/> (visited on 28 March 2013)

Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)²³

Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) consists of approximately 3,000 rural villages with a population of three million people located on the country's northwestern border with Afghanistan. It is the most underdeveloped region in Pakistan with 60 percent of its population living below the national poverty line. The FATA is mountainous and shares a 373-mile border with Afghanistan known as the Durand Line.

The FATA is one of Pakistan's poorest regions, with high poverty, high unemployment, and an underdeveloped infrastructure. Most of the population depends on subsistence agriculture.

The FATA's per capita income is USD 250 per year, which is half of the national per capita income; about 60 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line. Per capita public development expenditure is reportedly one-third of the national average. Social development indicators are also poor. The overall literacy rate is 17 percent, compared with 56 percent nationally, with male literacy at 29 percent and female literacy at 3 percent.

The mountainous terrain is broken by small basins or valleys, dotted with settlements and agricultural fields. The area can be divided into the northern, central and southern regions which happen to coincide with administrative boundaries.

The northern zone consists of the Bajaur and Mohmand agencies. The hills in this region form a transition zone between the Hindukush mountains, and the piedmont and lowland basins. Here, the Jandool river and its tributaries join the Panjkora river. Towards the south, the Kabul river collects the outflow from local rivers including the Bira Darya and khwars (seasonal watercourses) such as the Gandab, Sallala and Shalman.

The central region covers the Khyber, Kurram and Orakzai agencies, and the FRs of Kohat and Peshawar. Here, the Safed Koh mountains rise from the Terimangal pass and stretch eastward, reaching an elevation of 3,600 metres. The Sikaram, at 4,760 metres, is the tallest peak in this range.

The Kurram river flows north-west to south-east, entering North Waziristan below the town of Thal in the Hangu district of the NWFP, and eventually joining the Indus river. In Orakzai Agency, the Khanki and Mastura streams flow to the east to meet the Bara river. The towns of Bara and Khajuri form a plains area from where the Bara river and its tributaries join the Kabul river near Peshawar. To the north of the Kabul river stand the Mullagori and Shilman hills. The fertile Bara, Khanki, Kurram and Mastura valleys contain the most extensively cultivated land in FATA.

The southern region comprises the North Waziristan and South Waziristan agencies, and the FRs of Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Lakki Marwat and Tank. To the south of the Safed Koh are the Sulaiman mountains and the Waziristan hills. The hills rise to an altitude of between

²³Source:<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/pakistan/fata.htm>

1,500 and 3,000 metres, and are mostly barren. Takht-i-Sulaiman, located in FR Dera Ismail Khan, is the highest peak in the Sulaiman range, at 3,487 metres. Overall drainage in this region is toward the east. The Gomal river flows in the south, while the Kurram river passes through the north. The Jandola, Kaitu and Tochi are smaller rivers in this area. The rod kohi system (flood irrigation, or torrent-spate irrigation) is commonly practised mainly in the FR areas. The Gomal and Tochi mountain passes in the south connect Pakistan to Afghanistan.

After the traumatic events of 1971 and with the advent of the Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Government, the tribal areas began to be considered as within the pale of social and developmental activity. Developmental allocation had risen from a paltry 4.4 million in 1971-72 to a staggering 300 million by 1977 - excluding allocations by autonomous bodies like WAPDA etc. What were till then considered the back waters of Pakistan began to gradually enter the social and economic mainstream.

The cultural heritage of FATA is very rich in terms of hospitality, tribal arts and crafts, historical places, ethnic diversity and natural beauty. The tribes are used to looking after their own resources and solving local problems. They take collective action in support of economic and social activities such as, supporting each other on special occasions like death and marriage ceremonies, harvesting and threshing of crops, construction of Hujra (a meeting place), mosque, buildings and cleaning of irrigation channels, protection from flood, maintaining paths, wood and grass cutting etc.

FATA is characterized by a very strong tribal structure and very rich ethnic diversity and cultural heritage. However, scanty material is available on the ethnic diversity of the area. There are about a dozen major tribes with several smaller tribes and sub-tribes. Utmankhel, Mohmand, Tarkani and Safi are the major tribes living in Bajaur and Mohmand. Afridi, Shilmani, Shinwari, Mulagori Orakzai are settled in Khyber and Orakzai while the FRs of Peshawar and Kohat are occupied by Afridi. A good mix of Turi, Bangash, and Masozai inhabit Kurram Agency. Major tribes of North and South Waziristan are Darwesh Khel Wazirs with a pocket of Mahsuds in the central part of the region. Other tribes of the region are Utmanzai, Ahmadzai Dawar, Saidgai, Kharasin and Gurbaz. Bhattani occupies FR Lakki and Tank, while FR Bannu is Wazir. Ustrana and Shirani tribes live in FR D.I. Khan.

Wahhabi and Deobandi influences are strong in the tribal regions, but especially so in North and South Waziristan. The Wazirs and Mahsuds of South Waziristan are unlikely to form any other than an uneasy and temporary alliance, and this holds for other Agencies.

An overview of the VAW cases in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa and FATA

674 is the total number of incidents reported from KP and FATA from January – December 2012. Murder, domestic violence and suicide appeared to be the most prevalent form of VAW (Table 29) in these regions. No case of sexual assault was reported in the study period. Similarly, under miscellaneous cases not a single case of violence disguised as torture, threat to life, harassment, incest, illegal custody, *watta satta*, trafficking, *karo kari* etc. were reported from these regions.

Table 28: Key crime categories of VAW in KP&FATA

Categories of Crime	Incidents reported	Percentage of total
Murder	395	58%
Domestic Violence	114	17%
Suicide	44	7%
Honour Killing	42	6%
Abduction / Kidnapping	33	4%
Rape/Gang Rape	14	2%
Sexual Assault	-	
Acid Throwing	8	1%
Burning	4	1%
Miscellaneous	20	4%

The absence of reported cases however does not exclude the possibility of prevalence of such abuses in these regions (See Section 1); rather it strongly entails the “perception” of violence - both in the print media and in the respective societies.²⁴ The perception about decrease in violence against women is baseless because most cases go unreported. The decline in 2010 was witnessed due to the devastating natural disasters because of which local administrations in various remote areas could not perform their usual duties.

On the legislative front,²⁵ Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) MPA Noor Sahar presented a bill titled ‘Women Violence Bill 2012’ on August 31 this year in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial assembly. A heated debate erupted among the members of the house, with religious parties severely criticizing the proposal. The bill was then handed over to a special committee of the assembly. In a meeting of the committee on November 14, Mufti Kifayatullah from the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) lashed out at the bill and termed it “anti-Islamic” and against Pukhtun traditions. The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill 2009 passed by the National Assembly to give protection and justice to women in cases of abuse was also thwarted because of the objections raised by the Council of Islamic Ideology. Since then, the issue has been delegated as a provincial matter, requiring all assemblies to pass the law for their respective provinces. This not only makes the possible

²⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/485087/gender-abuse-as-assembly-tenure-nears-end-lawmakers-yet-to-finalise-domestic-violence-bill/>

²⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/485087/gender-abuse-as-assembly-tenure-nears-end-lawmakers-yet-to-finalise-domestic-violence-bill/>

passage of the law difficult and complicated, but also reflects a lack of interest in addressing an issue concerning nearly half the population of Pakistan.

An Aurat Foundation report titled Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 2012, which was launched on December 13, stated a number of pro-women laws that were passed from 2009 to 2012. The laws include the Protection against Harassment at the Workplace Act 2010 and three amendments in criminal law, which focus on harassment against women, deprivation of inheritance, forced marriages, exchange of women in settlement of cases, marriage of women to the Quran and acid crimes, among others. However, despite the laws, there is little relief from honour killings. According to another survey conducted in Nowshera, no FIR was registered against honour killings in any police station from 2005 till 2010. The report states that practices of violence against women violate Articles 4, 8, 9, 10, 10(a), 14, 25, 34 and 37 of the Constitution, which guarantees legal protection, right to life, liberty and justice to all citizens.

The Criminal Law Amendment Act 2004 has failed to check cases of honour killings as murderers continue to enjoy impunity because of the availability of relief from the Qisas and Diyat laws, which have made murder a compoundable offence.²⁶

Table 29: Breakup of Miscellaneous²⁷

Attempted Suicide	3
Torture	-
Injury	-
Attempt to Murder	10
Attempted Rape	Nil
Threat to Life	-
Harassment	-
Attempt to Kidnap	1
Illegal Custody	-
Trafficking of Women	-
Vanni	1
Forced Marriage	-
Child Marriage	5
Incest	-
Attempted Karo Kari	-
Watta Satta	-
Any other	-

If percentages of the reported cases of murder, suicide and ‘honour killing’ are accumulated, the resultant 71% is a cataclysmic numerical and symbol. What does it mean? 71 out of 100 women and or girls who were reported subjected to any form of violence/abuse (included in

²⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/485087/gender-abuse-as-assembly-tenure-nears-end-lawmakers-yet-to-finalise-domestic-violence-bill/>

²⁷ In some cases the miscellaneous category includes repeat incidents; specifically when victims have been tortured / kidnapped or harassed prior to being subjected to other crime categories.

the research) could not survive. The outcome of the reported” homicides or suicides” remained the same - death.

This also denotes that the ”true stories” were also buried (provided they were buried) with them and there are hardly any chances of digging out the reality as the culture of investigative journalism has almost faded in Pakistan and stories of women have always remain stolen, hidden and or distorted historically as well.

Among “urdered” were a notable human rights defender- Ms. Farida Afridi who was killed by terrorists in early morning, at the pump house mandate bag area of Jamrud Khyber agency on **4 July 2012** while she was going to her office in Hayatabad, Peshawar, KP. Ms. Afridi’s struggle against discriminatory tribal customs started when she was in school. Since the issues of equal status for women and children’s rights were close to her rights she established the Society for Appraisal and Women Empowerment in Rural Areas (SAWERA) in the Jamrud subdivision of Khyber Agency in December 2008. Her struggle and efforts towards the empowerment of tribal women will never be forgotten.

Pakistan is one of the only three countries where polio remains endemic, along with Afghanistan and Nigeria, but efforts to tackle the highly infectious crippling disease have been hampered over the years by local suspicion. The Taliban banned immunizations in the tribal region of Waziristan, condemning the campaign as a cover for espionage. Two women members of the polio health team suffered multiple gunshots and died on the spot in December 2012; vaccination activities in part of Pakistan’s largest city in July, an effort to eradicate the disease, a collaboration of WHO with the Government, were suspended after a spate of shooting WHO personnel.

Among the ones who were attempted to murder was also Malala Yousafzai (also see section 1) who is now nominated for the Nobel Prize for Peace.

Malala had been shot in the head at point blank range by the Taliban on **October 9th, 2012**, in an assassination attempt while on her way home on a school bus in Pakistan. Malala Yousafzai had been campaigning for girls to have access to school education. The Taliban said she had been shot for "promoting secularism".

