



No. NCHR/P/113-JJSA/2023/
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
23-D/1, FCC, SYED MURATIB ALI ROAD,
GULBERG-IV LAHORE
PH #: 042-99332116-8



Dated: 09/01/2024

1	Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department.	2	Inspector General, Punjab Police, Lahore
3	Secretary, Law & Parliamentary Affairs, Dept.	4	Secretary, Social Welfare & Bait ul Maal, Dept.
5	Secretary, Public Prosecution Department	6	Inspector General Prisons, Government of Punjab
7	Director General, Reclamation and Probation Department	8	Director General, Child Protection & Welfare Bureau

Subject: **MINUTES OF MEETING TO DICUSS STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM ACT, 2018.**

National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) is an independent statutory body with an overarching mandate to look into matters pertaining to all forms of human rights violations within the territorial jurisdiction of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan by virtue of the National Commission for Human Rights Act of 2012. Under Section 18 of this Act ibid, NCHR is empowered to make recommendations on implementation of existing laws to Federal and Provincial Governments.

2. Accordingly, please find enclosed herewith the minutes of the meeting on the above subject for your kind perusal and necessary action.

MUHAMMAD KHALID
DIRECTOR/COORDINATOR
Regional Office, Lahore

C.C: Honorable Chairperson, National Commission for Human Rights, Pakistan.

Subject: MINUTES OF MEETING TO DISCUSS STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM ACT, 2018.

Under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Member (Punjab), National Commission for Human Rights Mr. Nadeem Ashraf a meeting on the above subject was held on 12th December, 2023 at 11:00 am. It was hosted by NCHR (Punjab) in collaboration with Search for Justice (SFJ) in the Committee Room of NCHR, Regional Office, Punjab. List of Participants is attached as Annexure A.

2. Mr. Nadeem Ashraf welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of the JJSA, 2018. While giving his opening remarks, he stated that despite a lapse of five years, the Act which was aimed at the protection of rights of children in line with our Constitutional as well as United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child has not been implemented. Consequently, the Juvenile accused were being confined in the police stations as well as in prisons across the province. This resulted in not only psychological trauma but also physical abuse of such minor children. It was emphasized that the Provincial Government and the relevant departments should take immediate steps for implementation of JJSA, 2018.

3. Mr. Iftikhar Mubarak, Executive Director, Search for Justice highlighted the importance of implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018. He stated that it was essential to formulate the rules for the Act, for its effective implementation which is crucial as criminal records were being created for Juveniles offenders even in cases of minor offences. The need for swift and effective implementation which should include awareness of relevant departments was stressed.

4. Mr. Syed Miqdad Naqvi, Advocate High Court followed gave a detailed presentation on the history and section-by-section analysis of the Act *ibid*. The meeting followed discussion on the need for the establishment of Reformatory homes and the provision of legal and psychological support for Juveniles.

5. The discussion consisted of the following:

- I. Despite there being an extensive law outlining the treatment of juveniles, the implementation of the Act was being delayed.

- II. There has been a delay in the formation of rules of the Act *ibid*. The representative of Home Department informed that the formation was in the finalization phase and an internal meeting was scheduled for 14th December, 2023 in this regard.
- III. The underlying issue of the absence of Observation Homes and Juvenile Rehabilitation Centers was worrisome as juveniles were currently being kept in prisons and police stations.
- IV. Juvenile Justice Committees (JJC's) despite being notified remain inactive.
- V. Criminal records are kept even in cases of petty crimes.
- VI. Children are transported/housed alongside adult convicts/UTPs.
- VII. Confusion as to whether the powers to notify observation homes and Juvenile Rehabilitation Centers lies with the Federal Government (Ministry of Interior) or with the Provincial Government.

6. **Recommendations:**

The meeting concluded with the following recommendations:

- I. Punjab Home Department would have the rules for implementation of the JJSA, 2018 notified at the earliest.
- II. Punjab Home Department to make Justice Juvenile Committees, which have been notified operational.
- III. The Punjab Home Department may also notify existing Child Protection Centers as Observation Homes and Rehabilitation Centers.
- IV. The sensitization of Punjab Police on this Act:
 - a. Prevent the creation of criminal record for children involved in the justice system.
 - b. Ensure that police officers are briefed on the role of probation officers in the case of juveniles.
 - c. Ensure that children when arrested are not handcuffed or kept in jails.
 - d. Ensure the anonymity of such children and non-entry of their names in the criminal record.

7. The meeting concluded with the observation that a follow up meeting would be held after four weeks to review the implementation steps taken in this regard.

**STAKEHOLDERS MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
"THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM ACT 2018"**

Date: 12th December, 2023 - Lahore

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Department / Organization	Contact No.	Signature
1	Syed M. SIDDIQ	(Aunty lawyer/search for Justice)	Search for Justice	03214240433	
2	Sara Ali	Deputy Secretary (Technical)	Social Welfare Dept.	0300-5567113	Sara Ali
3	Ifthikhar Sakum Shah	ED	Search For Justice	0331-887793	
4	IFFEKHAR MUBARRIZ	ED	Search For Justice	0300-8161901	
5	Muhammad Reshad	Att. Officer PAPYS (Home)	Prisons, Protection Pakistan Service Unit	0333-6588822	
6	Ary Umar 183	Director Parole & P.	Probation & Parole Service	03356733334	
7	M. Naeem Khan	Director Law	Law Department	0300-8126781	
8	Dr. Qadeer Akram	ATG (Prisons)	Punjab Prisons	0300-4162387	

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Sr. No	Name	Designation	Department / Organization	Contact No.	Signature
9	KASHIF JAZIL	Director Admin	Child Protection Bureau	0300-0419908	
10	MUZAMMAL Hussain Bareilly	Section Officer	Home Department	0321-6890109	
11	Farooq Khan	DSP Legal, CPO	Police	0321-4341861	
12	Jahanzeer Samadhi	Complaints officer	NCHR	0324-4951694	
13	MUDASER AHMAD	Programs Support officer	Search for Justice	0334-4601870	
14	Ayeesha M. Tahira Iqbal Mith	Helpline Officer	NCHR, Musawi	08114675911	
15	Zumra Sadagat	Helpline officer	NCHR, Masawi	0322-3717960	
16	Mr. Nadeem Ashraf	Member (Punjab)	NCHR, Punjab		

