



LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)
BETWEEN
THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (NCHR) PAKISTAN
AND
WOMEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
MULTAN DIVISION

The National Commission for Human Rights Pakistan (NCHR) and Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan Division (hereinafter referred to individually as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties”).

The NCHR is a federal statutory body set up under the NCHR Act XVI of 2012, in accordance with the Paris Principles. It is an independent National Human Rights Institute (NHRI) set up in 2015. Pakistan is signatory to ICCPR, ICESCR, CRPD, CAT, CEDAW, CRC, and CERD.

The Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Multan (WCCIM) was founded in 2008 as a leading business chamber in Multan Division dedicated to supporting women entrepreneurs, businesswomen, and professionals from various backgrounds. It aims to have a significant impact nationally and globally. WCCIM is recognized for its proactive and progressive approach, offering a platform for women to start, grow, and excel in their businesses. With a membership of 290 members, including prominent industrial groups, WCCIM provides extensive support through trade networks, participation in national and international exhibitions, skill development programs, training opportunities, and valuable networking platforms.

The core functions of the NCHR are;

1. **Judicial Mandate:** NCHR has the powers of a civil court, can initiate an inquiry based on complaints or suo moto action, can become party to any case regarding human rights violations, can directly investigate incidents of human rights violations, and can inspect places of detention to ensure prisoners’ rights.
2. **Legal Monitoring:** NCHR has the powers to review existing domestic legislation, to propose amendments/new legislation, and to monitor implementation. NCHR also reviews international treaties and instruments, and provides the Government with recommendations for their effective implementation.



3. **Policy Advisor:** NCHR can develop the National Action Plan for human rights, submit independent reports and policy briefs to the government, and engage in alternate treaty body reporting.
4. **Knowledge Production:** NCHR can conduct research on human rights issues, publish independent reports and research papers, and develop a repository for human rights data and research in the country.
5. **Advocacy and Awareness:** NCHR contributes to human rights awareness and advocacy initiatives by raising rights awareness through advocacy campaigns and media, by showcasing and elevating the latest research on human rights issues, and by developing human rights modules and training.

NCHR and WCCIM wish to collaborate on a Business and Human Rights initiative aimed at promoting human rights within the business sector, particularly focusing on empowering women entrepreneurs and professionals. The specific objectives of this collaboration include:

- Promoting awareness: Develop and implement awareness campaigns, workshops, and seminars to educate businesses, especially those led by women, about their responsibilities regarding human rights standards and principles.
- Capacity building: Provide training sessions, skill development programs, and resources to women entrepreneurs to integrate human rights considerations into their business operations and supply chains.
- Advocacy and policy dialogue: Engage with policymakers, stakeholders, and relevant authorities to advocate for policies and regulations that promote respect for human rights within the business sector, with a particular emphasis on gender equality and women's rights.
- Networking and support: Facilitate networking opportunities, mentorship programs, and peer-to-peer support mechanisms to strengthen the capacity and resilience of women-owned businesses in addressing human rights challenges.

This document will help the Parties to fulfill their requirements to achieve the overall vision and objectives outlined within the proposed project. This LOI signed by the parties is an umbrella document for collaboration; specific details of each initiative and activity will be discussed as and when the initiatives are taken up. All parties will abide by the rules and regulations of the other party.

OBLIGATIONS:

Obligations of The Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Multan (WCCIM)



1. Provide a platform and access to grassroots women workers, women NGOs, and health institutions, facilitating their engagement in the Business and Human Rights initiative. This includes organizing forums, roundtable discussions, and networking events where these stakeholders can participate, share insights, and contribute to the initiative's objectives.
2. Establish a platform for other women chambers in Southern Punjab to collaborate and share resources, best practices, and experiences related to promoting human rights within the business sector. This platform will foster collaboration and collective action among women chambers, enhancing their capacity to address human rights challenges in their respective regions.
3. Establish a platform for colleges and educational institutions in the region to raise awareness about business and human rights principles among students, faculty, and staff. These training programs will equip future professionals with the knowledge and skills to integrate human rights considerations into their academic and professional endeavors, fostering a culture of respect for human rights within the next generation of business leaders.

Obligations of the NCHR:

- 1) Provide expertise and guidance on business and human rights standards and frameworks relevant to women.
- 2) Coordinate and support the implementation of awareness campaigns and capacity-building activities.
- 3) Engage in policy advocacy efforts to promote business respect for human rights, particularly focusing on gender equality.

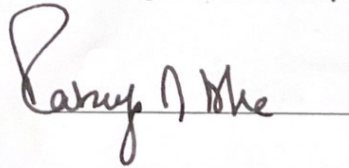
Final Provision

1. This letter of intent (LOI) may be amended or modified at any time through mutual written consent of the Parties.
2. All differences or disputes arising from or covered in the application or interpretation of this letter of intent (LOI) shall be settled amicably through mutual consultations and negotiation between the Parties.
3. This letter of intent (LOI) shall enter into force on the date of its signatures. It shall remain valid for a period of 2 years unless terminated or modified by mutual agreement.



4. This letter of intent (LOI) shall remain valid unless terminated through mutual written consent of the Parties or it has been replaced by an agreement between the Parties or concerned institutions.
5. Each party will designate a point of contact, who will be responsible for all communications and coordination pertaining to the execution of this letter of intent (LOI) and delivery of any notices or official communication.
6. Notices will be deemed to be served should they be sent via electronic means at the contact's correct designated email address or served physically at the registered addresses of the parties given above.

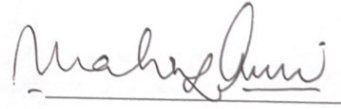
Signed on 12th January 2024 in originals in the English language.



Rabiya Javeri Agha

Chairperson, NCHR

For the National Commission for
Human Rights



Mahnaz Amir

President, WCCIM

For the Women Chamber & Industry Multan
Division