Most of the media in Pakistan reported that she had been shot because she campaigned for the right to be educated. Before being flown to England for further treatment, she had a bullet removed from her head by surgeons in Pakistan.²⁸The bullet hit Malala's left brow and travelled underneath her skin instead of penetrating into her skull. The bullet travelled the whole length of the side of her head and into her shoulder. The shock wave shattered the skull's thinnest bone. The soft tissues at the base of her jaw and neck were also badly damaged. According to the latest reports she is recovering steadily.

A close review of the table 30 revealed that:

- 50% (16) of the districts//agencies/FCR had no reported case of the domestic violence

²⁸Source; <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/255818.php> (visited on 15 March 2013)

- Districts Buner, Shangla and South Waziristan had no reported case of the VAW
- Murder is the most reported crime in comparison to other forms of crimes and abuses against women and girls within the same district (see figures in blue)
- Bajour, Miranshah, Lakki Marwat, Tank and Tofhar had only one reported case of the VAW
- Bajur agency from the tribal belt and Torghar had only one reported case of “honor killing”
- No district had a single reported case of sexual assault and burning
- No cases of abduction/kidnapping were reported from the districts/agencies/FCR namely Abbotbad, Bajour Agency, Battagram, Buner, Hangu, Haripur, Khyber Agency, Kohat, Kurram Agency, Lakki Marwat, Lower Dir, Malakand, Miranshah, Mohmand Agency, North Waziristan, Nowshera, Orakzai Agency, Shangla, Swabi, Tank, Torghar and South Waziristan.
- 12 out of 32 districts/agencies/FCR had less than 100 and more than 10 reported cases of the VAW(see the figures underlined in the last column)
- According to the reported cases Mardan and Mansehra had highest number of abduction/kidnapping (8 each)
- Acid throwing and burning(4 cases each) were only reported from Peshawar

Table 30: Number and Prevalence of VAW cases in 32 different districts of KP&FATA

S#	District	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Rape/ Gang Rape	Honour Killing	Murder	Sexual Assault	Suicide	Burning	Misc.	Total
1	Abbottabad	-	-	10	4	4	10	-			-	28
2	Bajaur Agency	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		-	1
3	Bannu	-	-	20	2	-	38	-	2		2	64
4	Battagram	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-		-	6
5	Buner	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
6	Charsadda	1	-	3	-	3	35	-	2		2	46
7	Chitral	1	-	-	1		2	-	5		-	9
8	Dera Ismael Khan	5	-	4	1	3	6	-	9		4	32
9	Hungu	-	-	2	-	1	6	-			-	9
10	Haripur	-	-		-	-	12	-	3		-	15
11	Karak	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-		-	4
12	Khyber Agency	-	-	2	-	-	16	-	-		-	18
13	Kohat	-	-	2	-	-	12	-	3		-	17
14	Kohistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
15	Kurram Agency	-	4		-	-		-	-		-	4
16	Lakki Marwat	-	-	2	-	-	4	-			1	7
17	Lower Dir	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		-	1

18	Malakand	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	1	12
19	Mansehra	8	-	3	-	5	25	-	-	-	-	41
20	Mardan	8	-	5	1	8	45	-	5	-	-	72
21	Mohmand Agency	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	3
22	North Waziristan	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
23	Nowshera	-	-	7	-	5	28	-	4	-	2	46
24	Orakzai Agency	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
25	Peshawar	7	4	35	3	7	89	-	3	4	5	157
26	Shangla	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
27	Swabi	-	-	4	-	-	20	-	1	-	-	25
28	Swat	1	-	12	2	2	18	-	5	-	3	43
29	Tank	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
30	Upper Dir	1	-	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	6
31	Torghar	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
32	South Waziristan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Total	33	8	114	14	42	395	0	44	4	20	674

Yet again another provincial capital ranks top on the list of the most violent region as per the reported cases of the crimes of violence, injustices and abuses against its women and girls.²⁹ It is indeed a sad reality like many others documented in this report that the native land³⁰ of Bacha Khan, the ambassador of³¹ non-violence, is one of the top most focus of violence. His great son³² Ghani Khan whose stature as an intellectual and human being need no authentication once wrote that, *“I want to see my people educated and enlightened. A people with a vision and a strong sense of justice, who can carve out a future for themselves in harmony with nature.”* is now an example of social injustices, political chaos, conflicts, militancy and violence impacting severely the lives of women and girls.

²⁹Source: <http://curiotex.com/history.asp> (visited on 13 March 2013)

³⁰Though himself a practicing Muslim, Bacha Khan did not approve of projecting the identity of Pashtuns along religious lines only. Once he said, “You have heard of America and Europe. The people in those countries may not be very religious, but they have a sense of patriotism, love for their nation, and social consciousness. And look at the progress that has been made there. Then take a look at ourselves!” Source: <http://drhaidershah.com/tag/bacha-khan/>

³¹Abdul Ghaffar Khan, who was later given the name of Bacha Khan, was born in the Utmanzai village of Charsadda district in 1890. People’s participation in resistance is no new phenomenon in Afghanistan and among Pashtuns. Historically, many such revolts by Pashtuns were armed struggles. Still Pashtuns are among the first people who launched a non-violent campaign in the today’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan at the outset of the 20th century. Their non-violent movement was led by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Bacha Khan, or the Frontier Gandhi. Source: <http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2012/10/28/bacha-khan%E2%80%99s-philosophy-non-violence> (Visited On 15 March 2013).

³² Ghani Khan was born in Charsaddah. The city of Charsaddah originally known as Pushkalavati, is first mentioned in the Hindu epic story the Ramayana. The district lies between 34-03' and 34-38' north latitudes and 71-28' and 71-53' east longitudes. The district covers an area of 996 square kilometers. Hence Charsaddah possesses an important position in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and its inhabitants are regarded as the most peaceful.

Table 31: Five Worst Districts in KP

S. No	District Name	Abduction / Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Rape / Gang Rape	Honour Killing	Murder	Suicide	Miscellaneous	Total
1	Peshawar	7	4	35	3	7	89	3	9	157
2	Mardan	8	-	5	1	8	45	5	-	72
3	Bannu	-	-	20	2	-	38	2	2	64
4	Nowshera	-	-	7	-	5	28	4	2	46
5	Charsadda	1	-	3	-	3	35	2	2	46

The state of reported crimes in relation to the FIR status, marital status and age groups are numerically reflected in the following three tables. Not much can be interpreted from the numbers alone. However a contextual insight leaves the reader with no surprises but helplessness and grief that seem to be the common denominator of all efforts by passion driven activists, motivated CSOs and some altruistic politicians.

FIR Status of VAW crimes in KP& FATA

More than half of the reported cases had a registered FIR. There was no information about the FIR status of 26% cases.

Table 32: FIR Status of VAW Cases:

FIR Status	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Percentage
Registered	451	67%
Unregistered	45	7%
No Information	178	26%

Marital Status of VAW Victims & Survivors in KP& FATA

The majority of VAW victims and/or survivors from KP, 448 i.e. 66% were married, 182 were unmarried and there was no information about the marital status of 33 victims and or survivors. The data, as was the case from other regions, did not talk about the occurrence of abuses in connection with polygamy and harmful cultural practices embodied in the institution of marriage like *vulvar*, *vanni*, *swara* etc.

Table 33: Marital Status

Marital Status	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Percentage
Married	448	66%
Unmarried	182	27%
Widow	6	1%
Divorced	5	1%
No Information	33	5%

Age Groups of VAW Victims & Survivors in KP& FATA

There was no information about the age groups of over 76% of the VAW victims and or survivors. From those whose ages were reported, majority, 85 victims and or survivors were below 18 years of age.

Table 34: Age group

Age Group	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Percentage
0 – 18 years	85	13%
18 – 35 years	62	9%
Over 35	15	2%
No Information	512	76%

Threat to the lives of human rights defenders are common in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province and the neighboring FATA region and they are routinely criticized for their work to further the rights of women and accused of promoting a ‘western agenda.’ Reportedly, during a sermon on 4 May 2012, a politically influential religious cleric, Maulvi Abdul Haleem, from Kohistan district in KP province warned female NGO workers against entering Kohistan and threatened to forcibly marry violators to locals. He went on to declare that NGO workers would be prevented from trying to ‘influence’ local women in the name of empowerment, decreed education and employment for women un-Islamic and stated that honor killings were ‘a local custom and religious practice.’ Such statements have led to fear amongst human rights defenders, particularly women. The provincial government had not taken any steps to protect human rights activists and rights groups working in KP and FATA whose lives and safety were threatened. This is particularly concerning as the region is rampant with violations of women and girls’ rights and NGOs working there urgently need the encouragement, support and protection of the government.

Civil Society organizations working in KP and FATA, including the Pakhtunkhwa Civil Society Network (PCSN) and Tribal NGOs Consortium (TNC) coalitions, came together to express their deep concern about the threats and deadly violence inflicted upon human rights defenders. These organizations which are members of the End Violence against Women and Girls (EVAW/G) Alliance KP & FATA have created a Charter of Demands calling upon the government to take urgent measures to ensure the safety of human rights defenders, particularly women, working in the region, including criminalizing intimidation, threats and attacks upon human rights workers and statements or decrees encouraging actual violence against activists. This Charter of Demands received endorsement by women rights organizations and networks from all parts of Pakistan including FATA.³³

³³http://Www.Equalitynow.Org/Take_Action/Urgent_Alert_Action_ (Visited On 16 March 2013)

Box 1: The case of Kohistan women and girls - from threat to life to murder

In a shocking instance of tribal (in) justice, a *jirga* in a remote village of Hazara division has condemned four women and two men to death for ‘staining the honour’ of their families. They were allegedly caught on videotape singing and dancing together at a wedding ceremony in violation of the “tribal custom of gender segregation”. The women, all of them married, have been called back from their in-laws and locked in a room in Seertaiy village, in Peech Bela union council of Kohistan district. “A tribal *jirga* has declared them Ghul (fornicators). And they might be killed any time,” said Muhammad Afzal, elder brother of the two men condemned to death. The men have, however, managed to flee. Afzal added that the women allegedly sang *Mahiyas* (folk songs) at a wedding ceremony and danced in the presence of *Na-mehram* (those who one can marry in Islam). The wedding ceremony took place two months ago in Bando Baidar village, which is also in UC Peech Bela. Some unscrupulous guest shot the women and men singing and dancing with a mobile phone video camera, sources told *The Express Tribune*. The amateur video was later sent to the women’s kin. The tribe to which the women belong was incensed by the video. They convened a *jirga* of tribal elders a month ago. The elders found the women and men guilty of violating tribal and Islamic norms by singing and dancing together. “The *jirga* did not bother to hear the ‘accused’ and condemned them to death,” Afzal told *The Express Tribune*. The *jirga* has tasked 40 young men to kill the ‘fornicators’. The tribe has also raised a fund of Rs 400,000 for litigation that may ensue. According to the *jirga*’s verdict, the men have to be shot dead first. The ‘accused’ women, two of them having children, are locked in a room in their parental village. “They are tied with ropes. They are being starved,” claimed Afzal. The local police chief confirmed that the *jirga* has condemned six people to death. “I’ve spoken to the tribal elders and I’ll utilise all resources available to stop these executions,” Abdul Majeed Afridi, the district police officer (DPO), told *The Express Tribune*. He has already sent a police party to Seertaiy village to recover the women. Afzal voiced doubts about the authenticity of the video and accused his foes for forging it to humiliate his family. “Since our family is affluent and owns vast acres of forestland, orchards and agriculture farms in Bando Baidar village. They (our rivals) hatched a plot to deprive us of our property,” he claimed. Afzal claimed that the forged video did not show his brothers and the women dancing together. DPO Afridi, who claims to have seen the video, agreed with Afzal. He said that the women were seen singing *Mahiyas* (folk songs) and clapping their hands in a room. On the other hand, the clip showing the men has a different background. Afzal works as a clerk at the office of Abdul Saboor Usmani Advocate, the lawyer who practices criminal law at the Abbottabad Registry of Peshawar High Court (PHC). Usmani called the *jirga*’s decision a blatant violation of human rights. He added that the women were being tormented – both mentally and physically – without any crime. Afzal added that the *jirga* had no right to condemn somebody to death. “Still, if they believe my brothers have broken some law, let a court of law decide the matter,” he said. Afzal, however, said that he had appealed to Chief Minister Ameer Haider Hoti during his recent visit to Battagram to provide him and his

family security against his foes. He warned that otherwise local police and the provincial authorities would be responsible for any harm to him or his family. (*Daily Express Tribune*)³⁴

The news about the ‘killing of Kohistani girl caused extreme disturbance among civil society ranks and the media circles across the country. There were also reports that the girls had already been killed. Supreme Court took suo moto notice of the case and summoned relevant law-enforcement official to probe the reports. The SC finally sent a fact-finding mission to the area. The mission comprised women’s rights activists, including Dr. Farzana Bari, Ms. Shabina Ayaz, Ms. Riffat Butt and Dr. Fauzia Saeed. The mission went to the area in extremely difficult circumstances and was able to meet only one woman, who was not even seen in the so-called video and she informed the activists that the rest of the girls were alive. The claim was disputed by many and it was felt that the local people were trying to hide the truth. According to the recent information, the four women were killed in May 2012 according to the writ of the *jarga* and norms of the area and; later two boys were also reportedly shot dead.

“But new killings – and new evidence collected by Reuters – suggests the girls are dead. Afzal fears the court may soon release the accused, some of whom are powerful local leaders, unless the Supreme Court re-examines the girls’ case. Last month, Afzal submitted a petition to the court naming the women that he says impersonated their dead cousin, sister and sister-in-law and asking for a hearing. “We all failed. The courts, the journalists, the civil society,” said Dr. Farzana Bari, the dissenting investigator who recently petitioned to have the case reopened. “We are all responsible for protecting the rights of these women and we failed them and ourselves.” The case is theoretically still pending. It has not had a hearing since June. Afzal’s petition for a further date has been rejected. Bari’s is still pending.” **One man’s fight for justice after a song brought death to a Pakistani village, By Katharine Houreld (MARCH 14, 2013).**³⁵

³⁴ Daily Express Tribune, Islamabad, 28 May, 2012

³⁵<http://blogs.reuters.com/pakistan/2013/03/14/one-mans-fight-for-justice-after-a-song-brought-death-to-a-pakistani-village/>(Visited on March 26 2013)

³⁶Balochistan

By surface area, Balochistan is the largest of the four provinces of Pakistan at 347,190 km² (134,051 mi²), which composes approximately 44% of the total land area of Pakistan. The population density is very low due to the mountainous terrain and scarcity of water. Balochistan has a population of around 12 million inhabitants, The Population Census Organization estimates of 2011 put Balochistan population at 8,775,048 inhabitants which makes up approximately 5% of the Pakistani population. According to the 2008 Pakistan Statistical Year Book, households whose primary language is Balochi represent 54.8% of Balochistan's population; 29.6% of households speak Pashto; 5.6% speak Sindhi; 2.5% speak Punjabi; 2.4% speak Seraiki; 1.0% speak Urdu; and 4.1% speak other languages at home. It is not only the largest province of Pakistan but it is also the poorest and least populated. The southern region is known as Makran. The central region is known as Qalat.

The capital, Quetta, is located in the most densely populated district in the northeast of the province. It is situated in a river valley near the border with Afghanistan, with a road to Kandahar in the northwest. At Gwadar on the coast of the Arabian Sea, the Pakistani Government has built a large port with Chinese help.

The economy of the province is largely based upon the production of natural gas, coal and minerals. Balochistan's share of the national economy has ranged between 3.7% to 4.9%. Since 1972, Balochistan's economy has grown in size by 2.7 times. Balochistan is rich in mineral resources and is the second major supplier of natural gas after the Sindh province. It is located at the south-eastern edge of the Iranian plateau. It strategically bridges the Middle East and Southwest Asia to Central Asia and South Asia, and forms the closest oceanic frontage for the land-locked countries of Central Asia. The Sulaiman Mountains dominate the northeast corner and the Bolan Pass is a natural route into Afghanistan towards Kandahar. Much of the province south of the Quetta region is sparse desert terrain with pockets of towns mostly near rivers and streams.

Balochistan culture is primarily tribal, deeply patriarchal and conservative. Baloch society is dominated by tribal chieftains called *Mirs*, *Sardars* and *Nawabs*, who are the ruling elite of Balochistan. 'Honour' killings are commonplace but discouraged by the majority of the population. In one recent incident in August 2008, the Asian Human Rights Commission reported that five women (including three teenagers) in a remote village had been beaten, shot and buried alive in a ditch for the crime of seeking to choose their own husbands. One of the tribesmen allegedly involved was the younger brother of a provincial minister, and local police therefore refused to take any action. After human rights activists brought the case to national and international attention a few prominent Baloch leaders even defended the killings.

³⁶ sources: www.opinion-maker.org/2012/04/balochistan-the-real-story/ and www.rusconsulkarachi.mid.ru/doc/balochistan_eng.htm

According to majority of Baloch, the person or tribe head should be brought to the court and must be punished. Many Baloch or Balochis have denied the fact that *Karo Kari* is part of Balochi culture. They claim it was a nomadic cultural practice which was stopped many years ago, but because of poor administration by the Pakistani government and to demilitarize the Baloch, such acts are now taking place.

An overview of the VAW cases in Balochistan

167 is the total number reported from Balochistan from January – December 2012. More than half of these crimes were murder; 84 cases of murder, 34 cases of domestic violence, and 18 cases of abduction were reported. There were also 11 reports of rape and gang rape.

Table 35: Key crime categories of VAW in Balochistan

Categories of Crime	Incidents reported	Percentage of total
Abduction / Kidnapping	18	11%
Murder	84	51%
Domestic Violence	34	20%
Suicide	8	4%
Honour Killing	3	2%
Rape/Gang Rape	11	5%
Sexual Assault	0	0%
Acid Throwing	0	0%
Burning	2	1%
Miscellaneous	7	6%

The available data speaks itself of the lack of awareness against the very concepts of abuses against women and girls besides reflecting on the state of print journalism including poor working conditions for the field journalists. The very concept of ³⁷awareness also needs to be unpacked at each and every level of reflecting on the data on the VAW. The gaps between knowledge, attitude and practices are not uncommon in developing countries and the same holds true for a major part of Pakistan. Whereas a common Balochi (man or a woman) chosen at random may not endorse killing of girls and women in the name of honour it is quite likely that they may not be bold enough to say it openly, in their homes or clans or tribes or their attitude towards the issues of the VAW many not be substantiated by their behavior due to any reason. Raising voices of protest against the tribal justice is too often not possible and it has its consequences as well.

³⁷Awareness is the state or ability to perceive, to feel, or to be conscious of events, objects, or sensory patterns. In this level of consciousness, sense data can be confirmed by an observer without necessarily implying understanding. More broadly, it is the state or quality of being aware of something. In biological psychology, awareness is defined as a human's or an animal's perception and cognitive reaction to a condition or event.(sources web dictionaries).

Table 36: Breakup of Miscellaneous³⁸

Attempted Suicide	-
Torture	-
Injury	5
Attempt to Murder	1
Attempted Rape	-
Threat to Life	1
Harassment	-
Attempt to Kidnap	-
Illegal Custody	-
Trafficking of Women	-
Vanni	-
Forced Marriage	-
Child Marriage	-
Incest	-
Attempted Karo Kari	-
Watta Satta	-
Any other	-

A close review of table 37 revealed that:

- 19 out of 30 districts had no reported cases of the VAW
- Quetta the capital as elsewhere had the highest number of the reported cases of the VAW
- No case of acid throwing and sexual assault was reported
- Abduction/kidnapping were reported from Dera Murad, Mastung, Killa Saifullah, Naseer Abad and Quetta
- Domestic Violence was reported from three districts namely Kohlu, Mastung and Quetta.
- Rape/Gang rape were reported from four districts namely Kohlu, Naseer Abad, Dera Murad Abad, and Quetta
- 3 cases of 'Honour Killing' were reported from Jaffar Abad and Sibbi.
- Murder was reported from Jaffar Abad, Mastung, Naseer Abad, Quetta, Bolan and Mastung.
- Suicide was reported from Kohlu, Naseer Abad and Quetta.
- Miscellaneous forms of the VAW were reported from Loralai, Mastung and Quetta.

³⁸In some cases the miscellaneous category includes repeat incidents; specifically when victims have been tortured / kidnapped or harassed prior to being subjected to other crime categories.

Table 37: Number and Prevalence of VAW cases in 30 different districts of Balochistan

S. No	District	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Rape/ Gang Rape	Honour Killing	Murder	Sexual Assault	Suicide	Misc.	Total
1	Awaran	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
2	Barkhan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
3	Bolan	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
4	Chagi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
5	DeraBugti	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
6	DeraMurad	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
7	Gwadar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
8	Jafarabad	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	1	5
9	Harnai	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
10	JhalMagsi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
11	Kalat	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
12	Kech	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
13	Kharan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
14	Khuzdar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
15	Killa Abdullah	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
16	KillaSaifullah	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
17	Kohlu	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	3
18	Lasbela	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	4
19	Loralai	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
20	Mastung	-	-	2	-	-	6	-	-	1	9
21	Musakhel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
22	Naseerabad	2	-	1	1	-	2	-	1	-	7
23	Noshki	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
24	Panjgur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
25	Pishin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
26	Quetta	12	-	28	6	-	64	-	6	6	122
27	Sibi	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	6
28	Washuk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
29	Zhob	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
30	Ziarat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Total	18	0	34	9	3	86	0	8	9	167

Table 38: Five Worst Districts in Balochistan

S. No	District Name	Abduction / Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Rape / Gang Rape	Honour Killing	Murder	Sexual Assault	Suicide	Misc	Total
1	Quetta	12		28	6		64		6	4	122
2	Mastung			2			6			1	9
3	Naseerabad	2		1	1		2		1		7
4	Sibi					2	4				6
5	Jafarabad			1		1	2			2	5

FIR Status of VAW in Balochistan

There was no information about the FIR status of nearly half the cases. FIR was registered for 32% of the cases and not registered for 21% cases. The reasons of lack of information and or faulty information could be conjectured to as a mix of lack of coordination between the police and media and the culture of silence.

Table 39: FIR Status of VAW cases

FIR Status	Balochistan	Percentage
Registered	47	28%
Unregistered	38	23%
No Information	82	49%

Marital Status of VAW Victims & Survivors in Balochistan

There was no information about the marital status of 62% of the victims of VAW. 22% were reported to be married.

Table 40: Marital Status

Marital Status	Balochistan	Total
Married	44	26%
Unmarried	25	16%
Widow	5	3%
Divorced	9	5%
No Information	84	50%

Age Groups of VAW Victims & Survivors in Balochistan

There was no information about the age groups of over 77% of the VAW victims from Balochistan. From those whose ages were reported, majority were 19 – 36years of age.

Table 41: Age Group of VAW victims in 2012

Age Group	Balochistan	Percentage
0 – 18 years	11	7%
18 – 35 years	14	8%
Over 35	10	6%
No Information	132	79%

Islamabad Capital Territory

Islamabad is the capital of Pakistan. It is located in the Potohar Plateau in the north of the country, within the Islamabad Capital Territory. It is the tenth largest city in Pakistan and home to an estimated population of 1.74 million in 2009. The region has historically been at the crossroads of Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province. Islamabad is one of the greenest and most well-planned cities of South Asia. The city was built during the 1960s to replace Karachi as Pakistan's capital. It is considered the cleanest city in Pakistan.

The capital area of the Islamabad city is 906 square kilometers (350 sq mi). A further 2,717 square kilometers (1,049 sq mi) area is known as the Specified Area, with the Margala Hills in the north and northeast. The southern portion of the city is an undulating plain. It is drained by the Kurang River, on which the Rawal Dam is located.

Besides the Federal Government Secretariat and Agencies, most of Pakistan's state-owned companies are also based in Islamabad. Islamabad is a net contributor to the Pakistani economy, as whilst having only 0.8% of the country's population, it contributes 1% to the country's GDP.

An overview of VAW cases in Islamabad Capital Territory

281 was the total number of cases of VAW reported from the ICT. This number is relatively high considering that Islamabad is a very small territory with a small population. One of the reasons for the high reporting of VAW crimes from Islamabad might be the access to media and information. Most of the rights based non-profits are based in Islamabad and people in Islamabad are relatively more connected and there is a higher likelihood of VAW crimes being reported to the police and the media.

No case of sexual assault was reported from ICT. The percentage of victims (killed) amounted to 21% when individual percentages of murder, suicide and "honor killing" were accumulated. Thus, in this apparently most sophisticated city-the capital of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, sample newspapers researched during 2012 reported that 21 out of 100 women who were somehow somewhere reported as being the subject of violence suffered to such an extent that they met the most fatal outcome i.e. death.

Table 42: Categories of Crime

Categories of Crime	Incidents reported	Percentage of total
Abduction / Kidnapping	127	45%
Murder	50	17%
Domestic Violence	38	13%
Suicide	9	3%
Honour Killing	2	1%
Rape/Gang Rape	18	6%
Sexual Assault	0	0%
Acid Throwing	2	1%

Burning	6	2%
Miscellaneous	29	12%

Table 43: Breakup of Miscellaneous³⁹

Attempted Suicide	1
Torture	2
Injury	20
Attempt to Murder	-
Attempted Rape	3
Threat to Life	3
Harassment	-
Attempt to Kidnap	-
Illegal Custody	-
Trafficking of Women	-
Vanni	-
Forced Marriage	-
Child Marriage	-
Incest	-
Attempted Karo Kari	-
WattaSatta	-
Any other	-

No case of attempt to murder , harassment, attempt to kidnap, illegal custody, trafficking of women/girls, forced and or child marriages, incest, *attempted karo kari, watta satta, vanni* or any other form of possible abuse under the category of miscellaneous were reported in the data compiled for this study.

FIR Status of VAW Cases in ICT

The monitored data shows that the FIRs for 57% the reported cases of VAW have been registered; there wasn't any information about the FIR status of 42% cases.

Table 44: FIR Status of VAW cases

Fir Status	Islamabad	Percentage
Registered	201	71%
Unregistered	41	15%
No Information	39	14%

Marital Status of Women suffering from VAW in ICT

Statistics show that 30% of the women who suffered from VAW in ICT were married – there was no information about the marital status of 27% VAW victims and or survivors.

³⁹In some cases the miscellaneous category includes repeat incidents; specifically when victims have been tortured/ kidnapped or harassed prior to being subjected to other crime categories.

Table 45: Marital Status of Victims & Survivors

Marital Status	Islamabad	Percentage
Married	140	50%
Unmarried	65	23%
Widow	10	4%
Divorced	15	5%
No Information	51	18%

Age Groups of the VAW Victims & Survivors in ICT

There was no information regarding the ages of 41% of VAW victims from ICT. 14 targeted women were below 18 years of age, 10 were aged between 19 – 36 years while 2 victims were reportedly over 36 years of age. The ages of the 18 remaining victims was not specified.

Table 46: Age Group of VAW victims & survivors

Age Group	Islamabad	Percentage
0 – 18 years	76	27%
18 – 35 years	44	16%
Over 35	2	1%
No Information	159	56%

Section Three:

A five year review of reported cases of VAW in Pakistan

Amidst a disabling environment for an enthusiastic activism and liberal discourse on religion, culture, traditions and laws, the progressive legislators and a vibrant civil society in Pakistan continued their efforts towards pro-women laws⁴⁰. It is indeed a great achievement for a country like Pakistan that is shackled in debt, dearth of democracy, militancy, influence of military, terrorism, political Islam and religious extremism that seven (7) women friendly laws (see the matrix 2) were passed between 2004 to 2011 by the Parliament and the Senate.

Matrix 2:

Year	law	Brief description
2004	Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2004,	Offence committed in the name or on the pretext of “honour” means an offence committed in the name or on the pretext of <i>karo kari</i> , <i>siyah kari</i> or similar other customs or practices.
2006	Protection of Women (Criminal Laws Amendments) Act, 2006	According to this law whosoever commits kidnapping, abducting or inducing woman to compel for marriage or for unnatural lust, selling person for purposes of prostitution, rape, fornication will be a culprit and shall be punished with imprisonment which may extent up to his life or shall also be liable to give fine.
2010	Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2010 (on sexual harassment)	Insulting modesty or causing sexual harassment.
2010	Sexual Harassment at the Workplace Act 2010	To create a safe working environment for the women free of harassment, abuse and intimidation with a view to fulfill their right to work with dignity.

⁴⁰ “The legislative history on women's rights issues has all those dark, grey and bright patches. There have been repeated attempts and continued efforts by women and men parliamentarians for reform of existing laws and new positive legislation for women. The efforts went along determined struggle by women's rights groups and activists for long years against discriminatory laws and customary practices. Though women of Pakistan have reached a milestone on 12-13 December 2011, when three important bills, Prevention of Anti-Women Practices, 2011, Bill, Acid Control and Acid Crimes Prevention, 2011, Bill, and The Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2011 were passed by the Senate, there is a long way to go and the major challenge in the future would be to see how women parliamentarians and women's rights movement ensure that women of Pakistan in all professions, groups and classes and in all age-groups, benefit from these laws and the *de jure* equality for women is transformed into *de facto* equality. More emphasis now needs to be shifted towards strict enforcement and implementation of these laws”. Source: Parliament sends signals of change in mindset towards women’s rights Seven pro-women laws in seven years; Women Parliamentarians demonstrate commitment and ability to serve women By Naeem Mirza.source: www.af.org.pk/Newsletters/.../NLE%20English%20-%2038.pdf

	The Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act 2011	Imprisonment for a term which may extend to the whole of life or, with fine which may not be less than five hundred thousand rupees, or with both.
2011	The Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act, 2011	The bill was meant for increasing pecuniary (monetary) jurisdiction of the original site of the Islamabad High Court from Rs 10 million to Rs 100 million. Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Moula Baksh Chandio moved the bill.
2011	Prevention of anti-women practices (criminal law amendment) act 2011	Whosoever gives a female in marriage or otherwise compels her to enter into marriage, as <i>badl.e.sulha</i> , <i>vanni</i> or <i>sawara</i> or any other custom or practice under any name, in consideration of setting a civil dispute or a criminal liability, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extent to seven years but shall not be less than three years and shall also be liable to fine five hundred thousand rupees.

These achievements are intermediary gains and by no means signal end of the struggle by the concerned citizens and legislators of Pakistan for a common cause.

The magnitude of violence against women (VAW) has reached alarming proportions in the country. Social endorsement of VAW reflects in the heartless response many provincial assemblies and our national legislative bodies have adopted over execrable and horrendous cases of VAW. The reaction of many parliamentarians to the shocking incidents in Balochistan⁴¹ is a case in point: a few male legislators tried to justify burying women alive in the name of tradition in 2008 and a majority of men and women legislators remained silent on the issue, with the notable exception of the Sindh provincial assembly, which passed a strongly-worded resolution against the incident. Particularly threatening is the widespread prevalence of physical violence. The statistics of reported cases of VAW characterized the ugly face of a society deeply mired in the vicious cycle of violence based upon gender discrimination⁴².

⁴¹The Baba Kot Girls: In August 2008, the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) reported that five young girls had been shot and buried alive on the instructions of a powerful tribal elder in Baba Kot town of Balochistan province. The girls, whose number is often disputed, were buried alive after they opted to marry for love instead of accepting marriages arranged by their families. When the tragedy was reported in the media, it triggered a massive public outcry. A Pakistani senator, surprisingly, defended the incident in the Senate and justified it as "our tribal custom". The perpetrators of the Baba Kot murders were never punished. Every year, hundreds of girls are killed in the name of honour, mostly by their own male family members.

⁴²VIEW: Violence against women in Pakistan — so what? —Dr Rakhshinda Perveen-Saturday, September 10, 2011 http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011%5C09%5C10%5Cstory_10-9-2011_pg3_5

Besides pro-women legislation, the compilation of data on VAW and its dissemination itself is an achievement indeed in a society where any sensitive and common person is perpetually challenged continuously at a number of frontiers and where prioritization of tragedies happening one after another becomes another challenge for the activists.

A Quick quantitative and qualitative review:

Aurat Foundation has been compiling and analyzing reported incidents of VAW in four provinces, FATA and ICT of Pakistan since 2008. A snapshot of the reported crimes of abuse and violence against women, girls and minor girls is captured in the following tables. The figures depicted here also reflect on the trends in such crimes.

Table 47: Reported cases of VAW (2008-2012)

Number of Cases of VAW in Pakistan during January to December 2008 to January to December 2012							
Categories of Crime	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	Grand Total	Percentage increase/decrease in VAW cases between 2010-2012
Abduction/Kidnapping	1,784	1,987	2236	2089	1607	9703	-23.07
Murder	1,422	1,384	1436	1575	1745	7562	10.79
Domestic Violence	281	608	486	610	989	2974	62.13
Suicide	599	683	633	758	575	3248	-24.14
Honour Killing	475	604	557	705	432	2773	-38.72
Rape/Gang Rape	778	928	928	827	822	4283	-0.6
Sexual Assault	172	274	74	110	58	688	-47.27
Acid Throwing	29	53	32	44	83	241	88.64
Burning	61	50	38	29	71	249	144.83
Miscellaneous	1,970	1,977	1580	1792	1134	8453	-36.72
Total	7,571	8,548	8000	8539	7516	40174	-11.98

It can be easily appreciated from the above table that heinous crimes like murder, domestic violence and acid throwing have increased in the years 2010-2012. The number of all the reported cases of VAW in general and the increase in the three types in particular: preventing human/ child/girl child/women rights activist and advocates keep one from celebrating the gains achieved so far.

The cumulative number of women and girls died during the years 2008-2012 due to murder, “honor killing” or suicide is 13583. This implies that 34% of the total percentage of women and girls subjected to violence could not survive.

Highest forms of VAW reported in a particular year are highlighted in the table 49. It is obvious that in all five years miscellaneous forms of violence constitute a major proportion. From 2008-2011 Abduction/kidnapping remained the highest form of reported VAW. It was only in the year 2012 when number one position was bagged by murder. 2012 also recorded highest number of the reported cases of domestic violence, acid throwing and burning

(highlighted in brown). 2009 and 2011 recorded 274 and 110 cases of sexual assault respectively. 2010 and 2012 recorded 74 and 58 cases of sexual assault respectively. It is rather difficult to infer any linkage between recorded cases and placement of legislation. What is safe to articulate remains the fact that when more women and girls either due to individual motivation or through the push of circumstances (that includes support by media and practical activism by CSO) decide to raise their voices against any form of violence, more reports emerge in the media.

The following four tables capture the highest forms of VAW and their regional distribution.

Table 48: Regional distribution of Reported cases of VAW (2008)

Year 2008	Balochistan	KP&FATA	Sindh	Punjab	ICT	Total
Forms of violence						
Abduction/Kidnapping	52	42	172	1439	79	1784
Murder	115	352	240	695	20	1422
Domestic Violence	298	259	186	366	18	1127
Suicide	18	66	146	362	07	599
Honour Killing	127	13	244	89	02	475
Rape/Gang Rape	12	09	139	608	10	778
Sexual Assault	-	03	41	120	08	172
Acid Throwing	-	-	02	25	02	29
Burning	12	03	14	31	01	61
Miscellaneous	133	52	196	681	62	1124
Total cases	767	799	1380	4416	209	7571

It is obvious from the data given in the table above that in the year 2008, abduction/kidnapping was reportedly as the most frequent form of VAW.

In Balochistan, during the same year out of 11 major forms of VAW identified for the said report, the Domestic violence was reportedly the most frequent form. The data did not tell much about distribution of this very “private” abuse in the three ethnic belts of the province. If the statistics for murder, suicide and ‘honour killing’ are added the resulting number of 260 becomes a significant reality and ranks second position after domestic violence.

For KP & FATA and Punjab murder was the top ranking reported form of crime. If figures in KP & FATA for murder, suicide and ‘honour killing’ are added the resulting number of 431 is rather horrific.

For Sindh ‘honour killing’ was the most reported form of crime. ICT had the major share of crimes falling in the miscellaneous forms of VAW during the year 2008. Similarly if figures in Sindh for murder, suicide and ‘honour killing’ are added the resulting number of 630 is frightening indeed.

Punjab appeared as the most violent region against its women and girls of all regions under study. If figures in Punjab for murder, suicide and ‘honour killing’ are added the resulting noteworthy number of 1146 is unspeakable especially when Punjab claims “good governance”.

Table 49: Regional distribution of Reported cases of VAW (2009)

Year 2009	Balochistan	KP&FATA	Sindh	Punjab	ICT	Total
Forms of violence						
Abduction/Kidnapping	13	64	160	1698	52	1987
Murder	39	266	288	752	39	1384
Domestic Violence	22	163	134	271	18	608
Suicide	10	43	176	448	06	683
Honour Killing	59	14	284	245	02	604
Rape/Gang Rape	04	07	122	786	09	928
Sexual Assault	01	-	44	227	02	274
Acid Throwing	-	01	09	42	01	53
Burning	01	04	10	33	02	50
Miscellaneous	88	93	535	1220	41	1977
Total cases	237	655	1762	5722	172	8548

It is obvious from the data given in the table above that in the year 2009, abduction / kidnapping was reportedly as the most frequent form of VAW.

In Balochistan during the same year out of 11 major forms of VAW identified for the study, the miscellaneous forms of VAW as a category was reportedly the most frequent form. The surprising decline in the reported data of domestic violence as compared to 2008 (298) is worth noting and no information was available from the studied newspapers on the plausible causes and interventions as redressal mechanism about reducing the distribution of this very “private” abuse in the three ethnic belts of the province. If the statistics for murder, suicide and ‘honor killing’ are added, the resulting number of 108 becomes a significant reality and ranks top position in the year 2009.

For KP & FATA, murder was the top ranking reported form of crime. If figures in KP & FATA for murder, suicide and ‘honour killing’ are added, the resulting number of 323 is horrible in spite of being lesser than the statistics on the same for the year 2008.

For Sindh it was ‘honor killing’ (244) in the year 2008 and the number for the same horrible practice was reported as 284 in 2009. If the statistics for murder, suicide and ‘honour killing’ are added, the resulting number of 709 becomes a significantly execrable reality and ranks top position by replacing miscellaneous cases of VAW (535) in the year 2009.

Punjab again appeared as the most violent against its women and girls of all regions under study. If the statistics for murder, suicide and ‘honour killing’ are added, the resulting number of 1445 turns out to be substantial and ranks second top position in the year 2009.

The ICT had the major share of abduction/kidnapping during the year 2009.

Table 50: Regional distribution of Reported cases of VAW (2010)

Year 2010	Balochistan	KP&FATA	Sindh	Punjab	ICT	Total
Forms of violence						
Abduction/Kidnapping	02	77	246	1890	21	2236
Murder	15	328	308	758	27	1436
Domestic Violence	04	89	136	246	11	486
Suicide	08	54	140	424	07	633
Honour Killing	36	22	266	233	-	557
Rape/Gang Rape	06	05	157	741	19	928
Sexual Assault	-	-	34	39	01	74
Acid Throwing	05	01	03	20	03	32
Burning	01	03	-	33	01	38
Miscellaneous	02	71	362	1108	37	1580
Total cases	79	650	1652	5492	127	8000

It is obvious from the data given in the table above that in the year 2010, abduction/kidnapping was reportedly as the most frequent form of VAW.

The ICT had the major share of miscellaneous crimes during the year 2009. The fluctuating patterns of crimes against VAW in the years under study are as confusing as many of the moves in the bureaucratic machinery and executives of the capital.

Punjab completed its hat trick appeared as the most violent against its women and girls of all regions under study. If the statistics for murder, suicide and ‘honour killing’ are added, the resulting number of 1415, though a little smaller than 2009, again turns out to be substantial and ranks second top position in the year 2009.

For Sindh, if the statistics for murder, suicide and ‘honour killing’ are added, the resulting number of 714 becomes a notably woeful reality and ranks top position again by replacing again the miscellaneous cases of VAW (362) in the year 2010.

For KP & FATA, murder was the top ranking reported form of crime. If figures in KP & FATA for murder, suicide and ‘honour killing’ are added, the resulting number of 404 is horrible and greater than the statistics on the same for the year 2009.

In Balochistan, ‘honor killing’ ranked the top position amongst the reported cases. However, If the statistics for murder, suicide and ‘honour killing’ are added, the resulting number of 598 becomes a significant reality and ranks top position in the year 2010.

Table 51: Regional distribution of Reported cases of VAW (2011)

Year 2011	Balochistan	KP&FATA	Sindh	Punjab	ICT	Total
Forms of violence						
Abduction/Kidnapping	17	47	152	1846	27	2089
Murder	48	341	255	897	34	1575

Domestic Violence	-	104	137	348	21	610
Suicide	16	83	117	533	09	758
Honour Killing	86	30	266	322	01	705
Rape/Gang Rape	10	07	68	734	08	827
Sexual Assault	-	-	41	64	05	110
Acid Throwing	04	-	06	32	02	44
Burning	-	-	01	28	-	29
Miscellaneous	12	82	273	1384	41	1792
Total cases	193	694	1316	6188	148	8539

It is obvious from the data given in the table above that in the year 2011, abduction/kidnapping was reportedly as the most frequent form of VAW.

The ICT had the major share of miscellaneous crimes in the year 2011 just like it had during the year 2009. The fluctuating patterns of crimes against VAW in the years under study are as confusing as many of the moves in the bureaucratic machinery and executives of the capital city of Pakistan.

Punjab maintained its ugly record of being the most violent against its women and girls of all regions under study. If the statistics for murder, suicide and ‘honor killing’ are added, the resulting number of 1752, though smaller than the figures for abduction/kidnapping again turns out to be substantial and ranks second top position in the year 2011. Another way of looking at the statistics could be to combine the number of reported cases of abduction/kidnapping and rape and gang rape. The cumulative figure of 2580 is indeed thought provoking, if not alarming, for those who are responsible for governance. However, the author prevented herself from doing any analysis based on speculations but it remains a living reality that woman and girls are often raped/gang raped when abducted.

For Sindh, if the statistics for murder, suicide and ‘honor killing’ are added, the resulting number of 638 becomes again a significantly shocking number and points out towards much deeper issues.

For KP & FATA, murder was the top ranking reported form of crime. If figures in KP & FATA for murder, suicide and ‘honor killing’ are added, the resulting number of 454 is horrible.

In Balochistan ‘honor killing’ ranked the top position amongst the reported cases. However, If the statistics for murder, suicide and ‘honor killing’ are added, the resulting number of 150 becomes a significant reality and ranks top position in the year 2011.

Table 52: Regional distribution of Reported cases of VAW (2012)

Year 2012	Balochistan	KP&FATA	Sindh	Punjab	ICT	Total
Forms of violence						
Abduction/Kidnapping	18	33	207	1222	127	1607
Murder	84	395	381	835	50	1745
Domestic Violence	34	114	230	573	38	989

Suicide	8	44	120	394	9	575
Honour Killing	3	42	158	227	2	432
Rape/Gang Rape	11	14	103	676	18	822
Sexual Assault	0	0	46	12	0	58
Acid Throwing	0	8	28	45	2	83
Burning	2	4	11	48	6	71
Miscellaneous	7	20	344	734	29	1134
Total cases	167	674	1628	4766	281	7516

The data for the year 2012 is already reviewed and analyzed in details in the preceding sections.

A Quick Glance at the-Key Crime Categories – 10 worst districts

The following tables reflect only the visible forms of violence. The emotional abuses, psychological tests and tortures embedded within the expressed manifestations of a violent society, silent state, powerless citizens and selectiveness of consciousness displayed by the media, judiciary and activists cannot be grasped by merely looking at the numbers.

The numbers contained in the following tables cannot be explained in terms of feminist, social, gender and/or economic perspectives only. One needs to apply the concept of empathy and adopt holistic approach to diagnose the problems before hastily suggesting any remedy.

Table 53: Top 10 Districts of Murder during Year 2008-2012:

Sr. No	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases
1	Lahore	149	Lahore	96	Lahore	127	Lahore	127	Lahore	162
2	Peshawar	87	Faisalabad	91	Peshawar	87	Peshawar	105	Karachi	136
3	Karachi	64	Peshawar	72	Faisalabad	82	Rawalpindi	78	Rawalpindi	95
4	Faisalabad	61	Rawalpindi	53	Mardan	58	Faisalabad	70	Peshawar	89
5	Gujranwala	48	Larkana	52	Karachi	58	Sheikhupura	45	Sukkur	65
6	Rawalpindi	46	Sargodha	49	Rawalpindi	52	Chakwal	44	Quetta	64
7	Sheikhupura	46	Gujranwala	49	Sheikhupura	46	Mardan	43	Faisalabad	60
8	Kasur	39	Sukkar	46	Kasur	42	Gujranwal	36	Mardan	45
9	Sahiwal	37	Islamabad	39	Gujranwala	38	Sahiwal	35	Okara	44
10	Quetta	35	Jacobabad	38	Sargodha	36	Sargodha	35	Khairpur	39

Table 54: Top 10 Districts of 'Honour' killing during year 2008-2012:

Sr. No	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases
1	Ghotki	36	Jacobabad	36	Jacobabad	42	Naseerabad	39	Lahore	23
2	Naseerabad	34	Sukkar	32	Ghotki	37	Faisalabad	36	Jacobabad	23
3	Lahore	34	Larkana	31	Larkana	33	Jacobabad	34	Sukkur	20
4	Larkana	32	Faisalabad	26	Faisalabad	22	Kashmore	31	Faisalabad	20
5	Jacobabad	32	Ghotki	24	Kashmore	21	Khairpur Mirs	23	Larkana	20
6	Khairpur Mirs	31	Lahore	23	Lahore	19	Larkana	22	Kashmore	18
7	Sukkur	26	Mirpur Khas	22	Khairpur Mirs	19	Sahiwal	22	Shaikhupura	18

8	Nausheroferoz	24	Karachi	21	Sargodha	18	Khanewal	21	Rawalpindi	16
9	Faisalabad	23	Nausheroferoz	20	Sahiwal	17	Sukkur	21	Ghotki	14
10	Karachi	22	Jhang	17	Shikarpur	17	Ghotki	21	Khairpur	12

Table 55: Top 10 Districts of Abduction/Kidnapping during year 2008-2012:

Sr. No	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases
1	Lahore	397	Lahore	372	Lahore	521	Lahore	314	Rawalpindi	271
2	Rawalpindi	218	Faisalabad	265	Faisalabad	343	Faisalabad	273	Okara	113
3	Faisalabad	171	Rawalpindi	169	Sargodha	146	Sargodha	147	Sargodha	104
4	Sheikhupura	118	Sargodha	140	Sheikhupura	132	Rawalpindi	139	Lahore	87
5	Multan	82	Sheikhupura	88	Rawalpindi	114	Okara	104	Chakwal	65
6	Islamabad	79	Kasur	80	Kasur	75	Chakwal	88	Gujrat	54
7	Kasur	61	Multan	64	Okara	69	Multan	85	Sialkot	48
8	Sahiwal	51	Peshawar	56	Sialkot	54	Sheikhupura	75	Sheikhupura	47
9	Gujranwala	26	Islamabad	52	Multan	50	Muzaffargarh	74	Muzaffargarh	44
10	Peshawar	14	Jacobabad	41	Sahiwal	30	Vehari	52	D G Khan	43

Table 56: Top 10 Districts of Suicide during year 2008-2012:

Sr. No	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases
1	Lahore	67	Gujranwala	76	Lahore	76	Lahore	66	Lahore	89
2	Sahiwal	37	Lahore	65	Peshawar	54	Faisalabad	50	Gujranwala	39
3	Faisalabad	36	Faisalabad	32	Faisalabad	41	Rawalpindi	38	Karachi	35
4	Gujranwala	35	Sargodha	30	Khairpur Mirs	40	Sahiwal	31	Faisalabad	32
5	Sheikhupura	34	Sheikhupura	26	Chakwal	40	R Y Khan	31	Rawalpindi	25
6	Karachi	19	Sukkar	25	Sahiwal	33	Gujranwala	25	Sahiwal	22
7	Peshawar	18	Larkana	21	Dadu	23	Sheikhupura	24	Multan	18
8	Kasur	15	Toba tek singh	18	Gujranwala	22	Sargodha	20	R Y Khan	17
9	Rawalpindi	14	Jacobabad	14	Rawalpindi	21	Khanewal	16	Kasur	15
10	Multan	10	Kasur	10	Naushero Feroze	21	Multan	15	Khairpur	14

Table 57: Top 10 Districts of Rape/Gang-rape during year 2008-2012:

Sr. No	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases
1	Faisalabad	102	Faisalabad	151	Lahore	110	Faisalabad	110	Okara	72
2	Lahore	82	Lahore	73	Faisalabad	100	Lahore	62	Rawalpindi	69
3	Sheikhupura	62	Sheikhupura	46	Sheikhupura	51	Kasur	43	Lahore	59
4	Multan	46	Multan	41	Sargodha	49	Okara	42	Muzaffargarh	48
5	Karachi	43	Kasur	41	Kasur	38	Sargodha	34	Sargodha	38
6	Kasur	35	Sargodha	40	Okara	35	Multan	34	Karachi	31
7	Jhang	28	Gujranwala	36	Rawalpindi	24	Rawalpindi	32	Gujranwala	31
8	Vehari	28	Vehari	31	Nankana sahib	24	Khanewal	31	D G Khan	30
9	Okara	23	Jhang	27	Sialkot	23	Vehari	30	Chakwal	30
10	Khanewal	18	Okara	26	Gujranwala	23	Muzaffargarh	30	Pak pattan	27

Table 58: Top 10 Districts of Acid throwing during year 2008-2012:

Sr. No	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases
1	Multan	6	Faisalabad	10	Faisalabad	3	Faisalabad	6	Okara	7
2	Lahore	4	Multan	7	Toba tek singh	3	Sialkot	4	Hyderabad	7
3	Rawalpindi	3	Rawalpindi	3	Jehlum	2	Karachi	4	Faisalabad	6
4	Islamabad	2	Vehari	2	Rahim yar khan	2	Quetta	4	Multan	5
5	Bhawalpur	2.	Lahore	2	Karachi	2	Lahore	3	Karachi	5
6	Karachi	1	Gujranwala	1	Lahore	2	Gujranwala	3	Sanghar	5
7	Faisalabad	1	Sheikhupura	1	Chakwal	1	Muzaffargarh	2	Jhang	4
8	Sheikhupura	1	Jacobabad	1	Sargodha	1	Chakwal	2	Sahiwal	4
9	Kasur	1	Toba tek singh	1	Gujranwala	1	Islamabad	2	Peshawar	4
10	Gujranwala	1	Islamabad	1	Sialkot	1	Sargodha	1	Kurram	4

Table 59: Top 10 Districts of Domestic Violence during year 2008-2012:

Sr. No	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases
1	Peshawar	39	Peshawar	110	Peshawar	61	Rawalpindi	64	Rawalpindi	134
2	Rawalpindi	34	Sargodha	39	Lahore	28	Peshawar	54	Lahore	89
3	Quetta	18	Lahore	30	Faisalabad	25	Chakwal	53	Karachi	54
4	Lahore	11	Multan	29	Rawalpindi	25	Multan	41	D G Khan	45
5	Islamabad	7	Rawalpindi	24	Sargodha	21	Attock	25	Muzaffargarh	45
6	Faisalabad	3	Jacobabad	23	Sukkur	17	Sargodha	23	Khairpur	38
7	Gujranwala	3	Sukkur	21	Multan	16	Islamabad	21	Peshawar	35
8	Karachi	3	Faisalabad	18	Chakwal	14	Lahore	19	Sukkur	34
9	Kasur	2	Islamabad	18	Dadu	14	Ghotki	19	Quetta	28
10	Sahiwal	2	Gujranwala	9	Attock	13	Jehlum	16	Bannu	20

Table 60: Top 10 Districts of Sexual Assault during year 2008-2012

Sr. No	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases
1	Faisalabad	20	Faisalabad	37	Sheikhupura	22	Chakwal	18	Sukkur	8
2	Rawalpindi	15	Sargodha	32	Okara	10	Rawalpindi	11	Rawalpindi	6
3	Lahore	14	Lahore	23	Faisalabad	8	Jehlum	7	Larkana	5
4	Sheikhupura	11	Kasur	14	Rawalpindi	8	Ghotki	6	Tharparkar	5
5	Islamabad	8	Vehari	12	Lahore	7	Islamabad	5	Sanghar	4
6	Kasur	6	Sheikhupura	11	Toba tek singh	6	Sukkur	5	Khairpur	3
7	Multan	5	Multan	8	Sanghar	6	Attock	4	Tando Allah Yar	3
8	Peshawar	3	Gujranwala	7	Chakwal	5	Toba Tek Singh	3	Badin	3
9	Sahiwal	2	Toba tek singh	5	Sialkot	4	Karachi	3	Khasmore	2
10	Karachi	2	Larkana	2	Attock	3	Jacobabad	3	Nawabshah	2

Table 61: Top Districts of Miscellaneous during Year 2008-2012:

Sr. No	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases	District	No of cases
1	Rawalpindi	35	Lahore	224	Lahore	196	Multan	140	Rawalpindi	136
2	Lahore	21	Sargodha	125	Faisalabad	120	Lahore	134	Lahore	85
3	Islamabad	17	Faisalabad	110	Sargodha	116	sargodha	109	Gujranwala	56
4	Quetta	16	Sukkur	78	Multan	66	Faisalabad	108	Sargodha	56
5	Gujranwala	9	Gujranwala	65	Toba Tek singh	53	Rawalpindi	86	Chakwal	49
6	Faisalabad	8	Rawalpindi	58	Khair pur Mirs	48	Vehari	70	Gujrat	43
7	Peshawar	6	Peshawar	56	Sialkot	45	Rahim Yar Khan	69	Muzzafargarh	33
8	Multan	6	Larkana	56	Okara	41	Khanewal	57	Faisalabad	33
9	Sheikhupura	5	Vehari	51	Sheikhupura	41	Lodhran	56	Okara	33
10	Kasur	3	Multan	51	Gujranwala	39	Chakwal	50	Sheikhupura	30

As many times the scribe looked at the tables carrying statistical details of the specific category of crimes against humanity guised as the “sanctioned” forms of punishment to the women and girls of the different geographic areas of the country, the thought of lavish life styles of the rulers and elites in the development sector could not be withered away.

It was a shocking self discovery that the “Lords of Poverty⁴³” is still so valid and relevant to

Excluded forms of the VAW:

Some specific forms of violence that were not included in any report as they might not be reported as VAW cases and or considered too alien for this culture are as follows:

- Dating violence
- Intimate partner violence
- Emotional abuse
- Same-sex relationship violence
- Stalking
- Violence against immigrant and refugee women
- Violence against women with disabilities
- HIV and domestic abuse
- Challenges facing older women
- Marital Rape
- State Violence
- ***Violence in empowerment systems***
- Femicide
- Pre natal sex selection
- Economic abuse

⁴³ It is a case study written by Graham Hancock in 1989, about the betrayals of a public trust. The shortcomings of aid are numerous, and serious enough to raise questions about the viability of the practice at its most fundamental levels. Hancock’s report is thorough, deeply shocking, and certain to cause critical reevaluation—of the government’s motives in giving foreign aid, and of the true needs of our intended beneficiaries.

- Political violence
- Violence against women polio health workers
- Violence in humanitarian settings
- Violence against Afghan refugee women
- Violence against domestic help
- Violence against illegal immigrant women/trafficked women (Bengali women)
- Violence against women in jails

Some forms of VAW like trafficking, harmful cultural practices, harassment at work place that are included in the category of Miscellaneous, need more attention and identification as specific entities.

Less documented and/ or forgotten forms of VAW:

Violence against women and girls from religious and ethnic minorities in Pakistan did appear in the media including print media but it has yet to be mainstreamed and recognized as a burning issue in the spectrum of human and women rights movements and institutional frameworks.

Box 2: Rape cases compiled by HRCP from news reports over the years (from religious and ethnic minorities)⁴⁴

January 4, 2005: 18-year-old Marvi and 16-year-old Hemi from Kunri village in Umerkot District

March 3, 2005: 14-year-old Raji from Aslam Town Jhuddo, Mirpurkhas

September 2005: 17-year-old Kochlia, kidnapped and gang raped in Jacobabad

December 22, 2005: 13-year-old Mashu from Jhaluree, 20 km from Mirpur Khas

December 30, 2005: Qosheela abducted from Ghotki

Late 2005: 23-year-old Zarina Mari, a school teacher held at an army torture cell and used as a sex slave

January 24, 2010: 14-year-old Kasturi Kohli from Mokrio village, Nagarparkar, who was gang raped by Sharjeel Memon's goons

September 11, 2011: 29-year-old Dr Lata Kumari, Jacobabad

February 24, 2012: 17-year-old Rinkle Kumari's is a high profile case, where her abductor, turned husband Naveed Shah is given support and provided immunity from the law by Mian Abdul Haq aka Mian Mithu, PPP MNA from Ghotki.

March 3, 2012: Asha Kumari from Jacobabad

December 4, 2012: A 6 year-old minor, daughter of Munwar Meghwar, a labourer from Ghulam Nabi Shah, Umerkot District was abducted from the street in front of her house and sexually assaulted. The child stayed at the Mirpurkhas Civil Hospital till December 11, from where she was later shifted to Karachi for better treatment.

⁴⁴ <http://www.viewpointonline.net/legitimizing-systemic-sexual-violence.html>

December 23, 2012: 14-year-old schedule caste (Bheel) Hindu girl from Chachro (FIR no 61/12 u/s 354 Pakistan Penal Code. Complainant Bheel against three accused)

This report neither includes analysis on the content of the reported cases of VAW in the newspaper nor the state of follow up. However, it appears that the issues of violence experienced by poor and socially disadvantaged women and girls are not adequately prioritized nor is their gravity given due recognition.

A highly prevalent form of violence the dowry violence that is a non-cognizable crime due to deficiency of legislation is either not recognized in the print media reporting or remains buried under domestic violence.

Child sexual abuses are mostly considered as the responsibility of certain specialist NGOs and are neglected in collecting data on VAW whereas the analysis show that most of the offences are against girls under 18 years of age.

Incest as an abuse and crime is yet to be reported without reservations and sadly no law exists against this heinous act. It remains pertinent to remind oneself that the social cost of reporting incest is probably highest among all other forms of abuses and crimes. It is indeed shocking to know that no law exists against the cognizable crime of Incest and cases, if any, are persecuted under Section 376 of PPC.

⁴⁵The FIR will be registered under this section when any person commits rape who has sexual intercourse with a woman under circumstances falling under any of the five following descriptions:

1. Against her will.
2. Without her consent
3. With her consent, when the consent has been obtained by putting her in fear of death or of hurt,
4. With her consent, when the man knows that he is not married to her and that the consent is given because she believes that the man is another person to whom she is or believes herself to be married; or
5. With or without her consent when she is under sixteen years of age.

The laws on Blasphemy and *Hudood* are too well equipped to be misused against powerless people, that too women and girls of this country. However, barring some courageous souls, the society and its intelligentsia choose to remain silent on such “sensitive” issues. The amendments in the existing acts and or new legislation are not perfect but it is a promising beginning that must be recognized.

It has been observed all over Asia that victims of violence, particularly rape victims routinely face hostility from law enforcement personnel and the courts. Thus it is obvious that women

⁴⁵ Source: www.pakistani.org/pakistan/legislation/2006/wpb.html

friendly legislation alone cannot be effective until and unless access to justice is ensured by the State and entire machinery of the law defenders are gender responsive.

The high profile case of gang rape victim turned survivor ⁴⁶Mukhtar Mai failed to seek justice from the court due to lack of evidence and the Supreme Court acquitted 13 men accused in the crime in 2011.

The case of gang rape minor girl Uzma Ayub who eventually gave birth to a girl and whose brother was killed outside the court in Peshawar on International day of Human Rights 2011, is a classic example of failure to get justice in spite of media hype because of power structures, lack of transparency, speedy justice and unrealistic conditions for the provision of evidence.

Box 3: Case narrative of Ms. Uzma Ayub⁴⁷

A 16 year old girl, Miss Uzma Ayub, the daughter of Mohammad Ayub, a daily wage earner, resident of Marwataan Banda, Tehsil Takht-e-Nasrati of Karak district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, was abducted from her house in early October 2010 when police along with an army man raided her house in the search of her brother who was wanted by the police in a theft case. After her escape from the captivity (on September 19, 2011), Uzma states before the media that she was dragged by the hair into a waiting car, handed over her family's enemies who took her away to an unknown place and locked her in a room. At night several men came into the room, including Dr. Iqbal who gave her an injection and she fell unconscious. She thinks she was shifted two times and every time before the shifting, Dr. Iqbal would give her an injection to make her unconscious. She was sexually assaulted by several men, including Naseeb Ullah, an army officer, Sardar Ali, Shakeel, Guley, Karim, Qamar Ali, Hakim Khan, a police officer, and Alam Ustad during her incarceration. "These people kept me at their house, where Mst Guleena and Shakeel came and spent some time with me. Then came Dr Iqbal in the room. He administered me an injection and I fell unconscious. When I regained my senses, I noticed that I had been shifted to another location. I did not know anybody there. After some time, Qamar Ali alias Guley and Karim visited me. On April 5, 2011, a two-member bench comprising Justice Dost Muhammad Khan and Justice Yahya Afridi had directed the district police officer to trace the kidnapped girl when the girl's mother had alleged that her daughter, then a student of 9th grade, had been kidnapped by police officials including SHO Pir Mohsin Shah, Sub-Inspector Hakeem Khan and Amir Muhammad during an illegal raid on her house. She had sent an application to Chief Justice of the PHC Ejaz Afzal Khan who had later converted it into a writ petition. The Karak DPO, Sajid Khan Mohmand, appeared before the court and contended that on the complaint of the female, the police had registered an FIR at the Takht-e-Nasrati Police

⁴⁶Mai had accused 14 men of being involved in raping her and in 2002, a court sentenced six of them to death while acquitting the others citing a lack of evidence. But in an appeal, the Lahore High Court not only upheld the eight acquittals but also overturned five of the six convictions. The death penalty for the sixth man, Abdul Khaliq, was commuted to life in prison. Mai appealed to the Supreme Court in 2005 but it rejected her appeal in 2011.

⁴⁷ Asian Human Rights Commission

Station in Karak. Police had raided several places but could not recover the girl. He had added that four persons earlier charged by the complainant had been granted bail by a local court. A brother of the alleged kidnapped girl, Alamzeb Khan, had told the court that the family had learnt that his sister had been taken to Quetta by an army man, Naseeb Ullah Khan. He stated that although the family had named him the local police did not arrest him. He had stated that the local police had also implicated him in different cases. The DPO had stated that the complainant had not charged the said person in the initial statement. The PHC chief justice on April 06, directed the Karak DPO to contact the station commander of the Pakistan Army in Quetta to search for the teenage girl who, according to her family members was being illegally held by a serving soldier after her alleged abduction by the local policemen. Alamzeb Khan, the brother of the kidnapped girl, informed the court that his family had received information from reliable sources that his sister was in illegal detention of the main accused Naseeb Ullah, who was an army man and currently serving in Quetta. The bench had directed the Karak DPO to record a supplementary statement of the girl's brother against Naseeb Ullah in the case. The bench also directed him to send a senior police officer to Quetta to discuss the girl's abduction with the station commander, seek her recovery and pursue abduction charges against the soldier. He later fixed April 21 for the next hearing into the case. April 21st was fixed by the court but no further proceedings in regard to her recovery or arrest of army officer were seen. In the statement she alleged: "In that house Naseebullah, a brother of Guley, visited me and forced me to marry him. Same night Naseeb Ullah's son visited me and raped me. Qamar Ali Khan, Karim and Alam also raped me. Two police officials, one named Hakim, used to frequently visit me to satisfy their lust. I don't know the name of the other cop but can recognize him if he is produced before me."

The wronged girl said: "All the people mentioned are involved in my abduction and molestation. I charged these persons with ruining my life and making me pregnant. In the house when I was drugged and raped second time, the people over there told me that I had been sold to them and they were taking me to Dera Ismail Khan and when they stopped at Bannu, I escaped from their captivity." This proved Uzma's salvation as she got out and ran into a nearby shop. She managed to get to a Public Call Office and telephoned her eldest brother, Alam Zeb who advised her to reach the Bannu bypass.

She had Rs.300/- tied in her 'Narha', a common practice in the rural areas and she was thus able to telephone her brother and take a taxi to reach her brother. Alam Zeb was able to find her.

He took her straight to the Tehsil Court, Takht-e Nasrati. The enemies tried to obstruct their entry by appearing in a number of vehicles but they managed to make their statement before their arrival. The Judge telephoned the Crimes Investigation Branch and Uzma and her family went to Peshawar to have her statement recorded. In her statement she accused police personnel SHO Mohsin Ali, ASI Hakeem Khan, Amir Ali and Naseeb Ullah, the army officer, of sexually abusing her. In all, she named 13 persons as involved in her abduction and rape.

The victim told the provincial high court that she was pregnant. A lady doctor Zakia conducted the medical examination of the girl and declared that she was six months pregnant. (As of 28 October 2011)

Finale!

It can be well appreciated that the digression in cumulative cases of violence in the last five years is not significant. What matters is the end of the denial (mostly in obvious physically forms of the VAW) and breaking of silence on such issues and their reporting in the newspapers which in turn represents tip of the iceberg.

The illusion of a free and fair media that has expanded too early and too fast with a larger base of ill-trained, ill-equipped and under-paid field reporters, would keep on leading to the illusion of addressing the issues of the VAW

In 2013 where many human rights and women rights activists, gender practitioners and academicians who are always inclined towards optimism may find certain success stories building legitimacy for celebration. However a greater majority of activists, advocates, academicians and scholars have identified newer concerns. The need to revisit the traditional discourse on women's rights movement and concepts of empowerment is inevitable.

Collective struggle of the civil society of Pakistan especially liberal and progressive NGOs on issues of violence against women, girls, children and disadvantaged communities and gender based violence have been a priority for the last many years. However, in spite of a vibrant NGO sector that exists in Pakistan and a lot of emphasis that appears on women and gender issues that in turn are treated almost synonymously. It is a sad reality that as far as the funding initiatives specific to VAW is concerned, the information and interventions are fragmented, scanty and marked by lack of coordination.

Overall capacity to implement, operationalise and raise awareness levels regarding VAW is still very low and a strong need for policy advocacy is urgent. Coordination of responses to VAW in various directions, at all levels, is weak, and the women's movement driven by civil society organizations (CSOs), mainly NGOs, is imperceptible if at all coordinated, and its members are at times in competition with each other for scarce resources.

This report is ending neither with recommendations nor with definite conclusion but with the identification of certain challenges that are phrased here as pertinent queries. These critical questions are:

- Is VAW a genuinely priced priority in the agenda of the development sector and free and fair judiciary in this Islamic Republic of Pakistan, or is it merely a catchy and catty slogan to gain media attention and accomplish the technical obligations of donor and development agencies?
- How and why accused in cases of VAW get acquitted?
- Under what circumstances parents or guardians of victims “forgive” the perpetrators?
- What would be the possible means to obtain legal redress amidst weak rule of law frameworks and corrupt justice officials for the victims of gender-based violence who face the added difficulties of discrimination and sexual stereotypes, including from the police and the judiciary?

- How long mainstream and influential media would violate the self-esteem, dignity and confidentiality of the victims of violence?
- Who would make powerful players in the civil society and media to understand the difference between confidentiality and secrecy?
- Who would ensure the compliance with the ethical considerations?
- How and when women friendly laws would be adopted and implemented in letter and spirit?
- The absence of a law on any form of the VAW does not exempt the State from its responsibility of preventing any forms of abuses and injustices to its citizen including women. Does State own its responsibility?

In a country that ranks too low on human development indicators⁴⁸ (146 out of 185 UN member states and only better than Nepal and Afghanistan within South Asia) and where the more important question seems to be that why a woman or a girl is raped than how to respond ethically and legally and where mainstream political leaders are either reluctant to deplore the phenomenon of the VAW and some even have the audacity to appear on TV and admonish that if a woman is raped she should remain silent, the issues of the VAW demand an entirely new mechanism to be addressed effectively.

It is vital to develop and adopt a well-organized stratagem to end violence against women and girls as a national priority by the public, private and citizens' sector. This is necessary for the vision to establish a society that respects women and girls and where women and girls can breathe, dream and laugh the way they want. If this does not happen, women, girls and all disadvantaged groups would continue to be ended through violence of different origins.

It is time to go beyond denial and observe speedy, sincere and simple solutions because irrespective of the complexity of the VAW, it is preventable.

⁴⁸ Human development report UNDP 2013. Pakistan has maintained this rank not due to any improvement in the areas of health, education and economy but due to worse performance of other countries down the list. A little better ranking on gender inequality index (composite measure reflecting inequality in achievements between women and men in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market) should not be celebrated as presence of certain number of women in the parliament(though encouraging) should not be equated as the empowerment of a vast majority of women and girls in Pakistan (author).

Annexes:

Annex 1

Methodology:

During the 2012 calendar year from January to December not only all the four provinces – Punjab, Sindh, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan – were covered but data was collected for Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) as well. Quarterly reports followed incidents and trends. These are compiled hereunder this national report in an effort to organize all the data collected into a comprehensive volume.

Data sources:

The data presented in this annual report has been collected from different sources. The main sources were daily newspapers in Urdu and English published from different parts of the provinces and ICT. In the provinces, regional press has also been carefully monitored. Cases have been collected from the print media as well as from state institutions like the police, hospitals, government-run shelter homes. Thus a majority of cases of VAW are ‘reported cases’ and mostly relay episodes of only ‘physical’ violence or abuses against women. Social, psychological, cultural and economic dimensions of VAW are, therefore, understandably not reflected in this data.

The cases collected from government-run or private shelter homes and crisis centres mostly relate to offences of domestic violence that women do not report to police for several reasons. These include constraints on mobility and lack of support in the family. The label of ‘shame’ attached to these crimes or the refusal by the police to recognize them as ‘offences’ – most of the time these are considered a ‘private affair’ of the family – also goes a long way in discouraging women from making formal complaints for justice and redressal.

⁴⁹Sampling:

For the present study, the incidents of violence reported in 114 districts 35 in Punjab; 23 in Sindh; 26 in KP; 29 in Balochistan and the ICT were monitored for data gathering. Random Sampling techniques were deployed to select newspapers for data sourcing. English, Urdu and regional language newspapers were all included to cover maximum districts across the country. Data from medico-legal surgeons was regularly secured to circumvent some of the limitations in relying solely on printed media reports. This effort was further strengthened with regular data collection from all police departments and shelter homes for women in the areas covered by this study. The study period was one year starting from January 01 and ending on the 31st of December, 2012.

⁴⁹ The full details of the sampling methodology were not available to the author.

Data analysis:

Tabulation of statistics was undertaken using custom-designed software and databases. Reporting formats were designed to be comprehensive including detailed description of offences and motives. Status of First Information Report (FIR) recording was included in tabulation categories.

Data analysis intended to summarize observations in a manner yielding answers to research questions.

For the qualitative analysis of data simple percentage and frequency distribution method was used.

Every caution was taken to avoid any biased interpretation of the available statistics. Therefore to verify or nullify where and to whatsoever extent possible secondary sources were consulted. The author has used some secondary data and her own published research works and observations where deemed necessary.

Limitations:

Many limitations were imposed on our data collection and analysis since data is based on reported cases only. Therefore, not much information is available about the victims and abusers beyond what has been formally reported. Also, the data does not cover unreported violence against women incidents anywhere in Pakistan. Another key missing data element is the age figures of victims and survivors in cases of VAW. The relationship between victim and offender and motives behind offences are also mostly missing in reported cases.

Other limitations faced by the study teams arose out of the security situation in some districts of KP and Balochistan that made access to data on cases of VAW difficult and, in some cases, impossible. It is also noteworthy that cases on domestic violence are often not reported. This is primarily because there are no laws or social mechanisms in place for redressal. Well-entrenched patriarchal structures at all levels of society and governance also lead to largely insufficient and sometimes total absence of data on the denial of women's fundamental right to life and dignity in the domestic sphere. Existing laws' refusal to recognize domestic violence as a penal crime also hampers recourse to justice for victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Not only those strong feudal and conservative lobbies resist and block positive legislation on crucial women's right issues, many socio-economic factors, especially poverty, are aggravating the situation of violence against women. An extremely poor state of law-enforcement and inherent weaknesses in our justice sector further compound these problems. This is also the key encouragement to informal dispute resolution mechanisms such as '*jargas*' and '*panchayats*' that are inherently patriarchal and anti-women.

Since collection of data (irrespective of the fact of how comprehensive and valid the methods are) alone cannot achieve the realization of women's human rights, dissemination becomes key to success. Increasing and initiating the awareness process among low-educated women

that constitute more than 95% of our rural women indeed has the potential to realize positive change.

Annex 2

The newspapers monitored for data collection included:

4 English, 20 Urdu & 2 Sindhi

1. Daily Jang
2. Intekhab (Balochistan)
3. Mashriq (Balochistan&KP)
4. Azadi (Balochistan)
5. Baakhabar (Balochistan)
6. Daily Express
7. Daily Aajkal
8. Daily Khabrain
9. Daily Ausaf
10. Daily Nawa-i-Waqt
11. Daily Azkar
12. Daily Jinnah
13. Kawish (Sindhi)
14. Ibrat (sindhi),
15. Daily Khabrain (Multan edition)
16. Daily Khabrain (Lahore Daak edition)
17. Daily Express (Sargodha edition)
18. Daily Express (Faisalabad edition)
19. Daily Jang (Lahore Daak edition alternate)
20. Daily Jang (Multan edition alternate)
21. Aaj (Balochistan)
22. Daily Jinnah (Daak edition Lahore)
23. The News
24. Dawn
25. The Balochistan Times,
26. Century Express (Balochistan)



AURAT PUBLICATION AND INFORMATION SERVICE FOUNDATION

ISLAMABAD (Head Office): House-12, Street-12, F-7/2, Kohsar Road Islamabad, Pakistan. Tel: 051-2608956-8, Fax: 051-2608955

LAHORE: House-35, G Block, Gullberg III, Near Firdous Market, Lahore 54000, Pakistan. Tel: 042-35858654, Fax: 042-35858653

KARACHI: D-3/1, Block-7, KDA Scheme 5, Clifton Karachi 75600, Pakistan. Tel: 021-35874718 - 35824694 - 35830195, Fax : 021-35864885

PESHAWAR: House-42 B, Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Road, University Town, Peshawar 25000, Pakistan. Tel: 091-5704581-2, Fax: 091-5704576

QUETTA: House-17/A, Kashana Ayub, Chaman Housing Scheme, Airport Road Quetta, Pakistan. Tel: 081-2821282, Fax: 081-2820957

INFORMATION: <http://www.af.org.pk> - Mail: PO Box No. 1105, Islamabad, Pakistan